



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 41, Number 28

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

April 7, 2017



Colchester resident Henny Markiewicz Simon died following a car crash in town on Tuesday. The 91-year-old Holocaust survivor had spent the past 30 years sharing her story with the public – and was honored for these efforts in 2008 by the Colchester Board of Education, which named her the town's first "scholar-in-residence."

Holocaust Survivor Killed in Car Crash

by Julianna Roche

Holocaust survivor Henny Simon, 91, of Colchester, was killed late Tuesday afternoon in a car crash on Parum Road, less than a half-mile from her home, police said.

It was a tragic, sudden end to an inspirational life – but Simon's friends and relatives shared this week that her legacy will continue.

For over 30 years, Simon had shared her triumphant story of survival to communities, local groups and even students – motivating them with her lifelong mantra to "never give up," even in the face of adversity.

Rabbi Ken Alter of Ahavath Achim Synagogue in Colchester described Simon as "the most inspirational person" he'd ever met, "not only because she survived the Holocaust, but [because] she got the message about bullying out to schools."

Alter said "it's still amazing to me" how he witnessed children as young as 11 and 12 years old be truly "moved" by Simon's story when she spoke to them.

According to police, Simon, of 394 Parum Rd., was driving a Ford Fusion westbound on Parum at approximately 2:50 p.m. Tuesday, when, witnesses said, the vehicle suddenly veered from the westbound lane and into the eastbound lane for unknown reasons.

The Fusion continued to travel off the shoulder of the road and strike a tree head-on, causing the vehicle to come to a complete stop, police said.

Police said Simon sustained serious injuries and was transported by Colchester EMS to Backus Hospital in Norwich, where she was later pronounced dead.

There were no other occupants in the vehicle. Simon was known widely both among the

Colchester community and across the state for her public speeches, during which she shared the story of how she survived the Holocaust – and even wrote about the ordeal in a book called *Am I My Brother's Keeper?*

As recently as this past February, Simon told her story to more than 100 people at Colchester Federated Church – recalling being forced by Nazis into the Jewish ghetto and concentration camps – where she worked, starved and struggled to survive.

Born in Hanover, Germany, Simon had described her childhood as "very normal," and as a Jewish child, recalled feeling "fully integrated into society."

As the country fell into the hands of dictator Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, however, Simon remembered losing friends who began calling her "dirty, Jew girl." She and other Jewish people were ostracized from the community – given restrictions when it came to what time they could grocery shop or even attend community and cultural events.

In 1940, Simon and her mother were separated from her father, who acquired a visa to go to Shanghai, China. Soon after, Simon and her mother were herded into a Jewish ghetto and later concentration camps in Latvia and Poland.

During the three and a half years Simon lived in a concentration camp, she said she "faced death daily" and even came close to being killed by Nazis once, when she developed a frostbitten toe that made it difficult to work.

She hid the toe from the Germans, however – a lie, she said, that ultimately "saved [her] life."

Simon was later separated from her mother, who fell ill and was eventually transported to

See Holocaust Survivor page 2

Belltonians Plead to Leave School Budget Alone

by Elizabeth Regan

About 150 people crowded into the East Hampton Middle School library Monday at a public hearing to ask the Board of Finance not to touch the proposed education budget.

Proponents of the Board of Education spending plan – which represents an increase of \$1.09 million, or 3.75 percent, over the current year – said it should be up to voters to decide if they can afford the school board's proposal. Proponents feel the finance board should make cuts only if voters reject the education budget at referendum.

Numerous residents pointed out the newly-revised town charter allows "bifurcation," the separation of education and general government expenditures on the ballot at the annual budget referendum.

Bifurcation can make it easier for officials to identify where taxpayers want changes made to the budget, according to a 2011 study in Hebron. If the municipal budget passes but the education budget does not, for example, it's

clear that officials must revisit the school spending plan.

Approximately 73 percent of those who came out in November to vote on several charter revision questions supported bifurcation.

Resident and PTO member Nancy Oakley said many of those voters were in favor of the measure because they were told the proposed education budget would not be cut by the Board of Finance or the Town Council before it was presented to residents at the budget referendum.

"Some of our elected officials have repeatedly insisted that bifurcation of the municipal budget and school budget will provide greater transparency to the taxpayers and ensure that the process is more democratic," Oakley said. "The taxpayers went to the polls and they approved bifurcation in hopes of gaining this transparency. But the process is only truly transparent when the voters are able to vote on the education budget unchanged and without reduction after the approval by the Board of Educa-

tion."

Oakley reiterated a common theme among commenters at the public hearing when she said it had been "publicly stated by certain members of the Town Council" that the education budget should not have to be cut before being sent to referendum for a vote.

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

It had amassed 185 signatures by Wednesday afternoon.

On the phone Wednesday, Charter Revision Commission Chairwoman and Town Council member Melissa Engel acknowledged having made such a statement back when she was promoting the proposed charter revisions last year.

"I have said that in the past. I don't know if I'm going to maintain that when the budget gets to us," Engel said.

According to the budget process outlined in the town charter, the finance board is responsible for adopting a budget proposal to present to the council. The council is authorized to reduce the budget but cannot increase it.

Engel said her philosophy has always been that the school board should be able to "suffer the consequences" or "delight in the passage" of its proposed budget by having it sent to voters unchanged.

But on a practical level, she said the council is effectively giving its blessing to any budget it sends to voters.

"In good conscience, I couldn't support an outrageous budget," she said.

Newly-appointed finance board member Mike Rose emphasized bifurcation does not change the responsibility of the finance board and council to review the budget proposals.

"The charter is what governs how the budget process goes forward, not some ad hoc com-

See Belltonians page 2

Coshow Upset by Board Chair's 'Sidebar'

by Elizabeth Regan

A Board of Finance member has expressed concern that the newly-appointed chairman is privy to information not shared with the rest of the board by the superintendent of schools.

Alannah Coshow told fellow members at their Monday meeting she was concerned about a private conversation between newly-elected Board of Finance Chairman Marc Lambert and Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith held during a public budget workshop the previous week.

"We were discussing the education budget and the superintendent took our chairman out in the hall," Coshow said. "There was something that went between them, and I don't know what it was. It upsets me; it makes me think maybe our chairman has more information than we do."

When Coshow asked if the board would get filled in on the content of that conversation, Lambert ignored the question.

Coshow did not bring it up again.

Lambert said only that it was "a private conversation" when asked by the *Rivereast* after Monday's meeting.

An audio recording of the March 31 workshop revealed the private conversation occurred after some finance board members posed questions related to staffing.

Specifically, Coshow had just asked where she could find the salary for the school district's "public relations" position.

Smith explained the line item is within the technology department. He added that it was not a public relations job, but a technology position responsible for overseeing the district's website and social media presence as well as the installation, maintenance and support of Cloud-based laptop computers known as Chromebooks.

That's when he asked for a "sidebar" with Lambert.

After Monday's meeting, Smith declined to divulge the specifics of the privileged com-

munication.

"It was just a workshop, so I didn't think I was doing anything out of line. It was just a comment that I wanted to make to [Lambert]," Smith said.

He added he wasn't trying to be deceptive: "It was of a nature that it was really just an appropriate comment between me and him at that point."

Tom Hennick, public information officer at the state Freedom of Information Commission, said Tuesday there's nothing in the state's Freedom of Information Act to prohibit a superintendent from asking a board chairman for a private sidebar during a public meeting.

But Hennick acknowledged he'd never heard of something like that happening.

"It's a little irregular," he said.

The job Coshow had been asking about is listed in the budget proposal as a part-time technology support position. Smith said in an email Tuesday that he has budgeted \$37,000 for it.

The job was held by former *Rivereast* reporter John Tyczkowski until this week. Tyczkowski said Monday he was leaving the job for a new role in communications with the University of Connecticut.

Smith said Tyczkowski, who started in the fall of 2015, was hired to transition to a new website, create Facebook pages for the district and each of the schools, and take photos and videos for various events.

He said Tyczkowski's additional time was spent troubleshooting computers, setting up new equipment at the high school and managing the district's Chromebook program.

Now that Tyczkowski has left, the position is being advertised with an emphasis on Chromebook oversight and a secondary focus on managing the website and social media accounts.

Last year, Coshow said the "public relations" was an unnecessary expense.

Belltonians cont. from Front Page

ment by a member of the Town Council or anybody else," he said.

Finance board member Alan Hurst said he could personally get behind sending the education budget to voters with no changes, but cautioned those in the room that they would have to live with the results.

If the proposed education budget passes at referendum, he said, "you're golden." If it gets rejected, the finance board would likely slash the budget by more than the \$272,270 decrease currently under consideration.

Since 2010, the proposed budget has passed in one referendum only three times.

Other cuts being mulled over by the finance board include a \$15,000 reduction to the capital budget that would affect plans by Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith to install shatterproof laminate that has become the norm in most schools in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings.

On the town side, the finance board is considering \$81,492 in cuts, including \$14,800 from the public works department, \$15,000 from the public library, and \$4,411 from the public safety budget line.

The total 2017-18 budget presented by Smith and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco last month 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.

The 3.75 percent increase to the education budget discussed at Monday's finance board meeting did not include the contingency line item, which several finance board members have expressed a commitment to eliminating from the proposed budget.

The finance board is scheduled to adopt a budget to send to the town council on April 10.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

There's a letter to the editor in this week's *Rivereast* from Ann McLaughlin, the chair of East Hampton's Commission on Aging, and JoAnn Ewing, the East Hampton municipal agent for the elderly. The two share the grim news that, unfortunately, is affecting a lot of area towns.

Simply put: times are bad for the senior meal program.

Due to insufficient funding at both the state and federal levels, McLaughlin and Ewing share, the Community Renewal Team, which provides meals for senior centers in East Hampton as well as several other area towns, has had to reduce the services it provides.

Instead of serving meals five days a week at the senior center, there are now only meals three days a week. For the Meals-on-Wheels program, there is now a waiting list, and no more meals will be offered on holidays; on the weekends, there will only be two meals offered instead of four.

"The loss of meals is a serious problem," McLaughlin and Ewing write. "Many people do not realize that this may be the only nutritious meal seniors get and that the interactions they have with people at the café may be the only time during the day they are in conversation with others."

The implications of the loss of Meals-on-Wheels are also grim – maybe a little more so. For not only is it the loss of food, as well as the loss of contact with the outside world, but McLaughlin and Ewing write that the Meals-on-Wheels volunteer drivers "also provide a pair of eyes to ensure wellness, safety and contact with social services."

Meals-on-Wheels has been in the news, on the national level, a bit recently. Many of you may have heard about President Trump's budget outline killing the federal contribution to the Meals-on-Wheels program. It is true that was overstated a bit; what Trump's "skinny budget" really kills is the Community Development Block Grants program, which is one program that some of the nation's Meals-on-Wheels groups rely on. (Eliminating Community Development Block Grants is a horror in plenty of other ways as well, but that's a story for another day.)

Of greater concern, though, is this: According to *USA Today*, the majority of Meals-on-Wheels programs get most of their federal funding through the Administration for Community Living, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services that serves the elderly and disabled. And guess what department is among the many getting steep cuts in Trump's budget? That's right: Health and

Human Services is slated to lose 16 percent of its budget. How much of that will come out of Meals-on-Wheels funding is a big unknown right now.

As I said, the dire situation regarding senior meal funding is hardly unique to East Hampton; it's affecting a lot of area towns. In their letter, McLaughlin and Ewing write that donations are being accepted to help offset the funding gaps on the state and federal sides. In East Hampton, contributions can be mailed to the senior center or dropped off at Town Hall. I imagine similar things can be done in other *Rivereast* towns.

Our seniors deserve better. They deserve the nutritious meals five days a week that they've been used to; the homebound ones deserve not just the food but the contact from the outside Meals-on-Wheels provides. Trump's all-heart budget director Mick Mulvaney has said "We can't spend money on programs just because they sound good." But senior meal programs do more than just "sound good." I'd go so far as to call them necessary.

I know some state legislators – such as state Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R-34th District) – are trying to help things on the state level, but it sure would be nice if Washington were also of the opinion that feeding the hungry wasn't an expendable "sounds good" kind of thing.

Again: Our seniors deserve better. Please donate if you can.

* * *

Spring has finally sprung – and with it comes a warning. State officials say they've seen an increase in the number of ticks this year, including those carrying diseases, so the Chatham Health District – the regional health provider for Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland – issued some advice this week: Be aware.

A tick bite can cause an illness that ranges from a mild infection to a serious health emergency, Chatham Health said. Ticks are most active during the warmer months, from April to September each year, and tend to gather in wooded or bushy areas, with tall grass or other vegetation, logs or leaf litter – such as hiking trails, forest areas, and even in your own backyard. Ticks can also live on the coats of your dog or cat, especially if they are an outdoor pet.

If your group or organization would like a free presentation on tick borne diseases, you're encouraged to call Nancy McAuliffe at Chatham Health at 860-365-0884.

* * *

See you next week.

Holocaust Survivor cont. from Front Page

another concentration camp – it was the last time Simon ever saw her.

Described as a "living treasure" in February by Jerry Fischer, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, Simon was liberated by Russian troops in 1945 while posted at Polish concentration camp – ending her three-and-a-half-year imprisonment.

Simon, who died a great-grandmother, eventually immigrated to the United States with her first husband and reunited with her father.

Throughout her life, Simon was also recognized with various honors for her bravery and humanitarianism, including being named Colchester's first "Scholar-in-Residence" in 2008 by the school district's administrative council and Board of Education for the "generosity of spirit shown by a community member possessing a great depth of knowledge in a particular subject area through experience of study and dedication to sharing that knowledge with the educational community of Colchester."

Bill Hettrick, who was chairing the school board when Simon received the award in 2008, said Thursday, "Henny was just such a great, inspirational lady who taught us all so much."

He added that "it goes without saying that anybody who came into contact with Henny – she touched their lives and she touched my life in a very significant way."

During his time as chairman of the board from 1993-2009, Hettrick said he saw Simon speak to thousands of children.

"She said she intended to keep speaking for

as long as she was able and she did just that," Hettrick added. "She will be severely missed."

Simon's close friend John Sawchuk said their families have known each other since the 1950s, and he noted he will always remember Simon's "indomitable spirit" and her ability to connect with people she spoke to across all generations.

He said, "Henny's message of love and understanding, in the face of everything she did, was timeless."

Hettrick shared similar sentiments.

"There are only a few people that come along in your life that really touch you," he said. "Not only for myself, but for thousands and thousands of Colchester community members [and] children from elementary to high school."

"Henny was a living legend," Alter concluded, adding, "We will continue to tell her story."

* * *

The investigation into Simon's fatal car crash remains active and any witnesses are encouraged to contact Trooper Patrick Kokoszka at Troop K at 860-465-5400, ext. 4030. Funeral services for Simon are scheduled for 1 p.m. today at Ahavath Achim Synagogue on 84 Lebanon Ave. in Colchester.

On Sunday, April 9, a Shiva mourning period will be observed at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Jenny and Stuart Rabinowitz, 68 Trinity Ave., Glastonbury, from 1 to 7:30 p.m., with a Minyan service at 6:45 p.m.

Marlborough File of Life Program Saves Time, Lives

by Julianna Roche

When Marlborough residents check their mailboxes next week, they should find a File of Life packet, said Mark Merritt, Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department's rescue captain. He expects the file will help both first responders and those in need during emergency situations.

Established in 1995, File of Life is a voluntary program designed to help local first responders and paramedics quickly obtain the medical history, allergy list, and emergency contact information of someone in case of an emergency or on-scene at an accident.

Each File of Life packet, Merritt explained, contains a refrigerator magnet with an attached red, plastic pocket labeled "File of Life" that holds a tri-fold card to record vital emergency information.

This card, he furthered, "provides basic demographic information and [lists] your medi-

cal problems in the event that you're unresponsive or unable to tell us yourself."

The goal he said is "to get some of these cards in every household" in town, with the hope residents will actually fill them out.

Wallet-sized information cards will also be included in the packet.

The File of Life program, according to its website, is currently instilled in almost 5,000 communities and close to 18 million homes across the United States, with its cards – which contain everything from current medications to lists of allergies – providing first responders with information needed to properly treat or help a patient.

For example, Merritt explained, "it's important to know if you have a medical condition, whether it be something like diabetes or COPD [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease]" so

paramedics know the proper medicine to prescribe or protocol to follow.

If first responders don't have access to that information, people could be given the wrong medication or even have "an adverse reaction" to medication given to them.

Merritt said residents should also be sure to keep their cards current.

"The important thing to remember is to make sure [the card is] updated as time goes on," he explained, adding that a common issue is people fill out the cards initially, but forget to add or take off medications as they change.

While it's as easy as simply filling out the card, putting it in the pocket and hanging it either on the refrigerator or somewhere visible, Merritt furthered that "nine times out of ten" when emergency responders arrive on scene,

people either haven't filled out the card or have it somewhere inaccessible.

"We constantly go to calls where people haven't filled that out," he furthered, adding that while he understands filling out the card "can be a daunting task when you're on 20 medications," it could also save your life.

"It's a time-saver and a life-saver," Merritt said.

* * *

With File of Life packets scheduled to be sent out to Marlborough residents next week, Merritt noted there will also be additional magnets and information cards available at Town Hall, Richmond Memorial Library and the senior center.

For more information, call Merritt at 860-295-9692.

RHAM School Board Approves 4 Percent Budget Increase

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The RHAM Board of Education this week approved a proposed 2017-18 budget with a 4 percent increase – more than 2 percent less than what was originally presented in February.

The spending package now clocks in at \$28,863,321 for the operating budget – a 2.96 percent increase over current year spending – plus \$289,960 for the capital budget, which brings the total increase to 3.99 percent.

Schools Superintendent Bob Siminski had originally proposed a budget with a 6.21 percent increase due to uncertainties with the state budget. In January, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy released a two-year, \$41.51 billion proposal that changes the way special education funds are disbursed and asks municipalities to pay for one-third of the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement System. The budget also diverts funding a majority of towns in favor of the poorest cities through a reformulation of the way the state administers aid through the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant.

Under the new formula, the three towns that make up Region 8 were looking at a combined decrease in ECS and special education funding from the current year of \$2,897,084; \$655,899 for Andover, \$1,540,747 for Hebron and \$690,438 for Marlborough. The sending towns would also see a combined increase in their budgets of approximately \$2,634,544 from the teachers' pension payment; \$432,456 for Andover, \$1,362,129 for Hebron, and \$840,959 for Marlborough.

Regional school districts were not included in the information that's been released by the state so far on the changes, however, so the amount of ECS funding the three towns receive that will go to RHAM, as well as the portion of

the teachers' pension the school district will be responsible for, is not yet known.

But the majority of the reduction from Siminski's original proposal, he explained this week, can be attributed to state aid the district learned it would receive for special education in the amount of \$608,444.

In addition, he shared he prepared the initial budget before the administrators' contract was finished, and health insurance ended up about \$67,000 less. A \$90,000 reduction was also made due to refinancing the district bonds, along with \$79,000 from personnel changes.

Other reductions made by the school board this week include \$29,806 from the elimination of several safety projects at the schools including the installation of security shades and a canopy to keep students off the roof, as well as the removal of funds to install traffic bollards.

Siminski said after all was said and done, the combined additions and deletions amounted to about \$912,000.

The spending package, he added, serves to continue existing programming in the district and addresses statutory requirements, and includes a 2.2 percent salary increase for administrators as per their contract, and 1 percent increase plus step for certified staff ("step" is a way of determining a teacher's salary based on factors such as years of experience and education level). Negotiations for non-certified staff are also underway.

In response to declining enrollment, the proposal also includes a reduction of five teachers, which will reduce the number of middle school teams from six to five.

Middle school enrollment is anticipated to drop by 48 students, while the number at the

high school is expected to decrease by 15.

Meanwhile, diesel fuel has been budgeted at \$124,208, and \$205,662 is included for heating. This is in line with the current year even though the school will be utilizing natural gas instead of heating oil following the board's decision to switch utilities as part of an eight-mile natural gas expansion project in the Town of Hebron.

The actual heating cost for next year is anticipated to be \$105,662 as a result of the switch, but the \$100,000 surplus will be given to Hebron for the cost of converting the school equipment to be compatible with natural gas; the cost for the district's conversion – \$264,000 – was included in the amount Hebron borrowed to pay for the project, and RHAM is expected to reimburse the municipality with the savings.

The budget proposal also includes the cost of special education, which is anticipated to rise \$906,315 to \$1,814,217, while the cost for special education transportation is budgeted at \$647,212 – up from \$422,437 in the current year.

The school district also has to foot the tuition bill for students from the sending towns who choose to attend magnet or vocational agricultural schools instead of RHAM; that amount is anticipated to decrease in the coming year from 78 to 74 students or by \$2,327, but the projected cost for those students is still \$380,173.

Along with the above, the forwarded budget includes funds to bring a full-time athletic director to the district in the amount of \$44,519, and \$32,619 for athletic stipends.

In order to increase revenue in the district, the Board also made the decision to increase

the cost of pay-to-play for athletics by \$15 for both middle and high school students; the cost is now \$165 for the middle school and \$200 for the high school, which is expected to result in around \$10,000 in additional revenue.

In total, around \$300,000 in local revenue is anticipated.

Based on last year's numbers, around \$356,000 in federal grants is also expected.

Aside from the operating budget, the capital budget clocks in at \$289,960 and includes funds for fire separations, a loading dock lift plate, dust control system engineering, exterior insulation, resurfacing of the tennis courts, sidewalks repairs, irrigation, and baseball and softball field engineering.

If the proposed operating budget is approved next month at referendum, Hebron will be responsible for paying the greatest share at 54.33 percent, which amounts to \$15,838,978. Marlborough meanwhile, will be responsible for 31.16 percent or \$9,084,163; and Andover's share of 14.51 percent will amount to \$4,230,141.

Siminski said of the proposed spending package this week, "I think it's a tight budget and I think one of the things that everybody is wary of is what action the legislature will take and when they will take it."

He added, "One of the things that's been troubling with all the stuff coming out of the legislature is that they don't discuss regional school districts. When they talk ECS cuts they don't discuss what portion we're responsible for. With the teachers' pension, they sent a number to the towns but they didn't say 'this portion is RHAM's responsibility.' And that gets troubling."

New Zion Pastor Brings Family-Friendly Focus to Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church has grown over the past six months to include an official new pastor, her baby boy and a family-friendly focus.

The Rev. Kari Jo Rinas had been the congregation's transitional pastor since March 2015, when she began getting to know the congregation – and they, her – to see if she would be a good fit to replace the Rev. James Reemts. Rinas' installation as Zion Lutheran's official pastor in October 2016 proved it was a match.

Rinas, 32, is married to the Rev. Joshua Rinas. They reside in Southington, where Joshua Rinas is the pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southington. The couple welcomed a son, Caleb, in December.

Kari Rinas and Caleb invited the *Rivereast* for an interview at her office at Zion Lutheran this week. While Rinas talked about her experience in Portland and what led to it, Caleb joined the conversation.

Rinas laughed as her son cooed and gurgled in her arms.

"Both your daddy and your mommy preach, so you think you should preach too," Rinas said to him.

Since she returned recently from a nine-week maternity leave, Rinas has maintained a three-quarter time schedule that brings her to Portland on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

She said Caleb, who will be starting daycare soon, is often with her at work. On Sundays, he has company from another new member of the congregation – an infant born just four days after he was.

"That has been a lot of fun, to hear two little baby boys sitting in the back pews chattering away, cooing, making all kinds of noise and bringing a whole different sense of life to the

congregation in a new way," Rinas said

That sense of vitality is evident on Rinas' visits to homebound members of the congregation, where she said people have appreciated the chance to meet Caleb even though they couldn't make it to church on Sunday.

Caleb has also been on hand when Rinas has met with families to plan funerals.

"It ended up being a really good thing to see new life and innocence and joy in the midst of grief: That there is this promise that new life is always happening and death doesn't get to get the final word in everything," she said.

For Rinas, being able to work with people of all ages – at the highest and lowest points of their lives – is one of the most fulfilling aspects of her vocation.

She described being there when couples get married and have children; she talked about helping people through health problems and the loss of loved ones.

"Being able to share in that – and share in words of hope and comfort and God's promises of resurrection – is, I'm sure, a gift for others, but a huge gift for me as well," she recounted.

Rinas was born in central Pennsylvania to Lutheran parents. When the family moved to Victor, N.Y., outside of Rochester, they became involved in the United Methodist Church (UMC). The Methodist congregation at the time had an active youth component the local Lutheran church lacked.

By the time she was in college, her family had moved to western Pennsylvania and found themselves back in the Lutheran fold.

Rinas described becoming a Lutheran pastor as "a lot like coming home." While she loved the Methodist congregation, she said her understanding of God and Christ fit better with Lutheran doctrine.

"I believe strongly that it is only by God's grace through Jesus that we are assured of forgiveness and eternal life," she said. "There is nothing we can do to earn God's love – it is already given to us, and the way we live our lives is out of response to that love we've been given."

Before realizing her call to religious service, Rinas studied medieval and renaissance history at the Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y. It was during a semester abroad in Bath, England, that she surprised herself by telling a professor she was going to become a pastor.

The professor, who had just offered her a post-graduate research position she said she had always dreamed of, walked away puzzled when she declined the position.

"I thought, that was not at all what I expected," she remembered. "But I feel pretty strongly that that was not me saying that. That was spirit-led."

Her journey took her to Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa. She graduated in 2011 and was called to Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Willimantic. When she and Joshua Rinas decided to get married and live in the parsonage of his Southington church, she asked to be transferred to a closer congregation.

Rinas described the members of Zion Lutheran Church as a "phenomenal" group.

"Having been in many congregations in many different settings, oftentimes trying new things is not always easy because people are uncomfortable with change," she said. "That has not been the case here. People have been really open to hearing suggestions and being willing to try something at least once and see how it goes."

Those changes range from the physical, like removing three pews in the back of the church to make room for a child-friendly worship



The Rev. Kari Jo Rinas became Zion Lutheran Church's official pastor last fall, just months before the birth of her son, Caleb.

space, to the intangible, like incorporating different styles of music into the services.

Through it all, Rinas said the congregation has been fully supportive of her role as both the church's new pastor and a new mother.

"They've been really welcoming and warm and accepting of the fact that this is all new to me, and to them, and we're still trying to figure out how all of this works together," she said.

Portland Selectmen Approve \$33.65M Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

A proposed annual budget approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen Wednesday leaves residents in a better place than taxpayers in most area towns – for now.

The selectmen approved a \$33.65 million proposed budget, an increase of 3.59 percent over current expenditures. The associated mill rate increase comes in at 0.47 mills, or an increase of 1.46 percent.

If the budget is approved, the mill rate of 32.51 would rise by 0.47 mills to a total mill rate of 32.98 mills.

A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under the proposed mill rate, taxes paid on a home assessed at \$200,000 for the 2017-18 fiscal year would be \$6,596. That's an increase of \$94 over the current year.

Portland's proposed budget does not reflect a \$966,127 payment for public school teachers' pensions that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said he wants the town to pick up. While the state currently funds the entirety of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System, Malloy's recommendation would make each municipality responsible for about one-third of the cost.

But Malloy's proposed budget has to go through the state General Assembly, where it is likely to change.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Wednesday that while she thinks the state may indeed end up passing along some of the cost

for teachers' pensions, the local contribution is likely to get whittled down through the legislative process.

"I've erred on the side of not recommending over taxation of the citizens," Bransfield said Wednesday. "Because if you put in the amount the governor suggested, you would be very much overtaxing people. And having been here since 2003, if there's any merit to history, it's unlikely it's going to be that number."

Bransfield said if some, or all, of Malloy's proposed teachers' pension bill to the town materializes, then the town could send out a supplemental tax bill to residents.

State House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz, D-Berlin, last week expressed support for a compromise that would have towns take over responsibility for up to one-third of teachers' pension costs over five years, instead of all at once.

Other area towns, which are in various stages of their budget planning processes, are looking at potentially dramatic tax hikes. East Hampton officials are talking about the possibility of a 4.98 percent increase to the mill rate even without taking the governor's teachers' pension proposal into account. In Colchester, officials are deciding if it makes sense to put forward a budget that represents a 14.46 percent mill rate increase based on the governor's plan.

Towns like those were especially hard-hit by a proposal by Malloy to redistribute education

funding from a majority of towns to the poorest cities. But Bransfield said Portland receives less Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds to begin with, which has made the town more self-reliant.

"We've gotten our share [of state funding], but from what I heard, other towns got a lot more," she said.

Some towns may have benefited from allocations based on the same level of state aid they had received in the past instead of taking changing enrollment numbers and demographics into account, according to Bransfield.

Or, she suggested, maybe they "had some more influential legislators in their community that were helpful to those towns."

She described Portland, on the other hand, as a "middle-of-the-road" town that gets by with moderate local and state revenue streams combined with prudent spending.

"People pay their taxes. We don't have a lot of lavish things. But we are very practical and I think we do a very good job of providing services at a reasonable cost," Bransfield said.

Portland's \$33.65 million combined budget includes \$12,969,579 in general government expenditures. That's 2.82 percent – or \$356,497 – over the current budget. The Board of Education proposed budget is \$20,677,019, an increase of 4.07 percent, or \$810,179.

The budget approved by selectmen represents

nominal changes to the First Selectmen's budget presented by Bransfield last month.

Selectmen approved shifting \$4,000 in social services program fees to help two of the town's most popular events. The Portland Fireworks Committee and Portland Fair Committee are slated to receive \$2,500 each, up from \$500 in the current budget.

On the general government side, a capital lease program will cost about \$262,000 in bank payments during the upcoming fiscal year. At a total cost of \$1.60 million over six years, items being financed include vehicles for the fire, police and public works departments as well as a fingerprint machine, paver, wood-chipper and a large printer/scanner.

Superintendent of Schools Philip O'Reilly in March said education costs in the coming year are driven by increased costs related to special education, the lease program for office copiers, and the recently negotiated bus contract. It also includes repairs to aging buildings.

The education budget, approved by the Board of Education in January, was reduced by \$70,000 in Bransfield's budget to account for updated health insurance cost projections, the first selectwoman said.

The proposed budget will go to a town meeting on Monday, May 1, at Portland High School. A referendum is scheduled for Monday, May 8, at Portland Middle School.

Colchester Parents Learn About Teen Drug Use

by Julianna Roche

Standing at 6-feet-9-inches tall, Officer Jermaine Galloway can look intimidating, but the Boise, Idaho-based policeman has spent the last 18 years following his passion of helping to keep youths in communities across the nation drug-free and their parents well-informed.

This Tuesday, Galloway brought his “Tall Cop Says Stop” drug and alcohol training to Bacon Academy as one of Colchester Youth and Social Services community conversations to teach parents about current drug trends and how to tell if their child may have problems with substance abuse.

“Community conversations is a series we really believe in and we hope to share this information with parents and the community at large,” said Valerie Geato, director of youth and social services.

As part of the training, groups of parents were led into a mock bedroom of a typical middle school or high school student – with clothes scattered in disarray, posters and white Christmas lights strung across the walls and ceiling, and school books and other knick-knacks strewn throughout the space.

Galloway then instructed parents to “take a look around” and write down any drug or alcohol-related items they may find, before following up with a 45-minute training seminar to discuss items in the room, as well as popular drug trends today.

Some items such as a “Mile 420” sign – a number commonly known to reference marijuana – were more recognizable to parents, but most, such as a blue and white wicker bracelet that is used as a pipe to smoke the drug or a beanie with a two-inch zipper pouch to stash marijuana or pills, were hidden “in plain sight.”

In his presentation, Galloway discussed a variety of drugs popular in today’s youth culture, which he emphasized are “totally different” than years past.

“What you think you know [about drugs] and what is really going on are two different things,” he said, citing marijuana as an example. “Take everything you know about marijuana and throw it out the door, and then we’re going to talk about it.”

Galloway referenced “dabs” as an example – which are concentrated doses of cannabis made by extracting tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) from marijuana using a solvent like butane or carbon dioxide. The result, he explained, is a

wax-like substance that can look like anything from lip-balm to honeycomb – often completely undetectable to parents.

“[I’ve heard of] parents coming across waxes and they didn’t even realize it was marijuana,” he continued, “[The kid] just said ‘oh, it’s just lip balm, Dad’.”

Furthermore, when Galloway asked parents if they’d ever heard of marijuana waxes, only six of the 35 to 40 parents present raised their hands.

According to the officer, dabs consist of dangerously high percentages of THC – around 90 to 92 percent, compared to regular marijuana which contains approximately 15 percent of THC concentrate. And even that amount is higher than before.

“And if you smoked marijuana in the ‘60s, you were smoking 3 percent,” he said, adding that the high percentage of THC also amplifies whatever the “desired effects” of the marijuana are.

For example, Galloway explained, in today’s culture kids can buy countless different strains of marijuana with names like “Bubba Kush,” “Sour Diesel,” or even “Girl Scout Cookies” – some will give kids more energy and others work more like a depressant, or can make them hallucinate.

“Imagine what an upper would do if it’s magnified,” he said. “It makes sense why we’re starting to see these issues on the streets... when you hear about kids getting sick or hear about kids eating [marijuana] gummy bears and getting agitated.”

The officer furthered that parents should “talk directly” to kids about drugs to not minimize them.

“You can talk to any police in the country and they’ll tell you the same thing – when we find other drugs, frequently marijuana is there,” Galloway said. “When I find heroin, prescription pills... [and] sometimes with alcohol, marijuana is there. ... Drugs do not stay in their lane.”

Synthetic drugs were another focus of Galloway’s presentation, which he explained, are manmade chemically-engineered drugs “made to get you high,” with the most popular form among teenagers being “molly” or ecstasy.

The problem today, he furthered, is that while the main ingredient of ecstasy is methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), it’s common for it to be laced with other drugs now.

“This is the really alarming part. Drugs them-



Colchester Youth and Social Services invited Officer Jermaine Galloway to challenge parents at Bacon Academy this week to find drug- and alcohol-related items in a mock teen bedroom, shown here, before he gave an informative training session on current drug trends among youths.

selves are alarming, but our kids think they’re taking ecstasy, but for the most part, they’re taking something else with it,” Galloway continued. “If they overdose, die, or get sick and go to the hospital, sometimes [we] figure it out that way, but it’s very easy to have a child taking a pill [laced] with ketamine and they don’t realize it.”

Some drugs that Galloway said police are finding laced with ecstasy today include NBOMe, which has effects similar to lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), opioids such as fentanyl or U-47700 also known as “pink heroin,” and even animal tranquilizers such as carfentanil, which can put down a 14,000-ton elephant.

“Understand that with synthetics, you can take one hit and die,” Galloway said, adding, “These are why we’re seeing so many overdoses [and] seeing a lot of people losing their life.”

As tips for parents, Galloway said talking directly with kids about substance abuse and to

“not minimize anything” when it comes to drugs. He also furthered that, “everything is person specific.”

So for example, if a teenager is wearing a “420” T-shirt, it’s up to parents “to figure out why they’re representing themselves that way.”

“Is it because it’s cool? Is it because they don’t know? That’s what you have to figure out,” he said, adding that using Internet search tools such as Google or YouTube can be greatly helpful for parents, especially when it comes to understanding slang terms or drug references.

Most importantly, however, Galloway said parents need to “stay active,” and left the audience with his motto: “You can’t stop what you don’t know.”

For more information, visit tallcopsaysstop.com or visit Officer Galloway’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/TallCopSaysStop](https://www.facebook.com/TallCopSaysStop) and Twitter account with the handle @Tallcopsaysstop.

Colchester Finance Board Weighs Budget Options

by Julianna Roche

Taking into consideration Gov. Dannel Malloy’s proposed cuts to town funding and added teacher pension costs, the Board of Finance delved deeper into both the town and education budgets Wednesday night – asking both First Selectman Art Shilosky and Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu what further cuts to their budgets would look like.

The board asked the first selectman to present how \$100,000 and \$150,000 worth of reductions would affect the proposed town budget of \$14.76 million to which Shilosky replied “it may be [cutting] personnel.”

On the education side, the board asked Mathieu and the Board of Education to demonstrate what a \$400,000 cut would do to the proposed budget of \$40.89 million, a 2.05 percent increase over current year spending.

“I will tell you, we’d be left with only teachers, all four school class sizes would go up,” Mathieu said, adding that staff hired to help children with special needs, such as reading problems, for example, would have to be cut.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein

noted that many of the “Level 1” cuts Mathieu included in his original budget presentation Jan. 24 would likely have to be implemented to cut \$400,000.

Among the cuts were teaching staff positions across the four schools – Bacon Academy, William J. Johnson Middle School (WJMS), Jack Jackter Intermediate School and Colchester Elementary School – as well special education para-professionals, and all athletic programs from WJMS, as well as five sports programs from Bacon.

“I don’t want us, as six people [on the Board of Finance], to make any decisions about educational policy for the town of Colchester,” said vice chairman Thomas Kane, adding however, the board needed to “see those cuts” and what the major “structural [and] cultural changes” would be to be to the school district should the governor’s proposal be approved.

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov emphasized, however, that the board was neither suggesting making nor approving the cuts; it was all simply part of the budget discussion

process.

Other board members shared similar sentiments, noting that cuts would have to be made to both the town and education budgets should the governor’s proposed changes be approved.

“Shared sacrifice is something we’re all going to have to be a part of. I don’t think anybody on this board is going to be happy with the overall [budget],” board member Andreas Bisbikos said, furthering that the board needed “to assume worst case scenario” and “get creative” with planning the budget for the upcoming year.

“It’s a budget... we [the board] would love to give our schools a \$50 million budget every year,” board member Andrea Migliaccio said, adding however, that the board’s job was “balancing the needs of the town.”

With the town’s first budget referendum scheduled less than one month away on May 2, the board also discussed the possibility of pushing that date back and scheduling two referendums instead – one for the last week in May

and one in the third week of June.

However, Tarlov said in that case, the board would need to know ahead of time “what number to come back with” for the second referendum as there would not be any time for further discussion between the two.

Tarlov also noted he felt it was “real risky” to go to the first referendum presenting a mill rate “assuming” the town would not have to take on additional teacher pension costs.

He furthered he was “inclined to agree” with Bisbikos in “assuming worst case scenario” in order to “give the taxpayers the opportunity” at referendum to see what exactly the budget would look like taking Malloy’s proposed changes into consideration.

“If we pretend it’s not going to happen, we’re doing a sneak attack [on taxpayers],” board member Stefani Lowe said, adding, “We have to realize something is coming our way.”

The next Board of Finance meeting is Wednesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Karen Evertson

I tried to do the best I could. Sometimes I succeeded, some of the times I failed, but I tried. I was born in 1952 and grew up outside of Schenectady N.Y.

I was active in all sorts of outdoor activities; swimming, skiing, hiking and canoeing. After graduating from Schalmont High School I attended Ithaca College where I met my future husband William Evertson. Bill and I were married in 1975 in a simple ceremony on a farm in Ithaca. We lived in Delaware for two years while Bill worked on his MFA and I began my career as a social worker. After two years of school, teaching, work and travel we moved to New York City. In 1982 I received a Master of Social Work from Hunter College. I was hired after my social work training at the Metropolitan Center for Mental Health as the Administrative Director.

In 1986 our son Ian was born and we moved to Connecticut where I had a job at Inter Community Mental Health Group as the Executive Director. After about ten years, I was recruited by the State of Connecticut to develop and run Western Connecticut Mental Health Network as the CEO. My last position before I retired was CEO at Capitol Region Mental Health Center in Hartford. I value the traits that I grew up with that were further engrained by my social work training such as kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated, helping those in need, honesty and equality.

There are people who taught me of course. My father Robert C. Mackeown and mother Gary Wiggan Mackeown; my husband William and son Ian; my brother Douglas and his wife Tamzen, and their children David and Caitlin; my aunt Georgia Clingen, her son Eric, his wife Kerry and their children Brian and Elaine; my father's sister Dorothy Mackeown Jeroloman and her children, Charlie Jr., Amy and Robert C. Jeroloman.

I have been blessed with very special friends who loved me, assisted me and cared for me. Since my diagnosis of breast cancer I welcomed the chance to say thank you to all the people who helped me along the way. They have laughed with me and taught me things so that I could have a wonderful happy life. I am blessed beyond measure by knowing all of you. If you think of me and would like to do something to honor my memory here are some suggestions:

Volunteer at a school, library or art museum.

Write a letter to someone and let them know they had a positive impact on your life.

Make someone smile today if it is in your power to do so.

If you haven't educated yourself on global warming – start.

If you haven't educated yourself on renewable energy sources – start.

Turn off the electronics and take a kid out for ice cream and talk about their hopes and dreams.

And finally as some have said, be kind to one another.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St. East Hampton, on Saturday, April 8 from 1-3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Karen's name to the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457; or the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104.

To leave online condolences visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Portland

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.

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.



East Hampton

Gerald Llewellyn Cole

Longtime East Hampton resident Gerald Llewellyn Cole, 101, husband of the late Adelaide (Dolley) Cole, passed away peacefully at his home Saturday, April 1.

Born Oct. 28, 1915 in North New Portland, Maine at his home, he was the second born of twin boys, Gerald and Garnold Cole, to Clyde and Pharasallow (Knowles) Cole. Gerald also had a younger brother and three sisters.

Gerald attended a one room schoolhouse, being held back in first grade and skipping a year ahead in fourth grade. He graduated high school in a class of seven children. Gerald worked in the forests and sawmills and played on local baseball teams for several years after high school. Sometimes his job would be to break up log jams on the Kennebec River, an agility test if there ever was one.

Gerald enrolled in Hinckley Preparatory School and went on to Colby College graduating with a degree in chemistry. He worked at Monsanto Chemical Company in Massachusetts as a chemist. He was granted a draft deferment for his contributions in the industry during wartime.

He later came to Connecticut as an insurance executive and lastly settled at Fafnir Bearing Company in New Britain as their safety engineer, retiring at age 65.

When Gerald moved his young family to the state, he and his wife Adelaide rented a home in Middle Haddam and also purchased land on North Cone Rd. in East Hampton. They began attending the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam and are members to this day. Three years later Gerald and Adelaide began building their own home with a Grossman's Building Kit and a construction loan on North Cone Rd. and lived there until Adelaide passed away on January 9 and Gerald on April 1. Gerald also built his son's home in East Hampton.

Gerald leaves his sons Clyde Cole and wife Barbara of Wisconsin and Wayne Cole of East Hampton; daughter Geraldyn Youcher and husband Edwin of East Hampton; a sister Evelyn Hutchinson of Florida; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his son Calvin Cole and his grandson Hallock Yocher.

A Memorial Service will be held Monday, April 10 at 11 a.m. in the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam. Burial will follow in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

To leave online condolences visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Portland

Suzanne Frances Long

Suzanne Frances Long of Portland passed away Friday, March 24. She was born April 11, 1945, daughter of Francis Joseph Long and Hazel May Henderson Long in Portland.

The firstborn of three daughters, she attended schools in Portland, and was proud to be a Portland Highlander, fondly recalling the black and red school colors in her last days. Sue worked for Colt Firearms in Hartford for much of her life. Later in life she became a Certified Nurse's Aide and cared for the elderly in their homes. She also volunteered, often, to care for her nieces and nephews.

Sue was best known for her ever-present sense of humor, joy of life, and incredible generosity. She loved deeply, and was always there for her family and friends, with a kind heart and unconditional love. She was a wonderful sister, trusted friend, and the most amazing Aunt. She adored her nieces, nephews, great-nephews, and great nieces. Wherever Aunt Sue was, the kids were by her side. She also loved Sebastian, her pet parrot, who liked to scream loudly whenever she called you on the phone.

Sue is survived by her sisters, Dorothy Rogers of Haddam, Claire Davis of Branford; brothers-in-law, John Rogers and Jeffrey Davis; nephew, Ryan Rogers of Baltimore, Md.; nieces, Jennifer Rogers Roth of Haddam Neck and Nicole Ragland of Thompson's Station, Tenn., and their husbands, Scott Roth and Zachary Ragland; great-nephews, Connor and Hunter Roth of Haddam Neck and Ryder Ragland of Thompson's Station, Tenn.; a great niece, Evalyn Ragland of Thompson's Station, Tenn.; and dear friend Brian Hasselman of Glastonbury. She is also survived by a multitude of the Long and Henderson family cousins, and many friends she dearly loved.

Suzanne died peacefully, following a short illness, on the Hospice Unit of Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by family, and cared for by the amazing Hospice Team. In gratitude for the care she was given by Middlesex Hospital, Sue has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her name to the Middlesex Hospital Development Fund.

A life well-lived and well-loved, she showed such great courage in her final days.

A memorial Mass will be held Monday, April 10, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in Center Cemetery, Portland, at a later date. The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Nathan S. Goldberg Funeral Services

Nathan Strauss Goldberg, 86, of Santa Clarita, Calif., formerly of Colchester, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. His full obituary was published in last week's *Rivereast*.

Col. Goldberg's funeral services will take place today, April 7. A small religious service will be at 10:30 a.m. at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 2920 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204. The burial will be at 1 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in his memory to one of the following charities:

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaeljfox.org), Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association Scholarship Fund (www.river-rats.org/donations.html), Jewish National Fund (jnf.org).



**MORE OBITUARIES
ON FOLLOWING
PAGE**

Obituaries continued

Colchester

Henny Markiewicz Simon

Henny Markiewicz Simon, née Rosenbaum, passed away tragically on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 4, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Born July 15, 1925, and raised in Hanover, Lower Saxony, Germany, she was the daughter of the late Ludwig and Jenny (Jacobowitz) Rosenbaum.



After the outbreak of World War II for only the sake of being Jewish, she and her mother were deported by the Nazis and sent to the Ghetto in Riga, Latvia, where she and her mother were imprisoned until being moved to the Stradsdenhof Work Camp in Riga in December 1941. From November 1943 through January 1945, she endured the atrocities of the Stutthof Concentration Camp (near Gdansk) and Korben Work Camp (a branch of K.Z. Stutthof). On Jan. 20, 1945, yet another transfer commenced but she and many others were liberated in Koronowo, Poland by the Russian Army.

It was while in Poland she met (the late) Abram Markiewicz, a survivor of the concentration work camp Auschwitz. The two were married on August 25, 1945 and left Poland together to return to Germany in the hopes of finding any of her surviving family members – in particular, her dear mother.

Henny and Abram welcomed their first child, (the late) Jacob Markiewicz, in Germany in 1946. On Thanksgiving 1949, the young family immigrated to the United States to be reunited with her father, who had arrived in the United States in 1948 from Shanghai, China. Henny and her husband purchased a poultry/dairy farm in Colchester and shortly thereafter, in 1951, came the birth of their second child, Jenny.

Abram died suddenly in December 1976. Neither he nor Henny had ever revealed many details of their experiences during the war. In January 1981, Henny had again found love and married (the late) Robert Simon. The couple remained on the farm in Colchester. Only with Bob's encouragement, love and support, she recorded her story at the Yale University Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. In 1986, Henny began speaking to young people in schools and at other venues relaying her story from before, during and after the Holocaust. In their free time, they enjoyed boating, fishing and travel. Robert Simon died in May 2001.

Over the course of countless talks, she had become very close friends with Benjamin Cooper, a World War II medic who was with Eisenhower's troops and witnessed the liberation of Dachau. At the time they met, Ben also had been speaking to schoolchildren about his experiences during the war. They became fast friends and nearly inseparable. Together, she and Ben continued their educational mission by speaking jointly at schools about their closely related war experiences; he as a soldier and she as a survivor. Whenever Henny was faced with a difficult situation or was told she could not accomplish something, she embraced it as a challenge and took great satisfaction in proving otherwise.

In addition to sharing her story, Henny volunteered for Meals-on-Wheels, American Red Cross Bloodmobiles, was a Life Member of Hadassah, the Sisterhood of the Congregation Ahavath Achim, and the board of the Strochlitz Holocaust Research Center in New London.

She leaves her daughter and son-in-law, Jenny and Stuart Rabinowitz of Glastonbury; her daughter-in-law, Paula Markiewicz of Lake Katrine, N.Y.; granddaughter, Michelle Rabinowitz of Manchester (and her son), great-grandson, Ethan; grandson, Aaron Rabinowitz of East Hampton and his fiancée, Kira Shin St. Denis; grandson, Lee Markiewicz and his wife, Amy of Cypress, Texas; grandson, Abram Markiewicz and his wife, Alexa of Kingston, N.Y. (and their children); great-grandson, Asa; and great-granddaughter, Ani. She also leaves a niece, a nephew and his family, as well as her very dear friend and companion, Ben Cooper and his family.

In addition to her parents, spouses and son, she was predeceased by her brother, Hans Rosenbaum, in 1940; and her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Leonard and Greta Markiewicz.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. today, April 7, in the sanctuary of Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in Ahavath Achim Memorial Park, Taintor Hill Road, Colchester. Due to Passover, the Shiva mourning period is limited and will be observed at the Rabinowitz residence, (68 Trinity Ave., Glastonbury) on Sunday, April 9, from 1-7:30 p.m., with a Minyan service at 6:45 p.m.

Those who wish to offer an expression of sympathy are encouraged to consider a contribution in Henny's memory and honor to one of the following organizations:

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC 20024-2126 (ushmm.org); Simon Wiesenthal Center, 1399 South Roxbury, Los Angeles, CA 90035 (wiesenthal.com); Strochlitz Holocaust Resource Center, 28 Channing St., New London, CT 06320 (jfec.com); Congregation Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester, CT 06415; or to the charity of one's choice.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com. May her memory be for a blessing.

Portland Police News

3/6: Christopher Radman, 39, of 8 Prout St., was charged with being a fugitive from justice, Portland Police said.

3/17: James Pelotte, 45, of 212 Great Hill Rd., was charged with operating under the influence, failure to drive in proper lane, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, operating under suspension and operating an unregistered vehicle, police said.

3/25: Yaw Kissi, 58, of 84 Stonegate Rd., New Britain, was charged with operating under the influence, police said.

3/31: John Safflicki, 20, of 54 Gospel Lane, was charged with misuse of market plate, insufficient insurance, operating unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

East Hampton Police News

3/7: Two 15-year-old juveniles of East Hampton were issued summonses, East Hampton Police said. One juvenile received a summons for second-degree harassment and conspiracy to commit second-degree harassment, police said.

3/18: Aaron Cost, 40, of 35 Laurel Cove Rd., was issued a summons for misuse of plates and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

3/18: Jessica Spearin, 32, of 157 Daly Rd., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

3/24: Ryan William Landers, 24, of 4 Bates Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

3/29: Justin Vincent Flynn, 29, of 58 Beverly Rd., Wethersfield, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny, police said.

Also, from March 20-26, officers responded to 10 medical calls, seven motor vehicle accidents and five reports of hazardous conditions.

Colchester Police News

3/26: State Police said Nicholas D. Provost, 18, of 20 Winterberry Dr., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to obey a control signal and possession of less than ½ oz. of cannabis.

3/28: State Police said Paul W. Stelzner, 31, of 279 Skinner Ln., Hebron, was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

3/29: Colchester Police said Jeffrey Diccoco, 31, of 75 Daniel St., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway.

3/30: Colchester Police said at approximately

8:04 a.m., they received a report that an 11-foot Everest plow had been stolen from the storage yard behind the town garage at 300 Old Hartford Rd. Police said the plow is orange and black in color, with "S3" painted in black on it. The plow's serial number is J1234.

3/31: Colchester Police said at approximately 4:09 p.m., they received a larceny complaint from Stop and Shop on 99 Linwood Ave. The accused reportedly stole men's shavers on March 20 totaling \$518.19 and on March 29, the same suspect stole electric hair trimmers, electric tooth brushes, and other items totaling \$587.41. Police said the stolen merchandise totals \$1,105.60 and video of both incidents was obtained. The case is still under investigation.

Three-Car Crash at Hebron Intersection

by Julianna Roche

An Amston man suffered a minor head-injury as a result of a three-car crash at the intersection of routes 66 and 316 last week, State Police said.

Police said at approximately 3:53 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, Tracy Nicolo, 55, of 35 Rockledge Dr., Vernon, was driving a Buick Century Special eastbound on Route 66 when she turned left toward Route 316 with a green light, but no arrow.

Meanwhile, police said, Sean P. Fitzgerald, 36, of 78 North Pond Rd., Amston, was driving a 2006 Toyota Prius westbound on Route 66, also with a green light, when he attempted to swerve around the Century Special to avoid hitting it, according to police.

Police said the two vehicles subsequently collided before a 2008 Toyota Prius driven by

Karen M. Mullaney, 50, of 243 Hope Valley Rd., Amston, traveling southbound on Route 316 crashed directly into Fitzgerald's passenger door.

According to police, Fitzgerald was transported for a minor head injury to Marlborough Clinic by Hebron Fire Department.

The other two drivers, as well as two passengers in the 2008 Prius – Hannah Mullaney, 14, and Daniel Mullaney, 12, both of 243 Hope Valley Rd., Amston – did not sustain any injuries, police said.

Nicolo was issued an infraction for failure to grant right of way at an intersection, and both the Century Special and the 2006 Prius were towed from the scene to AAA-Belltown and Columbia Motors, respectively.

Multiple Car Break-Ins Reported in Marlborough

State Police received numerous complaints from people living on several streets in town last Wednesday, March 29, reporting their vehicles had been burglarized.

Police said they received complaints from residents of South Road, Millstone Drive, Cheney Road and Denler Drive, who all reported their unlocked vehicles had been entered and gone through.

Police said one witness reported seeing a

dark-colored Honda Accord-style vehicle with two tall, thin, light-skinned males between 2:30 and 3 a.m. at the end of a victim's driveway on South Road. According to the witness, the two males were using their cell phones as flashlights to look for something on the ground near the end of the driveway.

Anyone with further information is asked to call Officer Julius Ransom at Troop K at 860-465-5400, ext. 4095.

Car Rolls Over on Route 316 in Hebron

by Julianna Roche

A Norwich woman lost control of her Jeep on a wet road in town last week, causing the vehicle to roll over.

On Tuesday, March 28, Ashley A. Adams, 21, of 23 Watrous Ave., Norwich, was driving a Jeep Cherokee northbound on Route 316 near Skinner Lane at approximately 8:37 a.m. when she lost control on the wet road surface while negotiating a curve in the roadway, ac-

ording to police.

Police said the Cherokee subsequently spun out and traveled sideways off the right side of the road into a utility pole, before flipping over and coming to an uncontrolled final stop.

Adams was transported by Hebron Fire Department to Windham Hospital for minor injuries and was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for road conditions.

Colchester Man Injured in Hebron Crash

by Julianna Roche

A Colchester man was hospitalized March 31 after his vehicle drove off Route 85 in Hebron and crashed directly into a utility pole and rolled over twice.

According to police, at approximately 12:42 a.m., Tyler Zoldak, 27, of 43 Broadway St., was driving a Dodge Dart northbound on Route 85 when it came to the intersection with North Pond Road and started to veer off the road.

The Dart subsequently hit the curb on the

right-hand shoulder before continuing on to hit a utility pole, break it, and roll over two times before coming to a complete stop in the driveway of a residence located at 447 Church St., police said.

Zoldak was transported to Middlesex Hospital by Hebron Volunteer Fire Department for possible injuries and received infractions for making an improper turn, distracted driving, and traveling too fast for conditions.

Hebron Police News

3/27: State Police said Thomas Litwinko, 21, of 14 Diane Ln., was arrested and charged with breach of peace.

3/28: State Police said Richard A. Barboza, 48, 74 Hunt Rd., Columbia, was arrested and charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge.