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Bop to the Top... Jocks, brainiacs, thespians and skaters will defy stereotypes in *High School Musical* from April 5-7. The show, based on the 2006 Disney Channel television movie, will be staged at East Hampton High School as a combined venture of the high school and middle school drama clubs. See related story on page 27. Photo by Belltown Drama Club

Hebron Boards Clash On School Officers

by Sloan Brewster

The Hebron boards of education and selectmen are not on the same page regarding a proposal to hire school resource officers for the town's two public schools.

At a special meeting of the boards on March 14, the two boards discussed the proposal but did not come to a consensus. The education board held firm on its desire to hire four part-time school resource officers [SROs] for the Gilead Hill and Hebron Elementary schools, at a total cost of approximately \$82,000.

Selectmen, meanwhile, have said they want to add more local patrol, including at the schools. They have proposed, in lieu of the \$82,000, including \$70,000 in the town budget for three additional part-time officers. (See related story on page 29.)

Selectman John Collins said that according to 2018 federal data, rural communities such as Hebron were less likely to employ SROs than urban areas.

"There are other methods to bring down the risk of an assault," he said. "SROs are generally at high schools and middle schools. They are generally urban."

Collins added that 2018 data also says an SRO with a handgun could be overmatched by an active shooter with more firepower.

"Police presence in the area was actually key to response time in the schools," he said. "A lot of this is response time, getting the cavalry there in time."

Board of Finance member Mal Leichter – who was in the audience – asked resident state trooper Daniel Greenwood if he had long guns

in his vehicle.

While saying their location was confidential, Greenwood said "there are some [long guns] in town."

Selectmen said residents are concerned with a recent string of car thefts and break-ins and want more patrols to deal with the thieves. Selectman Clara O'Brien suggested increasing overall police presence and having officers walk through schools at different times of the day.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said taxpayers would think the town was remiss if patrols were not increased to deal with the break-ins. He reiterated the idea of having patrol officers walk through the schools.

"Is there a way to kind of modify it so it works for the community?" he asked. "Is there a way to share?"

Members of the public also said they wanted to see more local patrols.

"I want more police on the streets," said resident Kathy Shea. "I think it's a tragic waste of money to have officers locked in the school all day."

Board of Finance member Diane Del Rosso – who was also in the audience – said there were more parts of the community than just the schools.

"I think the selectmen are asking for a more comprehensive plan," she said. "Something for the entire town."

Board of Education members, for the most part, would not budge.

"We feel like the issue of the town to have

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East Hampton Town Manager Moving On

by Elizabeth Regan

East Hampton Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, who came to the politically-volatile town almost seven years ago as the state's youngest town manager, is taking his experience with him to South Windsor.

Maniscalco, 37, announced his resignation in a letter Tuesday, immediately following a vote by the South Windsor Town Council to appoint him as town manager effective July 15.

A native of Trumbull with undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of South Dakota, Maniscalco served as the executive director of a nonprofit economic development organization in Illinois before returning to Connecticut to manage East Hampton.

He described the past seven years as an opportunity "to grow and refine" his public management skills.

"I will never forget my time in East Hampton," he wrote in his resignation letter.

But he told the *RiverEast* this week that he wouldn't be satisfied if East Hampton was the "last stop" in his career. He said that with only 30 town managers in the state – many of them in towns even smaller than East Hampton – opportunities for career growth are limited.

He said he's been keeping tabs on the South Windsor position ever since he first heard long-time Town Manager Matthew Galligan was thinking about retiring three years ago. Galligan made it official in September.

"It was the kind of opportunity that if you didn't take it, you'd be sitting here for quite a while longer, potentially," Maniscalco said.

South Windsor Mayor Andrew Paterna, who took over for former-mayor-turned-state-senator Saud Anwar on March 18, described Maniscalco as a "nice fit" for the town.

"I think he brings a lot of knowledge of the general workings of Connecticut in that all towns have to work closely with the state these days. He's somebody who's aware of that," Paterna said.

Maniscalco currently serves as the chairman of the regional Lower River Valley Council of Governments, a board member of the Chatham Health District and was an appointed member of the state's Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE) from 2015-16.

Despite the difference in the size of the two towns – South Windsor has a population of 25,937 compared to East Hampton's 12,901,

according to the US Census Bureau – the problems are all very similar, according to Paterna.

He cited Maniscalco's strength in economic development as another factor in the Town Council's decision.

Paterna said the council started with 37 candidates before narrowing the list to four.

Galligan will be leaving his post after 23 years in South Windsor. The continuity is a pronounced difference from what Maniscalco experienced when he first came to East Hampton in 2012, with the town still reeling from the departure of Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe two years prior.

O'Keefe resigned amid controversy related to the firing of Police Chief Matthew Reimondo. Four interim town managers came and went before Maniscalco signed his \$115,000 contract as the town's permanent town manager.

Maniscalco's new salary will be \$160,000, according to the South Windsor human resources department. He has been making \$138,000 in East Hampton since receiving a 7.14 percent raise just over one year ago.

Maniscalco said his last few months in East



Michael Maniscalco

Hampton will give him a chance to see the new town hall complex "go vertical" in anticipation of an early 2020 completion date, to help move

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Boards Clash cont. from Front Page

police officers and the schools are completely different,” school board chairman Erica Bromley said. “The two issues have become mixed when they should be separated.”

Bromley said her board felt it was important to have police officers in the schools and that the board stood behind the proposal for the four part-timers and was seeking approval for that. She said the board would not settle for less.

“This is a decision that was made by the board,” she said. “This is where we stand.”

As sworn police officers, SROs would be under selectmen’s purview and the plan requires approval by that board before it can be moved forward, Tierney said Monday, adding that the town would actually staff the new officers.

There was also talk about whether there should be guns in the schools at all, with Collins saying that he would rather children did not grow up around them and O’Brien asking if having officers with handcuffs and guns amidst kids was the right choice.

O’Brien added that she had asked her kids if they would have wanted to go to school with “a cop with a gun” and they told her they would not.

Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel said that according to research he has read, children and families feel safer with a police officer in the school.

“Certainly it brings that level of reassurance to the families,” he said. “There is that sense of security with having a police officer present.”

School board member Heather Petit said the board should be proactive, not reactive, when it comes to the safety of children.

“I asked my 8-year-old daughter how she would feel about having police in the school,” Petit said. “She said, ‘I would love it. I wish we could do it.’”

In response to questions from selectmen about whether the district was taking other

measures to keep kids safe, Van Tassel said the officers would be an added part of the district’s overall safety plan.

Van Tassel and the school board would not give selectmen specifics on what the plan entails. Van Tassel said it was a “strong plan” – and involves keeping the details out of the public eye.

“Our plans are approved by the Department of Homeland Security,” Van Tassel said. “They are not open to disclosure.”

At that Greenwood chimed in saying that steps the district is taking “are average, or above average.”

“I wouldn’t be concerned about their plan,” he told selectmen.

Maryanne Leichter, education board member, suggested scheduling another meeting to find a compromise.

Collins suggested forming a committee with members from both boards to explore the matter further and come to a solution, but Van Tassel said since the meeting was a special meeting they could not change the agenda or take such an action – and added that the next time the education board meets will be in April and by then the proposed town budget will be in the hands of the Board of Finance.

As it now stands, the proposed education budget includes approximately \$82,000 to fund the SROs. Included in the costs is about \$71,000 for the officers’ salaries, broken into an approximate \$19,000 for each. The officers would work just under four hours per day and make \$30 per hour. The price also includes \$6,000 in additional costs, namely Medicare, clothing allowances and one-time \$1,000 allotments per officer for a weapon.

The meeting was adjourned with no specific plan on how to move forward. This week, however, selectmen pushed forward a proposal to fund three additional officers, one of which would be shared by the schools.

Town Manager cont. from Front Page

along the comprehensive search for a new public water source, and to hopefully see the passage of the 2019-20 town budget.

Search Committee

The council during its regular meeting Tuesday accepted Maniscalco’s resignation “with regret” after a short executive session.

Council Chairman Melissa Engel told the *Rivereast* after the meeting that the council will serve as the search committee for Maniscalco’s replacement. Members will be working over the next two to three weeks to secure an executive search firm to help coordinate the effort.

“So begins the long, painful process,” she said.

Engel was confident the council’s membership, with four Republicans and three Democrats, is a “diverse enough group to well represent different views and ideas” about what residents want in a new town manager.

Engel expects the process to take more than three months, which will make the hiring of an interim town manager likely. She said councilors have not yet discussed possibilities for the role.

Interim town managers the last time around were former Public Works Director Robert Drewry, the late former Southington Town Manager John Weichsel, former probate judge Anne McKinney and town Finance Director Jeff Jylkka.

Engel credited Maniscalco with a “creative” problem-solving approach and an ability to seek

out partnerships. She cited his idea to address the town’s long-standing water woes by bringing in water from MDC through Portland as an example of both strengths.

Councilman James “Pete” Brown said East Hampton is losing a good town manager.

“This is a man that came to town and grew a lot in that position,” he said.

Brown said he will be looking for candidates with significant strength in developing local budgets.

“Given the state of the state financially, I think we need someone that’s very strong on budgets,” he said. “I think the next three to four years are going to be challenging for all towns, but especially for East Hampton.”

Voters have passed the local budget at the first referendum only three times since 2010.

Brown cited cuts in funding and increases in mandates being discussed at the state level – including a proposal to bill towns for a portion of teachers’ pension payments previously borne by the state – as factors that are going to make the coming years even more difficult.

According to Engel, any East Hampton town manager would have to be somebody who is “not intimidated by the political atmosphere that can exist” in town.

“They need to know and understand there’s a difference between being a town manager and being a politician,” Engel said. “And I think that’s hard to do in a small town, but Mike did that very well.”

Hebron BOS Seeks to Drive Down Mill Rate

by Sloan Brewster

After a lengthy deliberation Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen approved a \$9.03 million proposed budget to forward to the Board of Finance.

The town spending plan – a 1.30 percent increase over the current budget – includes \$7.48 million for town operations, \$600,829 for capital improvement projects in excess of \$25,000, a \$140,000 contribution to open space, \$2,000 toward capital non-recurring projects, \$48,204 for capital projects running \$5,000 to \$25,000, a \$40,000 contribution to the town’s revaluation and \$728,149 for debt service.

The proposed selectmen’s budget does not include spending packages for RHAM or the Hebron Board of Education.

The board recommended that the Board of Finance consider taking \$250,000 from the unassigned fund balance and putting it toward the budget, to reduce the mill rate from 37.44 to 36.94 mills.

The meeting, which, according to the agenda, was also supposed to be a public hearing, was attended by very few members of the public, only two of whom spoke. They made their comments during the public comment portion of the meeting. An official public hearing was neither held nor referenced by selectmen.

Both speakers asked for additional police patrols. Bob Turner requested an additional 20 patrol hours and Kathy Shea said she wants the town and Board of Education to share costs for more police officers in addition to the extra patrols.

The school board’s \$11.43 million budget – a decrease of \$55,897, or 0.49 percent, from

the current year’s spending – includes approximately \$82,000 to fund four school resource officers it wants to hire for Gilead Hill and Hebron Elementary School. Included in the costs is about \$71,000 for the officers’ salaries, at approximately \$19,000 each. The officers would work just under four hours per day and make \$30 per hour. The price also includes \$6,000 in additional costs, namely Medicare, clothing allowances and one-time \$1,000 allotments per officer for a weapon.

Selectmen – at a joint meeting between the two boards earlier this month – and some residents have said they would prefer shared positions that would increase patrols in town due to a rash of car thefts and break-ins and put officers into the schools at different times throughout the school day (see related story on the cover).

School board members have said the two positions should not be tied together and that they are two different concerns.

Selectmen answered the cry for more patrols, agreeing to spend \$130,297 for five part-time officers and one full-time SRO at RHAM, which is an addition of three part-time officers. One of the officers would be an SRO who would work 35 hours a week, with the hours spread between the two elementary schools. Total patrol hours would go up to 56 hours per week, an increase of 20 hours over the current 36.

The proposal adds approximately \$70,000 to the current \$60,000 local police budget, but it’s offset by the \$82,000 for SROs in the education budget and ultimately equates to a \$12,000 decrease in the overall budget.

That was the sole increase to the town budget selectmen made Tuesday. Throughout the rest of the meeting they deliberated over potential cuts in an endeavor to drop the mill rate.

John Collins, selectman, said he wanted to bring the mill rate from 37.44 to 36.60 mills and was looking for \$200,000 to \$300,000 in cuts.

“It seems like every year our mill rate goes up,” he said. “Connecticut is a high tax state and we’re a high tax town.”

A lower tax rate would make it easier to attract businesses to town, he said.

In an effort to get there, the board cut \$139,000 from the budget for capital improvement projects exceeding \$25,000. Selectmen, after more than an hour of back and forth discussion, decided to cut \$50,000 for a street sweeper to replace the 20-year old one the town currently has. They knocked \$25,000 off the line item for a dump truck with a plow, instead planning to set money aside over four years. The board also cut \$64,000 for Wall Street sidewalks.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney and the sidewalks should be done at the same time as a campus modification project at RHAM High School, which he said “is probably going to be pushed back until the 2020 summer.”

In January, the school board announced plans to complete the work before the start of the next school year.

In an email Wednesday, RHAM Schools Superintendent Patricia Law said the district is waiting for the state to approve a permit from the Department of Transportation Office of the

State Traffic Administration. Law said she would have a better idea today if the approval will come through in time to start the project this summer.

“If we don’t have that completed by the end of this week, then we will need to push the project to the summer of 2020,” she said.

Ultimately, selectmen did not succeed in cutting the budget enough to bring the mill rate to below 37 mills – hence the recommendation to have the finance board take \$250,000 from the unassigned fund.

Despite representing a 1.30 percent increase in spending, the proposed budget will be a decrease in the mill rate, Mal Leichter said in a phone call Wednesday, though he had not calculated how much. The mill rate will go down based on revenues, which are on the rise since the completion of Colebrook Village, a senior living facility that opened last year in May on John E. Horton Blvd.

“Because our grand list went up, the mill rate will go down,” he said. “Now there’s more property value to spread the numbers across.”

The Board of Finance will review the budget Tuesday to determine the final numbers to bring to public hearing.

The budget hearing will be Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in the RHAM High School auditorium.

* * *

On Monday, the RHAM Board of Education will hold a public hearing on its \$29.63 million budget in the RHAM High School auditorium at 7 p.m.

New Yoga Studio Already Bonding with Colchester Community

by Allison Lazur

Twisted Dog Yoga may have just opened Monday, but relationships with community members have already formed.

Co-owners Tracy Harasimowitz and Carrie Aivaliotis stood in the upstairs 1,150 sq.-ft. space Tuesday greeting new yoga students as they filed in to attend the 4 p.m. class.

The space has warmth that mirrors both Harasimowitz and Aivaliotis, who offered every person who appeared Tuesday a sincere welcome bringing to life the studio's tagline: "Yoga for Everyone."

"Our biggest thing is community," Harasimowitz said. "We want to give back. We've always wanted to bring healthiness into the community, introducing it to our friends, introducing it to our families and really having the desire to have something [in Colchester] that we could take advantage of."

As the business grows, the studio will offer a variety of classes ranging from Yoga Pilates to prenatal and community classes, where proceeds are donated to a different organization or school program quarterly.

"We are looking to accommodate a lot of different flavors of what people are looking for," Harasimowitz said.

Both women are just as colorful and diverse as the classes their new studio offers.

Aivaliotis is a reading instructor in East Hartford while Harasimowitz flips houses, manages rental properties and works part-time at

UConn's graduate school of business.

"Tracy is a woman that wears many hats," Aivaliotis said with a smile, as Harasimowitz chuckled.

The pair met approximately 11 years ago when their children attended the same preschool, with plans for a health and wellness endeavor developing just a year after their initial introduction.

Aivaliotis said she and Harasimowitz would get together with other preschool and elementary school moms to share recipes, make healthy food and exchange naturopathic remedies.

"We were called 'The Moms of the Round Table,'" she said. Harasimowitz chimed in, "It was our own community board, but instead of the internet we did it in person."

Aivaliotis said that, despite neither of them being yoga instructors, the interest of opening a studio stems from having a love of the yogi lifestyle.

"We just love it and love the philosophy and the lifestyle and also love just the ideology of health and wellness," she said.

Certain personal touches can be seen throughout the studio including an impressively sturdy wooden bench crafted by Aivaliotis' father.

The duo also has a smoothie and juice bar in the works appropriately titled 'Soul Bar' that is intended to "nourish and feed your soul," Aivaliotis said.

The juice bar is located downstairs from the studio space and expected to be up and running by the summer.

Harasimowitz said the goal was to have the studio and juice and smoothie bar "build off of each other."

"With the studio we really want to create this community and then what better way to do that than to have a place where the community can congregate and feed themselves with something amazing and wonderful," she said.

Both women expressed supporting other local businesses and said they've already received promotional support from places such as Bengal Tiger Hot Yoga.

"We don't want to build a community of competition and negativity," Aivaliotis said. "We want to work together. There's enough [business] for everyone and I think when you have that mentality and philosophy it comes back to you in positive ways."

* * *

Twisted Dog Yoga will celebrate its official grand opening tomorrow, March 30, from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., and Sunday, March 31, from noon-4 p.m. Featured will be a ribbon-cutting on Saturday, with live demos and membership promotions over both days.

Anyone interested in more information on the studio can visit twisteddogyoga.com, email twisteddogyoga@gmail.com or call 860-603-2387.



Co-owners Carrie Aivaliotis, left, and Tracy Harasimowitz opened Twisted Dog Yoga Monday. The studio, located at 15 Broadway Street, No. 2, Colchester, will have its grand opening tomorrow and Sunday, March 31.

Colchester Business Donates to Horizons Camp

by Allison Lazur

Colchester Mill Fabrics has spent the last three months crafting a 100-piece donation that will impact Horizons camp members.

Clothing protectors spread across a table in the fabric store sported patterns of lime green sea turtles, violet-colored flowers and even wolves.

The 33-inch-by-17-inch protectors came complete with waterproof backing and Velcro donated by the fabric store and will be distributed to Horizons members enrolled in the "Options" program.

Horizons is located in South Windham and caters to developmentally-disabled individuals. Those enrolled in the Options program participate in various activities including arts and crafts and field trips Monday through Friday for six hours each day, said program manager Tracy Brule, who has been with Options since the program's rollout in 2011.

Brule called the clothing protectors "amazing."

"I love that they're not gender-specific and I like the fact that they're all adult themes," she said.

Colchester Mill Fabrics owner Cheryl Dolloff said the shop shifted its business plan three years ago, moving from a full-line retail fabric store to a greater focus on the quilting side of the industry.

Colchester Mill Fabrics has been in business for 44 years and was originally owned by Dolloff's mother until her passing in May 2011.

With the business change, Dolloff said she and her staff worked to "reinvent ourselves," which included more community work.

"I realized our community sewing charity work was rally lax so Karen [Strid] and I along with one of my managers talked about what we could do as a shop to be more involved with charity within the community."

Strid, who has a daughter enrolled in Horizons' Options program and also teaches classes at the fabric store, reached out to Horizons to see if clothing protectors were needed.

The protectors were assembled, sewn and pressed over the course of three months by about five community members at a community sew – run by Strid – that meets at the store on the second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The meetings include camaraderie and chatter among strangers who come together to donate their time, Strid said.

After the clothes protectors were distributed to the four camp members who were in attendance, an oversized thank you card was handed to Strid and Dolloff.

Through tears, Dolloff told the *Rivereast* she was "very much overwhelmed with emotion and how appreciative Horizons is."

"I'm very proud of both Karen and my customers for being able to put this program together and I think my mother would be proud," Dolloff said.

Dolloff said the community outreach will continue in the coming months with new projects that include creating placemats for those who are homebound in Colchester or neighboring towns and who utilize the Meals-on-Wheels program.

In the fall, the community sew will focus on making stockings to pair with the turkey dinners distributed by the Colchester Rotary Club for Thanksgiving.

"This is a feel good place," Dolloff said. "It's not just coming in here, looking at fabric, picking out fabric and having great customer service from my staff – it's about the whole experience and this community sew and this charity work has just become a major part of what we are and who we're going to be going forward."



Colchester Mill Fabrics crafted 100 clothes protectors for members enrolled in the options program with the Horizons organization. Pictured standing in back are Karen Strid, left, and shop owner Cheryl Dolloff. In front, from left, are Andrew Hayden, Alex Harper, Elaina Strid and Theresa Rabbitt.

Underage Drinking to Blame for Fatal Crash in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

Olivia McGuinness, 21, of 5 Cobble Way, Apt. 4, was arrested March 12 for permitting a minor to possess alcohol at a party last June at her mother's home that ultimately resulted in a fatal car crash, killing 18-year-old Taylor P. Howes of Colchester.



Taylor Howes

The original accident report states Howes was driving in the area of Norwich Avenue and Elm Street when her vehicle collided with a tree at approximately 2:26 a.m. on June 15.

Howes was transported by Lifestar and later died on June 22 after succumbing to her injuries.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, in July 2018, Howes' mother provided police with images from the social media platform Snapchat that Howes had posted of herself prior to the crash.

The four Snapchat images show McGuinness and Howes together, as well as an image of

Smirnoff Raspberry Vodka, the affidavit states.

Howes' mother also told police, according to the affidavit, that she heard alcohol was purchased for the June 14 house party by McGuinness.

The affidavit states police contacted the owner of International Package Store in Colchester, who was able to provide three receipts of purchases McGuinness, who was 20 at the time, made at the store on June 12 at approximately 6:24 p.m. and two purchases made on June 13 at approximately 5:27 p.m. and 9:01 p.m. However, the owner told police he wasn't working at the store that day and thus could not say exactly what McGuinness purchased.

An investigation led police to McGuinness' residence where underage drinking occurred prior to the fatal collision, the affidavit states. The affidavit adds that McGuinness "knowingly permitted" Howes to illegally possess alcohol in her residence, which police said she "exercised control over" in her mother's absence.

In a statement to police, McGuinness' mother said she was in Hawaii at the time of the party and found out about the fatal crash from her daughter on June 16. McGuinness did not initially inform her mother there was a party at her home, the affidavit states.

Later the next day, McGuinness told her

mother Howes was drinking with everyone and became upset "when everyone tried taking her car keys," the affidavit states. Despite stating she would "sober up," Howes ultimately ended up driving with a passenger.

According to the initial accident report, Howes' passenger was 20-year-old Kyle Uribanti.

According to the affidavit, Uribanti told police he was drinking at McGuinness' home with approximately 10 other people.

He told police at some point in the evening he and Howes were going to leave the party to go to a gas station, the affidavit states.

However, the "last thing I remember was being in the parking lot of [McGuinness'] complex and everything is a blur until I remember looking up and everything being [in] slow motion," the affidavit states Uribanti told police.

Uribanti remembered "being in the air and flipping a couple of times," ultimately resorting to breaking the passenger side window so he could exit the vehicle, the affidavit states.

He told police, according to the affidavit, that he was screaming Howes' name but heard her snoring. Uribanti attempted to get Howes out of the vehicle, but was unsuccessful.

He then went to get help from nearby neigh-

bors, the affidavit states.

He told police he brought his own bottle of Captain Morgan Run to the party and "[f]rom what I could tell, everyone had their own alcohol and was drinking their own alcohol," the affidavit states.

An unidentified witness told police that when he/she arrived at the party, McGuinness and Howes "appeared drunk."

After arriving, the witness told police Howes kept asking everyone for her car keys, but no one knew who had them.

The witness said he/she saw Howes "chug a big bottle of Smirnoff Vodka" stating "See, I'm not drunk and if I was, I wouldn't drink this," the affidavit states.

The witness told police that when he/she left to go get food at about 2:15 a.m., McGuinness, Howes and Uribanti were setting up a movie in the living room where everyone was going to hang out before going to bed, the affidavit states.

However, when heading back to the party, the witness received a FaceTime call from McGuinness stating Uribanti and Howes had been in an accident.

McGuinness was released on a \$5,000 bond and is next due in Norwich Superior Court on April 24.

Bylone Announces Candidacy for Colchester First Selectman

by Allison Lazur

Mary Bylone, 63, is a Democrat, current board of education member, former nurse and Newfoundland dog-lover – and now, she's also a first selectman candidate.

Bylone, who is in her first term on the school board, officially threw her hat in the ring on Sunday; she's looking to unseat incumbent Republican First Selectman Art Shilosky at the polls this November.

Running on a platform of "community first," Bylone said this week she believes the needs of individuals result in a stronger community.

"I want to bring to the town this vision that every single person that lives here is important and there are going to be times when one group has more needs than another. When we focus on the needs, the whole community is stronger," she said.

Bylone said she wants to emphasize the mindset of "if we help one community member or group, the whole community is strengthened; it's not at the cost of another."

Bylone's school board term runs through 2021; she said if she wins first selectman she'll resign, and someone will be appointed to finish out the remainder of her term.

A former nurse, Bylone said she moved from New Jersey in 2006 to accept a job as assistant vice president of patient care services at Backus Hospital and ultimately landed on residing in

Colchester because "a lot matched up" between her wants and needs and the town.

She cited being a fisherman, wanting trails to frequent with her Newfoundland dogs and the town's ideal population as reasons for living in Colchester.

In 2011, Bylone was promoted to chief nursing officer, later retiring in 2015.

Bylone for the past 30 years has been running the nursing leadership development program called Leaders Within.

But Bylone's love of Colchester has not clouded her vision for needed town growth.

"It's a good town, but it can be better," she said. "We're not developing to our full potential and it starts with the fact that we don't have a master plan."

She told the *Rivereast* this week she "can't find evidence" where residents, business owners and farmers were brought together to find out "what they want Colchester to be."

Bylone said she also wants to examine what can be done to bring more businesses to town, help senior community members and meet infrastructure needs.

State Rep. Linda Orange, D-48, has endorsed Bylone, citing her leadership skills, local government and management experience as reason for her support.

"Mary brings a different perspective," Orange said Tuesday. "She has knowledge of the

local budget and budgets in general. I believe she has a diverse background and will bring a fresh approach and it's great to see someone like Mary who is willing to serve our community. She's very dedicated and caring and I think she will serve our community well."

Shilosky confirmed Wednesday that he will run again, but called Bylone "intelligent" and said he believes "she'd do a good job if that's the way it goes."

"We are going to run a campaign without smearing each other and are going to stick to the issues and let the chips fall where they may," Shilosky said.

Shilosky said he's not interested in party affiliations, but rather who has the "best interest of the town in mind."

Bylone encouraged people to reach out to her via email, phone or text and even offered to meet interested residents for coffee to listen to their concerns.

"I'm not a person that will make promises I can't keep," she said. "I want to make sure we have a town that's a place people want to call home."

* * *

Bylone can be reached at mary4colchester@gmail.com or 860-531-9624. She also has a website, at maryforcolchester.com. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5.



Mary Bylone

Arrest Made in Colchester Fatal June Crash

by Allison Lazur

Donald F. Hibbert, 52, of 151 Lake Shore Dr., was arrested and charged with speeding and negligent homicide with a motor vehicle, after a two-vehicle collision killed 91-year-old Lucy Hinton of Colchester last June.

The collision occurred June 24 at approximately 2:31 p.m. in the westbound lane of Lake Hayward Road at the intersection with the exit 6 off ramp from Route 11 south.

The initial police report showed Hinton was the driver of the second vehicle involved in the collision and died later that day as a result of injuries sustained in the motor vehicle crash.

A statement given by Hibbert, as well as the initial accident report, stated Hinton failed to stop at the posted stop signs at the end of the off-ramp.

Hibbert, who was traveling westbound on Lake Hayward Road, told police he collided with Hinton's vehicle because she failed to stop.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, however, a subsequent investigation by the Collision Analysis Reconstruction Squad ruled both Hinton and Hibbert responsible for the collision.

The arrest warrant affidavit states at the time

of the crash, Hibbert told police he was traveling 35-40 mph on Lake Hayward Road approaching the Route 11 southbound off-ramp when Hinton pulled out in front of him. He told police he slammed on the breaks, but was unable to stop before colliding with her vehicle.

However, the arrest warrant states Hibbert "misled investigators" when he provided a written statement indicating he was traveling between 35-40 mph and also braked in an attempt to avoid the collision.

The arrest warrant states the investigation concluded Hibbert did not brake prior to the collision and was traveling between 56.64 and 61.36 mph in an area with a posted speed limit of 25 mph.

The warrant states both operators' actions contributed to the collision.

The collision may not have occurred if Hinton had stopped and may not have occurred if Hibbert had been traveling the posted speed limit, the warrant states, labeling Hibbert's speed a "contributing factor" to the collision.

Hibbert was released on a \$5,000 bail and is next due in Norwich Superior Court on April 9.

Ruminations Begin on East Hampton \$47.30M Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

Board of Finance Chairman Richard Brown introduced the 2019-20 budget season Monday by outlining the board's commitment to carefully considering the \$47.30 million proposed budget and the community's ability to fund it.

"We want to moderate tax increases so they don't fluctuate wildly from year to year and to continue to follow a five-year capital plan in doing so," the Republican said at the finance board's special budget meeting.

The meeting was held to receive budget presentations from Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith on the combined budget, which comes in with an increase of \$1.86 million – or 4.08 percent – over the current year.

The \$31.58 million education budget proposal adds \$936,025, or 3.05 percent, to the current budget. The proposal, approved by the Board of Education earlier this month, includes several new staffing positions and advancements in science and technology programming. It also sets aside \$151,185 to cover a proposal by Gov. Ned Lamont that could end up requiring the town to help fund retirement costs for its teachers.

The \$15.73 million general government proposed budget – composed of town operations, debt and capital projects – is an increase of \$919,286, or 6.21 percent, over the current budget. Factors driving the increase include salary and benefit increases related to an additional police officer and a building maintainer for the new town hall being constructed on Route 66.

Maniscalco noted the current general government budget – approved in October after a contentious, extended budget season – came with an increase of just over 1 percent compared to the prior year. He said the lean budget required officials to "scrimp and save" to maintain services.

"It catches up with you after a while," he said.

The hiring of a new police officer in the middle of the upcoming budget year would augment a force that regularly has only two officers on patrol during a shift, according to Maniscalco.

Based on the Maniscalco and Smith's recommendations, the combined budget proposal could result in a mill rate of 34.07 mills. That's an increase of 1.86 mills – or 5.8 percent – over the current year.

A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed prop-

erty value. Under the projected mill rate, taxes paid on a home assessed at \$200,000 for the 2019-20 fiscal year would be \$6,814. That's an increase of \$372 over the current year.

The spending plan will be weighed by the finance board over the coming weeks as members hear from town departments and the public. The finance board will then approve its budget proposal, which is set to be delivered to the Town Council by April 15. The council is authorized by town charter to make any alterations it deems necessary – except for increasing the total amount of the proposal.

Voters will vote on two separate budget questions: One for the proposed general government budget – including debt and capital projects – and one for the education budget proposal.

Out of the \$15.73 million general government budget, \$11.18 million covers town operations. That's an increase of \$452,292, or 4.2 percent, over the current budget.

The \$1.36 million capital budget is \$470,794, or 65.33 percent, more than currently allocated. The fund is typically used for infrastructure improvements with a life expectancy of at least five years or the purchase of major equipment.

Capital spending for the schools is dominated by an outlay of \$300,000 for school technology – including several hundred computer tablets for students and more than 100 computers for teachers – combined with \$170,000 in school safety enhancements and building repairs.

Capital projects for the town include \$373,000 in public safety improvements like hydrant dredging and replacement vehicles for the police chief and fire chief. The plan also bolsters sinking funds for firehouse repairs and vehicle purchases. The \$455,000 public works allocation includes \$350,000 for road repairs and \$40,000 each for sidewalk repairs and a sinking fund for new vehicles.

Debt accounts for \$3.23 million of the total budget proposal. That's the same amount being spent in the current budget year on general obligation bonds – including the high school renovation – and capital leases.

General Government

Maniscalco on Monday told finance board members that his proposal estimates a decrease of \$278,483 in funding from the state. Most of the reduction comes from a lower Education Cost Sharing grant, which is a way for the state to help municipalities bridge the gap between

the cost of education and local taxpayers' ability to pay for it.

He also pointed to an estimated \$397,000 in delinquent taxes affecting the revenue totals. That's despite a 98.5 collection rate achieved through concentrated efforts over the past several years to recoup property taxes owed to the town.

Additional revenue comes from a 0.84 percent Grand List increase in 2018, which will generate just over \$400,000 in new taxes in the coming year.

Maniscalco said his budget recommendation addresses staffing levels that began to decline in the aftermath of the Great Recession 10 years ago.

"This means with a larger population and more demands our staff are continually stepping up to the plate to do more," he said in the introduction to the proposed budget document released last week.

In addition to a police officer and building maintainer that cost an additional \$90,809 in the proposed budget, Maniscalco said he is recommending an increase of about 5 hours per week in the fire marshal's office and a pay increase for hourly library staff.

A health insurance increase of \$161,750 reflects benefits for the two new hires as well as an overall 8 percent hike in premiums.

Education

New positions proposed in the school board's spending plan include a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) coordinator for grades 4-8, a sixth grade world language teacher, a middle school literacy specialist, a district autism specialist and both a psychologist and special education teacher at Memorial School.

According to Smith, most of the new staffing positions won't cost the district any additional money due to a supplemental allocation approved in the current budget as well as a "realignment" of existing teachers. There will be additional savings when retiring teachers are replaced by professionals on the lower end of the pay spectrum.

He told school board members in January that a budget compromise forged during last year's budget season provides "an additional \$140,000" in this year's proposed budget to cover two of the new positions.

The supplemental appropriation resulting from the budget compromise was used this year

to hire a math and language arts remedial teacher in Memorial School, a middle school special education teacher and a high school English teacher. The teachers started work in January.

The proposed budget carries over the high school English and middle school special education positions.

Smith said some of the new positions are added without increasing the budget due to a change to the middle school schedule that provides children with one Language Arts class every day of the week instead of splitting one period between English and reading. The change freed up the four reading teachers to take positions elsewhere in the district, he said.

Smith requested the literacy specialist at the middle school to support struggling readers now that the reading classes have been removed from the schedule.

The cost of a new autism specialist for the district will be offset by tuition paid by out-of-district special education students, Smith said.

The school board budget includes \$22,000 to bring popular high school choral teacher Ehren Brown to full-time.

The 2019-20 budget proposal also includes a Memorial School psychologist to support the special education program, which is designed to provide a therapeutic environment and help to avoid costly outplacements. Smith said a psychologist was hired mid-year in the current budget at \$82,525 and will now need to be carried through into the next school year.

One of the largest budget drivers for the 2.5 percent increase are an estimated 6 percent health insurance hike, according to Smith. The district in 2017 switched to the Connecticut Partnership Plan, which allows municipal employees to become part of the same plan offered to state employees.

Budget Calendar

The Board of Finance is slated to deliberate on the budget Tuesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school library. The board must submit its final proposal to the Town Council by Monday, April 15. A date for the council's budget vote has not yet been set.

The annual town budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6, to be followed by an all-day budget referendum at the middle school on Tuesday, May 14.

Drama Programs Merge for East Hampton *High School Musical*

by Elizabeth Regan

Jocks, brainiacs, thespians and skaters will defy stereotypes during next weekend's three-day run of *High School Musical*.

The show, based on the 2006 Disney Channel television movie, will be staged at East Hampton High School as a combined venture of the high school and middle school drama clubs.

Choreographer Kim Cordeiro, a RHAM High School teacher who served as the middle school musical co-director for the past 10 years, said merging the two programs has a lot of benefits for the middle school drama club.

"We were able to do a bigger show with more kids – the type of show we probably wouldn't be able to do on our own," she said.

The show is billed by Music Theatre International as an ideal show for middle and high school productions due to its large cast size and upbeat musical numbers.

"The younger ones are looking up to the older ones as mentors, and they're getting to actually perform on the big stage as opposed to the little one at the middle school," Cordeiro said. "I think they're making the performance level of the middle school rise up."

Director Rachel Mansfield, who works during the school day as a teacher at the middle school, said the high school program benefits

by bridging what can be a large gap between the two schools.

"I just feel like a lot of times you lose kids from middle to high school. They just decide drama club's not cool anymore; they just don't want to do it. I felt like if we could carry the momentum from eighth into ninth grade and hold onto these kids, that we would have a much bigger program at the high school," she said.

The additional students also help draw in a larger audience to the high school auditorium, she said.

Producer Pamela Penn, a middle school speech pathologist and the co-director of the middle school program with Cordeiro, said the creative team hasn't yet determined if the middle school and high school collaboration will become an annual event.

"This was our trial year," she said. "But I could see it continuing."

Described by Cordeiro as a "modern-day *Grease*," the plot of *High School Musical* involves basketball team captain Troy Bolton's return from winter break to find the new girl at school is Gabriella Montez, the brainy girl he met while singing karaoke on his ski trip. The pair subverts stereotypes when they audition for the school musical and encourage the whole school to challenge the status quo.

Eighth-grade student Dan Drlik, who plays PA announcer Jack Scott, said the support he's gotten from the older students has helped him improve.

"They tell you that you're doing a good job and to keep going. They give you some tips or advice if you ever do something a little wrong," he said.

Kim Cordeiro's daughter, junior Lily Cordeiro, said the combined program means she gets to work with her mother again like she did back when she was in middle school.

"It was cool having her there, and now she's back," Lily said.

Lily plays Gabriella, the new girl trying to blend in at her new school.

This time around, Lily has been helping her mom teach the show's numerous dance numbers to the cast. It's helped the younger Cordeiro realize she wants to pursue a degree in elementary education instead of theater, she said.

"I'm not much of a dancer, but I really like helping my mom. And it kind of made me realize I like teaching a lot, too," she said.

Both Kim and Lily Cordeiro have been involved in the East Hampton theater scene going back years, with Kim Cordeiro attending the Young People's Center for Creative Arts as a child and Lily showing up as a six-month old

in a production of *Love Makes the World Go 'Round* staged by the East Hampton-based Podium Players.

Junior Grace Michalowski, describing the 13-year-old Disney Channel movie as a classic, said the stage version is one she's wanted to perform for a long time.

"Everybody knows what it is," she said. "If you have a bunch of people who love it and really make it pop, it's going to be so cool."

As Sharpay Evans, a "diva" whose status as a high school musical star defines her, Grace said she shares a lot of similarities with her character.

"I was running lines with my mom and every time I did a line, she was like 'that's something you would say.' So we're exactly the same, according to my mother," she laughed.

But Grace is one diva who doesn't mind sharing the stage with the middle school students.

"It's super fun – but then we have to be role models and stop talking, so that's not fun. But otherwise, it's great," she said.

The curtain will go up on *High School Musical* Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 6 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12. They can be ordered online at bit.ly/2CetjSS or purchased at the door.

East Hampton Budget Mailing Causes Controversy

by Elizabeth Regan

A mailing from the Board of Finance to all East Hampton taxpayers is being criticized by the education community as inflammatory.

According to a copy of the document provided to the *Rivereast* by the school district, the “How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent” mailer included education spending in one lump sum while separating general government spending into eight different categories.

Draft finance board meeting minutes from February said the goal in distributing the information at the start of the budget planning cycle was to educate taxpayers and to rouse their interest in the budget season. The board plans to include the informational text as part of tax bills going forward.

But a message from Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith on the district’s Facebook page last Thursday, posted the same day the mailing landed in residents’ mailboxes, objected to the finance board’s methodology - and its timing.

“The information seems to be presented in a way that is inflammatory just as the budget process begins,” Smith wrote on social media and again in his weekly newsletter to the school community.

In the sample mailer, a taxpayer with a real estate bill of \$7,436.98 would pay \$5,012.52 of his total tax bill toward education. The eight categories on the general government side are broken down further, with items ranging from \$59.50 for the building, planning and zoning department to \$684.20 for administration and finance.

“Promoting an open and transparent government is essential in gaining the trust of our citizens,” the letter said.

Finance board members said the idea of the personalized breakdown has been discussed for over a year as a way to give taxpayers a better idea how their dollars are being spent.

The finance board is made up of five Republicans and two Democrats.

According to Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, the original intent was to include the information as part of last June’s tax bill, but the prolonged budget season prevented it.

There was no official vote by the finance board to send out the mailing, but Jylkka said a vote is not required.

The letter was sent out last week after a preliminary version was distributed by Jylkka at the finance board’s Feb. 19 meeting, according to draft meeting minutes. He said the mailing cost \$2,999.

At a special meeting of the Board of Education scheduled in reaction to the mailing, members described the document as “shocking,” unexpected and unnecessary.

The Board of Education is composed of six Democrats and three Republicans.

School board Chairman Christopher Goff, a Democrat, said his first reaction was “shock in how it was presented” – and that it was presented at all.

He described the letter “almost like a beacon” pointing at the cost of the education budget.

He said he hoped the finance board would work with the school board going forward to break down both the general government and education budgets in a more equal way.

Republican school board member Nancy Oakley said the letter lacks context showing that the education budget comprises about two-thirds of each municipality’s total budget across the state.

“There’s been an effort on some people’s part to keep shining a light on how big the education budget is, which [it] is everywhere. It’s exactly the same everywhere. It’s not different here,” Oakley said.

Data compiled through the state Office of Policy and Management from 2017 shows the education budget in East Hampton came in at 68 percent of the total budget, compared to 62 percent in Portland, 64 percent in Glastonbury, 73 percent in Colchester and 74 percent in Marlborough.

Democrat Jeff Carlson noted the mailing does not reflect the town’s bifurcated budget structure since the charter was revised in 2016 to make education and general government separate questions on the ballot at referendum.

“We are not a department of the town. That’s not the way the budgets are constructed and that’s not the way the budgets are voted upon,” Carlson said. “So to disregard that is not sending the information in a way that’s fair to the taxpayers.”

School board members ultimately decided to counter the finance board mailer by producing weekly, single-topic updates to be conveyed to taxpayers through print and social media in order to give context to the education budget. The vote was unanimous.

Board of Finance Response

The Board of Education meeting was also attended by the finance board’s five Republican members. After the school board members had each discussed their own thoughts on the issue, finance board Chairman Richard Brown read a prepared statement.

Brown said the “uproar” in response to the mailer makes him wonder what those opposed to it are trying to hide.

“Why would you not want the taxpayers to know this information? This is something that most municipalities provide. This is not inflammatory. This is informational,” he said.

Brown’s statement addressed the issues raised by education advocates in quick succession.

In response to allegations that the list was

Now that the 2019 fiscal year budget is complete, and the supplemental bills have been mailed, the Board of Finance wants to inform you of how your tax dollars are being spent. Promoting an open and transparent government is essential to gaining the trust of our citizens. We hope you find this information useful and encourage you to stay informed as we begin the 2020 budget process.

YOUR REAL ESTATE TAX BILL	
	\$7,436.98
Location:	[REDACTED]
HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT	
EDUCATION	\$5,012.52
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE	\$684.20
DEBT	\$528.03
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$416.47
PUBLIC WORKS	\$356.98
CULTURE & RECREATION	\$163.61
CAPITAL & TRANSFERS	\$141.30
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	\$74.37
BUILDING, PLANNING & ZONING	\$59.50

This is a sample of the letter from the Board of Finance to all East Hampton taxpayers, delivered to mailboxes last week, that prompted the Board of Education to start its own messaging campaign.

itemized unfairly, Brown said the list is broken down by department.

“Public Works is not broken down by snow plowing or road repair,” he said. “Why would education be different?”

He replied to questions about the timing of the mailing by saying the finance board has been discussing it since last year.

“It took until now for it to be completed,” he said. “In the future, it will accompany any tax bill from the town.”

Brown also asked why school board members were unaware the finance board was planning the mailer, prompting Goff to acknowledge the school board does not assign liaisons to the other major boards and commissions like the finance board does.

“If you question our motive for releasing this tax information to taxpayers, I have to question your motives for not wanting them to know,” Brown said.

The adversarial start to the budget season continued at the Board of Finance special budget meeting held immediately after the school board meeting. That’s when Brown set new parameters for input from the public going forward.

“I’m going to require that parents refrain from using their minor children as political props this year,” Brown told the several dozen people in attendance. “This could be seen as abusive and,

in the interest of your children, I cannot allow it.”

Children, including some in kindergarten, spoke during the public comment period at several meetings last year and held signs at a rally to protest education cuts ordered by the finance board. The extended budget wrangling lasted until October, when voters finally passed a town budget.

School board member Amanda Amtmanis said Tuesday she thought the finance board’s presence at the Board of Education meeting was a good opportunity to work on open communication between the boards.

“Good for them for coming and sitting down with us, literally across from each other, and talking it out,” she said.

But she said Brown’s manner – especially when instituting his ban on public comment by children at the subsequent finance board meeting – was “unhelpful.”

She noted there were no children in attendance at the meeting.

She said whether Brown didn’t realize how he was coming across or whether he was purposely trying to be divisive, the result is the same.

“Wherever he was coming from, it would be helpful if he edited himself a little bit or just thought about how a comment is going to be received,” Amtmanis said.

East Hampton Police News

3/13: Terence Joyce, 50, of 108 Mott Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

3/13: Deveda Halloran, 48, of 41 Hog Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

3/15: Marc Mokrzycki, 40, of 6 E. Hayes Rd., was charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

3/17: Trevor Foster, 24, of 7 Main St., was charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

3/17: Marc Mokrzycki, 40, of 6 East Hayes Rd., was issued a summons for driving under suspension and failure to drive right, police said.

3/19: Elizabeth Velazquez, 41, of 57 Bay Rd., was issued a summons for operating while under suspension and traveling unreasonably fast, police said. During the same incident, she was also arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

3/19: After an investigation into a car vs pole motor vehicle accident on Abbey Road in the

area of North Cone Road, in which the operator of the vehicle left the scene, Maureen O’Sullivan, 54, of 12 Flannery Row, was issued a summons for failure to drive right, evading responsibility and driving under the influence, police said.

3/21: Christopher Scaplen, 34, of 24 Flanders Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

3/21: Henry Keller, 72, of 29 Middle Haddam Rd., was issued a summons for second-degree threatening, police said.

3/25: Christopher Sarahina, 32, of 37 Old Middletown Ave., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said. Sarahina was also processed for two outstanding warrants for his arrest for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Also, from March 11-24, officers responded to 24 medical calls, 15 motor vehicle crashes and 17 alarms, and made 36 traffic stops, police said.

Colchester Police News

3/18: State Police said Dianna Aldrich, 35, of 16 Hayes Rd., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to infraction.

3/20: Colchester Police said Jamison Cole, 43, of 12 Main St., Apt. 3, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree breach of peace and second-degree harassment.

3/21: A 14-year-old male juvenile was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than half an ounce of cannabis.



Initial plans detail just how the third- and fourth-grade wing at Andover Elementary School would look if the area were converted to a space for town seniors. At left, the door of the wing would become the main entrance to the senior center, and at right is a hallway of the wing.

Details Revealed for Possible Andover School Wing Conversion

by Sloan Brewster

Silver/Petrucci & Associates has completed the initial findings of a feasibility study on the proposal to convert the third- and fourth-grade wing at Andover Elementary School into a senior center.

In February, the Board of Selectmen hired the Hamden-based architectural firm to perform the study, at a cost not exceeding \$10,000. The money will come from the school improvement fund, which has about \$117,000, selectmen said.

At a special Board of Education meeting on March 14, Amanda Cleveland, a principal at the firm, presented a 40-page report with several options for shifting the space into a senior center. Schools Superintendent Sally Doyen shared the report with the *Rivereast* Tuesday.

The report considered key questions about the project raised by the boards of education and selectmen and by residents at a public forum in January, Doyen said.

"They actually looked at several broad areas," she said. "The first main thing was security."

The safety of the students is a primary issue, she said.

Security is addressed by the construction of firewalls that separate the wing from the rest of the building.

Construction of the firewall would consist of adding two sheets of gypsum board along the

walls with fire sealant at doors and outlets, the report reads.

The six options – two of which were in the report and two that were additions brought by the architect – included schematics and plans for rearranging the 5,400-square foot wing with four classrooms, a conference room, two restrooms and a nurse's office.

Each option came with an estimated price tag, all of which were in the same general range between slightly below \$400,000 to the mid-\$500,000s.

The architectural firm was "very specific that these are very, very rough estimates [and] would not be final numbers at all," Doyen said. "That's all they were asked to do, that's all we wanted at this time was ballpark [figures]."

The different options included suggestions for relocating the nurse's room, which is currently in the third- and fourth-grade wing, or changing the location of the entrance to the room to separate it from the senior center. According to Option A3 in the report, the current entrance to the room would be infilled, the storage closet removed and a new door would be added to the school work room.

Another option would be to relocate the nurse's room to a room formerly used for the purpose, Doyen said, indicating one of the two options not in the actual report. Currently a teachers' work room, the former nurse's room

would be converted back to its original purposes and the teachers would move to another room on the first floor.

"So we would just shift them," Doyen said.

The plans, which had varying levels of complexity, included a senior exercise room; a dedicated senior room where seniors would hold luncheons; a multi-purpose meeting room for evening meetings of groups including the PTA; a teen activity room for afterschool functions; and a kitchenette with a microwave and a refrigerator.

"The last [option] is the simplest but they're different levels of details and complexity," Doyen said, indicating again an option not included with the report. "They wanted to give the board a variety of options."

The main entrance to the senior center would be at a current entrance to the wing, which already has a wheelchair ramp, Doyen said. Depending on which option is chosen, a secondary entrance/egress from the senior center would either be at an existing door between the two areas of the building or a window in what is currently a conference room would be converted to a door.

If the new entrance is created, the existing door would be converted into a firewall, she said.

The board took no action, just listened to the

options and cost estimates and asked basic questions, Doyen said.

"It was just getting the ideas, getting some rough estimates, just seeing what would have to be done in these different options," Doyen said.

The board will discuss the report at its meeting on April 10. Once the boards select a design, it would have to go out to bid and then the plan would be brought to voters at a town meeting. If the plan passes voter scrutiny at town meeting, it will go to referendum.

"If it gets through all those hurdles, then we would begin construction and everything would start," Doyen said.

Doyen said there are no plans yet as to when construction would begin but added that the hope for it to start before the beginning of the next school year "would be optimistic."

Converting the school wing is a reaction to the closure of the Old Firehouse on Center Street, which has been used as a senior center since the early 1990s and was also a meeting spot for boards and commissions. In October, selectmen officially closed the building after air quality tests confirmed what folks around town have said they have known for decades – it is infested with mold.

The education board offered the wing, which is largely vacant due to declining enrollment.

Head-on Collision in Hebron, Suspected Injury

State Police said drunken driving is behind a vehicle going the wrong way on Route 66 last week, crashing into another car and sending one to the hospital.

Ryan J. Frederick, 32, of 96 Tiffany Dr., Windsor, was arrested March 23 and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

At about 5:30 a.m. Thursday, March 23, Frederick was driving a Buick west on Route 66 when he crossed over the center line and began traveling westbound in the east lane,

police said.

After traveling approximately one-tenth of a mile, police said, Frederick struck head-on an Acura MDX driven by Gina M. Kelsey, 48, of 372 West Main St., Amston. The crash occurred near the intersection with Burrows Hill Road.

Kelsey was transported to Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center by the Hebron Fire Department with complaint of head pain.

Marlborough Vehicle Collides with Utility Pole

State Police said a vehicle collision with a utility pole left one man and an 11-year-old girl with suspected injuries.

At approximately 3:14 p.m. on March 19, a Chevrolet Blazer, driven by Walter Wroblinski, 61, of 160 West Road, was traveling north on North Main Street near the intersection with Pettengill Road when the vehicle veered off the road, colliding with a utility pole and subsequently rolling over onto its driver's side, police said.

Wroblinski complained of pain to his neck, back, arms, chest and legs and had visible cuts and scrapes to his hand and left elbow, police said.

His 11-year-old passenger complained of hand pain and both she and Wroblinski were transported by the Colchester Fire Department to Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center.

Wroblinski was issued a written warning for veering off the road, police said.

Obituaries

Hebron

Dawn Minard

Dawn Minard, 72, of Hebron, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, March 20, while surrounded by her loved ones. She was born in Bath, Maine, to John and Madelyn Leonard in 1946.



Growing up as an Army brat, Dawn and her siblings Bonnie and John toured the world with their parents until the family settled in Massachusetts after her father's military retirement. Dawn spent many years living in the south raising her three children, Kelly McGuire, Amy McGuire Knutsen and Jay McGuire, but they eventually moved back to New England where she met and married her husband Jonathan in 1987. They shared a beautiful home built by Jon in Hebron along with many pets including two well-known grazing cows.

Dawn always enjoyed maintaining the grounds of their home which flourished with beautiful plantings, flowers and gardens. As a lover of nature and all living things, Dawn relished in the continuous butterflies, birds, bats, deer, turkeys and bunnies, whom all felt safe and cherished on their secluded Hope Valley property.

Dawn was the most generous of people, and took great pleasure in giving – not only to her family, but to her friends and to anyone in her circle of life. To say she was thoughtful is an understatement, as gifts were always carefully chosen and with great thought and purpose. Those on the receiving end of such gifts could also count on a beautifully wrapped package.

Dawn was called "Grandy" by all of her grandchildren as well as their friends. Grandy never hesitated to engage in her grandchildren's lives and to enrich them in every way possible. Much of her time and energy was spent in preparation for or participation in activities relating to her beloved grandchildren. Grandy was only known to arrive late to an event when or if she needed to stop and help a turtle to safely cross the road.

In recent years, Dawn enjoyed painting in watercolor with her friends at the Hebron Senior Center. She also enjoyed creative stamping with her friend Sara and the ladies at stamping class. Dawn was a vivacious storyteller and captured every vivid detail within the story, but Dawn's zest for life and her positive spirit will likely be what she is remembered by the most.

Though she suffered a long illness which slowly began to limit her activities, her positive outlook allowed her to miraculously survive many health hurdles and never once did her optimistic attitude waiver. She was an inspiration to everyone around her. Her first questions of her medical staff were about their lives, their children and their well-being versus questions about her own failing health. The fact that Dawn's final journey took place on the first day of spring is so fitting.

As written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Success In Life epitomizes the life, success and philosophy of Dawn Minard:

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate the beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!"

Dawn leaves behind her devoted husband Jonathan; her sister and brother, John Leonard and Bonnie Ashe along with their spouses; her three children and their spouses; her beloved grandchildren, Nicholas, Cori, Olivia, Vander, Docker, Mimi, Maja Grace, Maddie and Mojo; her first great-grandchild; Camden (to be born in May); a niece, Kate and two nephews, Tom and Colin.

Calling hours will be at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, Saturday, March 30, from 2-4 p.m., and a celebration of her life will take place on a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hebron Interfaith Human Services, P.O. Box 634, Hebron, CT 06248.

Portland

Robert A. Steele Sr.

Robert A. Steele, Sr., 98, of Portland, husband of the late Dorothy May (Thompson) Steele, passed peacefully Saturday morning, March 23, surrounded by his loving family. Bob was born in Hartford Oct. 28, 1920, the son of Alfred and Lucinda (Hodge) Steele.



Bob lived a long and full life. He was a veteran of World War II, serving five years with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater aboard the ammunition ship the USS Lassen AE-3. After his naval service, he graduated from the University of Hartford. Bob and his wife owned Professional Secretarial Service and Print Shop in Hartford for eight years, and Bob then went on to head the printing operations for Ames Department Stores.

Bob was an avid tennis player, active in the sport until the age of 92. A skilled gardener, he tended to grapevines, a large organic garden, and fruit trees in his backyard. Bob pursued a wealth of other hobbies throughout his life including beekeeping, photography, fishing, hunting, dancing, roller skating, and music. Bob was a true believer in the adage that age does not define you and late in life, at the age of 96, took up painting. Family was extremely important to Bob and a main staple of his life were Sunday dinners, which were regularly attended by his large family, where something was invariably spilled or dropped, giving birth to one of his favorite phrases: "every darn meal!" Bob was also a fan of the UConn Huskies basketball teams and spent his last night watching the UConn Huskies with his sons.

Bob is survived by his four daughters, Deborah Soter and her husband Philip of Colchester, Barbara DeBarber and her husband Christopher of Southbury, Linda Bordonaro of Portland, Betty Morgan of Portland, and his two sons, Robert Steele Jr. and his wife Nance of Portland, and John Steele of Portland. He is also survived by his 12 grandchildren, Jaime Soter, Nicole, Kate, and Erin DeBarber, Greg Steele, Alexis, Nathan, Victoria, and Angelina Steele, Spencer Morgan, Jay and Anna Bordonaro; and one great-granddaughter, Presley. He was predeceased by his son Gregory Allen Steele, his two sisters, Jane Holmes and Dorothy Phillips, and his son-in-law, David Bordonaro.

The family would like to thank the staff at One MacDonough Place in Middletown for their loving care over the last three years and know that he will miss the many friends made there, especially his dining table companions.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the SmileTrain organization.

A private family graveside service was held on Tuesday, March 26. Friends are welcome to attend a memorial service at the Trinity Episcopal Church on Main Street in Portland on Saturday, March 30, at 11 a.m.

East Hampton

Christopher Crowley Sr.

Christopher Joseph Crowley Sr., 43, of East Hampton, widower of the late Kim Marie Crowley, passed away Monday, March 25, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born July 30, 1975, in Ridgewood, N.J., he was the son of Stanley Hutchings and Constance Crowley.

Chris had worked as a Customer Relationship Specialist for The Hartford Insurance Co. Chris loved music and was a talented musician who played guitar, sang and composed his bands' music. Chris was a member of two bands, Sylph and Kudra where he was a lead singer and guitarist. Chris also played solo shows throughout Connecticut. Chris's dream was to be healthy enough to ride his new Harley.

Besides his parents, Chris is survived by his beloved son, Christopher Crowley Jr. of East Hampton; a sister, Meaghan Riley and husband Jeffrey of California; stepfather, Alan Konecky of California; stepson, Kevin Malone of Beacon Falls; stepbrother Brian Konecky of Idaho; two nephews, Thomas and Tiernan; and his best friend for life, Angela Mendello of Cromwell.

A memorial service was held Thursday, March 28, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A celebration of Chris's life and music immediately followed at the Café Nine, 250 State St., New Haven.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Cove Center For Grieving Children, 250 Pomeroy Ave., Meriden, CT 06450.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Jennie Levine

Jennie Levine, 90, of Colchester, passed away in Colchester Monday, March 25. Going full circle, she died just one day before her 91st birthday. She was born in Colchester, a daughter of the late Simon and Anna (Mitzkevitch) Gyome.



Jennie spent her lifetime in Colchester; growing up, graduating from Bacon Academy with the class of 1946, marrying her beloved husband Gerald at the Day House on Norwich Avenue, raising their family on Prospect Street, and finally passing her last hours, with her family by her side, at the Harrington Court Genesis Health Care Center.

Jennie loved her hometown and family. She was a member of the Democratic Women's club, spent countless hours attending her children's sporting events and bowling with the Colchester women's league at the lanes on Old Hartford Road. Jennie was a hard-working woman and she instilled a strong work ethic in her children. She held several jobs in Colchester and retired from Pratt and Whitney Aircraft as an inventory manager.

Jennie was an avid sports fan, especially for the Yankees, golf and the UConn ball teams. She enjoyed traveling with her husband, attending the Montreal Olympics, and taking her grandchildren golfing or to other sporting events. She will be remembered most fondly for her strength of character, love for her family and pride in her community.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her children, Donald Levine of Colchester, Kevin (Lisa) Levine of San Diego, Calif., Debora (David) Gideon of Colchester; two sisters, Vera Glemboski and Irene Plecan; three grandchildren, Kyle Felciano, Ean Levine and Micah Levine; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband of 35 years, she was predeceased by a son, Kenneth Levine, and eight siblings.

A graveside committal service will be held Tuesday, April 2, at 11 a.m., at the Linwood Cemetery, Linwood Avenue, Colchester. A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, April 6, from noon-4 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 South Main St., Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to Bacon Academy to benefit a scholarship fund for the Athletic Department, c/o Nancy VanZander, 611 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the staff at Harrington Court for their compassionate care for Jenny in her final days, as well as Beacon Hospice, Wm. W. Backus Hospital and Companions and Homemakers.

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

Colchester

Dorothy Jarboe

Dorothy (Hoff) Jarboe, 95, of Colchester, formerly of E. Killingly and Southington, loving wife of the late Thomas Jarboe, passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 20, with her family by her side. Dorothy was born in Meriden March 8, 1924, to the late Albert and Augusta (Wilk) Hoff. Dorothy served as the director of the nursery school program at Zion Lutheran Church in Southington until her retirement.



She leaves behind her daughter, Diane Kendrick (John) of Colchester; sons Thomas Jarboe Jr. of Colchester; James Jarboe (Barbara) of Putnam; and Gary Jarboe (Amy) of Plainville; brother, Howard Hoff (Marilyn) of Florida; seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren (with one on the way) and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was predeceased by her sisters Lydia Cerrito, Ruth Oros, Eleanor Oberempt, Lillian Hoff, and brothers Albert Hoff and Robert Hoff. The family would like to thank the Harrington Court staff for their care of Dorothy.

A funeral service celebrating Dorothy's life was held Monday, March 25. She was interred in Gethsemane Cemetery, Meriden.

Should one desire, donations may be made in Dorothy's name to the charity of your choice.

To send condolences, or to see her obituary online, visit beecherandbennett.com.

Hebron

Violet R. McNaughton

Violet R. (Leavitt) McNaughton, 86, of Hebron, formerly of East Hartford, passed away peacefully at Hartford Hospital Saturday, March 23, while recovering from surgery. Born Sept. 22, 1932, at the home of her parents D. Russell and Gladys (Rogers) Leavitt in Naples, Maine, she was their green-eyed baby girl, the last of their 10 children.



She was predeceased by her brothers Roger, Merle, Paul and Richard and her sisters Jennie Garcia, Pauline Martikainen, Evelyn Morton, Josephine Tenney and Elinor Mains. Violet was a graduate of Bridgton High School in Bridgton, Maine, and then later moved to Connecticut where she met her beloved husband of 47 years John D. McNaughton, who passed in 2007.

She was employed as a switchboard operator, worked at Topps Dept. Store and later retired from The Travelers Ins. Co. Her favorite and most rewarding job was being a foster mom to newborn babies. As she would say, she would have them just long enough to sleep through the night and then they would be adopted. She loved them all and welcomed so many.

Vi loved her animals and enjoyed spending time on the deck watching the birds with the dogs by her side. She enjoyed working on her puzzles, painting with the kids, playing Words with HER friends, road trips up north with her daughter and watching the great-grandsons play T-ball. Vi was lovingly called Mom by her daughter's friends and Gram by all her grandchildren's friends. She will be missed dearly by her family and friends and her little dog, Maggie. She leaves behind her daughter Darlene Snow of Hebron and is predeceased by her son-in-law David Snow. She also leaves her granddaughter, Linda and her husband David Bedini of Columbia; her grandson Christopher Snow of Hebron; three great-grandsons who she cherished, David, Sawyer and Emmett Bedini; and also so many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 30, at 1 p.m., at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester. Family and Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942 or The Hebron Fire Dept. 44 Main St. Hebron, CT 06248.

If you would like to share a memory, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Patricia Ann Gans

Patricia Ann (Page) Gans, 70, of Portland passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown on Sunday, March 24. She was the wife of the late Allan Thomas Gans. Patricia was born Dec. 1, 1948, daughter of the late George Edward and Helen Marie (Larsen) Page, and was raised in New Milford.

She was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton and enjoyed spending time with her friends at Greystone Retirement Home in Portland.

She is the beloved mother of Cheryl Walsh and her husband, Gregory of Naugatuck and Dawn Gans and her partner, Christopher Alexander of New Haven. Patricia is also survived by her five cherished grandchildren and her siblings.

A graveside service will be held today, March 29, at noon, in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown.

The Alderson-Ford Funeral Home of Naugatuck has been entrusted with her arrangements. To leave online condolences for her family, visit fordfh.com.

Haddam Neck

Ellen Louise Nicholas

Ellen Louise (Mooney) Nicholas, 93, of Haddam Neck, beloved wife of Leonard Nicholas passed away Thursday, March 21, at Hartford Hospital. Born June 13, 1926, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late William and Martha (Nilsen) Mooney.

Besides her husband she is survived by her sons, Leonard Nicholas Jr., David Nicholas; a brother, Richard Mooney; a sister, Patricia Smith; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private, with burial in Rock Landing Cemetery.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Blanche Bass

Blanche (Jurach) Bass, 99, of Colchester, widow of the late John Bass Sr., passed away peacefully Friday, March 22. She was born in 1920 in Ostro, Lubelski, Poland, a daughter of the late John and Antonina (Niedbalska) Jurach.



Blanche emigrated to the U.S. at the early age of 9 from Poland with her family. They settled in Colchester and developed a successful family farm. Blanche was a 1938 graduate of Bacon Academy. She was a devout Catholic and an active member of St. Andrew Church where she sang in the choir and was part of the First Friday Rosary group. Blanche was a founding member of St. Andrew Ladies Guild, a 40-year member of the Colchester Grange No. 78, and a volunteer at the Colchester Senior Center where she helped with the ARC blood drives for many years.

Blanche was a hardworking woman, devoted to God, family and community. She leaves behind to mourn her loss three children, Peter Bass of Colchester, John and his wife Wanda Bass of Lebanon and Suzanne Carmack of Manchester, N.H.; a sister, Mary Cummins of Niantic; 12 grandchildren, Casandra Johnson, Brent, Peter Jr., Andrew, Timothy, Judith Bassem, Rachel Buckley, Nathanael, Hannah, Matthew, Karen Carmack, Sean Carmack; 14 great-grandchildren; and many extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Louis Jurach, and a sister, Jane Drazkiewicz.

The family received guests Monday, March 25, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, March 26, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to HHH at haitianhealthfoundation.org.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Beatrice Einhorn

Beatrice Selma Bokoff Einhorn passed away peacefully at the age of 93 surrounded by her loving family on Friday, March 22. She was born to David and Lena Snierson Bokoff of Norwich Dec. 14, 1925.

Beatrice was a graduate of Norwich Free Academy and aspired to prepare for a nursing career. However, after meeting Sidney Einhorn, the love of her life, her goals changed. They married on March 18, 1944 and their long, love-filled life produced her proudest achievements: three children, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Her family also includes brother-in-law Jay Einhorn, his wife Bryan, and Jay's children, Tanya and Sam Einhorn. She often marveled when looking at her family, saying, "Look what two kids produced!"

Beatrice was a Colchester resident for the past 75 years and in later years she and Sidney wintered in Boca Raton, Fla. Along with Sidney, she was an integral part of the Colchester community. They worked together at Einhorn Grain and Einhorn Hardware until their retirement in 1986. Beatrice was a longtime member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue, Sisterhood and Hadassah. A lifelong lover of Mahjong, shopping for her grandchildren and treating her family to her infamous meals of chicken soup, kasha, brisket, tzimmes, with brownies for dessert.

Beatrice was predeceased by her siblings, Robert Bokoff and Rhoda Zeller. She leaves behind a loving family including son and daughter-in-law, Sumner and Sheila Einhorn of Colchester and Boca Raton, Fla.; daughter and son-in-law, Rosalind and Steven Schuster of Colchester; and son Jerry Einhorn of Highlands, N.J., and New York City; grandchildren, Geoffrey and Dara Einhorn of Wallingford, Mark and Ellen Einhorn of Norwell, Mass., Andrew and Rebecca Einhorn of Rockville, Md., Gregg and Faith Schuster of Doylestown, Pa., Adam and Mikaela Schuster of Silver Spring, Md., Lindsay Einhorn of New York City, Kirby Einhorn of New York City, Emma Einhorn and husband William Vogt of Washington, DC, Damon and Grace Schuster of Marlborough. Beatrice leaves her great-grandchildren Brooke, Payton, Carley, Sasha, Zackary and Evan Einhorn, and Leah, Brett, Skylar and Devin Schuster.

Services were held at Ahavath Achim Synagogue Sunday, March 24. Internment followed at the Ahavath Achim cemetery on Taintor Hill Road, Colchester. Kaddish services were held on Sunday at the family home on 584 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

Memorial donations may be made in her honor to Congregation Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester, CT 06415.

Care of arrangements were entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Inc.

Andover

Rev. Valdeko Kangro

The Rev. Valdeko Kangro, 102, of Andover passed away in his home Saturday, March 23. He will be greatly missed by the Estonian Ev. Lutheran Church community, that was his family.



His productive 102 years have taken him to many countries and churches for services. His biographical notes include some of the following. Born Aug. 8, 1916, in Tartu, Estonia, he graduated from the Hugo Treffner High School in 1934 and from the Advanced School of Music three years later. Already at that early time, his studies included religion at the University of Tartu. As a young student, he did not avoid the military service in Estonia – before the onset of World War II. Living in Tallinn, he was able to continue his studies of conducting and instruments at the Conservatory of Tallinn. The graduation day was in 1944. But before the 1944 date, he became the assistant teacher for string instruments and participated in the State Symphony Orchestra in the capital city. Due to his religious devotions, he became the pastor of the Tallinn Evangelical Christians Congregation.

The events of World War II took him to Sweden from where he was chosen to attend the Andover Newton Theological Seminary (at Newton Center, MA). He graduated in 1951 with a B.D. degree. Interestingly, his thesis was Montanism! From 1949-1952 he was teaching strings and Chamber music at Bethel College in St. Paul, Minn. And in 1954 he became the Head of the Music Department at the Northeastern Bible Institute in Pennsylvania. Valdeko's knowledge of the Bible was phenomenal. His expressions frequently referred to the Book as the basic truth.

Beginning in 1968, he became the assistant pastor for the E.E.L.K. (Estonian Ev. Lutheran Church) in New York City (St. Paul's Congregation); and concurrently served as concertmaster for the Huntington Symphony Orchestra on Long Island. He also found time to conduct the NY Estonian Men's and Women's Choirs. His religious work took him to Canada as the pastor of the United Congregation and also the St. Peter's Congregation in Vancouver. He was ordained by Archbishop Konrad Veem on Nov. 2, 1971, in Stockholm as the E.E.L.K. USA First Deanery vicar pastor.

Valdeko finally arrived in Connecticut, where the congregation elected him to serve as pastor in early 1973. Besides his preaching and teaching church activities, he became the conductor of the Congregation mixed choir. He was an accomplished violinist, using his God-given talent to beautify his ministry. But the Estonian population in southern Florida attracted him to warmer climates. With many hours of travel, he also served the South Florida St. Paul Congregation, starting in 1996. When long travels and his age became the difficulties in later years, he mainly served the local congregation.

A memorial funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at the First Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, Andover. The church building will be open one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow at the Townsend Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Kango's honor may be made to the Estonian Ev. Lutheran Church in Connecticut, c/o Ylo Anson, 138 Boston Hill Rd., Andover, CT 06232, or the charity of your choice.

You are invited to sign the online guestbook at manchesterfh.com.

Andover

Albert R. Patch

Albert R. Patch, 89, of Andover, beloved husband of 54 years of the late Barbara Ann (Turkington) Patch, passed away at home Monday, March 25. He was born Sept. 16, 1929, in Hartsboro, Vt., son of the late Albert J. and Alice (Jackson) Patch.



Al was a veteran of the U.S. Army, proudly serving his country during the Korean War. Prior to his retirement in 1992, he was employed for over 40 years at Carter Chevrolet as the service and body shop manager. Al is survived by his two children, Stephen Patch and his spouse Megan of McGraw, N.Y., and Karen Castor and her spouse William of Richboro, Pa.; his four loving grandchildren, Eric Patch and his spouse Samantha of Cohoes, N.Y., Erin Dimorier and her spouse Justin of Marathon, N.Y., Timothy Castor and his spouse Sara of Haddon Heights, N.J., and Benjamin Castor and his spouse Megan of Pipersville, Pa.; and three great-grandchildren, Jonah, Amy and Hudson Castor. He also leaves his brother, Melvin Patch of Enfield; two sisters, Anna Mae Ogren of South Windsor and Helen "Muffet" Haberern of Statesville, N.C.; three brothers-in-law, George Cox of Vernon, David Turkington of Manchester and Edward Turkington and his spouse Edith of Flossmoor, Ill.; his sister-in-law, Norma Healy of Manchester, many nieces, nephews and their families and his best friends; Janet and Tom Urgo of Columbia and Roland Bricault of Andover.

In addition to his wife and parents, Al was predeceased by his sister Florence Cox. Albert will be missed by all his Andover friends.

His family would like to thank the nurses and aides from ECHN Hospice and the Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

Family and friends are welcome to attend calling hours at Manchester Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester, today, March 29, from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be Saturday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m., at the funeral home, followed by burial in East Cemetery, Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

To leave an online condolence, visit manchesterfh.com.

