

RIVEREAST

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Victoria Boshart, Norm Dorval, Mickey Groshart, Rachel Mathiau and Katie Czaja (l-r) work together to paint a building during last Saturday's Helping Hands project. The Hebron Lions and RHAM Leos teamed up to assist six needy families in their spring cleaning.

Leos & Lions Team Up in 'Helping Hands' Project

by Sarah McCoy

Last weekend the RHAM Leo's and Hebron Lion's clubs teamed up to pitch in.

Together almost 40 members from the two clubs raked, painted, planted, and more, for six local property owners as part of the first annual Helping Hands project.

Affiliated with the Lions, the RHAM Leo's Club, for youth ages 13-18, began about ten years ago. Students kept the community service organization afloat for about six years before it went defunct. At the beginning of 2006 the club was reborn and is now one of the largest at RHAM.

The Leos are made up of high school students with a focus on community service. In the past they have delivered hot meals, took up a collection to benefit the victims of the Nickel Mines, PA school shooting, and run a holiday drive to collect necessities for needy families.

Last year the Leos participated in "Christmas in April," a weekend event helping to rehabilitate the homes of low-income individuals and families in Manchester. That experience led to the creation of Helping Hands.

"We took the model that is used in Manchester and brought it local," Leo's Advisor and Lion's Club President Richard Griswold said.

To do so Griswold sought the help of both the AHM Youth Service Bureau and the Hebron Interfaith Human Services. The two groups took applications from those in need of assistance. Applications were received from senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and those needing a little extra help. By last weekend the group had five properties to tackle.

The Leos and Lions met Saturday morning at the Fairgrounds to divide into teams. They left for their respective properties with one thing in mind; help those who need it. They painted. They cleaned gutters. They even rebuilt a stonewall.

By the afternoon the groups reconvened for lunch and a little reflection. "There were good feelings all around," said Griswold. "While we were eating lunch you could sense it had been a good day for everyone. A day everyone was proud of."

But the day wasn't over.

The groups that had finished work on their first properties decided to surprise one more family. A caravan of about eight cars headed over for one last round of spring cleaning.

"It was really rewarding to see the looks on the property owners' faces," Leo's Club President Hillary Federico said. "They thanked us over and over again."

For a first-time event, the Helping Hands project went extraordinarily well. The group was able to recruit the manpower and supplies needed to transform the exteriors for families in Hebron and Marlborough. Ace Hardware, Paul and Sandy's, Route 85 Lumber, the Hebron Transfer Station, and local landscapers Dave Snow and Rich Baldi, all donated supplies for Helping Hands.

The Leos and Lions are already planning for next year's Helping Hands where they hope to assist even more local residents. "Home owners benefit because their house is tended to and the students benefit from the experience of giving back," said Griswold. "It's a win-win situation that will hopefully work for a long time."

Hebron Town Wide Tag Sale Date Changed to June 2

The 300th Celebration Committee has changed the date for the town-wide tag sale to Saturday, June 2, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., to better accommodate the number of residents who are planning to participate.

The 300th Committee also has moved the indoor segment of the sale to the gymnasium at Hebron Elementary School which has more room for table set-ups.

The town-wide tag sale will be conducted on three fronts. For a \$20 registration fee residents may choose to: 1.) List their address and type of sale on a map that will be circulated to all households in town and in the news media; 2) Host a table indoors at Hebron Elementary School; or 3.) Hold an outdoor "tailgate" sale at the RHAM High School parking lot.

The registration deadline for listing addresses on the map of sites participating in the sale is May 17. Registration forms will be distributed to all households and also will be available at the Town Clerk's office in town hall, the Douglas Library and at businesses throughout town.

The town-wide tag sale is the latest in a series of fund-raising events to support the 300th Committee's planned series of events to mark the town's 300th Anniversary in 2008.

Further information on the tag sale can be

obtained by contacting 300th Celebration Committee member Neal Alderman at 228-2678, or by email at neal.alderman@uconn.edu.

The committee is planning a series of observances and events throughout 2008 that will appropriately mark the town's founding in 1708. Committee members also are selling a variety of mementos based on the theme "Hebron Rocks" including candy "rocks," rock candy, lapel pins, refrigerator magnets, and an opportunity to be a part of Hebron's history by having your name inscribed on a rock in the stone wall that will be built in the center of town.

Events now in the planning stages include a community picnic and dance, an old-fashioned baseball game, a Revolutionary Era military reenactment, and a float in the Memorial Day parade commemorating the generations of Hebron veterans who have served in the military during the nation's wars.

The committee also is appealing to individuals and businesses that are interested in helping fund the observances. Tax-exempt donations can be sent to the 300th Celebration Committee at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, Attn: Town Clerk.

Marlborough Arts Festival is This Saturday

The 3rd annual Marlborough Art Fest returns this Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Town Green.

The Marlborough Arts Center and Museum, or MAC&M has hosted the event for each year with proceeds going to the group's building project.

The nonprofit organization is wrapping up construction on a community arts center at 236 North Main St.. The project began in 1999 and should be completed some time this summer.

This Saturday over 40 artists—local, state-wide and from various parts of New England—will display and sell their work at the annual show. There will be quilters, jewelers, painters, sculptors, potters, glass blowers, and so much more.

Last year the Art Fest drew hundreds of visi-

tors and this year the projections are much higher. In 2006, about 20 artists participated in the Art Fest. This year the number has doubled.

The group has a partnership with the Marlborough Country Barn. Each year the show coincides with the Barn's warehouse sale, enabling residents easy access to both events. Food will also be available as the Marlborough Democrats and Republicans are banding together to set up a booth.

Parking for the Art Fest will be available at the Marlborough Town Hall and Dr. Hine's office. In case of rain, the show will be postponed to May 6.

For more information about the Art Fest and MAC&M, as a whole, please visit their website: www.marlborougharts.org

Portland Man Pleads Guilty to Pornography Charge

Craig A. Middlemass, 58, last residing at 799 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland, pleaded guilty Wednesday to one count of production of child pornography.

Middlemass waived his right to be indicted and pleaded guilty before Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven.

Middlemass appears to have been a transient resident of town. He is known to have resided previously in Glastonbury, Newington and New Britain, CT; Corona and Rancho Mirage, CA; and Orlando and Kissimmee, FL. He returned to Connecticut from California in 2004.

According to prosecutors, in 2003, Middlemass, then living in California, used a minor in the making of sexually explicit pictures with a digital camera and computer.

According to testimony and documents filed with the court, over several decades Middlemass had amassed a child pornography collection containing at least 3,200 images, many of which he produced.

The collection contained child pornography in many media formats including photographs, negatives, movies in 8mm format and 16mm format, CDs, DVDs, computer diskettes, magazines, books, buttons, personal photo albums, and digital images stored on the hard drives of his computers.

Several different victims are depicted in the images, and the collection includes certain im-

ages which portray sadistic or masochistic conduct or depict other violent conduct, according to authorities.

In pleading guilty, Middlemass also admitted that he distributed images of child pornography to other individuals over the internet.

"Through the Project Safe Childhood initiative, this office and our federal law enforcement partners are committed to investigating, prosecuting and incarcerating those who sexually exploit children," said U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Connor. "This particular defendant has exploited children for several years, and we will advocate for a sentence that will protect society from him for many years to come."

O'Connor stated that the investigation is ongoing, and he asked anyone who has information that may be relevant to the investigation to call 860-240-3346, extension 4188.

Judge Burns has scheduled sentencing for July 20, 2007, at which time Middlemass faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years, a maximum term of 30 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

According to the plea agreement filed in this case, the parties agree that the appropriate sentencing guidelines range is 262 to 327 months of imprisonment.

Middlemass has been detained since his arrest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on Jan. 23.

Colchester Annual Town Meeting, Budget Referendum This Month

by **Jim Salemi**

Colchester will hold its annual town meeting next Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

Residents will have a final opportunity to comment or ask questions on the presented budget and vote on whether or not to send it to referendum. Residents also have the opportunity to make motions at the meeting to reduce line items or budget bottom lines.

If approved, the referendum will be held the following Tuesday, May 15, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the town hall.

The finance board is recommending a \$47.9 spending package for next fiscal year, representing an increase of \$2.2 million over current year spending.

While residents approved a charter change to present the school district and town budgets separately at referenda, that change will not take effect until next year, so voters will see one combined budget figure.

The town's request of the overall budget, which includes capital expenditures, is \$14.1 million, and the school district's request is \$33.8 million.

Voters will also be directed to one of three separate areas at the polling place to vote ac-

ording to the specific voting district they have been assigned.

The Board of Selectman recently approved a measure dividing the town into districts. Voters will go to one of three different polling places for future elections. The voting place for all three districts for the referendum May 15 will be at town hall.

Yet another change in this referendum will be the use of the new optical scan machines to cast ballots. The optical scan machines require the voter to first shade in a bubble next to the appropriate answer to the question on a slip of paper, then run it through a machine that scans and records the vote.

After a public hearing last week, the finance board set the mill rate at 24.5 mills—an increase of 1.49 mills over the adjusted mill rate. While the values of most residential properties have risen significantly over the past five years, some still saw a decrease. The impact of the new mill rate will depend on the result of revaluation on individual properties.

The town's current mill rate is 32.47, but because of an overall increase in the value of residential properties, the mill rate is adjusted lower.

Andover Municipal Elections are This Monday

by **Jim Salemi**

Andover will hold its municipal election this Monday, May 7, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Voting will be at the elementary school.

Current First Selectman Robert Burbank, endorsed by both parties, will run unopposed.

Reports two weeks ago on the number of available seats were erroneous: While voters may select two or three candidates for various races, all candidates will be seated, as there are just enough candidates to fill available positions.

Four candidates are running for four available seats on the Board of Selectmen, though voters may choose two.

Incumbent Jay Linddy and newcomer David Holder Ziff will run on the Republican ticket and incumbent Susan England and newcomer Elaine Buchardt will run on the Democratic ticket.

Seven candidates are running for the Board of Finance, though voters are limited to actually voting for only four. Incumbent member Cathy Desrosiers is endorsed by both parties.

Steven Reade, an incumbent and current chairman, Michelle Davidson, also an incum-

bent and Joan Foran will run on the Democratic ticket and Linda Fish, Wallace Barton and incumbent Donald Denley will run on the Republican ticket.

For the Board of Education race, incumbent Jay Linddy and newcomer Sharyn Keeney will run on the Republican ticket. Kimberly Hawes and incumbent Scott David Sauyet, are running on the Democratic ticket. Voters will be asked to vote for any two candidates.

Carol Lee has been endorsed by both major parties for Town Clerk and is running uncontested.

Republicans running for the Board of Assessment Appeals are challengers Christine Dunnack, and Ed Turn and incumbent Georgette Conrad. Democrats running for that board are incumbents Lillian Gasper and Julia Haverl. Voters may vote for any three.

Andover is one of a handful of towns that holds its municipal elections in May rather than November. The majority of towns moved their elections to November to coincide with national and state elections.

Application for Village Center Zone Change Withdrawn in Colchester

by **Jim Salemi**

An application requesting a zone change for a parcel in the village center section of town from residential to commercial has been withdrawn—at least for now.

The land use department received a letter to that effect late Tuesday from landowner Andy Spiros.

Spiros applied for a zone change for five of seven acres of property he owns between Stop and Shop on Linwood Avenue, and the historic South Main Street area. Spiros, according to his engineering team testifying during a public hearing on the application last month, considered expanding the Stop and Shop and parking, or possibly constructing a stand-alone commercial building.

At a Planning and Zoning meeting last Wednesday, a consultant hired by Spiros read the letter withdrawing the application into the meeting record.

"It has become obvious during the course of the public hearing process that the questions and concerns of neighbors to the property must be adequately addressed before the commission should be asked to vote on the application. The time remaining in the public hearing process is insufficient to allow for this," James Otis, an environmental consultant hired by Spiros, read.

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted

unanimously to accept the withdrawal of the application.

The zone change request drew vehement opposition from residents and small shop owners whose property abuts the Spiros parcel on South Main Street, as well as from residents of the Breed's Tavern Co-op and residents concerned about historical preservation and the aesthetic impact such a project will have on the area.

The shop owners and residents of South Main Street said the rear of Stop and Shop is unkempt and noisy, and the rear walls are spray painted with graffiti, which can be seen clearly except when trees are in full bloom, obstructing the view.

Spiros also said in his letter that any complaints about the conditions behind Stop and Shop should be addressed to the management of the store, and requested a courtesy-copy also be sent to him.

The property proposed for the zoning change shares the same zone as the old Bacon Academy, the library, the Congregational Church and the old firehouse. A number of other historic structures, from the 17th century Dr. Foote house to 18th, 19th and early 20th century homes are along South Main Street, and a number of them are on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Ultrasonic Algae Control Units Installed in East Hampton Lake

Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, an East Hampton volunteer nonprofit group, has initiated a test project in the waters of Lake Pocotopaug in hopes of combating the persistent algae problem.

Four Ultrasonic Algae Control units are being installed to test their potential for controlling the growth of algae in the lake.

Dr. Jack Solomon, a member and Environmental Officer for the group, is spearheading the project. Dr. Solomon is also a member of East Hampton's Lake Commission.

Solomon said the electrical units transmit a complex pattern of ultrasonic vibrations through the water in a radius of 176 degrees and a range of 400 meters. These vibrations cause the vacuoles inside the algae cells to resonate and break, similar to a glass breaking from a high pitch sound. Once broken, these algae cells no longer have the ability to grow or reproduce, and they die.

The vibrations emitted from the units are harmless to humans, animals, fish and aquatic plants, according to Solomon.

Three of these units, costing approximately \$3,000 each, were purchased by Friends of Lake Pocotopaug. The fourth was purchased by Dr.

and Mrs. Solomon. All have been installed in the lake, in front of private property. The units require a GFI power supply at the shoreline.

Mark Recor, a local licensed electrician, has volunteered his services in installing the power supply. The property owner is responsible for the control unit's electrical consumption which is approximately \$20 a year.

If this test project proves successful, it is estimated that 30 units will be necessary to provide complete coverage of Lake Pocotopaug.

The East Hampton Lake Commission has endorsed this project and will perform the monitoring of the algae in the area protected by the ultrasonic devices. A group of East Hampton High School students, under the guidance of science teacher Roger Abraham, will assist in the monitoring effort.

Friends of Lake Pocotopaug has been in existence for four years and has raised over \$70,000 directed to lake water quality issues. This year, their major fundraiser is a pontoon boat raffle. Tickets can be purchased at Angelicos Lakehouse Restaurant, West Shore Marine, Paul's and Sandy's Too as well as many other local businesses.



Members of Friends of Lake Pocotopaug recently installed Ultrasonic Algae Control Units in Lake Pocotopaug

Marlborough Resident Set to Ride for Cancer Survivors

Marlborough resident and cancer survivor Pat Sclafani is making plans to ride 50 miles in his first Connecticut Challenge on Saturday, July 28 in Fairfield.

He will join over 400 cyclists from across the state to ride and raise money for Connecticut's first Cancer Survivorship Clinic at Yale Cancer Center.

"As a recent survivor myself, I am learning firsthand about the challenges cancer survivors face after their treatments have ended," he said. "I consider myself extremely fortunate to be a cancer survivor and for the great care I have received at Yale Cancer Center, but I also want to take control of my future health by minimizing the long-term side effects of my treatments."

He added, "That's what the new Survivorship Clinic at Yale is all about. It's for me and the 100,000 other cancer survivors in Connecticut."

Sclafani said he's been a bike rider for most of his 46 years and it's not going to be any different as a survivor. "My road for treatment has certainly been tough but I am now living as a cancer survivor and I plan on celebrating my survivorship with my family, friends, and fellow survivors by getting on my bike and riding 50 miles," he remarked.

This year will be the first time he is riding in the CT Challenge.

Pat Sclafani was diagnosed in September 2006 with Stage IV Thymoma (cancer of the thymus). After recovering from the shock of his diagnosis he did some research on the Internet to find the healthcare facility that could provide the best care for his rare cancer. There are only 500 cases of thymoma diagnosed each year in this country.

Pat went to Yale Cancer Center (YCC), impressed by their interdisciplinary team concept of care and the expertise of all the staff that would be involved in his treatment. As for the CT Challenge, he said, "I am riding for the entire team at Yale Cancer Center that has treated me with amazing care and concern. I am riding for the Survivorship Clinic at Yale Cancer Center, because I truly believe in their mission to help all survivors live longer and healthier lives. But most of all, I am riding for all cancer survivors, because they are my heroes and they have given me the courage, strength and determination to get through my treatments, overcome my cancer, and become a true survivor."

Pat's family will be riding with him, too—his wife, Lucille Vaughan Sclafani and their children, Ann Patrice (age 11) and Marie (age 5). He will also be riding with his siblings, relatives, neighbors and friends, as they will continue to be a huge part of his team and have helped him every step of the way since the September 2006 diagnosis.

Connecticut Challenge organizers said they are excited about the prospects for the 2007 ride. "Our rider, volunteer and donor numbers are



Pat Sclafani

up across the board," said co-founder, Jeff Keith. "Many of our riders are cancer survivors themselves, like Pat, but most are not. This is a fun ride for everyone and people have really embraced it as a way to make a direct and very positive impact for the cancer survivors in their life."

The 2007 Ride will see the addition of a new distance, intended to attract a wider range of riders. "We have added a 12-mile distance to encourage even more kids and novice cyclists to join the Ride," Keith said. With the new 12-mile loop, cyclists will now be able to choose from 12, 25, 50 or 100-mile rides.

"Our goal in adding the 12 mile distance was to open our ride to children and adults who are not confident enough in their biking skills to ride 25-miles or more. With this new distance we also hope to give Cancer Survivors who are in or have recently completed treatment the confidence that they can participate," Keith said.

Proceeds from the Connecticut Challenge support the Connecticut Challenge Survivorship Clinic at Yale Cancer Center. Through a multidisciplinary approach involving Yale Cancer Center's leading oncologists, clinicians and scientists, the Survivorship Clinic helps people prevent, detect and treat complications resulting from cancer treatments.

The Clinic will also help empower survivors to take steps to maximize their health, quality of life and longevity. Connecticut is among a very few states with a comprehensive program dedicated to meeting the needs of cancer survivors.

The Connecticut Challenge has contributed \$800,000 over the past two years to fund the Survivorship Clinic.

For more information, visit www.yalecancercenter.org.

Marlborough Finance Board Sends Budget Proposal to Town Meeting

by Sarah McCoy

The Marlborough Board of Finance (BOF) has recommended a budget for the May 14 Town Meeting.

The BOF voted unanimously Monday to recommend a \$20.1 million budget for fiscal year 2007-08. This represents a 5.18% increase from the current year.

The budget includes a 3.33% increase to the local board of education, a 4.57% increase to General Government, and a .01% increase to the RHAM Board of Education.

The overall RHAM budget called for a 5.1% increase. However, because Marlborough's enrollment is down next year, the local increase will only be about \$50,000, or .01% over the current year.

Expenditures for next year are up 5.18% but due to transfers from other accounts, such as the undesignated fund balance (\$727,901) and another \$506,573 transferred in from other town accounts, the out of pocket increase to taxpayers translates to 2.03%, according to the Board of Finance.

Prior to their vote, the board held their annual public hearing for voters to provide input. The event attracted fewer than 50 residents and even fewer comments. The one issue that was brought up more than once didn't even pertain directly to spending, but rather to where the funds came from.

In an effort to "do some housekeeping," the BOF looked at accounts this year that have not had much action. They approved the termination of 17 accounts for projects already completed and proposed several account transfers rather than additional budget items.

One of these was the transfer of \$18,400 from the Land Acquisition Improvement Fund to cover the creation of a sand volleyball pit at Blish Park and repairs to the Playscape.

Dave Gilbert, chairman of the Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission, asked the BOF not to proceed with the transfer. "If you allocate \$18,400 from [the Land Acquisition Improvement Fund] it will impact what we can and cannot do," he said Monday night. "We certainly feel that the Playscape repairs are worthy but the town survey done a couple of years ago indicated that residents want a

trail system in town."

The Board of Finance subsequently voted not to transfer the monies from the Land Acquisition Fund. The money will be taken instead from the Capital Non-Recurring uncommitted funds.

First Selectman Bill Black's original budget asked for \$6,700 to relocate the Parks and Recreation office from the elementary school back to Town Hall. This request was voted down during the BOF's budget deliberations.

Monday night Parks & Rec Chairman Barbara Lazzari asked the BOF to reconsider. She reported that Parks & Rec has received several complaints regarding the current set-up. "Residents have to get beeped in and there is no support system when our director is out of the office," she said. "It makes sense to do the relocation now while Town Hall is being renovated."

"Options already exist in Town Hall," BOF Chairman Catherine Gaudinski responded.

First Selectman Bill Black commented that the available rooms in Town Hall are already earmarked for the Resident State Trooper and additional space for the Judge of Probate to comply with their state regulations.

The motion to return this line item failed 2-3.

At one point in the public hearing, Gaudinski brought up the 3.5% increase to salaries for non-contractual positions and the new positions in Town Hall. Neither item brought forth comments from the public.

The new positions include turning the selectman's secretary into a full-time position, adding two part-time workers at the Senior Center, and two part-time Public Works positions to handle litter removal around town. Because the Director of Physical Service position has been eliminated and there is a reduction in hours for the treasurer's office assistant, the overall budget impact is a decrease of \$39,000.

Copies of the Board of Finance's recommended budget are available in Town Hall. The annual Town Meeting to vote on the budget will be held on May 14 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Elmer Thienes- Mary Hall Elementary School.

Marlborough Anthrax Attack Scheduled—It’s ‘Only’ a Drill

by Sarah McCoy

In one month the Town of Marlborough will hold its first ever Point of Dispensing Drill. Over one hundred volunteers are expected to participate in the event, which simulates an anthrax attack to test the town’s emergency plan.

In preparation for the drill, the Marlborough emergency personnel, in conjunction with the Chatham Health District, are holding four final preparation meetings.

On May 10 there will be a final informational session for those interested in participating in the drill. The presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school with a question and answer period to follow.

Then, on May 16 and 21, the town will hold an anthrax and personal protective equipment training session. This will also begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Elementary School.

June 7 will be the final walk-through for POD drill volunteers. All participants are invited to come to get a better idea of what to expect on Drill Day.

The POD drill is run to prepare the town’s residents and emergency personnel in the case of a medical emergency where mass inoculations are needed.

On June 9 anthrax “victims” will be placed at various locations around town. They will be

bused to Marlborough Elementary School to receive medication. The drill is scheduled to run from 8 a.m.-noon on June 9 and culminate with a volunteer luncheon.

The town is still looking for new volunteers for the POD drill. Anyone interested is asked to attend at least one of the information sessions. Volunteers of all ages are needed for the June 9 drill but a parent must accompany children participants.

Planning for the POD drill began over a year ago. Since then the town’s emergency plan, “has grown leaps and bounds,” according to Fire Department Rescue Chief Mark Merritt. There are now individual job duties for volunteers and better communication amongst all areas of the process.

The group is now looking to form sub-committees (i.e. transportation, security, etc.) to channel volunteers’ efforts into one track.

In the case of a real medical emergency Marlborough will partner with East Hampton, Hebron, East Haddam and Portland for the dispensing of medical supplies. The current plan is to run a five-town POD drill later this fall, after each town has run their own smaller drill.

Those with any questions about the Point of Dispensing drill should contact Mark Merritt at (860) 295-9692.

Site Recommended for Possible Ball Field in Colchester

The Athletic Facilities Task Force voted last week to recommend a site for a new Little League size baseball field.

The Task Force voted to recommend a Little League size field, along with an overlapping rectangular all-purpose field, parking and site improvements, to be built on land that sits along the Colchester Spur of the Air Line Trail, with access from Windham Avenue.

It is hoped the field can become a reality through a partnership with the Cody Camp Memorial Filed Foundation.

The foundation has accrued significant financial donations, as well as commitments of services, in order to construct a ball field in memory of Cody Camp, a 6-year-old boy who passed away last year due to cancer. Cody was an avid baseball player and fan and the foundation felt that building a field such as this would be an appropriate way to remember him.

Knowing the interest of the Cody Foundation to work with the town, the Task Force put its earliest effort on locating an appropriate site for a ball field.

The Task Force has been working over the past year and a half with Vollmer Associates to ascertain what athletic facilities are needed over the next ten years, as well as where those facilities could most feasibly be developed. All the potential sites considered to date have been on town-owned land.

The Task Force still has a few months worth of work to do to complete its final report and recommendations, but thought the ball field plan “could create an exciting opportunity to work with the foundation.”

At an earlier meeting, when the site was first proposed, Bob McGovern, president of the Cody Foundation, expressed great interest in working with the town to achieve both groups’

goals.

“The foundation committee is excited about working with the town to achieve both our long-term goals,” he said. “We believe this is a fantastic opportunity to help the town address its athletic field deficit while memorializing a 6-year-old boy who loved the game of baseball.”

Jason Cohen, Parks & Recreation Director and Task Force member, agreed. “It’s really a perfect site for a ball field. Not only is it accessible from both the trail and Windham Avenue, but the area is served by both water and sewer utilities.”

Board of Selectmen member Greg Cordova said, “This town-owned property seemed to be the most appropriate location to achieve an important first step towards our 10-year plan while working with the Cody Camp Foundation, and could potentially attract more individuals’ awareness to utilize the Airline Trail.”

The vote of the Task Force will now send its recommendation on to the Board of Selectmen. If the board approves of the site after a review of the recommendation, it would separately have to approve a formal partnership between the town and the Cody Foundation in order for the project to move forward as envisioned.

Based on the data collected during over a year of research, the Task Force is planning to recommend: a community center including an indoor pool, five multipurpose ball fields, reconstruction of the Bacon Academy track along with artificial turf and lighting, lighting of the remaining fields at the Recreation Complex, additional walking trails, and additional playgrounds where appropriate.

Continued research is still needed to determine the most feasible locations for these facilities, as well as possible alternative funding sources.

Portland Police News

4/26 – A 12-year-old male was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of disorderly conduct.

4/27 – Tyler J. Secord, 20, of 111 Packard Dr., Bangor, ME was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, said Portland police.

4/27 – Peter Francis Walck, 18, of 82 Young St., East Hampton, was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, said police.

4/27 – Benjamin C. Cox, 20, of 2 Anderson Rd. West, Sherman, was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor and possession of alcohol in a motor vehicle by a minor, said police.

4/27 – Jay J. Lemieux, 18, of 5 Lena La., East Hampton, was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, said police.

4/27 – Roxanne E. Ryan, 47, of 11 Hall Hill Rd., Portland, was charged with simple tres-

pass, said police.

4/28 – Rommel Chavez, 30, of White Swan Motel #3, Berlin, was charged with DUI and operating a motor vehicle without a license, said police.

4/28 – Daniel Lee Ballek, 21, of 88 Ray Hill Rd., East Haddam, was charged with criminal mischief 1st degree, said police.

4/28 – Michael Cirillo, 22 of 5 Westwood Dr., Moodus, was charged with conspiracy to commit criminal mischief 1st degree, said police.

4/28 – Dan R. Hruska, 21, of 28 Lake Rd., Portland, was charged with conspiracy to commit criminal mischief 1st degree, said police.

4/29 – Melanie M. Dimartino, 26, of 130 N. Moodus Rd., Moodus, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, said police.

East Hampton Police News

4/13 — Jason M. Thomas, 32, of Grantmoore Hotel, Newington, and Ryan M. McGrath, 18, of 6 Summer Hill Rd., Middletown, were involved in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of West High Street and Coughlin Road. McGrath was arrested for operating under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. As a result of the same accident, Liane Dillard, 47, of 6 Summer Hill Rd., Middletown, was arrested for operating a vehicle without insurance.

4/23 — John E. Spaulding, 44, of 1113 Portland Cobalt Rd., Portland, was arrested on three warrants The charges are as follows: two counts

of violation of probation, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief 3rd degree and failure to appear 2nd degree.

4/25 — Joseph E. Ford, 18, of 6 Summer Hill Rd., Middletown, was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant for disorderly conduct, failure to appear.

4/26 — Arland E. Hersey, 40, of 135 Sillimanville Rd., Moodus, was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates, operating without insurance and operating under suspension.

4/26 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was referred to Youth in Crisis.

Colchester Police News

4/27—John E. Bernetich, 68, of 74 Tartia Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for DWI, according to police.

5/1—Diane Dumala, 48, of Enfield, was arrested for DUI, police said.

Marlborough Police News

4/28—Holly Jacobs, 48, of 21 Lake Rd., was arrested for DUI, driving without brake lights and turn signal lights and traveling too fast for conditions, according to reports.

Andover Police News

4/29—Michael Jaworski, 31, of Andover, was arrested for threatening, breach of peace and simple trespass, police said.

Obituaries

Andover

Willard F. Billings

Willard F. Willard F. Billings, 87, of Andover, formerly of Manchester, beloved husband of the late Evelyn (Samuels) Billings, passed away unexpectedly Friday, April 27, at home.

Born in Hartford, Nov. 20, 1919, son of the late Frank and Gertrude (Rogers) Billings, he was raised in Manchester, attended local schools, and was a graduate of Manchester High School. He later graduated from Hillyer College in Hartford and had been a resident of South Windsor before moving to Andover in 1977.

Mr. Billings was a proud U.S. Navy veteran serving during World War II in Washington D.C. Prior to his retirement in 1983 he was employed with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as Chief Buyer. He was a member of the Crossroads Community Church in Vernon.

Mr. Billings is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Kenneth Fay of Coventry; a brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Sandra Billings of South Windsor; three grandchildren, Kevin Fay and his wife Jacqui of Marlow, NH, Loreen E. Fay of Manchester and Christopher Fay and his wife Catherine of Kingston, RI; four great grandchildren, Dustin and Kyle Harrison of Manchester and Brian and Anna Fay of Marlow, NH; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were Wednesday evening, May 2, with a celebration of life service at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial will be private in Townsend Cemetery, Andover at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Guatemala Orphanage Fund c/o Crossroads Community Church, 281 Hartford Turnpike Suite G-5, Vernon, CT 06066.

Hebron

Carole J. Unsworth Wilbraham

Carole J. (Sumption) Unsworth Wilbraham of Hebron passed away Saturday, April 28, at Vernon Manor. She was born in Providence, RI daughter of the late William John Sumption and Amelia (Murphy) Sumption.

Carole lovingly raised her family in Hebron for over 30 years. She began her career in transportation while her kids were young, by driving school buses. Carole began working for Connecticut Transit in 1977. She worked both as a driver and information specialist in downtown Hartford at the company's main office. Carole retired after 17 years of dedicated service.

Carole enjoyed the great company of many friends at the Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron.

She is survived by Walter Unsworth of Ellington and their three children, Kevin Unsworth of Ellington, and his two daughters Brianna and Sierra whom she loved so much, Lisa Williams and her husband Bob of Ellington, and their son Bobby whom she adored and Scott Unsworth and his wife Josephine of Coventry. Carole is also lovingly survived by her sister Rhoda Nydegger and family of Strafford, NH, several nieces and nephews including Jacqueline Schwamberger and family of Lincoln, RI. Besides her parents Carole was predeceased by her sister, Phyllis McKenna.

Funeral services were Wednesday, May 2 at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. Burial will be private in New Hebron Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were Wednesday afternoon prior to the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the Russell J. Mercier Senior Center, 14 Stone Croft Dr., Hebron, CT 06248 or the Vernon Manor Recreation Department, 180 Regan Rd., Vernon, CT 06066.

East Hampton

Norma Mae Burns

Norma Mae (Griswold) Burns, 77, of Cobalt, beloved wife of Charles Burns, died Saturday, April 28, at her home with her husband by her side.

Born Feb. 24, 1930 in White River Junction, VT, the daughter of the late Alonso C. and Emelina (Blanchard) Griswold, she had lived in Cobalt since 1969. She retired from Bevin Wilcox Manufacturing where she had been a supervisor. She was an Auxiliary Member of V.F.W. Post 5095 of East Hampton.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements.

Hebron

Grace Grubert

Grace (Rathbun) Grubert, 90, of Buttonwood Road, Hebron, passed away Monday morning, April 30, at the St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Born Sept. 15, 1916 in Willimantic, she was a daughter of the late Frederick and Sarah (Gray) Rathbun and was raised in Hebron.

Early on, Mrs. Grubert moved to New York City and owned and operated a successful women's specialty shop at 16th St. and 7th Avenue for nine years. She later became a Showroom Manager at 225 5th Avenue for 32 years before her retirement.

In 1992, she returned to her childhood home in Hebron, where she would spend the last 15 years of companionship with her lifelong friend, Milton R. Porter of Hebron.

After her return to Hebron, she was active in the community, serving on the Hebron Historical Properties Commission for 12 years. She was also a 14 year member of the Hebron Women's Club as well as longtime member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

In addition to her loving companion, Milton, she is survived by her sister, Charlotte Silva of Hebron; two cousins, Elaine Rossi of Granby and Mary Ventres of East Haddam; her sister-in-law, Pearl Tinelli of Westfield, MA; and numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends. She also leaves behind Milton's sons, Carter Porter of So. Windsor and Gary Porter, his wife, Karen and their daughter, Alexandra, all of Westbrook, to whom she showed genuine love and concern for, as if they were her own.

She was predeceased by her loving husband of 35 years, William Grubert in 1979.

Calling hours were Thursday evening at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Funeral services were scheduled for today (Friday, May 4) at 11 a.m. directly at St. Peter's Church, 30 Church Street (Rte. 85), Hebron, with Fr. Everett "Perry" Perine, officiating. Interment will follow in St. Peter's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the church.

Salem

Edward J. Swider, Jr.

Edward Joseph Swider, Jr., 86, husband to the late Mary (Foyda) Swider of Salem, passed away on Thursday, April 26 in Colchester.

He was born on Aug. 5, 1920 in Salem, son of the late Edward J. Sr. and Caroline (Dziuba) Swider. Ed attended Middletown Trade School and worked during World War II at Electric Boat. He was a self-employed carpenter and contractor, building homes in Salem and Colchester. He also had a small farm in Salem where he was proud of growing his blueberry patch. He was a member of St. Joseph Club.

He is survived by a son, Robert E. Swider of Oakdale; a daughter, Barbara M. Swider of Manchester; his two brothers, Michael Swider of Salem and Frank Swider of East Hartford; a granddaughter, Amanda Swider of Uncasville; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by four brothers, Joseph, John, Stanley and Walter Swider. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, April 30 at St. Andrew's Catholic church, Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial was in the New St. Andrew's Cemetery. There were no calling hours. Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, had care of arrangements.

Colchester

David Schneider

David Schneider of Norwich Avenue, Colchester, husband and best friend of Judith (Dember) Schneider, died Friday, April 27. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Morris and Tylly (Cherry) Schneider.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II. A past Little League coach, he had also been active in the Democratic Party in Colchester. He was a member of Congregation Ahavath Achim in Colchester.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Louis Schneider and his wife Cathy of Penfield, NY; two daughters, Phyllis Winkler and her husband Michael of Vernon, and Henrietta Morgenstein and her husband Steven of Cottonwood, AZ; five granddaughters, Amy and Laura Schneider, Melanie and Joanna Winkler, and Jamie Morgenstein; a brother-in-law, Albert Donn; and several loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Sunday, April 29, at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave, Colchester, with Rabbi Kenneth Alter officiating. Interment was in the Colchester Jewish Aid Cemetery. Shiva was observed at his home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Ahavath Achim, or to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., PO Box 1004, Meriden 06450. Arrangements entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford.

