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Romano Ghirlanda is pictured by the old Willimantic Turnpike in the center of Marlborough. The Marlborough resident recently completed a book on the history of the town, *Reflections Into Marlborough's History*.

Marlborough's Past is Topic of Book

by Sarah McCoy

As a longtime history buff, Romano Ghirlanda has had an affinity for public libraries. After all, it is there that Ghirlanda spent hours of his time delving into the history of his hometown of Hartford.

So you can imagine his surprise when Romano moved to Marlborough in 2004 and found almost nothing on the town's history. "Little pieces from newspapers, a book Mary Hall wrote nearly 100 years ago, that's about all that existed," Ghirlanda reported.

That's no longer the case.

After years of research, writing, and putting it together, Romano Ghirlanda has released his first book on the history of the small town. *Reflections Into Marlborough's Past: The Biography of a Small Connecticut Town* is now available.

Reflections takes readers from the town's inception (in 1803) through to the present day. There are over 275 pages of historical accounts, facts and anecdotes, as well as over 200 photographs both old and new.

Romano opted not to write chronologically. Instead, each of the 13 chapters tackles one part of Marlborough. For example, there are whole chapters outlining the progressions of

Sadler's Ordinary and The Marlborough Tavern.

Other chapters include The First Families of Marlborough, The Story of Mary Hall, and a look at what remnants and landmarks still exist today.

"Most people drive past something of historical significance every day," Ghirlanda said. "I'd like people to read the book and notice the little things that show us where we have come from."

At the end of the book are appendices for some of the first families in Marlborough: the Blishes, the Footes, the Fullers, the Lords and others.

Romano began the book in 2005. Then last year he ran into a problem. "I hit a wall," he explained. "I couldn't find the information I needed to complete the book."

It was then, in March of last year, that Romano asked residents for any information they might have. The results were stunning. After his plea ran in the *RiverEast News Bulletin*, Ghirlanda met with more residents, found more historical landmarks, and was finally able to complete the book.

"You might remember [from that article] that I planned on releasing the book last summer," Romano said with a laugh. "There was just so much to go

through and it took longer than I expected to find a printer. So this summer, it'll come out this summer."

The first orders for *Reflections Into Marlborough's Past* have already been placed. Those interested in purchasing a copy can find order forms at the Senior Center, Richmond Memorial Library, and Town Hall.

More information about the book and how to order a copy can also be found on the web at www.marlboroughhistory.com.

The book retails for \$39.99.

A portion of the proceeds from the book will go to reestablishing the Marlborough Historical Society. The Society disbanded three years ago.

With one book to his name, Romano isn't planning on slowing down anytime soon. He's already in the beginning stages of putting together a magazine on the history of all of Connecticut.

Ghirlanda, who works in the financial field, has found a niche that continues to interest him—history. "It's really amazing how people and places hundreds of years ago have influenced our lives today," he said. "I don't think I could ever grow tired of learning about the past."



The newly promoted sergeants pose with the Chief and their fellow sergeants (l-r): Garritt Kelly, Paul Battista, Chief Matthew Reimondo, Michael Green, Tim Dowty and Michael Fitzpatrick.

Two Officers Receive Promotion to Sergeant in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

Tim Dowty and Paul Battista are no longer just “officers.”

As of Tuesday morning, they are Sergeant Dowty and Sergeant Battista.

East Hampton Assistant Town Clerk Bernice Bartlett swore in two veteran police officers as sergeants Tuesday morning.

The ceremony was attended by about 25 family, friends and colleagues, along with Town Manager Alan Bergren and Police Chief Matthew Reimondo.

“This is a big day for us,” said the Chief, opening the ceremony. “This is a process that started long before my time.”

Bergren praised the local police department. “We’re one of the safest communities in the United States,” he observed.

“I’m very proud of this police department,” he added. “They do a fine job for East Hampton.”

Sgt. Paul Battista, 45, originally from New Britain, now lives in Plainville with his wife Dawn. They have a son, 24, and two daughters, who are 21 and 19.

Battista, who formerly worked as a plumber, said, “I’m like all the other guys out there. I always wanted to be a cop.” Getting a later start than some, Battista remembers, “I was 30-years-old. I thought, ‘I better do it before I get too old.’”

He graduated from the Police Academy in 1995 before immediately beginning his career in East Hampton, one that now stands at 12 years.

The promotion was not something that Battista saw coming. “It’s a surprise to me,” he admitted. “I thought that one of the other sergeants would have to retire for the position to become available.”

He made special note of the camaraderie he shares with his fellow officers. “It’s just the greatest job you could imagine,” he said. “We’re a small but close department. It’s a brotherhood.”

Originally from Somerset, MA, Sgt. Tim Dowty now lives in Colchester with his wife Kristin and 8-year-old daughter. He came to East Hampton fresh out of the Police Academy in 1997.

Dowty, 36, quipped of his promotion, “I go from doing the work to doing the work and watching other people’s work.”

As for how he got into police work, Dowty revealed, “There’s a lot of police in my wife’s

family. I had a lot of exposure to it.”

As for the local department, he has nothing but praise. “We have great people here,” he said. “That’s why I’ve stayed; the people are outstanding.”

When asked to single out highlights, Dowty said, “I’m proud of everything that we’ve done here. We’ve done an endless amount of cases, [ranging] from major cases to returning bicycles.”

The newly sworn in sergeants are actually filling new spots, bringing the East Hampton Police Department to 17 officers with five sergeants.

This past year, the force has seen the retirement of Mark LaFlamme and Robert Zablonksi. According to Chief Reimondo, the department has one new hire, one future officer in the process of being hired, and one in the Academy. Once fully staffed, Reimondo said he will promote one of the veteran officers to another new position: detective.

In addition, five officers will be eligible for retirement by the end of the year. That number will increase to seven by the end of 2008. “You have the potential to lose three-quarters of the department,” said the Chief.

Reimondo said he had been pushing for the addition of two more sergeants for quite awhile, though the initiative was actually started in the ‘80s by his predecessor, Chief Dean True.

The chief also noted a striking statistic: “38% of every shift went uncovered last year. The three supervisors that I had were rarely getting any time off.” Reimondo pointed to the town’s growth as the main reason for this additional demand for police coverage.

Veteran sergeants will groom the two newly appointed sergeants. “Being a supervisor is much more complex now,” said Reimondo. “Back when I was starting out, it was, ‘Here you go; you’re a sergeant.’ You really need someone in the organization to help you along. When the schedule gets posted, [Battista and Dowty] will work with another sergeant a couple times a week.”

Reimondo expressed his confidence in Dowty and Battista, describing them as “two fantastic, quality individuals who have really devoted themselves to helping the people of East Hampton.”

He later declared, “They’ve never shied away from a call for service. I think they’ve really worked hard from day-one.”



Samantha Clausi (left) and Juliet Armstrong sit on the brownstone by Portland High school. Each is wearing their medal of academic excellence.

Top Two PHS Students Look Forward to Future

by Michael McCoy

Two Portland High School seniors have finished at the top of their class this year—and, as usual, the end has been bittersweet.

Samantha Clausi, 18, is the 2007 salutatorian. The daughter of Janet and Joe Clausi, she has spent her entire academic career in Portland, beginning in kindergarten.

Samantha has been especially active in the music program, singing in a capella, playing flute in the band, and performing in the pit orchestra for school musicals. Samantha has also studied piano for 10 years.

Complementing her academic and musical excellence, she has also run cross country for Portland.

Valedictorian Juliet Armstrong has also attended Portland schools since kindergarten. Like Samantha, she has a musical bent. Participating in the pit orchestra, Juliet also played oboe in concert band and alto saxophone in jazz band. She was instrumental in starting up the school’s marching band flag team—a group that had been dormant for some time—last year.

Juliet identified science and math as her favorite subjects at Portland High, though, like many in their final year, she admitted it was a little challenging to stay on top of everything, while making the most of her final days in high school.

“It’s hard because you know it’s the last time you are going to see these people,” she observed. Fortunately, she did not feel that she had to go it alone. “The teachers were very helpful, and they could tell when you were getting a touch of senioritis.”

Along similar lines, Samantha pointed out, “The college stuff is definitely really stressful. Time management is probably the hardest thing.”

Both girls pointed to the senior class trip to

Virginia, which included stops at Busch Gardens and Jamestown, as a great capstone to their time in Portland. According to them, it brought further cohesion to an already tight graduating class. Juliet remembered, “People talked to people that they had never talked to before.”

“I wish it happened sooner,” remarked Samantha.

While both scholars had many good things to say about much of Portland’s faculty and staff, they singled a couple of people out for special mention.

“I was really inspired by everything Miss Ponko does for the school,” said Juliet who credited her as something of a jack-of-all-trades.

Samantha was fond of all the classes she had with Mr. Stevenson, most notably music theory. “He’s definitely helped me more than anyone, I think,” she said.

Though commencement has been in the books for two days now, during the interview prior to graduation, Juliet admitted some apprehensions about her valedictorian address. Though she was confident with what she had written, she said, “To get up in front of the graduating class and the parents is going to take a lot. I’m very nervous.”

Though Samantha’s summer plans are not completely firmed up yet, she said, “I’m looking for a job, and I will be practicing piano a lot.” The latter has much to do with her fall plans. Samantha will be attending Hartford University, where she plans to audition for the Hartt School, majoring in piano performance.

Juliet will be putting hours in at Stage Left Dance Studio in Middletown this summer. “Dance is a huge part of my life,” she said. Then, it’s off to UConn, where she will study animal science with an eye toward a career as a veterinarian.



Top (l-r): RHAM Senior Class President Jeffrey Geyer prepares to snap a photo of his classmates before delivering his speech Wednesday night at commencement exercises; a group of smiling graduates; Amy Schwarz leads the RHAM High School Senior Chorus as they perform *Catch Me* at the graduation ceremonies. Schwarz wrote and sang lead vocals on the song. **Bottom (l-r):** Carolyn Bowen flashes a

smile during Mark Logan's speech; with the sun overhead, RHAM High School Social Studies teacher Mark Logan addresses the Class of 2007; Class of 2007 Valedictorian Meredith Stuart walks across the stage Wednesday night to accept her diploma.

Class of 2007 Bids Farewell to rham High School Days

by Sarah McCoy

It's only a 25-foot stroll, but for 228 RHAM Seniors, the walk across the stage Wednesday to receive a diploma felt much longer.

"High school. It's a long and messy process," RHAM Class of 2007 Valedictorian Meredith Stuart remarked.

While no one seemed to disagree, Wednesday night's commencement exercises also celebrated the six years that the class has spent together. RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie emceed the evening, introducing Senior Class President Jeffrey Geyer as the first speaker.

Geyer snapped a quick picture of his classmates from atop the stage before recapping his experiences at RHAM. "Laughter, memories, tears and goodbyes," he started. "Tonight is full of emotions." He encouraged his classmates to remember the past as it shapes the future.

"It we are content with ourselves, then we are prepared for the challenges yet to come," Geyer said in closing.

Each year the senior class chooses one individual to be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. In the past, the school has hosted former Olympian Gretchen Ulion and various retired teachers. Never before has the senior class chosen a current teacher.

That is, until this year.

This year's class chose Mark Logan to do the honors. Principal Leslie described Logan, who teaches social studies and coaches track and cross country, as "an inspirational coach and outstanding teacher."

Wednesday night Logan focused on one of his areas of expertise: history. He spoke of how he watched the class mature to become the adults they are today. "One of the examples of your maturity," he said to the graduating class, "was your genuine and heartfelt response to the untimely death of Tyler Cormier."

Tyler, who had Down's Syndrome, passed away in February at the age of 21.

"When I was younger, someone like Tyler wasn't part of our school community," Logan said. "You made him part of RHAM. He was your classmate and your pal."

Following Logan, the Class of 2007 Valedictorian and Salutatorian took the stage. As long-time friends, Meredith Stuart and Erica Kowsz elected to give their speech together as they compared high school to a tie-dyed t-shirt.

Describing the process of rolling, tying and putting ink on a shirt, Stuart stated, "It never turns out exactly the way you thought it would— much like high school."

Some spots of ink on a shirt were there from the start, others were added without notice, and some just found a place, Stuart and Kowsz suggested. "The colors and patterns are the things we have done and the people that have helped or hindered us," said Kowsz. "But the shirt is yours alone. Wear it with pride."

Before dispensing diplomas, Leslie had the pleasure of announcing the recipients of 55 scholarships. Forty-three different students accepted awards including Shayne McAfee who was presented a scholarship worth \$387,000 for four years of tuition through the Air Force.

Then, all 228 students crossed the stage, accepted their diploma, and began a new life. Graduating with the Class of 2007 were:

Ehsam Abbas, Jessica Mary Adelson, Christina Marie Apatow, Heather Marina Apinis, Michelle M. Arcata, Allison LynMarie Arel, Kathleen Elizabeth Aspinwall, William David Aubin, Carla Jean Bacon, Thomas Bailey, Steven T. Bajek, Vanessa Luna Barber, Gregory Raymond Baribault, Michael Ray Baribault II, Matthew Louis Barrett, Andrew Efenger Bartholomew, Michael James Begansky, Stephanie Marie Belliveau, Stephen Blais, Mitchell Boileau, Abigael Anne Boone, Melanie Lynn Booth, Victoria A. Bosshart, Diane Elizabeth Boucher, Kyle Joseph Robert Bourassa, Kimberly A. Boursy, Carolyn Anne Bowen, Kristen Michelle Braman, Megan Lynn Branciforte, Christopher Michael Bray, Alexander Christian Breiding, Michael Joseph Briganti, Karissa Ann Burgess, William J. Cairnduff, Eric James Campbell, Benjamin Joseph Campen, Amanda Leigh Casale, Joel Anthony Casale, Maura Angela Chaffin, Valerie Jan Charbonneau, Krista Leigh Chemerynski, Sonia Clark, Chelsea Annmarie Clark, Kevin Coffey, Francesco P. Conaci, Tyler James

Connelly, Juliana Gabrielle Connors, Lauren Anne Cook, Emily Mae Couture, Taylor Anne Crockett, Kristen Elizabeth Culmo, Molly Elizabeth Cyr, Kathryn Sarah Czaja, Alex Paul Czerwinski, Samantha Morgan Dagesse, Matthew Jared David, Katelyn M. DiFrancesco, Matthew Peter DiGiro, Kyle Scott Domler, Patrick Joseph Donahue, Daniel Joseph Drum, Kevin John Eichler, Jerry Eisenberg, Kyle Jeffrey Endrelunas, Dean Fandacone, Hillary R. Federico, Matthew David Ferony, Danielle Elizabeth Ferrari, Austin William Fetzer, Marisa Griffiths Finn, Ian P. Fischer, Bryan Fischlein, Chelsea Fisher, Nicole Gagne, Amy Lynn Gardner, Mitchell David Gaudette, Kelly L. Genzlinger, Jeffrey Eric Geyer, Andrea Danielle Godin, Danielle Marie Goetter, Liliana Elizabeth Gonzalez, Chelsey Elizabeth Gosselin, Katelyn Bridgette Gregor, Abigail Margaret Grover, Brian Michael Gruessner, Christopher G.W. Hague, Michael James Hale, Wesley Michael Hall, Matthew Hall, Benjamin Hawke, Thomas James Hawke, Briana Rose Heckman, Nicholas Yeager Higgins, Janelle Elizabeth Hollister, Lauren Alaina Hopkins, Danielle R. Houle, Ann Marie Margaret Hovey, Chelsea Diane Humphrey, Kayla Terese Hushin, Christopher Rhodes Husta, Richard Mark Intravia, Jr., Lauren Fay Ives, Tucker H. Ives, Zachary Colin Jacobs, Ashley Nicole Jacques, Sara Courtney Johnson, Aaron Matthew Julius, Brendon Charles Kargl, Samuel Buchardt Keener, Erica Elaine Kowsz, Ryan Carll Ladd, Brianna M.E. LaRosa, Colleen Emma Leary, Caitlin Ann Leary, Andrew Maxwell LeGrant, Alexa Maryanne Lemire, Chelsea Elizabeth Leser, Andrew James Leshak, Robyn Jamie Letourneau, Derrick Andrew Lindley, Jordan Long, Alexandra Lund, Mark Anthony Macrina, Theresa Judith Maiorano, Theresa Mary Maloney, Thomas William Mango, Timothy J. Mara, Seana Anne Marceau, Owen Frederic Margeson, Daniel Peter Masters, Shayne Lucas McAfee, Robert L. McGrath, Katie Elizabeth McNaughton, Adam Miller, Drew Thomas Mitchell, Joshua Mark Molofsky, Rebecca Eileen Mooney, Alexandria Suzanne Moore, Desiree Morris, Erin Kathleen Murphy,

Renee Marie Napert, Dianna Krystina Niziolko, Andrew Ernest Nuzzolilli, Daniel S. O'Connell, Michael Stephen O'Connor, David Patrick O'Keefe, Lauren Elizabeth Oberlin, Douglas James Palmer, Kristen Paonessa, Elena Stavroula Papadakos, Corin Michele Parade, Liana Colleen Paradis, Matthew Craig Paradise, Kevin F. Parker, Elizabeth Anne Pedrick, Kyle Joseph Pelletier, Chrysanthe Alana Peteros, Neil Kenneth Picard, Matthew J. Pietruszkiewicz, Brandon Scott Porter, Leila Marie Poulin, Charlene Jacquelyn Precourt, Karen Leah Prisby, Kevin A. Radican, Kelsey Ann Rath, Robert William Reynolds III, Eric Charles Rick, Eric James Risley, Brittany P. Robert, Zane Michael Roberts, Zachary Patrick Ryan, Lauren Victoria Sadloski, Sean Michael Salinger, Samantha Marie Sapia, Jeffrey Warren Sauve, Travis Michael Savy, Maša Šcepanovic, Benjamin J. Schattle, Jeremy Michael Schain, William Christopher Schappert, Amy Elizabeth Schwarz, Caitlin McKenzie Schwer, Audrey June Scranton, Jordan Michael Senerth, Steven Joseph Sessa, Corinne Elizabeth Sherman, Laura Elizabeth Shook, Mitchell John Shortell, Alexandra Katharine Silva, Laura Marija Simpson, Matthew C. Siok, Richard A. Smith, Courtney Elizabeth Smith, Michael Brian Smith, Benjamin Charles Sniotka, Jon M. Solenzio, Amber Lynn Souza, David James St. Amand, Jenna Elizabeth St. John, Stephen Aaron Strickland, Kevin David Strid, Kelsey Marie Strom, Meredith Clare Stuart, Benjamin P. Swokla, Bryan Michael Swormstedt, Nicole Rose Tarquinio, Clifford Edwin Thompson III, Andrew C. Thompson, David B. Tilley, Kaylee Melissa Goodrich-Tomaso, Brittany Elizabeth Trenchard, Larry Deon Tucker, Emily Jane Turcan, Alyssa Mancini Turner, Sean Christopher Henry Twombly, Kyle Raymond Vashalifski, Kevin M. Vincek, Amanda Marie Violette, Brian John Von Hone, Matthew F. Wargo, Seth Erwin Whitham, Kerry Margaret Williams, Theodore William Wojcik, Charles Matthew Woods, Erica Lee Woodward, Brittne Lauren Young.



A Perfect Evening for the pORTLAND Class of '07

by Michael McCoy

What began as a somewhat dreary Wednesday, ended up being a perfect day for commencement exercises for Portland High School's Class of '07.

A little after 6 p.m., with festive crowds gathered upon the elegant green behind Town Hall, the 89 graduates of 2007, replete in red and black, filed in to the strains of Pomp and Circumstance.

The ceremony was kicked off by class president Andrew Doak who quickly set a relaxed pace for the evening. After recognizing the town and educational dignitaries, he continued, "Also, welcome Democrats, Republicans, Greens, Marxists, Socialists, Libertarians, Christian Phalangists, the Pacifists, and of course, welcome to all Whig Party members."

He then warned the crowd, "First, my voice will crack"—which turned out to be appropriate, because it did, each vocal miscue met with a friendly chuckle from Doak's classmates in front.

Recognizing the transitional phase facing all graduates, Doak observed, "It is that time in life where we breathe a sigh of relief, saying, 'We did it!'—Not realizing that high school was probably the easy part."

In her address, valedictorian Juliet Armstrong noted that despite differences, the entire class has a shared experience. "It is time to put aside the numbers, the grades, and the traditional measurements of intellectualism, so that we may revel in all that we have accomplished, as individuals and as a group," she observed. "We must explore our passions and allow ourselves to step beyond the comfortable confines of our abilities and once again expose ourselves to the vulnerability of trial and error."

Dr. Bruce Andrus, a 1979 Portland High School graduate, delivered the keynote speech. Andrus, a medical practitioner and Professor of Cardiology at Dartmouth, took a moment early on to praise some of the Portland teachers who made a difference in his journey. "They are Ms. Budzinski, Mr. Choconis, Mr. Miles, Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Stannard, and Dr. Record. These teachers encouraged habits and attitudes which have never failed me. They are great people."

Andrus then proceeded to offer advice to the Class of 2007, on topics such as, health, education, respect, moderation, and happiness.

Alluding to the tried and true practice of learning from one's mistakes, he offered, "...Protect the health of our planet better than my generation has. It is the only one we've got."

Recognizing that education does not stop once outside of the classroom, he said, "Read a lot, travel when you can, talk to strangers (you're grown up; it's OK now,) don't miss a chance to learn something new. Kill your TV."

Warning against the shackles of materialism, Andrus admonished, "Like my brother-in-law, an old school Vermonter says, 'Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.'"

Finally, he told the class to enjoy life. "Laugh as much as you can. Maintain contact with the friends around you. You'll never spend 13 years and go through such changes with anyone except your spouse," he remarked.

Just before handing out the diplomas, Board of Education Chairman Christopher Hetrick said a few words.

Noting that a similar size crowd assembled where they stood a few weeks ago, during the dedication of the Veterans Memorial, Hetrick reminded them, "Now this crowd is here for you."

Promising students that they can always come home, Hetrick said, "Remember this gathering in the years to come. Sometime when you've had a bad stretch, you're lonely, or just feeling down. Remember the people in Portland that showed they care about you, the people who went the extra mile for you, the people who came to congratulate you. No matter where you go, there are people here that will be glad to see you when you come back."

Portland High School Class of 2007:

Michael Angeli, Juliet Armstrong, Kevin Armstrong, Tracy Astle, Cameron Ballinger, Christopher Bepko, Katrina Borden, Christine Borg, Renee Boutin, Lauren Brady, Travis Brahen, Meara Bransfield, Emily Caffrey, Nicholas Casillo, Jeremy Castelli, Samantha Clausi, Patrick Custy, Catherine Deane, Nicolle DeLisle, Timothy DeMaio, John Dillon, Andrew Dionne, Andrew Doak, Megan Doak, Shalonda Ellison, Andrew Errichetti, Alaina Fillback, Christopher Foley, Felicia Fox, David Fraulino, Casey Gallacher, Joshua Garriques, Heather Glazewski, Krista Goddard, Deanna Golab, Evan Gustafson, Kerianne Heil, Justin Hinds, Christine Hunt, Barbara Jimenez, Charlie Johnson, Katelynn Kelly, Michael Kirby, Kevin Ladny, Eren Lee, Daniel Lepine, Jennifer Lindberg, Julia Marroquin, Jasmine McGinley, Meaghan Meyers, Michelle Migliore, Timothy Moore, Erin Murphy, Joseph Petras, Corey Petrini, Jessica Poulin, Stephanie Poulin, Patrick Pozzetti, Moira Proudman, Anthony Quintiliani, Ryan Ransford, Amanda Rasch, Travis Revicki, Rachel Riley, Melanie Rossignol, Rebecca Ruitto, Todd Scheer, Sarah Jane Schoenborn, Andrew Schroll, Nikki Scovill, Kelly Silano, Samuel Silliman, Erik Spohn, Megan Stevens, Rachel Stevenson, John Stroud, Amanda Tobler, Justin Toussaint, Robert Tyrseck, Jeffrey Steenbergen, Rachel Vare, David Varhol, Christopher Vecchitto, Amanda Vodola, Stephanie Warner, Willie Watford III, Daniel Wicke, Amy Wilson, Stephen Yarbrough.



Chatham Party Votes Out Longtime Town Manager

by Michael McCoy

After months of executive sessions that were closed to the public, the East Hampton Town Council voted Tuesday to terminate the employment of longtime Town Manager Alan Bergren.

The vote was 5-2 with the majority Chatham Party in favor and the two Republican members of the Council opposed.

A press statement issued by Town Councilman Kyle Dostaler on behalf of the Chatham Party gave few details on the basis for the termination vote.

“Under the Town Charter, the Town Manager serves at the discretion of the Town Council,” noted the release. “Pursuant the terms of his employment contract, executed in 1993, Mr. Bergren will be given 120 days notice of the Council’s decision.”

“This was carefully considered,” said Dostaler. “We wanted to make sure that we went through this process correctly.”

Acknowledging the 5-2 vote, Dostaler asserted, “By voting along party lines, the Republicans put politics before the best interests of the town. The Chatham Party is not about

politics, we’re about progress.”

Dostaler noted that the Council completed a review concerning Bergren’s performance in February. “I think that the town simply needs a town manager who has more experience with municipal development,” he said.

“It’s about a vision.”

Councilwoman Melissa Engel said, “I voted ‘no’ because I don’t like the settlement terms. It’s a contract from 1993, and it leaves a lot to be desired. I’m concerned that it doesn’t provide any healthcare. I haven’t been pleased with the process they’ve put Alan through for a year or more.”

Engel, who noted that the executive sessions regarding Bergren began in December, also criticized the way things were handled. “I thought the procedure was unkind and not deserving of someone who’s given so much of themselves,” she said.

Council member Scott Minnick, who voted with the majority, said, “We don’t take this lightly” and defended the decision. “In the end, there’s no doubt in my mind that we did the

right thing for the town,” he said. “You’ve got to think of it as a business...it’s all about progress.”

Emphasizing that he does not question Bergren’s character, Minnick noted, “Alan, he’s a great guy. He’s dedicated to the town, no doubt, but we have to look beyond all that. It needs to go to the next level.”

Republican Councilman Bill Devine, who voted against the termination, accused the Chatham Party of being cruel and unnecessarily prolonging the arduous process. “It was like a cat torturing a mouse,” he said. “[Bergren] bent over backwards, helping these people with what they wanted to do.”

Qualifying his ‘no’ vote, Devine continued, “I’m not saying we don’t need a change, but the way this was done was totally unprofessional.”

Devine also said the Chatham Party had planned to get rid of Bergren from the beginning. “November of ’05, they came in with the intention of firing Alan, but they just didn’t

know how to do it,” he said

“They should have made a change in December of ’05 instead of leading him on for a year and a half,” said Devine. “He’s gone through hell for the last 18 months.”

As for Bergren’s eventual replacement, Devine remarked, “I doubt that this town is going to get a town manager that’s going to work 60-70 hours a week like Alan has.”

None of the Council members cited specific reasons for Bergren’s termination beyond a need for change and desire for better progress.

Though his title has evolved over the years, Bergren, an East Hampton native, has been the town’s administrative leader since 1982.

Bergren was officially notified of his termination on Wednesday, and was given 120 days notice, making his last day Oct. 18. *Rivereast* was not able to reach him for comment this week.

Dostaler said that the Town Council intends to hire a recruitment firm to find candidates to fill the position.

Andover Budget Defeated in Second Referendum

Voters rejected a \$9.97 million budget at referendum last Tuesday—the second budget rejected by voters.

The referendum was defeated by a vote of 266-184 with approximately 21% of registered voters turning out to cast votes. That amounts to 450 of the 2,193 registered voters.

The Board of Selectmen, as required by Charter, set the mill rate at 26.3 mills—\$27,000 less than the failed budget’s bottom line—following the referendum.

The selectmen are required to set the mill rate before the next fiscal year which begins July 1st. The rate must be set regardless of

whether a budget has been adopted or not.

The finance board was to meet last Thursday during a special meeting to work on adjustments to the budget. The next town meeting, where registered voters may approve or reject a revised budget for another referendum, has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school.

According to the results of a number of advisory questions voters answered at the polls, 320 voters said the town budget is too high and 65 said it was too low. Regarding the school budget, 272 voters thought the figure was too high and 104 said it was too low.

Colchester Budget Proposal Fails Again

by Jim Salemi

Voters rejected a second budget at referendum Tuesday, though the margin was not nearly as wide as the defeat of the first referendum, which failed by a 2:1 ratio.

The \$47.4 million budget presented Tuesday was rejected by 70 votes. The budget figure, after adjustments and reductions to the first approved budget, had been reduced by \$1.2 million for this latest vote.

While the budget failed, property owners can still expect a tax bill over the next few weeks. At its regular meeting Wednesday night, the Board of Finance imposed a temporary 23.31 mill rate.

That figure is .30 mills over the current adjusted mill rate after revaluation, so the town’s cash flow is not interrupted. The fiscal year ends June 30th and the town is receiving bills due at the beginning of the next billing cycle which starts July 1st.

Finance board members toyed with the idea of fast-tracking the next referendum so the town might have a budget by July 1st, but that proved logistically impossible.

Following the vote count of the first referendum, finance board Chairman Bruce Hayn said the vote was effectively a mandate by voters to make drastic adjustments to the budget proposal. Regarding last Tuesday’s closer vote, Hayn said he did not consider it a mandate for drastic cuts, though voters apparently want further reductions.

“I don’t believe it’s a mandate to go to [a zero-mill increase], but I don’t believe it’s not, either. A just-over-2% increase was palatable for half the voters. It was not two-to-one, it’s not a mandate that we were completely wrong,” he said.

He and other town officials speculated that

voters are wary of supporting a budget where income revenues expected from the state are not yet known. A confirmed state budget would allow the town to better estimate significant grants such as the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants that heavily influence the figures.

At this point, town officials, after reviewing the various versions of ECS grant reform floating around the legislature, anticipate that Colchester will receive at least \$1.4 million, though no one knows for sure.

The legislature was expected to release the final grant schedule last Thursday or Friday.

Finance board member Ron Goldstein said he has read news reports indicating that Colchester will not be getting as much as anticipated, though he said he did not know how reliable the information was.

That concern prompted the finance board to put off making any further reductions or adjustments to the budget, until the grant amount is known.

“Depending on the number, and if there are large cuts that need to be made, we need to give [the boards of selectmen and education] time to make cuts,” Goldstein said. He suggested that the finance board schedule a special meeting soon after the grant amount is known, and adjust the budget accordingly.

Board members said it would be prudent to wait at least three weeks before having another referendum. In addition to the unknown income from the state, voters may be out of town over the Fourth of July holiday.

Finance board member John Ringo cast the only dissenting vote on the imposed mill rate figure. Ringo said the figure should reflect the current mill rate, since voters did not improve an increase at referendum.

Portland Police News

6/15 – Sue Pelletier, 51, of 1206 Cromwell Gardens, Cromwell, was charged with breach of peace, said Portland police.

East Hampton Police News

6/7 — Shannon M. Kosischke, 35, of 105 Dana La., South Meriden, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of criminal attempt to possess narcotics and criminal impersonation.

6/8 — Russell Baker, 19, of 4 Minnetonka Trail., East Hampton, was arrested for speeding and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension.

6/9 — Teresa Craft, 55, of 5481 Durham Rd., Guilford, was issued a ticket for creating a public disturbance.

6/9 — Joshua D. Shelberg, 19, of 53 Eli Chapman Rd., Moodus, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, failure to obey a control signal and possession of alcohol by a minor.

6/10 — Matthew Gillis, 23, of 353 McDonald Rd., Colchester, was arrested for unsafe movement and operating with a suspended license.

6/10 — Matthew L. Hargis-Griggs, 19, of 116 Colchester Ave., East Hampton, was involved in a three-vehicle accident, two of them parked vehicles, on Mott Hill Road. Hargis-Griggs was arrested for traveling too fast and reckless driving.

6/10 — Daniel Pierini, 24, of 158 Main St., East Hampton, was involved in a rollover accident on Abbey Road. Pierini was arrested for traveling too fast for conditions and evading responsibility.

6/11 — A 17-year-old female juvenile was issued a ticket for making a restricted U-turn and failure to carry insurance.

6/11 — A 16-year-old female juvenile was arrested for operating a motor vehicle without a license and illegal possession of marijuana.

6/13 — Patrick J. McGuigan, 36, of 26 Walnut Ave., East Hampton, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Obituaries

Colchester

Arlene K. Boober

Arlene Kallberg Boober, formerly of Colchester, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006, at the age of 82, after a period of declining health at the Northfield Village Retirement Community, Northfield Village, OH.

She was born on Aug. 20, 1924 in New Britain, daughter of Arthur J. Kallberg and Ellen (Johnson) Kallberg. She graduated from New Britain High School in 1942. She married Delwin E. Boober in 1944. Del passed away in May 1985.

Arlene was a very loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She is survived by her son, David and his wife, Marcia of North Hampton, NH; and two daughters, Beth-Ann Schmid and her husband, David of Macedonia, OH, whom she lived with for many years and Ellen Gustafson and her husband, Reed of Colchester. She was a very proud grandmother of six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Arlene was predeceased by her brother and sister-in-law, Alvin and Marion Kallberg and her sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Walter Anderson.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 26 directly at the Westchester Congregational Church, corner of Route 149 and Cemetery Road, Colchester with the Rev. Fred M. Dole, officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any Shriners Hospital.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester is assisting the family with local arrangements.

East Hampton

Floyd J. Hartig

Floyd J. Hartig, 78, of East Hampton, formerly of Portland died Thursday, June 14, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born June 14, 1929 in Meriden, he was the son of the late Phillip and Marie (Chartier) Hartig.

Floyd was a retired sheet metal mechanic and had worked at W.A. Parsons Co. of Durham and after his retirement at Lee Manufacturing of Wallingford. He was a master craftsman and was very talented at metal working, stained glass and woodworking. Floyd was an avid UConn women's basketball fan as well as a NASCAR fan, and he never lost his wonderful sense of humor.

Floyd was married to his beloved wife Alice (Richardson) Hartig for more than 58 years. Besides his wife he is survived by a son, William Hartig of Middletown; a daughter, Judith Bailey of Willimantic; a brother, Phillip J. Hartig of FL; a sister, Phyllis Robley of East Hampton; two granddaughters, Michelle Espinosa and Leann Malone; a step-grandson, Christian Sweeney, and six great grandchildren Alysa, Brittany, Amber, Shannon, Taylor and Brandon.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, June 20 in Walnut Grove Cemetery in Meriden with the Rev. Richard Doyle officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Middlesex Hospice Home Care c/o Dept. of Philanthropy 55 Crescent St Middletown, CT 06457. The Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of the arrangements.

Portland

Ruth E. Buckley

Ruth Eileen Buckley of Portland died on Wednesday, June 13, at the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center in Portland.

Ruth was born in West Hartford daughter of the late Andrew and Mary (Madiigan) Buckley and had lived in Rockville before moving to Portland.

Ruth attended St. Bernard School in Rockville and Rockville High School. She earned a BA in French at St. Joseph College, West Hartford and a master's degree in French at Trinity College, Hartford. Ruth was a Fulbright Scholar at the Sorbonne in Paris, France where she earned a certificate in French. She taught French and mathematics at Mt. St. Joseph Academy, West Hartford from 1943 until the school closed in 1978. She then taught French and mathematics at Mercy High School, Middletown from 1978 until her retirement in 1993.

She worked at Rockville Public Library for many years and at Portland Public Library from 1993 until 2006. Ruth was an avid reader, traveler, and word puzzle solver.

In addition to her parents Ruth was predeceased by her sisters Katherine Toothill, Mildred Buckley, Irene Cotton, Rita Ashe, Frances LaFrance; and her brothers Phillip, James, John, Andrew, and Paul Buckley. She leaves many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were Monday, June 18 at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home, 76 Prospect St., Rockville with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Bernard's Church, Rockville. Burial was in St. Bernard's Cemetery. Calling hours were at the funeral home on Sunday afternoon.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph College, 1678 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, CT. 06117 or to St. Bernard School, P.O. Box 177, Rockville, CT. 06066.

Portland

David J. McAuliffe

David J. McAuliffe, 87, husband of the late Dorothy Rau McAuliffe, of Rogers Road, Portland, died Wednesday, June 13, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Portland, January 24, 1920, a son of the late William and Agnes Olson McAuliffe, he was a lifelong Portland resident.

He had been employed by the Construction Union #1512 until his retirement. He had served an enlistment in the U.S. Army and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

He is survived by his daughter Karen M. Labbadia and her husband Joseph of Portland; his sons D. Michael McAuliffe of Portland and Kevin W. McAuliffe and his wife Joanie of Port Clinton, Ohio; his grandchildren Tracy Raicik, Steven Manchester, Amber DiMauro, Porter McAuliffe, Joseph Labbadia, David Labbadia, Patrick McAuliffe, and Brandon Badal-Kavsi; his great-grandchildren Thomas Manchester, Daniel Manchester, Majenta DiMauro and Blasia McAuliffe; his dear friend Joyce McAuliffe, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter Maureen Bassett and his sister Marion Edelberg.

The family would like to thank the nurses and aides at the Middlesex Health Care Center for the loving care given to David during his time there.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday morning in the Church of Saint Mary. Interment was in the Swedish Cemetery. There were no calling hours. Arrangements were under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or to the Portland Fire Department, EMT Fund, Portland, CT 06480.

East Hampton

Thomas H. Vogel

Thomas H. Vogel, 57, of East Hampton, formerly of Colchester, passed away at home after a courageous battle with leukemia on Saturday, June 16. He was born on July 22, 1949 in Hartford.

Tom was a happy-go-lucky guy and an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast who always had a smile on his face. Tom enlisted in the U.S. Army for four years in 1967. He served in Vietnam until he was severely injured. While in Vietnam, with the 101st "Screaming Eagles" Airborne Division, he received a Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Parachute Badge, and a Vietnam Service Medal. His rank was Specialist E-4 when he came stateside and served the remainder of his tour at Fort Bragg, NC. He was honorably discharged in November 1970.

After the service, Tom worked for Pratt & Whitney for a short time. He then worked at Alden Tool for 24 years. At the same time he worked at the Hartford Courant for over 20 years, where he truly valued his many customers. When he retired from Alden Tool, he opened his own landscape company.

Tom leaves behind his father, Herbert Vogel and wife Edna, of Florida; his mother, Beatrice Petersen and husband Edward of South Carolina; his long-time companion, Kathy Benson of East Hampton; Kathy's daughter, Christine Roth, her husband Michael and son Brendan who referred to Tom as 'Grandpa Tom', Kathy's son Robert Benson, his wife Teresa and daughter Lauren. He also leaves behind his former wife and friend, Wendy Vogel of Meriden, and their much beloved children, daughter Sandie Vogel of Ellington, son, Thomas Vogel and his wife Janet, and precious grandson Joshua of Columbia; two brothers, James Vogel and his wife Marcy and son Joshua of Marlborough, Gary Vogel and his wife Christy and children Sean, Karlee, and Patrick of Prospect. He also leaves a very good family friend, Jerry Hemion, Jr. of Middletown, numerous sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held today (Friday, June 22) at 10 a.m. in the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High Street, Middletown. Burial will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown with full Military Honors. Calling hours were Thursday evening at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Hebron

Corinne Mae Burba

Corinne Mae (Lunt) Burba, known to family and friends as Keenie, 57, passed away June 12, after a lifelong illness.

She was born in Hardwick, VT on Aug. 16, 1949. She was the daughter of the late Francis Lunt, Sr. and Melva "Mavis" Kowaliw of Hebron. She graduated from RHAM High School and attended Manchester Community College.

During her years of well-being, she had a zest for life and could brighten any room she walked in. She had a contagious smile that would warm your soul and loved being around her family. Keenie enjoyed cooking and making candy, especially popcorn balls and peanut brittle. She had quite a sweet tooth!

Keenie is survived by her mother, Mavis Kowaliw, of Hebron; a sister, Lana Horton and her husband Edward, also of Hebron; a brother, Francis "Lucky" Lunt Sr., of Rocky Hill; her nieces, Carolyn Wellman and husband Richard, and their children Ricky and Austin; Susan Costanzo and her husband Nick, and their children Nicholas and Joel, all of East Hampton; and Heidi Lunt of Colchester. She was predeceased by; her father, Francis Lunt and a brother, Paul Lunt.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 28 from 6-8 p.m. in the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

Colchester

Frances V. Hayden

Frances Victoria (Cone) Hayden, 82, of Amston Rd., Colchester, widow of the late Andrew Thomas Hayden, passed away Tuesday, June 19, surrounded by her loving family at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born Feb. 11, 1925 in New Hampshire, she was a daughter of the late Roy and Mata Cone.

She and Andrew were married on October 16, 1945 in Glastonbury and shared 56 years of marriage before he predeceased her on Aug. 10, 2003. Mrs. Hayden retired in 1990 after having worked for over 30 years as a Lead Woman on the Burr Bench at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford.

Frances was a former member of the Marlborough Moose Club and she was a communicant of St. James Episcopal Church in Glastonbury. She enjoyed playing cards, bingo, gaming and was a fan of sports of all kinds. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family as being devoted to them.

She is survived by five children and their spouses, Marie and Tom Kogut of Port Charlotte, FL, Susan and Mark Danforth of Norwich, Tom and Doris Hayden of Colchester, Elizabeth Falbowski of Colchester and Sandra and Frank Stefanovicz of Andover; 12 grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Jackie Hayden of Tucson, AZ; a sister-in-law, Irene Cone of Glastonbury; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Donald and Pat Cone of New York and David and Gail Cone of East Hartford; and numerous extended family and friends. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by two grandchildren, Teresa Lin Houra and Michael Anthony Hayden.

A Memorial Service will be held 1 p.m. Saturday directly at the Faith Tabernacle Church, 314 Woodbridge St., Manchester. There are no calling hours. Burial in New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester, will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Greyhound Rescue, 862 Cressen Dr., Gerrardstown, WV 25420. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Hebron

Paul R. Barry

Paul Richard Barry, 62, of Suffield, formerly from Hebron, beloved husband of Michaela Burke Barry, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family, Saturday, June 16, at Hartford Hospital. Born Aug. 22, 1944 in Medford, MA, he was the son of the late Joseph and Catherine (Fitzgerald) Barry.

He served with the U.S. Army Intelligence during the Vietnam War era. He was employed by William H. Sadlier Publishing for 32 years as a sales representative and manager in the New England area.

Besides his wife, Michaela, he is survived by two sons, Todd Matthew Barry and his wife, Catherine of Marlborough, John-Paul Barry of Milford, NH; a daughter, Nicole Marie Barry-Vizena and her husband, Gene of Fremont, NH; two grandchildren, Caitlin and Jack Barry; and a sister, Ann Marie Clericuzio of Peabody, MA.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, June 23, at 11 a.m., at Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Rd., Suffield, followed by Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Diabetes Association, 306 Industrial Park Rd. # 105, Middletown, CT 06457.

Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave on-line condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com. Calling hours are respectfully omitted.

East Hampton

Ethel Grossman

Ethel Grossmann, 90, formerly of East Hampton, widow of Frederick W. Grossmann, died Tuesday, June 19, at Middlesex Hospital, Middletown.

Mrs. Grossmann was born Oct. 14, 1916 in Harwinton. She was the daughter of the late Richard and Mabel (Huff) Whyte. She is survived by three sons, Joseph, James and Linden Grossmann; a daughter, Dorothy Grossmann; several grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter Josephine Grossmann.

Private funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family. Scott Funeral Home 169 Main St., Terryville is in charge of arrangements.