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News Bulletin

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Evelyn Bernier, a service associate at Liberty Bank's Colchester office, checks Thanksgiving baskets to make sure they contain all the trimmings needed for a complete holiday feast. She was one of many Rotary Club members and other volunteers who picked up 124 Thanksgiving baskets at the Colchester Hayward Fire Department on Monday evening and delivered them to needy families in town. *Photo by Sue Murphy.*

Colchester Rotary Helps Feed Families for Thanksgiving

by Michael McCoy

The Colchester Rotary held its annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive Tuesday night, handing out turkeys and other goodies in record numbers.

The drive has been held in conjunction with Liberty Bank since 2004, though the Rotary has been holding it since about 1970.

Throughout October and November, the Rotary works with Tri Town Foods in Portland (the store's former owner Ed Sharr is still an active Colchester Rotarian) and Noel's Market in Colchester to put together the baskets. While the idea is to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for those who would have trouble putting one on the table, Robert Kennedy, Colchester Rotary president, and chairman of the dinner drive, said the drive "is not so much for Thanksgiving; it's for life in general."

In addition to a turkey, the baskets include Thanksgiving musts like cranberry sauce (courtesy of the Colchester Food Bank), stuffing mix, gravy mix and an apple or pumpkin pie. The baskets also include such other staples as coffee, canned vegetables, eggs, bread, potatoes, apples, sugar, and more.

This year, the Rotary spent \$4,560 on

the drive, and nearly all of it was Rotary money. Kennedy said that in past years, a more substantial amount came from donations.

In past years, Liberty matched 50 cents of every dollar the Rotary placed in their Thanksgiving Drive account. But now there are other towns competing for the money (since 2004, Liberty Bank has begun working with 21 other Rotary Clubs in the southeast quadrant of the state). This year, Liberty contributed \$1,242 to the Colchester drive, and a total of \$20,000 to area food drives.

In a press release, Sue Murphy, executive director of the Liberty Bank Foundation, said, "Our Rotary partners raised almost double last year's total. They have truly demonstrated their commitment to their motto of 'Service above self.'"

Kennedy said his father Jim was one of the driving forces that started the event, and he is "heading this up as his legacy."

The food drive was first held at Jim Kennedy's business, Hub Ford. Jim passed away several years ago, and in 2006 Robert and his brother sold the business (now known as Ford of Colchester). Since then, deliveries have run out of the Hayward Fire

Department on Old Hartford Road in Colchester.

Hugh Campbell, who joined the Rotary just after the food drive started, said they used to deliver about 25 or 30 baskets. Formerly, the Rotary would contact local churches to find out what households in town were in need. However, now, the protocol is much more formal, and the Rotary must go through Social Services to compile a list. In addition, Kennedy said, "We know there's some people in need who won't go looking for help," so the Rotary makes sure those families are provided a basket as well.

Last year, Kennedy said, 100 baskets were distributed. In a staggering 25 percent increase, the Rotary this year handed out 124. Kennedy simply chalked this up to demand.

Kennedy said Rotarians, their coworkers and family, representatives from Liberty Bank and other various volunteers all contribute to the delivery. All told, Kennedy said, around 45 people contributed to delivering the baskets Monday, as well as packing them up Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

If you're anything like me, by the time you're reading this, you've already had two straight turkey-related meals, possibly three. And you may be in for even more. Yes, it's time for Turkey Day leftovers. And while some of those leftovers – like the sweet potato casserole or the homemade dressing – are perfectly fine reheated in the microwave, I've always preferred repurposing your leftover turkey. And I don't mean into a turkey sandwich. Slapping a few pieces of cold turkey in between a couple slices of bread may be fine for a light lunch while you watch that mid-day *Law & Order* repeat, but when dinnertime rolls around, you need something heartier.

I know some people like to made their leftover fowl into a turkey soup. And while that's perfectly acceptable, what I like best is the classic turkey casserole. Slice up some turkey, mix it in with some canned cream of mushroom soup (the classic casserole-making soup), some celery and other veggies, perhaps a hard-boiled egg, put some crushed Ritz crackers on top and pop that thing in the oven. You've got yourself a tasty, easy meal that sticks with you.

Of course, casseroles may not be everyone's cup of tea, but fortunately the Internet is full of recipes involving that leftover turkey, ranging from turkey pot pies to turkey chili to turkey hash to even breakfast turkey burritos (which actually sound pretty disgusting).

No matter how you prepare it, I hope you enjoy that leftover turkey. And I hope you and your family had a very happy Thanksgiving, and that it served as a great introduction to a joyous holiday season.

* * *

And keeping with the theme of the week, here's some interesting Thanksgiving trivia I just learned this week.

We all learned in school the pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving, back in 1621. The first national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation was made by George Washington in 1789. But it wasn't until 1863 that Abraham Lincoln officially declared the last Thursday in November to be Thanksgiving. And for the next 75 years, that's when it was held.

That all changed in 1939. The last Thursday in November that year was actually Nov. 30, which would have made the Christmas shopping season that year a short 24 days. (The Christmas shopping season, of course, traditionally starts the day after Thanksgiving – a.k.a. "Black Friday.") The country was still feeling the effects of the Great Depression, so Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Thanksgiving that year would actually be a week earlier, thus extending the shopping season and helping struggling retailers. (Roosevelt had actually first considered the move in 1933, when Thanksgiving Day also fell on Nov. 30, but decided against it that year.) And while some retailers were quite pleased by the news, others were not; the owner of an Arnold's Men's Shop in Brooklyn, NY, sent a letter to Roosevelt saying that "if the large department stores are overcrowded during the shorter shopping period before Christmas, the overflow will come, naturally, to the neighborhood store." (A copy of the original letter sent to Roosevelt is available at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum website, www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu)

Others were unhappy that Roosevelt had messed with tradition. In one rather amusing letter, also available on the FDR Library website, a couple from South Dakota told Roosevelt, "Between your ideas of running for a third term, and your changing dates of century old holidays, we believe you have practically lost your popularity and the good

will of the people of the Northwest."

Meanwhile, some states – including Connecticut – were so outraged by Roosevelt's decision that they decided to just go ahead and have Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November anyway.

Roosevelt continued to hold Thanksgiving on the second-to-last Thursday of November in both 1940 and 1941, and there continued to be controversy. Finally, on Dec. 26, 1941, Congress passed a resolution establishing Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November, and it's remained that way ever since. And by setting it as the fourth Thursday, rather than the "last" Thursday, it ensures that Thanksgiving would never fall on Nov. 30 (as Nov. 30 is never the fourth Thursday of the month), and the Christmas shopping season will stretch into November by at least a day or two.

* * *

This week saw the crumbling Citigroup get a bailout of its own. To say it's been a bad year for the banking giant would be an understatement. The company announced earlier this month it would be laying off 50,000 workers, and Citigroup stock has lost two-thirds of its value since the start of the year. But a story ran on the Mets website this week that said Citigroup's deal with the Mets is still in tact. The Mets are moving into a new stadium next season, and Citigroup in 2006 agreed to a massive naming-rights deal for the new stadium, paying the Mets \$20 million a year for the next 20 years. The Mets, in return, are calling the new ballpark Citi Field.

Reading the story about the naming rights agreement, I couldn't help but long for the old days, when stadiums were named not after corporations but after people and places, like Joe Robbie Stadium in Florida, Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, Jack Murphy Stadium in San Diego and, of course, my beloved Shea Stadium in New York. These names promoted a team's history (like how Shea Stadium was named for William Shea, who was instrumental in bringing National League baseball back to New York in the early 1960s), whereas naming a stadium after a corporate sponsor just smacks of greed. I realize new ballparks are expensive (and I am slightly more tolerant of newly-built stadiums named after corporations than I am of teams that simply sell the name of the existing stadium in order to make a few bucks), and I guess if places like Citigroup shelling out \$20 million a year helps to keep ticket prices at least somewhat reasonable, then maybe it's not all bad. But I wish there were a better way.

Another plus to naming a stadium after a person: you don't have to change the name. But this is a risk you take when you let a corporation dictate the name of your field. Look at Chase Field in Arizona. In 2001, when the Diamondbacks were world champions, it was Bank One Ballpark. But then Bank One merged with Chase, so the name was history. And it's not just mergers and buyouts that get the name of a stadium changed: Minute Made Park in Houston, remember, started life as Enron Field.

* * *

And finally, some humor to close out the week. At the end of every year, ABC airs a special where Barbara Walters interviews the "most fascinating" people of the year. This year's list was recently revealed, and led to this joke from Seth Meyers on *Saturday Night Live's* "Weekend Update" segment: "Will Smith, Tom Cruise and Rush Limbaugh are among Barbara Walters' 10 Most Fascinating People of 2008. Which proves, if nothing else, that Barbara Walters is easily fascinated."

* * *

See you next week.



Jon Lovett is shown here taking a swing at Hebron's Blackledge Country Club in April. Jon and his wife Mandie took in this "golf date" just two days before their fourth child, Casey James, was born. Jon passed away in August.

Strong Turnout for Memorial Golf Tournament in Marlborough

by Mandie Lovett

On Oct. 17, the first Jon Lovett Memorial Golf Tournament took place at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Friends, family and many others who had only known Jon from afar joined together to plan this event in little over a month's time, to give support to myself and our four children.

Planning for only 144 golfers, an amazing 200+ golfers actually participated in the event with even more non-golfers coming and going throughout the night for the dinner that followed. There were many, many hole sponsors – both families and businesses, donations of raffle items and food for the lunch and dinner; and even live entertainment. For such short planning time, the amount of support truly honored Jon's memory and everyone could feel his smile from above on that beautiful day.

Jon passed away suddenly on Aug. 18 while celebrating his youngest daughter, Hayden's 5th birthday at Chuckie Cheese. In addition to myself and Hayden, Jon left our two older daughters, Ashley (16) and Brittney (14) and our son, Casey James, who was just 5 months old at the time of his passing. Jon was a young 39 years old and it was later determined that he had an electrical failure within his heart, as a result of a significantly large heart muscle. Those that knew Jon can feel the irony that he died because his heart was too big. Jon made an incredible impact on so many while here and will forever be missed.

Born in Rockville/Vernon, he moved to Marlborough when he was 6 years old and attended Elmer Theines-Mary Hall Elementary School and later RHAM, where he graduated in 1987. After college in Wyoming, he found his way back to Marlborough when Ashley and Brittney were very young. Jon became involved with the Marlborough Youth Athletic League, coaching girls' basketball and softball and became very well respected by the girls he coached, as well as their parents. Some of the shy or more timid girls could find their confidence in playing because of Jon's gentle approach, and those more confident and naturally talented could enjoy his passion for the game. When not coaching on the court or the field, Jon was the dad that was at every single game, concert, dance recital or any type of event for our kids, and was admired by many for his dedi-

cation to our family.

Jon touched so many while here: from childhood friends, to those he met while coaching, or on the golf course, as well as those he played with in the monthly poker tournaments held at the American Legion, or strangers he would just lend a helping hand to when in need. He was known for his smile, his personality and as someone you could truly count on as a husband, father, son, brother and friend. Jon found his happiness in helping others.

The support that showed such a tribute to him on Oct. 17 certainly was a reflection of Jon's impact and what an incredible loving and caring community we live in.

Thank you could not even begin to express the gratitude and love that we feel. At such a heartbreaking and helpless feeling time for us, this community came together and brought us a feeling of peace that we didn't even realize was possible. From the day Jon died so many have done so much – cooked us meals, taken our trash to the dump, financially tried to lighten the burden, all of the simple, but genuine, "if there's anything I can do's," many hugs, calls, cards, and most of all emotionally supporting our kids through this time. As a family, Thanksgiving will truly mean something very different to us this year more than any other. To say we are thankful would be such an incredible understatement. We're so proud of Jon, and so proud to be part of such a wonderful community and will forever be touched by everyone's thoughtfulness, generosity and love and support.

We hope to hold a golf tournament every year in Jon's memory. Jon found his peace on the golf course, and there could not be any better way to celebrate his life. Those with any questions or who wish to receive to be included in future communications regarding the golf tournament, please e-mail jonlovettgolf@aol.com.

With all that goes on day-to-day for each of us, working to support your family, maintaining your home, taxiing your kids to all of their commitments – here is a simple reminder to take a moment and smile. With all of this world's uncertainty, we are all truly blessed to be reassured by an event like this, that the community we live in is truly a warm, safe, supportive and kind one.

Future of Hebron's Village Green District Still Not Clear

by Sarah McCoy

The future remains uncertain for Hebron's most viable option for expanding its commercial base.

The Village Green district, located along Route 66 across from the Ted's plaza, continues to be just a road to nowhere. It was almost a decade ago that town officials began planning a commercial development that promised to alleviate the tax burden placed on residents.

The holdup on construction, initially, was due to the posting of a \$1.2 million bond to fulfill the requirements associated with receiving a certification for the development. These requirements include a traffic study and a streetlight that will need to be installed when the property is developed. The Horton Brothers LLC, owners of the land, posted that bond last November.

Still, no applications were received to develop the land.

On Thursday, Nov. 13, Horton Brothers LLC met in a joint special session with the boards of selectmen and finance to discuss the costs associated with carrying the bond that satisfies the Department of Transportation requirements.

According to Town Manager Jared Clark, the bond posted last fall will expire this month and Horton Brothers LLC was looking to the town for help with the \$50,000 needed to carry the bond and keep up the property. "The town wants to see the property actively marketed," Clark said. "At this time the Board of Selectmen feels uneasy about putting any money towards the

bond."

Jim Celio, who is the manager of the project for Horton Brothers LLC, said that, after the meeting with the two boards, the company has officially withdrawn its request for town aid with the project. "The town has always been gracious with staff time and resources to help this project going along," he said. "However, we realize in these hard times it was best to withdraw our request."

Celio said the decision regarding renewing the bond was "a business decision" and that it would be made in the near future. He is unsure what the exact ramifications would be if Horton Brothers opted not to renew the lease. However, Clark said, he believed the developer interested in building on the land would be required to conduct new traffic studies and any improvements needed to the intersection.

At this point, there have been no applications filed with the town to develop the Village Green district. However, Clark said, he expects Hebron resident Sara Tarca to submit plans in the near future. Tarca hopes to open an aquatic center and health club.

Meanwhile, Horton Brothers continues to actively market the property.

"The Horton family has shown through their involvement and personal investment in the property for the last nine years that they are committed to seeing the project become a reality," Celio said.

East Hampton Police News

10/31 — Michael F. Bernard, 23, of 73 Main St., was arrested for third-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

11/8 — Angela B. Puccinille, 19, of 309 South Main St., Middletown, was arrested for operating without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without a license and failure to display number plates, police said.

11/9 — Shawn Aldrich, 24, of 16 Hayes Rd., was issued a ticket for purchasing cigarettes for a minor, police said.

11/10 — Ryan M. Street, 18, of 13 West High St., was issued a ticket for unnecessary noise and traveling too fast, police said.

11/11 — Andrei Halduko, 40, of 13 Hampshire Dr., Nashua, NH, was arrested for operating without a license and operating under the influence of alcohol, police said.

11/13 — Arthur Tuttle, 49, of 2 Depot Hill Rd., was arrested for illegal burning, police said.

11/13 — Edward A. Markham Jr., 34, of 88 Main St., was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant for violation of conditional discharge, police said.

11/13 — Suzanne M. Marinelli, 50, of 6 Markham Ln., was arrested for failure to drive right and operating under the influence of alcohol, police said.

11/17 — Christian R. Mock, 26, of 79 Main St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, police said.

11/17 — Philip Lynch, 31, of 193 Great Hill Rd., Portland, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

11/19 — Cory L. Ellis, 43, of 90 Middletown Ave., was arrested for use of a motor vehicle without permission, operating under suspension, disobeying an officer's signal and interfering with a police officer, police said.

11/20 — Gary M. McGuire, 45, of 22A Box Mountain Rd., Bolton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for traveling unreasonably fast, disobeying a stop sign, operating without a license, operating under the influence of alcohol and two counts of failure to appear, police said.

11/20 — Scott E. Evans, 24, of 12 Mohegan Trl., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for third-degree criminal trespass, police said.



The town recently added a quint fire truck to its fleet, replacing an engine tanker and fulfilling the town's need for a ladder truck. A quint is a quintuple combination pumper.

New Fire Truck Added to Fleet

by Sarah McCoy

The Town of Hebron recently added a quint fire truck to its fleet.

The vehicle will replace an engine tanker as well as fulfill the town's need for a ladder truck, Fire Chief Paul Burton said. The quint has a reach of 75 feet which will enable firefighters to access up to a four-story building. However, Burton said, the length of the ladder will primarily be used to reach over structures allowing firefighters to attack a blaze from overhead.

The quint will be stored at Fire Company No. 1 and Burton said he expects it to be used for about 300 calls a year. The vehicle was funded through Capital Improvements Program budget for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 fiscal years.

The total cost of the quint was expected to be \$720,000, but because of a delay in delivery the cost to the town was decreased by \$50,000. Initially Burton had expected the quint in July.

Huge Turnout for Propane Hearing in Portland

by Michael McCoy

More than 250 people – and reporters from three TV news stations – filled the Portland High School auditorium last Thursday, Nov. 20, as the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held its much-anticipated public hearing on a proposed propane storage facility.

Ultimately, the hearing on the subject was continued to January.

The controversial proposal actually consists of two applications, each submitted by Gospel Lane Properties, owned by Bruce and Kenneth Woronoff. Each application seeks a special permit for bulk propane storage, consisting of three 30,000-gallon above-ground tanks. The adjoining properties are located at 34 Gospel Ln. and William Street Extension, equaling a total of 16.26 acres, in an IP (Planned Industrial) zone.

In October, a group of households, most located in the vicinity of the proposed facility, formed Portland Residents Opposed to Propane (PROP) and enlisted the legal counsel of Michael F. Dowley and Associates. Last Thursday night, with the help of Dowley attorney Jennifer Gagosz, the group filed for intervenor status, which means it intends to sue, should the PZC grant the application.

Originally, the hearing on the proposed facility was scheduled for Oct. 16, but the commission postponed it to Nov. 20, as PZC members felt public interest justified a night devoted exclusively to the matter. So, instead of the usual Buck-Foreman Room, the meeting was moved to the high school auditorium.

At the start of the meeting, PZC chair Don Bascom set some ground rules. “We’re not here tonight to debate our zoning regulations,” he said. Instead, he continued, the night was meant to hear opinions on the specific applications. Also, he added, “We are not going to have debate between the applicant and the public,” and instructed those present to direct their comments at Bascom, rather than specifically confront the applicants themselves.

Bascom also said that PZC was determined to give everyone, applicant and public alike, the chance to be heard, and assured the audience, “The commission does not make decisions based on gut feelings.”

Before comments were actually heard, Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes announced that the applicant withdrew the application pertaining to William Street extension. Rhodes said it was found that a road that was slated to be built on the property would need to first be approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission. So, comment for the evening was limited to 34 Gospel Ln. and its proposed 90,000 gallons.

Also before comments started, PZC member Bruce Tyler (an alternate who was earlier in the evening seated as a regular commission member) said, “I have a couple of disclosures. I have read letters in the *Rivereast*” pertaining to the matter. He also said he had been approached by residents who tried to engage him in conversation on the issue, but he refused.

Alternate Peter Samuelson then admitted that he works for Daniels Oil, but that he did not see that being a conflict of interest. At least one member of the public immediately said, “No!” in objection. Bascom told Samuelson saying there’s no conflict “is stretching it a little bit,” but noted that as an alternate, Samuelson could listen and comment but not vote on the application.

John Boccalatte, attorney for Gospel Lane Properties, led off the evening’s remarks by ac-

knowledging, “This has become a tremendously unpopular application,” and added, “If this was, in fact, a popularity contest, we would not be in front of you right now,” but, he noted, both sides have the right to plead their case.

“We have complete respect for the public’s safety concerns,” Boccalatte said. “This facility will meet the highest standards for safety.” However, he admitted he didn’t think this would change the minds of the public: “We’re not naïve enough to think we can convince you of that before you leave here tonight. Frankly, that’s not our goal.”

Boccalatte continued, “We’re not proposing something that’s illegal, improper, or reckless,” while adding, “We’re not ignoring the flammability of propane.” But, he said, “If it wasn’t flammable, it wouldn’t be much use to anyone.”

He said the uses of propane are proliferating, suggesting, “It’s not just used for grills anymore.” He went so far as to report that one school district in Portland, OR, uses propane-fueled school buses, transporting 12,000 students each year.

Boccalatte also noted a text amendment to the town’s zoning regulations that was granted by the PZC in May, which allowed the sale and distribution of petroleum products in IP zones. That change was proposed by Gospel Lane Properties. Boccalatte continued that nearby areas were only deemed residential recently, and figured the area is “essentially and historically an industrial use zone.” However, he admitted, it is nearly impossible to “avoid tension” between an industrial zone and its residential neighbors.

To this end, Boccalatte alleged that the granting of this application will not necessarily “decrease the value of adjacent lots,” lots which Boccalatte said contain “houses that essentially came to the industrial zone.” In an effort to address aesthetic interests, Boccalatte said the applicants proposed building a 15-foot fence with privacy slats.

Boccalatte also said that the issue of what qualifies as “detrimental” is hard to anticipate, and suggested that on any given day a farm or a post office could be just as “detrimental” depending on how you define the word.

Richard Lavengood had the floor next. Lavengood is an engineer who runs Holyoke, MA-based Relco Engineering. He holds a master’s degree in material science, is a certified steel tank inspector, authorized OSHA instructor, and a registered environmental scientist. Lavengood is not the design engineer for the project (that is Christopher Bell, who was not present last Thursday), but instead is responsible for making sure the design complies with National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards.

Lavengood spent a lot of time explaining the history of the NFPA (which formerly stood for the National Fire Protection Association). He explained that NFPA codes are merely recommendations until the relevant state adopts them as law. The most recent incarnation adopted by Connecticut is the 1995 version, though more recent ones have been issued in 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2008. Lavengood said each consecutive version has been more sophisticated and ambitious, and said he only feels comfortable adhering to the most recent version (in this case 2008), which he said “requires the highest level of safety.”

Lavengood also talked about many of the

safety precautions this facility would contain, including a pull-away valve. Lavengood explained that should a truck pull away prematurely, the valve automatically closes, preventing spillage. In addition, NFPA requires that out of an excess flow valve, pneumatic safety valve and a manual valve, a bulk propane storage facility must employ two. Lavengood proposed three for the project. Lavengood also said he performed a fire safety analysis that measures the effectiveness of the local fire department’s training, response time and water supply.

Speaking on the Portland Volunteer Fire Department’s training, Lavengood said that of the 54 firefighters, 41 have been specifically trained on the properties of propane gas. “That’s a higher ratio than I’ve seen anywhere ever,” he said.

Lavengood described BLEVEs (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosions) and explained that propane boils at –44 degrees F and that it will only ignite when the mixture with air includes between 2.15 and 9.56 percent propane.

T. Michael Morrissey, who has been in the propane industry for 24 years, spoke next on behalf of the applicant. Since 1991, he has served as the state director in Connecticut for the National Propane Gas Association. That position is elected.

Noting the safety concerns felt by many in attendance, Morrissey said, “Folks, you’re not alone,” and spoke at length on many of the more notable propane-related accidents, including Perryville, MA, Tacoma, WA, White Plains, NY, Mexico City, Danvers Port, MA, and, most recently, an August explosion in Toronto.

In most cases, Morrissey said that either propane was not the culprit or the location was not a bulk facility like the one proposed. He said that the infamous Toronto incident was the result of a botched truck-to-truck transfer taking place at 3:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning.

“Folks, propane has been in your community for years,” Morrissey said, noting a large list of Connecticut towns that contain bulk propane storage facilities, such as Waterbury, Colchester, Salem, South Windsor and Glastonbury. He also said that, when Portland High School was built, it was heated by propane.

Water was also discussed at last Thursday’s meeting. Lavengood said that in the first 10 minutes of a BLEVE, 250 gallons per minute must be available to cool down firefighters, while another 200 gallons per minute must be available for the fire itself. Gospel Lane Properties is proposing a 10,000-gallon underground water storage tank.

However, some PZC members seemed unsatisfied by the tank. Tyler asked how close another water source is, and Lavengood responded that there are two hydrants, each a mile away.

Bascom said he’s spent “probably the last two weeks gathering information” related to propane storage facilities, and said, in regards to water, “It appears the standards say you need less [water,] but the real world is demanding more.”

Tyler seemed unsatisfied with the water solutions presented, and Lavengood eventually responded, “Philosophically, I agree with you. I don’t know how to get more water to the area.”

Responding to Lavengood’s remark that the proposed facility is among the safest in the area, Bascom retorted, “Considering the situation, I

would feel better with ... the *safest* installation.”

Bascom moved that PZC get a “third-party analysis” of the proposal in general; commission members passed this motion unanimously.

After the various members of the development team spoke, residents got a chance to voice their concerns. The first such speaker was Board of Education chair Christopher Phelps. Phelps lives on Ames Hollow Road, which he said was about half a mile from the site.

Phelps said that at a Board of Education meeting earlier that week, board members voted for a resolution “expressing our concerns for the health and safety of students and staff,” as it applies to the application. He noted that Valley View School, as well as the middle and high school complex, are within half a mile of the proposed site; a major incident at the facility would result in an evacuation of about 1,000 people, he said. (Phelps also noted that the high school is supposed to serve as an emergency shelter for the town).

And, speaking as an individual and calling himself a “professional environmental advocate,” Phelps said, “The proposal is wholly and completely inappropriate for the town of Portland.”

Phelps said many of the propane-related accidents Morrissey had spoken about involved smaller (in many cases 2,000-gallon) storage tanks, and wondered if the explosion of a 30,000-gallon tank would be far worse.

Morrissey, in response, held that “These larger tanks do not fail,” but said that if one did, “the answer is obvious: yes.”

But Phelps said he has “never encountered a mechanical device that cannot fail,” and asked Morrissey, “Are you saying you’ve built the perfect mousetrap?”

“Our equipment is built to extraordinarily safe standards,” Morrissey said. “Can equipment fail? Absolutely. Does it? On occasion.”

Resident John Trocciola also spoke, and said that the applicant never revealed just how far the radius of damage would be if an explosion occurred. “The very fact that that was absent from the presentation tells me it’s a significant number,” Trocciola said.

Bascom responded, “I too feel there are a lot of things that have not been addressed yet.”

Resident Steve Potter said, “You can build anything safe, but the people who use it always take short cuts.” He said that while safety measures may be included in the proposed facility, human fallibility is less apt to anticipation.

Resident Scott Adamsons said that “some of the highest-paid think tanks fell short,” and noted the failures of Apollo 13, the Challenger and the Titanic, which he described as “the ship that couldn’t sink.”

“I represent a very special set in Portland,” resident Jim O’Leary said. “That’s the disabled.” (O’Leary needed the help of a cane in order to walk.) O’Leary wondered what would happen to disabled people, should they have to evacuate quite swiftly.

“Don’t forget about us,” pleaded O’Leary. O’Leary also, however, credited Lavengood for “presenting a very complex subject in a very understandable way.”

At the beginning of the night, Bascom said he would end the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Around 10:40 p.m., he called to extend the public hearing, after Boccalatte granted a 65-day extension.

The public hearing will resume on Jan. 8, at 7 p.m., presumably at the same location.

Police, Lake Discussed at East Hampton Council Meeting

by Michael McCoy

The creation of a new task force to address Lake Pocotopaug made waves at this week's East Hampton Town Council meeting Tuesday night.

Council members also heard a report on the East Hampton Police Department's recent sensitivity training.

The lake discussion was brought forth by Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe. While he praised the Lake Commission for doing "a great job," he said that the main goal of the two-year-old commission was to compose a lake and watershed management plan, and commission members "don't have enough in draft form for us to look at yet."

In defense of the commission, one of its members, Tom Wells, explained that much of that plan includes results they are waiting for from Enser, the group that studies samples from the lake. And, he added, "I don't have a lot of time to work on [the management plan], but I'm doing as much as I can."

Despite the existence of the Lake Commission and the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (though the latter is not a municipally-formed entity), O'Keefe seemed to feel that the lake's problems were burdensome enough to warrant a third group, called the Lake Improvement Implementation Task Force, which O'Keefe said would be charged with starting the process of identifying "locations where engineering and design work would be needed."

This recommendations prompted Town Council member John Tuttle to ask, "Isn't this, though, the charge of the Lake Commission?"

O'Keefe reiterated that the main goal for the commission was to create the management plan and that "we don't have that plan yet." He estimated it would take 6-9 months before the commission had the plan, and, O'Keefe said, there was a "need to act now."

Town Council chair Melissa Engel said there's been "no greater concern from the collective audience [at Town Council meetings] through the years" than cleaning up the lake. She also said, "There's a tremendous burden on [Lake Commission] volunteers to address this lake issue."

But council member Christopher Goff still found creating a task force a curious action to take while the town is in the middle of study to find if any of its existing boards or commissions are redundant.

Lake Commission chair John Ciriello seemed concerned that a new task force could result in bickering. (He later added that communication between the Lake Commission and Friends of Lake Pocotopaug has been less-than-

ideal, and Friends members have "basically put up what I call stone walls;" Jack Solomon, a member of both the Friends group and the Lake Commission, said the Friends are quite open to communication.) But Engel predicted the new task force "will be the task force that eliminates bickering."

Council member Scott Minnick, though, said he felt a Lake Improvement Implementation Task Force "is not needed at all." He said he didn't see what the task force would do that the Lake Commission could not do itself. He added that if commission members found themselves "overwhelmed," then Ciriello should feel free to appoint sub-committees to address individual issues. He concurred with Goff's sentiment that the move seemed contradictory to the board and commission study.

"This committee is nothing but overlap," Minnick remarked of the task force. "I'm astounded! I see that this is the wrong way to go."

He continued, "Let's fix the lake. We don't need a task force with the usual suspects to do that."

Council member Sue Weintraub agreed with Minnick, saying, "I don't see the necessity to bring in a task force."

Tuttle said, "When I first saw this, I felt this same way: 'this is overlap.'" But, he added, commission members indicated Tuesday night the task force would help them. This prompted several people in the audience, including at least one Lake Commission member, to immediately interject, "No."

Ultimately, Minnick suggested postponing making a decision on the task force, something that the Lake Commission members in the audience seemed to agree with. Noting that a minority of commissioners was present, Wells suggested, "I think procedurally, we would be remiss not to bring it to the commission."

After hearing the discussion by council members and Lake Commission members at Tuesday's meeting, O'Keefe said, "I stand by my opinion" in regards to creating the task force. "This is about moving forward." O'Keefe added that it was a "personal agenda" of his "to make the lake better."

Ultimately, the council approved creating the task force 4-2, with Weintraub and Minnick voting against. According to Engel, it is to be made up of O'Keefe, two Town Council members, one Lake Commission member, one member of the Friends of the Lake, one member of the Board of Finance and one resident at-large, making for a total of seven people.

Also Tuesday, the Town Council heard from East Hampton Police Sergeant Michael Green, who reported on the force's recent sensitivity training. This training came on the heels of an unusually high number of complaints this summer concerning officer demeanor.

Engel has said she typically receives a few complaints each year about police conduct. She said these usually came from disgruntled arrestees or people that make a habit out of complaining about such matters. However, during a two-month-period that stretched from June into August this year, Engel said she received 15 complaints, primarily from people who are not typically vocal in such matters.

"These are not people who are questioning whether or not they should have been stopped," she said this week. Instead, Engel said, they were objecting to the way police had spoken to them. Most complaints suggested that "the simple matter of communication between the officer and the person has not been pleasant," Engel said.

Engel said none of these complaints alleged any physical wrongdoing on the part of the officer. "I would never expect that," she remarked.

Engel has also said that, while she thinks there's a problem, she doesn't think it applies "to the entire police department." Engel has said she thought the bump in complaints coincided with the publicity of the Alan Clark case. In April, a federal jury awarded resident Clark over \$20,000 after he alleged brutality on the part of East Hampton Police.

In August, East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo consented to hold a "community-based police professionalism" session, provided by Stonington Police Chief Darren Stewart, who teaches similar classes to all levels of law enforcement at UConn. The session took place one evening at town hall in late September.

Reimondo said in-house education is not a rarity on East Hampton's force. He said that while the police department has a training budget, Stewart provided the training for free.

Green said at Tuesday's meeting the "crux" of the sensitivity training session "was to bring officer conduct to the forefront" and "to really keep an eye on what the public's perception is."

Green said Stewart related a story to the 15 officers about being on vacation (in plain clothes) at Cape Cod. There was a crisis and Stewart said he "rushed to the scene and started providing assistance." However, local police thought he was just "John Q. Public," and basically said, "Out of here buddy!" Green re-

marked this was "probably a stupid move on the officer's part."

Green said the policeman was apologetic once Stewart revealed who he was.

"I'm nice to everyone all the time," Green said. "Most of the guys are." However, he figured, "Maybe for some [the session] was more beneficial than others."

Green also said it was his understanding that the complaints were all from arrestees, but Engel said the complaints were "different in nature. That's why I brought it to Matt's attention."

"I don't know if it's discipline so much as training," Engel said, and also praised Green, saying that his name "comes up as a positive role model all the time."

O'Keefe said, "The training was not designed as punishment to the police officers." He added that training and education would be a big part of his administration, "so get used to it."

"Are there times when an officer maybe gets a little curt with the public?" Green asked rhetorically. "Of course. First and foremost, we're humans." Green also explained that he has had to tell fellow officers, "Hey, relax," on occasion. But, he added, "That's a pretty rare thing."

Green joked that he wants "to be a fireman," saying, "Firemen, everybody's happy with. Police work is not like that."

Green said that every two years, officers are required to receive recertification training, which covers much of the material addressed in September. But Reimondo said Wednesday morning that the September training was more extensive.

Reimondo also agreed that perception was a big issue. Speaking for police in general, he said, the public "may not be privy to the information you have involving a particular situation." He said officers adopt a similar demeanor that the person they're dealing with is exhibiting. However, any third party watching the situation is just focused on the police officer.

Reimondo also commented, "We see people in their most difficult states," and added, "We might not please everybody all the time."

However, when asked if the session was beneficial, Reimondo responded, "Oh, absolutely!" and commented "we're here to serve the people."

Displaying his faith in his 15 men in uniform, Reimondo commented, "I firmly believe we have some of the most professional officers in the state of Connecticut right here."

Lifelong Andover Music Lover Starting to Get Famous

by Sarah McCoy

It took 30 years and an alternative method, but an Andover musician is now playing for crowds he could only dream of.

Winton Fenderson's first love was music. "I remember hearing The Rooftop Singers and 'Sit Right Down' when I was five years old," Fenderson, now 51, said. "I made my dad go out and get the 45 for me."

When he was in his 20s, the Newington High School graduate landed a record deal with his band Orphans. He would sing most nights in clubs and bars across the state before a quieter lifestyle beckoned.

Fenderson got married, had a son, began work as a representative for a security alarm company and settled down in Andover. Yet he never let go of music, and remained in touch with Orphans guitar player and Connecticut-native Pat Carrabino now of Bolton.

The duo teamed up with bassist Brian Camilleri, a Simsbury resident, about 10 years ago. With a similar affinity for 80s hair metal and songs from their youth, the trio has continued to make music for the last decade. They would play shows every once in awhile but were in it for the art of writing and creating music.

Then, about six months ago, another musician introduced Fenderson to the social networking website MySpace.com and the video website YouTube.com. Ferguson said the sites were "a great way to get your name out there."

This past summer Fenderson and Carrabino recorded a couple of covers- Emerson Lake and Palmer's "From the Beginning" and Bad Company's "Seagulls." Fenderson uploaded the

videos to both MySpace and YouTube, not knowing what to expect.

"We chose to do record covers because people know and search for those songs," Carrabino said. "If you put an original song up on YouTube, it'll get lost in the sea of other video clips."

It didn't take that long until someone did come across Fenderson and Carrabino's music video. Earlier this month, Fenderson received an e-mail from Lucy Piller. Piller, a longtime friend of Bad Company front man Paul Rodgers, now runs a website dedicated to supporting the band's former members (www.arnnewsheadlines.com). She wanted to post Fenderson and Carrabino's video of "Seagulls" on her site.

"What an honor," Fenderson said. "Here's someone that's known Paul Rodgers for years and she's e-mailing us to say she likes our take on the song. It blew me away."

In recording the videos, Fenderson and Carrabino tried to produce a product as close to the original as possible. Everything, from instrumentation to vocal stylings, mimicked the original tune. That, Fenderson believes, is why their version of "Seagulls" stuck out from the rest.

Since recording the first two covers, Fenderson, Carrabino and Camilleri have recorded three more. Those songs are also available through YouTube and MySpace. Between the five videos the band has amassed over 4,500 viewers (as far away as Ireland and China) on YouTube alone. "Prior to the Internet it would've taken 20-30 shows to get that much



Winton Fenderson, center, of Andover, with band members Brian Camilleri, left, and Pat Carrabino, used two Internet sites to promote their music. Earlier this month that initiative paid off as one of the videos was placed on a partner website for the rock band Bad Company.

exposure," Carrabino said.

But, while the three men appreciate the value of covering well-known tunes, they hope it leads to a growing interest in their original music. With an itch to play in front of live crowds more, Carrabino says the trio envisions a "rocking first set of original music" followed by the group's

mellow side with just an acoustic guitar, a bass, and Fenderson's voice.

Now, with his music available to the world, maybe a few more doors will open for Fenderson, 30 years after he first landed a record deal.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Beth Hitchcock

Beth (Silliman) Hitchcock, 79, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Richard Hitchcock, died Monday, Nov. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in New Haven Dec. 3, 1928, the daughter of the late Alvie and Gertrude (Meng) Silliman.

Formerly of Middletown, she had lived in East Hampton since 1951. She was a member of Treadway Cavanaugh Post 64 of the American Legion Auxiliary, a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church, and a charter member of the Addenda Circle of the Church.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, David A. Hitchcock and his fiancée Miriam Hyman of West Hartford, and a daughter and son-in-law, Lynn H. and Kelly Smith of Colchester, granddaughters Emily Smith and her fiancé James, and Hilary Smith, Aleta Hitchcock and her fiancé Jacob and Keira Hitchcock.

The family would like to thank Cobalt Lodge for the wonderful care they provided during Beth's stay.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 29, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the East Hampton Congregational Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Elsie Squier

Elsie (Hall) Squier, 77, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Frank Squier, died Monday, Nov. 24, at Hartford Hospital. Born March 17, 1931, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late John O. and Mary (Spencer) Hall.

Elsie was a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church and had lived in East Hampton for most of her life. She was Past President of the Womens Auxiliary of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was active in 4-H in the 1960s when her children were young, a member of the Cornelia Field Circle, and was active as a Community Café Manager for the East Hampton Senior Citizens where she also donated many hours of her time to help make the East Hampton seniors feel special. Elsie had also worked for 25 years as a bus driver for Nichols Bus Service. Elsie and her husband Frank would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 4.

Besides her husband Frank she is survived by her three sons, Frank W. Squier Jr. of Portland, Walter J. Squier of Portland, and Wallace J. Squier of Manchester; four daughters, Christine V. Culbert of East Hampton, Susan L. Squier of Niantic, Dale Ann Sanford of Houlton, ME, and Jennifer S. Squier of East Hampton; a brother, Wallace R. Hall of East Hampton; four sisters, Mary Scofield of Cromwell, Ruth Southworth of Mississippi, Joan Richardson of Maine, and Margaret Harris of Durham; 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Nov. 28, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in her memory to East Hampton Congregational Church, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

Colchester

Rita Anna Radziewicz

Rita Anna (Beaulieu) Renaud Radziewicz, 85, of Colchester and formerly of Southbridge and Charlton, MA and Spring Hill, FL, widow of the late Alfred Renaud and Harold Radziewicz, passed away Monday morning, Nov. 24, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Born Aug. 10, 1923, in Southbridge, she was a daughter of the late Alfred and Bridget (Cody) Beaulieu. A proud veteran of the Army Air Corps, she served at the end of World War II, being honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant in September of 1946. Before retiring to Florida in 1984, Mrs. Radziewicz was active with the St. Ann's Ladies Guild of Sacred Heart Church in Webster, as well as the Polish American Veterans Auxiliary in Webster, which she had served as president of. In her spare time, she enjoyed dancing and knitting, but found her greatest joy in her family, to whom she was ever devoted.

She is survived by three children, Nancy Bray and her husband, Scot of Colchester, with whom she most recently made her home, Jeffrey Renaud and his wife, Mary of Charlton, MA and Jon Renaud of Northampton, MA; four grandchildren, Christy, Joshua, Derek and Sabryna; one great-grandson, Zachary; a sister, Lorraine Kispert of Rhode Island; two brothers, Leo Beaulieu of Southbridge and Donat Beaulieu of Vermont; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husbands, she was predeceased by a sister, Doris Rusiecki.

The Memorial Liturgy will be celebrated 10 AM Monday directly at Notre Dame Church, 446 Main St., Southbridge. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New Notre Dame Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Hospice SECT, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360 or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 3049, Syracuse, NY 13220.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

Roy A. Moore

Roy A. Moore, 73, of Colchester and formerly of Killingworth, beloved husband of Marcia (Banks) Moore, passed away Monday evening, Nov. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Dec. 14, 1934, in Middletown, he was a son of the late LeRoy and Jennie (Tuller) Moore Sr.

After graduating from East Hampton High School, he entered the Navy and proudly served at Midway during the Korean War. Mr. Moore was a talented auto body technician for many years and was owner and operator of Artistic Coach and Auto Body in Killingworth. He had also owned Killingworth Landscaping and most recently had worked for the Colchester Highway Department. Roy was a longtime member of Siloam Lodge No. 32 A.F. and A.M. in Old Saybrook. He had also been a member and former chief of the Saybrook Fire Company. In his spare time, he was an avid reader and equestrian and was known for his ability to fix virtually anything, especially cars.

In addition to his loving wife of 29 years, he is survived by four children, Barbara Powell and husband, Gerard of East Haddam, Jacqueline Zima and husband, Donald of Wallingford, and Patricia Myers and Timothy Zuppe, both of Niantic; six grandchildren, Amanda and James Rossi, both of Wallingford, Brook and Trevor Myers, both of Niantic and Bethany and Hannah Powell, both of East Haddam; his sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Howard Stevens, of Minden, NV; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call Saturday, Nov. 29, starting at 10:30 a.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Ste. 1010, Rockville, MD 20852-9813 or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 3049, Syracuse, NY 13220.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Dorothy Poirot Burgess

Dorothy "Dot" (Staples) Poirot Burgess, formerly of Marlborough, died Thursday, Nov. 13, in Lady Lake, FL, after a brief illness. She was born Jan. 15, 1921, in Westfield, MA, to Raymond O. and Carrie T. Staples.

She graduated from Weaver High School in 1939 and married James F. Poirot, Sr. on Aug. 23, 1941. She accompanied him to his military posts during World War II and returned to Hartford after the war before settling in Wethersfield. She and Jim raised five boys in town and, along with the Knapp family, helped start the Wethersfield Ski Club. She was a licensed real estate agent with the Peer & Peer Agency and was the office manager of the Orthopedic Associates of Hartford for several years. When Jim's long-time employer, The Fuller Brush Company, moved its operations to Great Bend, KS, in 1973, Dot and Jim moved with them. After a brief interlude in Chicago, they returned to Connecticut in 1976, first in Farmington and then in Vernon.

In 1986 she lost her beloved Jim to a heart ailment and eventually moved in with her sister, Marion Degnan, in Marlborough. In 2003, she rediscovered a high school beau, Dr. Wendell Burgess of Newburyport, MA, and they were married in the same year. They lived in Marlborough for several years before moving first to Newburyport and then to Lady Lake, FL last April.

She was not only predeceased by her husband, Jim, but also by her sons, James F. Poirot, Jr. of Manchester and William K. Poirot of North Andover, MA.

Besides her husband, she is survived by three sons: Thomas Poirot of Middletown, Stephen Poirot and his wife Mary of Tilton, NH and Richard Poirot of Petoskey, MI. She will be missed by her 15 beloved grandchildren and their families: James F. Poirot III and Lois of Winsted, Michael Poirot of Atlanta, GA, Kevin and Edie Poirot of Jenkintown, PA, Bryce and Jessica Poirot of Philadelphia, PA, Carrie and Michael Geraci of Jackson Hole, WY, Christopher Poirot of Dover, NH, David and Sarah Poirot of Frankfurt, MI, Kate Poirot of Kenosha, WI, Jennifer and Rob Clement of Marlborough, Kathryn Harnish of Wethersfield, Jeffrey and Catharine Poirot of Dumont, NJ, Heather and James Hand of Boyne City, MI, Elizabeth and Russell Hickman of Fayetteville, NC, Christine Poirot of Boyne City, MI and Kenneth Poirot of Boyne City, MI; and her 18 great-grandchildren: Brandon, Abby, Sophie, Ethan, Mason, Max, Henry, William, Sam, Isabelle, Grace, Nicholas, Brittany, Austin, Chloe, Samantha, Austin, Savannah, and Dylan; as well as dozens of nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, at the Church of the Incarnation on Prospect Street in Wethersfield. There are no calling hours and burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

East Hampton

Carol Clark

Carol Clark, 83, of East Hampton, widow of the late Robert Clark, died Monday, Nov. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 3, 1925, she was the daughter of the late Sydney Smith and Hazel Maracle.

Born on the Six Nations Reserve in Hagersville, Ontario, Canada, she carried her Mohawk heritage proudly as evidenced by her manner, her sons, and how she lived all through her life. She raised her family in Hartford while working at Arthur Drug Luncheonette. Prior to retirement she worked at the Easter Seals of Hartford.

Carol will be greatly missed by her five sons, Robert Clark of Ohio, Thomas Clark and his wife Ellen of Columbia, Richard Clark of New Britain, Daniel Clark of East Hampton, and William and his wife Eva Clark of California; six grandchildren, Robert, Jason, Brandon, Alexandria, Michael, and Chivan; also two great-grandchildren, Atiya and Quincy.

The Manchester and Hartford Churches of Christ, where she was a respected and loved congregation member for more than 10 years combined, will miss Carol's wonderful qualities and company as well.

Services will be held at the Church of Christ, 595 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester, at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Hospice program at Middlesex Hospital, "who quietly helped her home," 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Arline Hale Gilbert

Arline Hale Gilbert of Portland, born June 22, 1925, passed away at her home Friday, Nov. 21.

Wow! What a wonderful life! From a tobacco farm kid, to UConn sorority member, to visiting every continent but Australia (sorry Bria). She was the daughter of great parents, Truman and Doris Ledyard Hale of Portland, and leaves her husband "Who she put up with" for 59 years, Robinson, (Bob) Gilbert of Portland, her daughter Becky Caldwell and her husband Brian, her son Mitch Gilbert and his wife Suey, all of Glastonbury; her three grandchildren; Jodie Gilbert Hoke and her husband Andy of Louisville, CO, Tyler Gilbert and his wife Bria of Middletown, and Matt Gilbert of New York City; her brother Harry T. Hale and his wife Ann of Bridgeport, NY.

She was predeceased by a brother, Hudson Hale, and sisters Grace Hill and Janet Keeney.

What humility, grace, humor, and patience she had! Special thanks to all of her friends who helped make "Champ's" life journey so rewarding and significant. She indeed had a special fondness for her lunch buddies. She was employed for many years at the Sage-Allen Co. in Hartford, and The Four Seasons in Glastonbury. She worked tirelessly for her church, Trinity Church in Portland, and a number of charitable organizations including Meals on Wheels.

In her honor, please, no flowers, let's keep the charities going with memorial donations to Trinity Church, 345 Main St., Portland, CT 06480; Meals on Wheels, c/o Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or to Middlesex Hospice, 28 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Tuesday, Nov. 25. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 10 a.m. in Trinity Church, with Rev. Steven Ling officiating. Interment will be private.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net. Godspeed Arline!

Hebron

Renato G. Vezzetti

Renato G. Vezzetti of Hebron, beloved husband of Lillian Vezzetti, passed away Nov. 20 at Hartford Hospital. He was born March 30, 1921, the son of Joseph Vezzetti of Pinos Altos, NM, and Domenica Vezzetti of Aglie, Italy.

He served in the United States Army during World War II and was awarded a purple heart due to wounds he received while fighting in Italy. Upon his discharge he became a dairy farmer until the age of 62. After selling the dairy he was employed as the superintendent of the Port Jervis Country Club Golf Course. During his time spent in Orange County, NY he was also elected as an assessor in Westtown, NY. Eventually, he and his wife bought a house in Melbourne Beach, FL where they lived for many years. Finally, in 2005, Renato and Lillian moved to Hebron to be near their son and his family.

This benevolent man made friends easily and pursued his life long hobby of polka dancing wherever his travels took him. He was a member and past commander of the George Smith Post 1607 in Unionville, NY, a member of disabled American Veterans, and a member of the Italian American Club in Florida.

Besides his wife Lillian, his survivors include a daughter, Diana Lakes and her husband Rod of Madison, WI, a son Ronnie Vezzetti, his wife Andrea, and their daughters Jennifer and Christina of Hebron and their daughter Angelica Roche and her husband Shaun, of Glastonbury, a sister, Ida Burigo of Westtown, NY, and nephews Andrew and Joseph Burigo of Westtown and Westbrookville, NY.