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Connor Hearn, a third-grade student at Andover Elementary School, completes a word search with his grandmother, Grace Crowley of Hebron. The activity was part of the recent school-wide Intergenerational Day, which welcomed students' relatives to the school.

Andover Students Celebrate Intergenerational Day

by Sarah McCoy

For 15 years, Andover Elementary School has set aside a day for extended family members to come to the school – and this year, that day came last Wednesday, Nov. 26, as classrooms celebrated Intergenerational Day with a variety of activities.

“It gives parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles a chance to visit the school and see what’s going on,” Principal David Griffin said.

Hundreds of relatives packed the school cafeteria for refreshments and a performance by the school’s chorus before heading down to their student’s classroom. In honor of Intergenerational Day teachers had prepared special activities for students to do with their family member.

In Crystal King’s third-grade class, students and their relatives made a Venn diagram, listing the things they had in common and their differences. Afterwards, the two generations found a shared interest in the Thanksgiving-themed word search.

“It’s a great way for families to see what the school is doing and for students to show off their work that they’re really proud of,” King said of Intergenerational Day.

Teacher Lisa Turgeon had each student in her fourth-grade class interview a family member. Then, last Wednesday, the kids presented what similarities and differences they found. For many students, this was their first time writing a non-fiction essay.

This was Turgeon’s seventh year being a part of Intergenerational Day. “I have them do this to improve their writing, get experience with interviewing, and learn more about someone they are close to,” she said.

One student, who interviewed his great-grandmother, learned that there was an earthquake in Connecticut in 1925. “I was surprised to learn that we had an earthquake,” Turgeon said. “But there are always surprises when a student interviews someone two or three generations above them.”

Ethan Geiger, 9, interviewed his grandfather, Bill Avery, of Tolland, for the project. Both he and his grandfather love science and would get in trouble for hitting their brothers. “I think he lived a fascinating life as a 9-year-old and I feel like I know him better now,” Ethan said.

Jacob Bale, 9, said the same thing about his aunt, Marisa Boasa. While the

two have always been close, Jacob said the interview revealed things he never knew about his mom’s sister. Boasa attended Andover Elementary School and recognized some of the school members that continue to work at the school. “It’s neat to know that some of the teachers my aunt have, I now have,” Jacob said.

And the similarities don’t end there. Jacob now lives in the same house and sleeps in the room where his aunt grew up.

Boasa, who now lives in Vernon, was on hand last Wednesday to share in the days’ activities with her nephew. “It’s wonderful to be able to share this with him and for everyone to see that while a lot of things change, we have a lot in common,” Boasa said.

Other classrooms recited poems, performed plays, and sang songs in honor of their own history and to express gratitude for the people in their lives.

Intergenerational Day began as Grandparents Day in 1993. According to Griffin, the name changed along the way to involve all family members. It is typically held the day before Thanksgiving to allow out-of-town relatives to come if they’re in the area for the holiday.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As I got a can of Coke out of the vending machine at work this week, I glanced down at the label, and a thought crossed my mind: Does anyone under the age of, say, 25 really understand why bottles and cans of Coke say “Coca-Cola Classic” on them? Sure, at one point in time the inclusion of the word “classic” on the label was necessary, but that point is long past. For years now, Coca-Cola Classic has basically been your only option if you want just plain Coke (as opposed to Diet Coke and the flavored varieties like Cherry Coke or Vanilla Coke).

For those of you who are younger than 25, or for those who just happened to block this important part of American history from your minds, Coca-Cola Classic is called such because, in the mid-1980s, Coke changed its formula. The company was still the top-selling cola in the country, but it wasn’t the giant it once was. Pepsi was gaining, and fast. So, the Coca-Cola Company felt a change was needed. Now, while I’m sure I had New Coke (the company didn’t really call it this; it was simply called Coke. But “New Coke” has become the unofficial name for it and, to avoid confusion, that’s how I’m going to refer to it in this column), I’m too young to really remember the taste. But, from what I’ve read, it was a pretty substantial change in formula. It was apparently much sweeter than classic Coke, sweeter even than Pepsi. And interestingly, in initial taste tests, before the product was introduced, people said they liked the new formula.

All that changed in April 1985, when the Coca-Cola Company launched New Coke. The company didn’t just introduce the new formula, it discontinued the old formula at the same time. That led to an uproar among consumers. For while Pepsi might have been “the choice of a new generation,” it just didn’t have the brand power Coca-Cola did. Coke had been around for 100 years, and was more than just a soft drink. It was like a piece of Americana. While the Pepsi logo had undergone plenty of changes over the years, Coke really hadn’t. So its image, with the classic white script writing on a red background, and that contour bottle, is nostalgic. Coca-Cola was the soda people grew up with. It was like comfort food. And all of a sudden, that comfort food was gone.

It turned out people didn’t like having their Coca-Cola taken away from them, especially when you consider it was replaced by a prod-

uct that, by all accounts, didn’t really taste the same. People wanted their Coke back, and were quite vocal about it. In July 1985, the Coca-Cola Company caved, and started producing the old Coke formula again. They called it Coca-Cola Classic.

And that’s the part I remember best. Like I said, I don’t really remember the taste. Not only was I six years old when the product was introduced, it’s also been more than 20 years. But I still remember a couple of the ads, and the stories that ran on the nightly news. Here was this big company basically giving a giant mea culpa. It’s like they were saying, “Look, we know we screwed up. Here’s your original Coca-Cola back.”

Of course, there’s debate over just how much of a screw-up New Coke really was. Conspiracy theorists (because there are always conspiracy theorists) have suggested the whole thing was a giant marketing ploy. As I said before, Coca-Cola was losing ground to Pepsi. By publicly taking away the Coke people had grown up with, the company created a higher demand for the product than was there before. Thus, when Coca-Cola then reintroduced the product a short time later, there was a greater interest in it than there had been; people knew what they were missing, and they wanted it back.

I don’t really buy this theory. The Coca-Cola Company spent several years researching a developing a new formula, and there was a multi-million dollar marketing campaign pushing the New Coke. That’s an awful lot of effort and money to spend just on the chance that people’s attachment to the Coca-Cola brand was really that strong.

Another theory says the New Coke fiasco had been planned to cover up a change that was going on with the original Coke. The Coca-Cola Company, to save money, was planning to replace the sugar it used in Coke with high fructose corn syrup. However, if they had simply made the change, people would have noticed the taste difference and there would have been an uproar. But by taking Coke away for a few months, and only having this New Coke available, people would be so happy when the original was reintroduced they wouldn’t notice that it wasn’t really the original at all; it was flavored with high fructose corn syrup.

This theory’s even less believable. Yes, Coca-Cola Classic was made with high fructose corn syrup and not sugar. Remember, it was only three short months from the time New Coke was launched and the time Coca-Cola Classic

was reintroduced. If the high fructose corn syrup produced such a discernable taste difference so as to generate an uproar, wouldn’t people have noticed the Coca-Cola Classic they were drinking in July wasn’t the same Coca-Cola they’d been drinking in April? Still, there are people out there who say Coke sweetened with sugar is the only “real” Coke left. Apparently, you can get it during Passover, if you look hard enough; there are special cans and bottles of Coke produced that have real sugar, and not the corn syrup, as Jewish law prohibits corn products from being consumed during Passover.

But anyway, back to New Coke. While Coca-Cola Classic continued to be a big hit, and helped the Coca-Cola Company get back some of the market share it had lost to Pepsi, New Coke got less and less popular. It was renamed Coke II in the early 1990s, but the product was still unsuccessful; I guess folks knew what Coke II really was, and wanted no part of it. Today, it’s unavailable in the U.S., although apparently it’s still sold in a few foreign markets.

And yet, the word “classic” still remains part of the Coca-Cola label. I don’t really mind it. It’s a nice little throwback to the 1980s, a reminder of a brief period of time when the country was captivated by a soft drink changing its flavor. But for an ever-growing chunk of the population, “classic” Coke is the only Coke they’ve ever known.

* * *

Once the calendar turns to December, Christmas music starts popping up all over the radio. Indeed, already at least two area stations, Lite 100.5 and Springfield’s 94.7, have already turned over much of their programming to holiday tunes. I know some people can’t stand Christmas music, and others can put up with it only in small doses. But I just enjoy listening to it. The songs often put a smile on my face, whether I’m listening to a novelty tune (like “Dominick the Donkey” or Porky Pig singing “Blue Christmas”) or an old chestnut (there seem to be at least two dozen variations of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” out there). Also, December is just about the only time you’ll hear Carpenters songs on the radio.

As a Carpenters fan, I wish their music were played more often. But, even on easy listening stations, you won’t hear a song by them unless it’s Christmastime. Yes, their songs tend to be slow, rather light, and there aren’t very many “exciting” elements to them; no drum solos, not a ton of electric guitar moments. The songs have just have a reputation for being boring, and if

you mention to someone you like the music – particularly if you’re a guy – you’re likely to get, at the very least, a raised eyebrow and a “really?” in response. As John Fogerty, of Creedence Clearwater Revival fame, once told *Rolling Stone*, “Karen Carpenter had a great sound, but if you’ve got three guys out on the ballfield and one of them starts humming [a Carpenters song], the other two guys would pants him.”

Fogerty’s right, on two counts: yes, that man would probably be pantsed. And yes, Karen Carpenter did have a great voice. It was so smooth and silky, and at the same time, so powerful. She could give meaning to a song that you had never noticed before, just from the way she sang it. The Carpenters’ cover of the Beatles’ “Ticket to Ride,” for example, is arguably better than the Fab Four’s version.

Also, while it’s true the Carpenters had their share of songs that were on the sappy side, they also recorded some great tunes, songs that don’t get the respect they should simply because they’re Carpenters songs; which is ironic, because it’s Karen Carpenter’s beautiful voice that helps to make those songs so great. Two such songs that quickly spring to mind are “Goodbye to Love” and “Superstar.”

So, for the next few weeks, I’ll enjoy listening to The Carpenters on the radio, as they offer their own renditions of “Winter Wonderland” and “I’ll Be Home for Christmas.” Then, after that, if I want my Carpenter fix, I’ll have to pop in a CD. It really is a shame radio stations only play the Carpenters one month out of the year. They’re an underrated duo, and should be played more often.

* * *

Here’s some timely trivia for you: It was on this date, Dec. 5, in 1996 that President Bill Clinton announced his choice of Madeline Albright as Secretary of State, making her the highest-ranking woman government official in U.S. history. And, as we all know, it was this week that President-elect Barack Obama named Hillary Clinton his Secretary of State. In fact, after going more than 200 years with just men in the role, now, with Hillary, three of our last four Secretaries of State have been women. That’s not a bad thing. To be honest, I don’t know why it took until 1996 to appoint a woman to the post in the first place.

* * *

See you next week.

Portland Propane Project Off the Table – For Now

by Michael McCoy

The developers behind the proposed propane storage facility withdrew their application this week. But opponents of the controversial project might want to put any celebrations on hold – the proposal will be back.

On Monday, Dec. 1, Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes received a letter from John Boccalatte, attorney for the applicant, Gospel Lane Properties, LLC. The brief letter informed Rhodes the developers were withdrawing their application, but requested it be accepted “without prejudice to the applicant’s right to re-apply.”

Bruce and Kenneth Woronoff, the owners of Gospel Lane Properties, initially submitted two applications, one pertaining to 34 Gospel Lane and one pertaining to William Street Extension. The properties are located behind the plaza at the corner of Routes 17 and 66 that contains Dunkin Donuts and Dairy Queen. Each application sought a special permit for bulk propane storage, with three 30,000-gallon aboveground tanks on each property. Both properties are located in the IP (Planned Industrial) zone, and total 16.26 acres.

On Nov. 20, the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal – and the hearing drew 250 people and reporters from three news stations. At the start of that meeting, Rhodes announced that Gospel Lane Properties had withdrawn the William Street Extension application, as the developers discovered the project would first need to go through Inland Wetlands Commission before it went to PZC.

And, with Monday’s letter, now both applications have been withdrawn.

Boccalatte said the Woronoffs said there was a chance they would make significant changes to the application. He noted that the PZC had voted at the public hearing to hire a third-party consultant to take a look at the plan, and said

the Woronoffs, who themselves are Portland taxpayers, did not want to see the town spend all that money on a consultant if the chance was high that the plan would be changed.

“We’re not withdrawing entirely,” Boccalatte said, adding that the developers would “come back with something different.” Though he said he was not sure how the new application would differ from the newly withdrawn one, he did comment, “It will concern propane.”

Boccalatte also said, “I think we want to consider what was said at the public hearing,” acknowledging the views of both the public and the PZC.

Boccalatte said he doesn’t think “it’s going to be very long at all” before a new application was submitted. “Generally speaking, it would be sooner rather than later,” he commented, elaborating that he expected it to be less than several months.

Still, even though the withdrawal may be a temporary one, resident Steve Potter is thrilled. Potter is a member of Portland Residents Opposed to Propane (PROP), a group of local households that had banded together shortly after the application was filed. The group had filed for intervenor status, which meant it intended to sue should PZC grant the application.

Potter said Monday, shortly after learning of the withdrawal, “That’s terrific news, because I thought [the proposed facility] was a terrible idea for that neighborhood.” He also praised PZC, and specifically its chair, Don Bascom, for discussing some of the “problems” the application had and for “looking out for the safety of all residents in Portland.”

Potter also commended local newspapers and TV stations for “publicizing it the way they did.” And, he added, “I think the public definitely played a part.”

Potter also thanked the Board of Education (BOE) for “taking a stand.” (Two days before the Nov. 20 hearing, school board members voiced their opposition to the project.) He also said BOE chair Christopher Phelps eloquently spoke at length at the public hearing about his disapproval of the application.

Speaking for PROP, Potter figured that if the applicant came back with another proposal involving propane, “I’m sure we’ll be there to oppose it.” He continued, “We don’t think a propane distribution facility is a feasible thing to put on that property. That’s been our contention all long.”

Potter added, “This is America. We are entitled to develop our property and make a few dollars.” But, he said, he wanted something “more residential friendly,” and added, “Something like [the proposed propane storage facility] belongs in the industrial park.”

After hearing of the withdrawal, Bascom said he was not against the notion of bulk propane storage, but wanted to make sure everything was as safe as possible.

When asked how he anticipated a future application may differ from the old one, Bascom responded, “The tanks need to be buried,” calling it “the safest way.”

“I’d rather see this done the safest way possible,” Bascom said.

Bascom also said PZC would hire an outside consultant eventually, assuming Gospel Lane Properties returns with a new propane application.

First Selectman Susan Bransfield attended the Nov. 20 hearing, and said there were “a lot of important points brought up” that night.

“There’s a lot of questions associated with that application,” she said, but added, “I’m not a propane expert. All I know I learned at that hearing.”

Bransfield said the proposal was “a very serious matter” and said PROP members had “responded in a very serious fashion.” She then noted that residential concern was not limited to nearby neighbors, but included residents from all over town. “They came out in a very measured and intelligent way,” Bransfield said. She also said the applicant provided “a lot of good information” that evening.

When asked to speculate why the application was withdrawn, Bransfield figured the developers probably considered what questions they were going to have to answer and asked themselves, “Are we prepared to answer them?”

“They had a lot of unanswered questions come out of that public hearing,” Bransfield said.

Bransfield also noted Phelps’ comments from the hearing, which mentioned that the middle and high school complex is the town’s designated shelter in case of emergency. She said it is also the designated point of dispensing for the Chatham Health District, which covers six towns. Also, Bransfield noted, the middle and high school complex, as well as Valley View School and the school bus yard, are all located within three-quarters of a mile from the site.

Bransfield said she has received numerous visits, phone calls and e-mails from residents concerned about the proposed facility, and that the only sentiments she has heard in favor of the project are from a few town employees who said it would “contribute to our tax base.”

Bransfield said, “You really can’t fault someone for trying to develop their property.” However, she said, the public’s safety must be ensured. “That’s very important,” she said. “That’s part of my job as First Selectman.”

The Nov. 20 public hearing was continued to Jan. 8. However, in light of the application’s withdrawal, that meeting has been canceled.

Colchester Police News

11/12-Domonique Gary, 23, of 41 McKnight St., Springfield, MA, was charged with reckless driving, State Police said.

11/17-Gregory Gorman, 46, of 1115 Sperry Rd., Cheshire, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

11/17-Edward Lau, 38, of 15 Orchard Ln., Middlefield, was charged with DWI and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

11/17-David Rynaski, 25, of 455 Broad St., Apt. 2B, Meriden, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/19-Carlos Aponte, 36, of 125 Cameo Dr., Willimantic, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/20-Yolanda Wilson, 40, of 305 Old Hebron Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering, State Police said.

11/20-Aime Palmer, 25, of 412 Whitney Ave., New Haven, was charged with failure to plead, State Police said.

11/20-Amanda Clark, 18, of 283 Norwich Ave., was charged with failure to plead, State Police said.

11/21-A 15-year-old juvenile was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

11/22- Charles Marshall, 16, of 15 Brook Hill, East Haddam, was charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/22- Veronica Szkop, 22, of 59 Magnolia St., New Britain, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

11/22-Kenta Soyina, 30, of 140 Russ St., Hartford, was charged with reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, State Police said.

11/23-Christopher Gosselin, 19, of 102 Pinebrook Rd., was charged with DUI and a turning violation, State Police said.

11/23-Kristen Durso, 26, of 95 Lafayette Ave., East Hartford, was charged with reckless driving and reckless endangerment, State Police said.

11/24-David Jacobs, 22, of 102 Thomas St., Apt. A, Middletown, turned himself into police on a warrant for fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/24-Sean Morrissey, 35, of 54 School Rd., Andover, was charged with second-degree burglary, sixth-degree larceny, credit card theft and illegal use of a credit card, State Police said.

11/25- Michael Mangrafico, 45, of 222 Somerset St., West Hartford, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

11/26-Carl Czech, 25, of 431 Cabin Rd., was charged with possession of marijuana and having no front license plate, State Police said.

11/30-Mark Eddy, 26, of 1087 Main St., Apt. D, Manchester, was charged with DUI, failure to register a motor vehicle, improper registration, and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, State Police said.

12/1-Dennis North, 60, of 17 Bascock Hill Rd., Windham, was charged with DWI, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

11/19-Joann Dootson, 55, of 23 Whitebirch Rd., East Hampton, was charged with evading police, interfering, and operating a motor vehicle without a license, State Police said.

11/29-A youthful offender was arrested at Blish Park charged with violating a restraining order, State Police said.

11/29-Dylan Akin, 22, of 351 Ocean Ave., New London, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

Portland Police Cruiser Struck on Back Road

by Michael McCoy

Portland Police Officer David Bond was shaken, but not significantly stirred, after his police cruiser was struck on a back road in town Monday afternoon.

According to Lieutenant Ron Milardo, at around 1:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, Bond was “driving along Wildwood Road in Portland when another vehicle coming the other way was inattentive and drifted into the other lane.” Milardo described the area as “up in the country” in the east corner of town.

The driver of the other vehicle, Alissa Brunk, 35, of Wildwood Road, sustained no injuries, Milardo said. Bond, 3x, sustained minor shoulder pain and glass particles in his eye, Milardo said, and was taken to Middlesex Hospital and released a few hours later. Doctors presumed the shoulder pain was caused by the seatbelt; as of Tuesday, both it and the glass particles were gone, Milardo said.

“Everyone is fine,” Milardo said.

According to Milardo, Brunk hit the left front

corner of Bond’s cruiser, and contact continued down the whole left side. “Both vehicles were towed from the scene,” Milardo said, as “neither one was drivable.”

Police, fire personnel and EMS all responded to the scene, and Bond had to be pulled out of the vehicle, Milardo said, as the driver’s side door would not open after the crash. Unlike typical vehicles, the driver of a cruiser is surrounded by all sorts of equipment, allowing them less room to wiggle free, Milardo said.

As for what caused the accident, Milardo said Brunk was merely “looking down” when the accident happened, and that “no one was traveling in excess of the speed limit.”

Brunk, who Milardo said was “very concerned” at the scene, was issued a written warning, for failure to drive in an established lane.

Milardo said the accident scene was cleared “within the hour.”

H

Hebron Police News

11/13-Kevin Kalama, 40, of 103 Hillcrest Dr., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police say.

11/20-Joseph Gesauldi, 25, of 160 Deepwood Dr., was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

11/25-Robert Garabedian, 33, of 226 Skinner Ln., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Andover Police News

11/13-Nathan Price, 20, of 209 Bunker Hill Andover, was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

Early Indications Show Full-Day Kindergarten a Success in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

Hebron is three months into their first year offering a full-day kindergarten option to families. And while that's not enough time to judge the long-term success of the program, so far it seems to be a hit.

Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi has spent the beginning of the school year evaluating the program's strengths and weaknesses. Earlier this fall, she surveyed all parents of Hebron kindergarten students, as well as the kindergarten teachers, to get a feel for how the new set-up is being received. The results were universal. Parents of students who are enrolled in the full-day program felt their child had transitioned well to the school day, and were receiving a comprehensive social and academic experience.

Parents of students in the half-day program also indicated a high level of satisfaction with the district; however, when asked if the length of the school day is appropriate for their child, parent responses ranged fairly evenly across a 1-5 scale (one being not satisfied with the length of the school day and five being very satisfied with the length).

When asked the same set of questions, kindergarten teachers responded similarly to parents. Those teaching full-day sections consistently scored higher while the comments from half-day teachers spoke of "the challenge of balancing a full curriculum with limited time," Veronesi said.

While the Board of Education had considered full-day kindergarten in the past, this is the first year it's been included in the school budget. Currently there are two full-day sections of kindergarten, with 18 students in each classroom. There are also seven half-day sections, with an average of 15 students per class.

Students were, for the most part, selected for the full-day classes through a lottery system. One hundred parents indicated interest in the full-day option, with only 36 students being selected. Veronesi reported that a small number of students were identified through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process as children who would benefit greatly from full-day kindergarten. They were placed in one of the two full-day classrooms without going through the lottery system.

"Research tells us that the students that typically benefit the most from full-day kindergarten are those who are at risk for learning problems," Veronesi said. "The challenge is, how do we know which students are at-risk through our 10-minute registration and evaluation process?"

That is one question school administrators will address as they progress with the program. Right now, they're just hoping for community support to keep full-day kindergarten an option in town. "With the economy as it is, you just never know," Veronesi said.

However, there's no doubt that there's a national trend moving towards full-day kindergarten. According to the National Center for Education Statistics 56 percent of kindergarten students are in a full-day program. Initially, research has found that these students tend to score higher on standardized tests as they progress through school.

Nearby Manchester is in its fifth year of offering full-day kindergarten. Seven of its 10 elementary schools have at least a full-day option, and five of those seven schools only offer a full-day program. Earlier this month, Manchester school administrators presented their findings on how students with full-day kindergarten performed on the Connecticut Mastery Test in the third grade, compared to those who had only taken half-day kindergarten.

In reading, 16 more students achieved the state goal with the full-day program. Twenty-one more students achieved state goal in writing and 18 more in math.

"What we found is that there's a strong indication that the longer a student is in an educational forum the better they perform," Ann Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Development for the Manchester public school system, said.

The Hebron school district will continue to track those students in the full-day kindergarten classes as they progress through the grade levels. At that point, Veronesi said, more thoughtful comparisons can be done to evaluate the benefits of the initiative. "It's just too soon right now to evaluate," she said.

As for the students in the half-day program, Veronesi said they're still getting a quality education.

"Every student is exposed to and experiences the same curriculum," she said. "We're just able to extend and expand that experience with the full-day program."

Veronesi is sensitive that not all parents see full-day kindergarten as a benefit. "I have some parents say to me, 'My husband works nights and he really values the time he can spend with his child during the day,' or 'I'm fortunate enough to be home during the days and I want more time with my child,'" Veronesi said. "The feedback I'm getting is that parents in Hebron want an option."

Initially Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz had planned to add an additional full-day kindergarten class each year. However, given the current economic climate, that plan has been put on hold. "We're hoping to hold the line," Cruz said earlier this week.

Cruz will present her recommended budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year at the Board of Education's next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 18, at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St.



Drew DeBowsky is celebrating his 20th year as owner of The Jewelry Connection in Colchester. The store offers a wide array of jewelry options as well as in-store repairs, appraisals and ear piercing.

Colchester Jewelry Store Celebrates Twenty Years

by Sarah McCoy

When Drew DeBowsky graduated from Bacon Academy in the spring of 1983 he knew where he wanted to go, or, rather, stay.

"I've always loved the area, the people, everything," he said. "It's been great to see the community grow and grow with the community."

DeBowsky is celebrating his 20-year anniversary as owner of The Jewelry Connection, and there's no place he'd rather be.

After graduating from Bacon, DeBowsky took a job working for Kay Jewelers. For five years he worked his way up, eventually managing a store in Meriden. But it wasn't how DeBowsky envisioned it. "I just didn't like the way big companies were treating their customers," he said.

So DeBowsky decided to do it his way. He opened The Jewelry Connection in October 1988 and never left. In fact, the only major change happened in 1993 when Drew DeBowsky split the store in half, giving one side to his wife to run a hair salon.

"I've always prided myself on serving the customer and offering jewelry that will last and is fairly priced," DeBowsky said.

Something must be working, as The Jewelry Connection continues to please customers. DeBowsky said he has some people who continue to do business with him through the mail even after moving out of the area. "I don't think it's a secret what you need to do to run a business, just do whatever you can to please the customer," he said.

The best part about the job, DeBowsky said, is the interaction with customers.

To those who know Drew, that will come as no surprise. DeBowsky, his wife Joanne, and

their three sons have lived in East Hampton for the past 13 years. During that time Drew DeBowsky has volunteered in many ways to give back to the area he loves. He coaches at East Hampton Middle School and in the town's recreational leagues. He also volunteers in the classrooms, helping kids with whatever they need.

"Being in business for myself has given me the opportunity to volunteer and do things that are important to the community while still servicing people's jewelry needs," he said.

The Jewelry Connection specializes in repairing jewelry, conducting in-store appraisals and ear piercing. DeBowsky also purchases gold, silver and platinum in addition to offering a wide array of jewelry for sale. "There's something for every budget and every style," he said.

From gemstones of every color to pieces that will both capture and evoke memories, DeBowsky is confident everyone can find what they're looking for. And, in honor of his 20th anniversary, DeBowsky is offering sales up to 50 percent off.

One of the most popular items at The Jewelry Connection has been the Chamilia bead jewelry line. DeBowsky likens the style to a modern day charm bracelet. "It's a neat, clean layout with beads for every interest," he explained.

Because of his commitment to volunteering, DeBowsky does not hold consistent hours at The Jewelry Connection. However, starting Tuesday, Dec. 9 and carrying through the holiday season the shop will be open seven days a week. For exact hours, call the store at 537-0525.

Factions Form Over Proposed Facilities Project in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

The most recent development in East Hampton's ongoing facilities study has caused a schism in the town council.

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the Town Council voted 5-2 to pay Friar Associates \$45,000 to complete Phase II of a feasibility study. The firm, located in Farmington, specializes in architecture, engineering, interior design, and landscape architecture.

In 2005, the council hired Friar Associates to perform the first phase of a facilities study. Initially, the study was just going to deal with any building concerns at Town Hall, but eventually it was expanded to include concerns at other town-owned buildings, like the schools and the senior center. In June of this year, Friar Associates issued a report, listing possible ways to address issues with the buildings, ranging from simple renovation work to new construction.

What the council is now looking at is a \$51 million project (Town Council chair Melissa Engel said about half of that would be reimbursed by the state) that would involve building science labs at East Hampton High School, moving Town Hall to Center School and building a wing at Memorial school to accommodate for the Center School students.

The Phase II plan voted on by Town Council last month calls for specific plans to be drawn up, detailing the project, before a potential referendum next spring.

But not all Town Council members are in agreement on the project. One episode that clearly left Councilman Sue Weintraub unsettled came during a session Engel held at the senior center on Oct. 14. During that meeting, Weintraub said, Engel updated the seniors on the facilities project, telling them the town's priorities were a new town hall and science wing at the high school. But, according to Weintraub, no priorities had been agreed upon at the council level; she said she had actually been eagerly awaiting a time to discuss them, though she said that time never came.

Instead, Weintraub said, five of the council members simply accepted the opinion of the Facilities Implementation Task Force, which was formed Oct. 14. Weintraub added that council members "were annoyed when I tried to engage them in discussion" at the Nov. 12 council meeting.

Fellow Town Council member Scott Minnick said the five members "didn't need to talk" at that meeting, and figured they had discussed the matter beforehand. (Minnick and Weintraub belong to the Chatham Party. Three of the remaining five councilors are Republicans, while the other two are Democrats.) Minnick said that

caucusing is fine when done within a single party, but when done outside the party constitutes a violation of law.

Addressing the meeting with the seniors, Engel said she was merely giving an update, and commented, "I wasn't selling it as a master plan." Engel also said she asked the council members to each create a priority list, but only John Tuttle and Tom Cordeiro did so.

Weintraub said the Facilities Implementation Task Force consists of six people, though Engel said it was nine: herself, Weintraub, Tuttle, Board of Finance chair Ted Hintz, Board of Education chair Michael Vasquenza, Town Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb, Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe and Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden. Engel did not appoint Weintraub to the task force initially, but allowed her to serve when Weintraub requested to.

According to Engel, the task force came about after Vasquenza notified Engel in early October that the school board was seriously looking at improvements to the high school, due to "fear of accreditation problems."

Weintraub has complained that the three task force meetings held as of press time each took place at 8 in the morning, and contained no time for public comment. (A fourth meeting was to take place today, Dec. 5; according to the town website, it was also an 8 a.m. meeting.)

Minnick also voiced his desire to discuss the issue openly at a Town Council meeting, but figured that the rest of the council's attitude toward the task force was, "let them do the dirty work no one knows about."

Engel said Minnick and Weintraub were not around when this process began, and added Friar Associates was originally hired in 2005 after it and three other firms were looked at during a "rigorous interview process."

"East Hampton is all about older buildings," Engel said. She added that renovating such existing buildings would be far cheaper than building brand new ones. "Friar had had experience in renovating older buildings," she said, something she said the original facilities subcommittee (a 25-person committee that also featured a mix of residents and town officials) found very attractive.

Engel called the moving of Town Hall to Center School the "focal point of the revitalization of the Village Center," and said "The Brownfields [Steering Committee] people are very excited about it."

Minnick and Weintraub have also expressed concern with the procedure of moving ahead with Phase II, insisting there should have been a bidding process, kicked off with a full-scale

Request For Proposal (RFP), instead of simply hiring Friar again. However, not everyone has the same take.

"It didn't need to be an RFP," Engel said, noting that Friar was "interviewed and hired" in 2005, and that this was merely an extension of the contract. "It would be more expensive to go out to be bid," she said, and added, "There's absolutely no reason to go out to bid. [Friar has] been so accommodating to us." She said Friar had "gone above and beyond," and said no one has expressed dissatisfaction with the work Friar's done so far.

However, Weintraub said, "Friar Associates are an architectural firm, not a planning agency." Though she acknowledged the perception of a "comfort level" with Friar because of their past work, she did not seem to think this was good enough. But she said the comfort level was good enough for council members, and that it was certainly good for Friar, since they would receive new compensation for their work. But, she asserted, "It's not good for East Hampton."

She conceded that perhaps Friar would be the appropriate firm to eventually perform the architectural design, but that what is currently needed is a "master plan."

When asked about this, Engel responded, "That whole master plan. ... I'm not sure what that would be that would be different from what we already have."

Weintraub also said she is "concerned about soft costs," mentioning that at a task force meeting on Oct. 16, Brian Solywoda said the town owed them for \$80-85,000 for work not covered by the initial \$25,000. Weintraub said she asked just what that money was for, and the money was never brought up again.

Engel later said she had no recollection of this.

Weintraub also wondered, "Why the rush? Especially in these economic times."

But, Engel said, "'Rushed' is the last word I would use to describe this." She also said, "I'm not about spending taxpayers' money they can't afford to spend," explaining that the referendum, tentatively scheduled for June, would be put off if residents said they could not handle it. However, she figured, "Going forward with conceptual plans doesn't hurt a thing."

"We're very cognizant of the financial uncertainty right now," Engel said, explaining that the proposed payment plan for the project would involve an annual mill increase of no more than one mill.

Weintraub said the project should involve the public from the ground up, instead of deciding everything independently and sending it to a referendum. "It's not addressing the priority

of the taxpayers," she commented. "You've got to get the community involved at the beginning, not at the tail end."

Though she acknowledged that roundtable discussions broached the matter in the past, Weintraub felt the need to "discuss it publicly, at the Town Council level."

Engel also noted the roundtable discussions and said the public had plenty of opportunities to speak about the issue at public meetings. She also mentioned a "pretty comprehensive" townwide survey, distributed in 2000, that drew a 20 percent response rate.

Minnick said, "The people want something to be proud of in East Hampton." But, he worried that if all goes according to plan, the project is ripe for failure at referendum, as he feels the public has not been given enough chance to provide input.

Weintraub said the phrase "analysis paralysis" has been used to describe her and Minnick's hesitancy to move ahead with Phase II. However, Weintraub said, "The only paralysis seems to be the leadership."

Both Weintraub and Minnick seemed to feel that the high school improvements were necessary, but not the addressing of Town Hall. Minnick said that if the project keeps progressing this way, "I fear the school part of this might suffer."

Minnick said O'Keefe claimed to be "concerned about quality of life." But Minnick said, "A new Town Hall is not a quality of life priority."

Engel said a Town Hall would never be a priority in the public eye, since a relatively small amount of people use it regularly, but it needed to be addressed anyway. And, she said, "a school issue is always a popular issue."

When asked if he thought the \$45,000 expenditure was wise, O'Keefe said, "I do. I think it's a happy compromise between the educational needs and the town needs." He continued, "It's a win-win all around," and reported that the chairs of the Town Council and boards of education and finance all supported it.

He also remarked, "It's difficult for a town manager to run the town with a very fragmented operation." (The whole Building, Planning and Zoning department, as well as the Chatham Health District office, located in a small annex next to Town Hall. The Board of Education office is located the better part of a mile drive away in the village center.)

As for not doing an RFP, O'Keefe said the new contract was "simply an extension" of the firm's previous work. He expected the firm would have something to present sometime later this month.

Portland

Joseph E. Brousseau

Joseph E. Brousseau, 91, passed away peacefully in his sleep Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Portland Care and Rehab. He was predeceased by the love of his life, Helen Hodge Brousseau, whom he lovingly cared for for many years.

He was born in Lyster, Quebec Province, Canada to the late Joseph and Leontine Beaulieu on Aug. 2, 1917. He stayed on the family farm with his grandparents before coming to the U.S. at the age of 17. He became a U.S. citizen and proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a retired State of Connecticut employee where he worked for the highway department. He was an avid fan of the UConn girls basketball team. Mr. Brousseau loved spending time with family and friends, boating, camping, card playing, bowling and gardening.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was also predeceased by his brother, Edward.

Surviving are his son, Donald and wife Kathy; sisters, Pearl Forgione and her husband Pat, Bernadette Crenella and her husband John and Agnes Archacki and husband Walter; and his brother and friend, John and wife Dorothy. He also leaves three much-loved grandchildren, Nancy, Roberta and Marge, their mother, Mae; two great-grandchildren, Lauren and Zachary; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friends, Julie and Tom. He and his late wife Helen also leave behind their lifelong friend, Nancy Allbee.

The funeral will be Monday, Dec. 8, at 11 a.m., at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial will be in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill with Military Honors. There will be a calling hour Monday, Dec. 8, 10-11 a.m., just prior to the service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army, 855 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105.

Obituaries

Portland

Joan Elizabeth Longworth

Joan Elizabeth Longworth, 77, of Portland, wife of the late Robert S. Longworth, Sr., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late William H. and Bertha (Treat) Robinson.

Joan grew up in East Haddam and briefly taught at Sedgwick Middle School in West Hartford. She moved to Portland in 1960, was a homemaker, and a member of First Congregational Church in Portland. She loved her summers, spending them at the beach with her grandchildren and family.

Joan is survived by three sons, Richard Longworth and his wife, Robin of Durham, Robert Longworth, Jr. of Scottsdale, AZ, and David Longworth and his wife, Nancy of Meriden; and a sister, Cornelia Gentry of Orrington, ME. She also leaves the grandchildren she loved dearly, Jennifer of Prescott, AZ, Jacqueline and Katherine, both of Meriden, and Samuel; and step-granddaughters, Amanda and Andrea, all of Durham.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Dec. 2, at First Congregational Church, 554 Main St. Interment private in Pine Grove Cemetery. There were no calling hours and in lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Joan's memory to the Henry Low Heart Center, 80 Seymour Street, PO Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06101-9960, or the First Congregational Church, 554 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com. The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements.

Portland

Ann Scirpo

Ann "Bunny" Scirpo, 66, wife of Paul Scirpo of Bartlett Street, Portland, died Tuesday at her home following a brief illness. She was born Feb. 2, 1942, in Middletown, daughter of the late Frank and Ann (Formica) Colonghi. She was a member of St. Sebastian Church and the Middletown Elks Lodge No. 771.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two daughters, Pamela Marino and Darlene Scirpo of Middletown; three brothers, Frank Colonghi of Westbrook, John Colonghi of Middletown and Andrew Colonghi of Pittsfield, VT; two grandchildren, Joseph and Christina Marino; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 29, at noon from the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Sebastian Church. Burial in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home Friday, Nov. 28.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Renovation Fund of St. Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St., Middletown.

Online condolences are available at dangelofuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Gertrude Cartelli

Gertrude (Knapp) Cartelli, 78, of Colchester, wife of the late Vincent S. Cartelli, died Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Liberty Specialty Care. She was born in Baltimore, MD, the daughter of Harold and Ann Knapp and was retired from Connecticut Bank and Trust.

She leaves a brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Patricia Cartelli, and a nephew, Mark Cartelli, all of Newington; and a grandson, Anthony Cartelli.

There was a funeral service Monday, Dec. 1, at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. There was a calling hour Monday, Dec. 1, just prior to the service.

Portland

Lois Mae Chappell

Lois Mae (Snelling) Chappell, beloved wife of Irvin (Bud) Chappell, went to heaven on Sunday, Nov. 30. She is survived by her husband of 60 years; her son Wayne I. Chappell of Durham; her daughter Lois Copeland of Portland; her son Scott A. Copeland of Meriden; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Her family received relatives and friends at calling hours Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. There will be a private memorial service and burial at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Lois' memory may be sent to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

For online expressions of sympathy or directions, visit www.portlandmemorial.net.

Colchester

George A. Paul

George A. Paul, 85, of Colchester, formerly of Fairfield, died Tuesday, Nov. 25, in the Connecticut Hospice, Branford. He was the son of the late William and Julia Paul, whom he loved very much.

Mr. Paul was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII, where he served as a corpsman in the Pacific from 1943-46 and the Korean War from 1951-52. He was a life member of the VFW Oakville Post and the Stratford American Legion. Mr. Paul was a Mason for 50 years and a member of the Ashlar Lodge where he served as Master in 1960. Mr. Paul worked for Loehman Chevrolet, Waterbury, for 36 years, before retiring as sales manager.

He was the husband of 50 years to the late Madalen Mary Berard Paul; they resided together in their Davis Road home in Fairfield for 40 years.

Mr. Paul is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Raymond and Loretta Berard of Tupper Lake, NY, nine nieces, two nephews and many great nieces and nephews. George was a wonderful uncle and he will be sadly missed by his family.

Funeral services took place Saturday, Nov. 29, at 9:15 a.m. from the Wakelee Memorial Funeral Home, 167 Wakelee Ave., Ansonia. A Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop Rocco Florenza in the Anglican Church of the Resurrection, 6 Church St., Ansonia. Interment with military honors followed directly in Pine Grove Cemetery, Ansonia. Family and friends called Saturday, Nov. 29, prior to the Mass.

Memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford, CT 06405.

Online condolences may be made at www.wakeleememorial.com.

Hebron

James Roger Annis

James Roger "Jim" Annis, 71, of Hebron passed away Monday, Dec. 1, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford after a brief illness. Born in New London Feb. 10, 1937, he was a son of the late Clyde and Anna (Ladabouche) Annis.

Jim was a proud veteran, having honorably served with the US Army. He married Lorna Sereyko on Oct. 10, 1980, in East Hampton. Mrs. Annis survives him.

Jim retired in 1992 after having worked as a spare parts coordinator for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford for over 37 years. He was a longtime member of the Hebron Sportsmen's Club where he enjoyed hunting, fishing and playing setback on Thursday nights with his friends. Jim was an avid outdoorsman, a devoted fan of the UConn Huskies girls basketball team but most importantly, he loved the time he spent being with family and friends on special occasions.

In addition to his beloved wife of 28 years, survivors include two sisters, Lucretia Walker of PA, Geraldine Wahl of Jewett City; a godson, Jacob Potter of Columbia; a goddaughter, Mary Freet of Pennsylvania; and many nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. He will also be sadly missed by his best friend, kitty Spook.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, Bradford Annis and Robert Annis.

Calling hours were Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. There are also calling hours today, Friday, Dec. 12, from 10-10:30 a.m. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. today at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. Burial will be private at a later date.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Dept, PO Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248 or the Protectors of Animals, PO Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Penny Bartolotta

Penny (Gillespie) Bartolotta, 52, of Berlin, beloved wife of Salvatore Bartolotta died Saturday, Nov. 29. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Leslie and Helen (LeShane) Gillespie, she lived most of her life in Middletown, East Hampton and Berlin.

Besides her husband she is survived by a son, Sebastian Bartolotta and his fiancé Angelina Bartolucci of East Hartford, daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Rodney Bitgood of Higganum, sister, Barbara Grumbaum of MA, sister-in-law, Sharon Torello and her children, William and Jamie of New Haven and two grandchildren, Rodney Jr. and Crystal Bitgood.

Funeral services were Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Giuliano-Sagarino Funeral Home at Brooklawn, 511 Brook St., Rocky Hill. Burial will be at a later date. Friends were invited to the funeral home Thursday, before the services.

To offer words of sympathy online, directions or floral tributes, visit www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Catherine Frances Conderino

Catherine Frances Conderino, 83, of Willington and formerly of Colchester and Marlborough, passed away peacefully at her home Monday morning, Dec. 2, with her loving family by her side. Born in Salina, PA, March 17, 1925, she was a daughter of the late Clinton and Margaret (Laufer) Troup.

She married Anselmo Conderino in Agawam, MA, Oct. 30, 1943. The couple raised their family in Marlborough and later moved to Colchester. Catherine retired several years ago after having worked as the front office manager for the Hotel Sonesta in Hartford.

She was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester. She served the Colchester Seniors as past chairman for the commission on aging, past president of the local AARP chapter and she was particularly proud to be an advocate for the elderly and disadvantaged children. She will be remembered most fondly by those who knew her as a loving helpful and devoted woman.

In addition to her beloved husband of 65 years, survivors include three children, Michael Conderino of Colchester, Laura McNaughton of East Hampton, Philip Conderino of Willington; a sister, Margaret Ingram of New Mexico; ten grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Leroy Troup and two sisters Genevieve Dick and Helen Bucco.

Calling hours will be held today Friday, Dec. 5, from 4-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli officiating. Burial will follow in the Marlborough Town Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the VNHSC North Central Hospice, 8 Keynote Drive, Vernon, CT 06066.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Richard J. Campbell

Richard J. Campbell, 71, of East Hartford, formerly of Colchester, died Monday, Dec. 1, at home. Born Jan. 5, 1937, in Hartford, son of the late Thomas and Audrey (Armstrong) Campbell, he had lived in Colchester for 15 years prior to moving to East Hartford. He was a self-employed mechanic. He was a graduate of the UCONN Master Gardening Program and was a NASCAR fan.

He is survived by his children and their spouses: Richard Campbell, Jr. of Vermont, Michele and Frank Scopino of Lebanon, David and Sue Campbell of Colchester, Kelly and Shawn Kelly of West Hartford, Jennifer and Montrell Starks of East Hartford; two brothers, Robert Campbell of Virginia, David Campbell of Oregon; two sisters, Patricia Mitchell and Beverly Elliott both of East Hartford; nine grandchildren: Kristen, Stephen, Jessica, Jourdan, Kyra, Jada, Nicole, Amanda, Dan; and a friend Martha Mandeville of Lincoln, RI.

He was predeceased by a brother, Nick Campbell.

Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Thursday, Dec. 4. Funeral and burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Windham County Extension Council, 139 Wolf Den Rd., Brooklyn, CT 06234. This charity is to benefit People's Harvest, an organization that Richard helped found.

Colchester

Walter Stefanovicz

Walter "Duke" Stefanovicz, 89, of Tolland, formerly of Colchester, beloved husband of Marcia (Handerck) Stefanovicz passed away Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Rockville General Hospital. He was born Sept. 24, 1919 in Killingly, the son of the late Walter and Maria (Lewizka) Stefanovicz. Prior to his retirement, he worked at Colchester Tool & Die.

Besides his wife he is survived by three sons and their wives, Kurt and Becky Stefanovicz of Manchester, Keith and Diane Stefanovicz of Bozrah and Frank and Sandy Stefanovicz of Andover; a daughter and her husband, Linda and Gary Gustamachio of Tolland; 10 grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his first wife Virginia and a son Peter Stefanovicz.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m. at Faith Tabernacle Church, 314 Woodbridge St., Manchester, CT. There are no calling hours.

The Tolland Memorial Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

East Hampton

Frank H. McLean Jr.

Frank "Rube" H. McLean Jr., 90, of Cobalt, widower of Elizabeth (Coughlin) McLean, died Thursday, Nov. 27, at Middlesex Hospital. Born July 8, 1918 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Frank H. and Ada (Daily) McLean.

He was retired from the Holmes Transportation Corp. where he had worked as a Dispatcher. He served his country in the Army during WWII. He was a member of the Portland VFW Post and the Middletown Elks Club.

He is survived by his four sons, Frank H. "Bud" McLean and his wife Rebecca of Cobalt, Bernie J. McLean of Hawaii, Robert J. McLean of Cobalt, and Thomas G. McLean and his wife Kate of Cobalt; a brother, John McLean of Pennsylvania; and three grandchildren, Amy Weber, Frank McLean IV and Sean McLean.

He was predeceased by a granddaughter, Kelly McLean.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 1 in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc officiating. Burial followed in the family plot in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam. Friends called at the funeral home Monday morning from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Kelly McLean Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 2 West High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Colchester

Doris Marion Damarjian

Doris Marion Damarjian, 92, of East Longmeadow, MA and formerly of Colchester and Hebron, passed away Wednesday morning, Dec. 3, at her home in East Village Place in East Longmeadow.

Born in Worcester, MA Feb. 21, 1916, she was a daughter of the late Arthur and Marion (Sheldon) Broad. Doris attended school in Worcester and later went on to Becker's Jr. Business College. She married Aram Damarjian Aug. 20, 1938, in Port Smith, NH. They moved to Connecticut in 1939, settled in Colchester in 1950 and finally to Hebron in 1963. The couple shared 56 years together before he predeceased her in March 1994.

Mrs. Damarjian was a member of the Colchester Federated Church for 58 years where she served with the Women's Fellowship and she was formerly a member of the Colchester Seniors. She will be remembered fondly by her loved ones for the devotion and love she gave as a wife, mother and grandmother.

Survivors include three sons, David Damarjian of Crossville, TN, Robert Damarjian of Colchester and Richard Damarjian of East Longmeadow, MA; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends. The children of Doris extend their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the staff of East Village Place in East Longmeadow for the loving care they showed to their mother over the past four years.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, from noon-2 p.m., at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester. Funeral services will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Burial will follow in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.