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Obama, McCain Take Tuesday Primaries

As was the case throughout the state, Republican Sen. John McCain cleaned up in area primaries Tuesday, and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama – for the most part – eked out upset victories over his main opponent, Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Primaries were held Tuesday in the *Rivereast* towns, and McCain won big. He notched victories in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, East Hampton, Portland and Salem (Colchester Republican results were not available at press time).

On the Democratic side, Obama won in Hebron, Marlborough, East Hampton, Portland and Salem – but Clinton was the victor in the Andover and Colchester primaries.

In Colchester, where 53 percent of the town's registered Democrats, turned out to vote, Clinton beat Obama, by a count of 782 to 661.

"We were very surprised with the turnout," Town Clerk Nancy Bray said, "it was much higher than we expected." So high, in fact, Colchester ran short of ballots, and had to make 60 photocopies of ballots, just to get through the end of the day. The copied ballots were then counted by hand, rather than fed into the electronic machine.

John Malsbenden, chair of the Democratic Town Committee, was delighted with the amount of voters.

"There are a variety of really attractive candidates," he said. "The turnout shows that [the voters] have the same views [as the candidates]. It gets people excited about the candidacy."

Malsbenden said he would have felt good no matter which candidate won the Colchester election because he believes they are both extremely qualified.

"It speaks enormously well that two people, one black man and one woman, the fact that that could happen, speaks volumes for the American Democratic process," he said.

In Andover, just under 50 percent of the town's registered Democrats participated in the primary. Clinton narrowly won, by a count of 185 to 172.

Marlborough saw 62.6 percent of the town's registered Democrats show up to vote. It was a close race between Obama and Clinton, but the Illinois senator prevailed,

collecting 429 votes to Clinton's 381.

It was a similar story in Hebron, where 62 percent of the town's registered Democrats turned out to vote, and Obama beat Clinton, 538 to 487.

East Hampton also saw a high turnout of Democrats, with 53 percent of those registered flocking to the polls, compared to just 38 percent of the Republicans. East Hampton Republican Town Committee Chair Melissa Engel noticed the gulf, and said, "The Democrats just have a hell of a race going. I don't think the Republicans are feeling that excitement. They'll be out on Election Day."

East Hampton Democratic Town Committee Chair Barbara Moore said she was "pleased that so many Democrats got out to vote. I thought the turnout was quite good for a primary."

And those Democrats supported Obama, as he won by a vote of 657-604. Despite the numbers, Moore, a Clinton supporter, said, "I was pleased with how she did." Moore predicted "the next month will surely be intense. [Clinton and Obama] both have a lot of work to do."

Moore called Clinton the stronger candidate, primarily admiring her knowledge. But, she showed faith in both candidates. "Certainly I would support whoever is selected at the convention," she said.

In Portland, where 52.4 percent of the town's registered Democrats turned out to vote, Obama edged Clinton by a mere 21 votes, 563-542. Portland Democratic Town Committee Chair Kathy Richards was surprised the race was so close. "A few weeks ago, it looked like Hillary would take Connecticut," she said. She theorized that critical comments made by Bill Clinton may have caused some voters to switch to Obama.

As was the case statewide, *Rivereast* towns saw fewer Republicans come out to vote than their Democratic counterparts. In Marlborough, 41.2 percent of the town's registered Republicans voted, with 193 casting ballots for McCain, and 154 for his chief rival, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"The fact that Romney did relatively well is an indication that there are a lot of

people that feel McCain isn't quite representing those who have more conservative values, and Romney seems to more fit that build," Marlborough Republican Town Committee Chair Ken Hjulstrom said.

However, Hjulstrom said, it will be difficult for Romney, or former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, to overcome McCain at this point.

"I think there's a lot of people, including myself, who are not really sold on McCain, but at this point it doesn't look like there's going to be much of a choice," Hjulstrom said. "He seems to be locked in."

It wasn't much of a shock to see McCain win the primary election vote in Marlborough, Hjulstrom said, and at this point the race is more about who he will be running against and his possible running mate.

In Hebron, McCain also prevailed. He received 304 votes, compared to 187 for Romney.

"To me, it's not that big of a surprise," Hebron Republican Town Committee Chairman Donna McCalla said. "McCain won Connecticut, including Hebron, in 2000 as a Presidential nominee so he already had a strong base of support in the area."

McCalla also said that, because McCain was projected to win the state, the other candidates spent their time elsewhere campaigning.

In Hebron, 564 Republicans voted in the primary. There are 1,472 total registered Republicans in town, making the voter turnout 38 percent.

Turnout was similar in Andover, where 37 percent of the town's Republicans – 213 of 578 registered – showed up to cast ballots. McCain squeaked by with a 13-vote victory in Andover. He received 95 votes, compared to 82 for Romney.

Andover Republican Town Committee Chairman Robert Carrara, who attended a McCain rally earlier this year, feels that the Arizona senator is a "good match" for Connecticut. "He is a centrist Republican with broad support throughout the state," Carrara said.

While the Andover Republican Town

Committee hasn't formally endorsed a candidate at this point, Carrara expects the group to become more active as the election gets closer.

In East Hampton, McCain beat Romney, 293-229. "I'm not in love with all of the candidates," East Hampton Republican Town Committee Chairman Melissa Engel said, although, she added, she was backing McCain.

"I like his ideas for veterans' healthcare," Engel said, and she also shared his take on the war. "I don't think this is the time to pull out of Iraq." Also, Engel said, McCain has "been fiscally conservative."

When asked about Romney's impressive showing, Engel replied, "I think he presents better than McCain. He's good-looking, but I don't find him to be particularly substantive." She added with a laugh, "I don't know if there's anything behind the looks."

In Portland, 40.5 percent of the town's registered Republicans turned out to vote. Like the rest of the Nutmeg state, Portland was decidedly McCain territory, as he collected 234 votes, followed by Romney with 162. Portland Republican Town Committee Chairman Cindy Varricchio was not available for comment.

In Salem, where there was a 63.9 percent turnout of town Democrats, Obama narrowly beat Clinton, by a vote of 222 to 217. By comparison, only 44.6 percent of the town's Republicans turned out. McCain defeated Romney, by a count of 149 to 73.

Statewide, the Democratic race was close, with Obama collecting 51 percent of the vote compared to 47 percent for Clinton. The tightness of the race meant that, while the winner-take-all Republican primary left McCain with all of the state's delegates, Obama and Clinton virtually split their delegates. Obama wound up with 26, while Clinton took 22.

"There isn't a clear-cut winner, at least in this state," Richards said.

Rivereast staff reporters Kristina Histen, Michael McCoy and Sarah McCoy contributed to this story.

RHAM School Board Opts to Stick With Referendum

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education voted last week to continue to use a referendum format to pass their annual budget.

For the past two years, the regional school board has toyed with the idea of changing to a district meeting, where voters in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough would convene for either a hand or paper ballot vote. School board members opted, instead, to keep the referendum vote that the district has used for the past seven years.

"I believe that it's a good idea with a budget as large as Region Eight's [RHAM's]," Board of Education Chairman Susan Griffiths said this week of the referendum format. "Having the entire day to vote gives better access to input from voters."

The motion passed by a vote of 8-1. The one dissenting vote came from newly-elected Joe Farrell. Farrell said he believes holding a referendum is an unnecessary cost burden to the district.

"I didn't, and still don't, see any point in having an election that costs the town money," he said this week. "I have spoken to lots of people in Marlborough and the feedback that I received was that this was an additional expense we could do without."

In Hebron and Andover, the RHAM budget is voted on concurrently with the town budgets; therefore, there is no additional cost for the towns. However, the Marlborough town budget is voted on at a town meeting, so a referendum must be held specifically for the RHAM

budget.

Each referendum costs the Town of Marlborough \$3,000.

In 2001 the RHAM school board voted to install the referendum process as it began working towards the vote to approve construction for a new high school and renovation of the middle school. After several years of it taking multiple referendums to get a budget passed, the RHAM towns have approved the budget on the first try in each of the past three years.

Over the past year and a half, Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski and former Board of Education Chairman Al Covino approached the boards of selectmen in each of the three towns to assess their desires. Hebron

and Andover requested the district maintain the referendum format, and the school board never heard a response from Marlborough, according to Griffiths.

"The issue came about as a result of the board trying to operate as cost effectively as possible," Griffiths said. "The message we came away with is that this money, people feel, is worthwhile."

Siminski will present his proposed 2008-09 schools budget to the Board of Education at its meeting next Monday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the music room at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St. The school board will conduct a public hearing April 14 before the tri-town referendum on May 6.

Andover Finance Board Kicks Off Its Budget Season

by Sarah McCoy

Wednesday night proved to be an uncontroversial start to the budget season for the Board of Finance. The board heard a presentation from Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia who presented the Board of Education's budget, before approving Andover's contribution to the AHM Youth & Family Service Bureau.

The Board of Education's budget stands at \$3.92 million, a 3.75 percent increase from the current year. Of this increase, 82 percent comes from contractual salary increase and benefits for school employees. The remainder comes largely from heating and energy supplies.

"What we have here is a budget that will maintain the school system," Maneggia said. "There are no new spectacular programs. We didn't go wild and crazy."

The Board of Finance will review the Board

of Education budget before holding a public hearing later this spring. If the finance board opts to make a reduction to the budget it can only do so to the final number. The school board then would decide where the cuts must come from.

Board of Finance member Cathy Desrosiers questioned Maneggia on the possibility of full-day kindergarten in Andover. The superintendent reported that it has been an area of discussion for the Board of Education but that, in his opinion, the town was a few years away from making it a reality. "If we get into full-time kindergarten then we would have to do a major reshuffling of classroom usage," Maneggia said.

Maneggia also asked the Board of Finance to consider letting the Board of Education keep any money not expended during the fiscal year for a School Improvements Account that would

fund any big-ticket, one-time expenses the school might incur. The Board of Finance did not respond to this request, but board members did agree to discuss the matter at a later date.

Last year, the Board of Education returned over \$100,000 in unspent money to taxpayers.

Kay Corl, a member of the AHM Board of Directors and Andover resident, followed Maneggia with a presentation on the AHM budget for 2008-09. The town of Andover is responsible for 4.76 percent, or \$40,728, of the overall AHM budget this year. The remainder is paid for by Hebron and Marlborough, through grants, fundraisers, or additional revenue resources.

"The Town of Andover is getting \$807,000 worth of services for \$40,000," Corl said Wednesday night.

Corl also reported that last year, 727 children and 323 adults from Andover took advantage of at least one service offered by AHM. This includes activities such as the Homework Club at Andover Elementary School, a drinking awareness program presented at RHAM High School, the Lanterns mentoring program, or one of the many field trips offered by the youth service bureau for families.

The finance board unanimously approved Andover's portion of the AHM budget. Finance board member Robert Carrara said, "It's money well spent. Far better to spend it now on intervention and not on prison later."

The Board of Finance will continue to review the 2008-09 proposed budget at their next meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m., in the new community room of Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

Committee Looks Forward to Marlborough Playscape Renovation

by Kristina Histen

The Blish Park Playscape Renovation Committee is slowly reaching their goal of \$70,000 for the major renovation and maintenance program of the playscape – but committee members are still looking for help.

"It is very challenging," Barbara Lazzari, Blish Park Playscape Renovation Committee General Coordinator and Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Committee, said "We still have a really long way to go."

The committee is planning to have a "build weekend" from April 30-May 4, exactly 19 years after the Blish Park Playscape was first built – an effort that Lazzari also helped organize.

The plan is to work from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. About 150 volunteers have already signed up, and it is expected that the number will double right before the build like it did in 1989, Lazzari said. An estimation of about 8,400 volunteer hours is needed to complete the renovation.

There's something for everyone to do; if you can't bang a nail, hold a piece of wood for someone else to bang one through. Help is needed to prepare and serve food for the volunteers, or assist with childcare. Kids are encouraged to come out with their parents. They can help out by picking up scrap wood and screw bits and soap some screws. Everyone can be involved.

"It is a project that will make you feel good down to your soul," Lazzari said. But, she added, "My biggest disappointment is the community support just isn't there."

That wasn't the case in 1989 when, Lazzari said, hundreds of residents from Marlborough and surrounding communities came together on an early May weekend to help construct the project.

"It was just amazing when everyone stepped back and saw this playscape we just built," she said.

In the fall of 1988, the Marlborough Junior Women's Club created a committee to begin the process of constructing a playscape in Marlborough, Lazzari said. Through the research of the members of the Junior Women's Club, the firm of Leathers and Associates of

Ithaca, NY, was chosen.

It quickly became apparent that this project would become too large for just the Marlborough Junior Women's Club to handle, and the Playscape Committee was formed. This formation enabled all residents of the Marlborough community to become active. Under the direction of Leathers and Associates, the design and ultimate construction of the playscape was accomplished.

Over \$50,000 was raised for the project, which was used for the purchase of the wood. All other materials and labor were donated. Construction began on May 3, 1989 and was completed on May 7, 1989.

Today, the Playscape is in need of a major renovation and maintenance program, Lazzari said. The Marlborough Park & Recreation Commission is again working with Leathers and Associates on the project. The first phase of this renovation was to assess the existing structure for areas not in compliance with current codes and standards. An assessment of the existing playscape was conducted in November 2006 and many areas were identified as needing attention. However, the structure itself was determined to be in very good condition.

The Leathers Group gave a renovation plan that will enable the town to save the existing structure. It will be brought up to current State Building Codes, and some areas will be replaced that have been deemed as no longer safe. The horizontal boards will be covered with a composite material, and will require neither demolition nor additional framing. Any remaining vertical boards will be sanded and sealed with a clear plastic polymer coating. This will minimize splintering and will prevent any migration of the CCA chemical treatment on the existing pressure-treated wood.

Some preliminary work on the project will be done beforehand, likely in April, when the weather starts to get warmer. A new toddler area will also be added, due to a major push done by the MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club. The toddler area will be constructed with very expensive plastic wood.

Since there were enough safety issues that needed to be addressed, the playscape was closed in September 2007. The \$70,000 they hoped to raise is for the purchase of materials alone, and several items still need to be donated, like tools and food, and the volunteers must provide the labor.

"It's very intense, but it was real rewarding when we finished the first playscape," Lazzari said. "I keep telling everybody that, because everyone keeps looking at it saying... 'it's so much work,' and yes it is, it's probably the hardest thing you're going to do. But in the end, it's for the kids. It's for the kids."

Many fundraising projects have been conducted and so far, the committee has raised about \$60,000. The town awarded \$12,000 of that in last year's budget. Tomorrow, Feb. 9, the committee will hold a dance and auction, their biggest fundraiser throughout the project, where 19 years ago they made about \$14,000.

"We aren't anticipating anywhere near what we got the first time around," Lazzari said. "There just isn't the same kind of support."

Brenda Hill, who organized the event and is also on the Playscape Renovation Committee, said about 125 people bought tickets, and is anticipating that even more will show up. Tickets, however, must be bought in advance by today (Friday), at the latest. The night will include a silent and live auction, a DJ, cash bar, and hors d'oeuvres by Charles William of Avon Old Farms Hotel, Hill said.

The live auction will have the same auctioneer that did it 19 years ago, Lazzari said. There will be over 41 items, including a Sky Box for 14 people at the XL Center (formerly the Hartford Civic Center), for either a UConn men's basketball game on Feb. 19, or a women's game in March during the Big East tournament, valued at \$3,000; a baseball signed by Manny Delcarmen, relief pitcher for the Boston Red Sox; and a Giants poster signed by Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, Hill said.

As for the upcoming May construction, two workers from Leathers and Associates will be present all five days, to oversee everything go-

ing on. They will also be here on March 1, which has been dubbed "Organization Day." Representatives from Leathers and Associates will meet with the committees and spend the whole day in Marlborough. They will walk the site, check everything out, and let the Renovation Committee know what can be done ahead of time. Then the site can be prepped and an assessment will be done on where they are in the process before the build.

There is a fair amount of vandalism that occurs every year to the playscape, Lazzari said. Cutting up the rubber swings and writing inappropriate words and pictures cost a lot more to fix than those rebellious teens may think. Most of the money given by the budget to the committee is used on cleaning up. So, Lazzari, although doubtful, hopes to make more than the goal of \$70,000. If there is any leftover money, it will be used to establish a fund titled "The Friends of the Playscape" or something to that effect, Lazzari said.

The committee will also continue fundraising to some capacity, like the annual tag sale that was a huge success this past year, to keep a cash flow in the fund that will help maintain the playscape as it gets older. Vandalism is just another reason why Lazzari wants kids involved in restoring the playscape. She hopes it would avoid them from going down there in future years to destroy it after working so hard on it.

"We're doing this so no one gets hurt and the kids have somewhere to play," Lazzari said. "It's an incentive to have people come move into town. What do we have to offer? A beautiful lake, gorgeous ball fields, rec facilities all over the place and a playscape is a huge draw for a small town. If everybody does a little piece of it, it'll all come together."

Those interested in aiding the committee's cause can do something as simple as purchase a Playscape T-shirt and sport it around town. (For more about the ongoing Playscape Committee fundraisers, see page 15.)

For more information, check out the website <http://blishplayscape.info/>. And remember, only 82 days until the build!

Compromise Near in Marlborough in Orchard Saga?

by Kristina Histen

After nearly two years, the Conservation Commission and Joseph Sanford appear to be closing in on a compromise regarding Sanford's property at 17 Old Cider Mill Ln.

Sanford and his legal team presented yet another revised plan for re-landscaping to the Conservation Commission at the commission's meeting Monday. About 25 residents attended to express their concern.

Intending to create an orchard, Sanford in spring 2006 bought about 50 apple trees. Some of them had even already been planted at 17 Old Cider Mill Ln. without permission from the town. That began the seemingly never-ending process in coming to a conclusion on the issue of what should be allowed to take place on a lakefront property.

Several revisions later, it seems the commission and the property owner are nearing an agreement.

Chris Ferrero, landscape architect, reviewed the latest application to the commission at Monday night's meeting. It included pruning the existing lakeside trees for health and appearance and replacing existing native lawn area with a sedge species seed that will require little maintenance. The sedge's expected growth would establish a root base that will provide an additional level of protection to the open wetland area leading to the lakeshore, Ferrero said.

Also, Ferrero said, the wetland mitigation area would include a low wildflower meadow, providing denser vegetation in the wetland, and a proposed planting of shrubs that would complement the existing vegetation and reestablish a more natural lakeside vegetation regime. Residential lawn sod placement would promote healthy and thick growth of the area, and the thick lawn would establish a root base

that will provide an additional level of protection against erosion along the sloped landscape while acting as a natural bio-filler of surface flow of water leading to the wetlands on the property. The plans also call for the hillside to be re-graded back to its natural state.

The biggest change was the placement of the apple trees. The orchard idea had already been eliminated and renamed an "ornamental fruit tree area" at the January meeting, proposed for personal use and not agricultural production. The fruit tree area would include species and cultivars that are well adapted to the specific site conditions, Ferrero said. Of the 50 apple trees, only 18 will remain in the proposed location for aesthetic reasons; the rest will be planted to act as a buffer to the adjacent properties, and along Cider Mill Lane to add "an artistic symbolic quality to it," Ferrero said.

A healthy lawn is maintained through proper fertilization, and only safe organic products will be used on the property, those that would not harm the lake "in any way, shape or form," Ferrero said. Fertilizers would be used on an as-needed basis only, and will be added to modify existing soil conditions and maintain plant health and growth. Soil testing will also be done to determine the site-specific nutrients and organic materials that are available to the lawn and to identify deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances.

The town's professional staff sees no issues or concerns in reviewing the application, Peter Hughes, AICP, Planning and Development Director, said, and no risk to the aquatic life or lake.

A Feb. 4 letter to Hughes from Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates, Inc., consulting civil and environmental engineers, stated that "other

than recommending the installation of some additional silt fence along the upper side of the driveway, (below re-graded orchard area) I do not have any objections from an engineering standpoint to the revised grading in this area."

"We are trying to find balance between Sanford enjoying the lake and the environmental influence on the lake," Ferrero said. "We can argue dock lengths, orchards, and pesticides, but this is an enhancement for the environment in the long run."

Despite addressing many of the previous issues, Marlborough residents gathered at Monday's meeting still saw problems, although many appreciated Sanford's care and consideration for environmental concern.

John and Siobhan Peng of Lake Ridge Drive said they are especially worried about the fertilization and the dangers it could have on the lake's ecosystem. They said they thought all fertilization should be eliminated, and there are still too many apple trees on the property.

"Living on the lake is a privilege, and with that comes responsibility," Siobhan Peng said.

Their daughter, Ceili, 11, who "loves swimming in the lake, especially when the water is so clear you can see the bottom," also presented her concerns to the commission. She gave a petition of 51 kids' signatures, ranging in age from eight to 12, that stated, "We, the undersigned, object to the proposed landscape changes and the proposed use of fertilizers (organic or not) and amendments on this lakefront property on the grounds that if the development went ahead, it would result in a significant, negative impact on Lake Terra-muggus. As a future generation of Marlborough, we know that we would feel the effect of this proposal the

most."

Ferrero responded by stating that the fertilization used would be no different than any other household property on the lake.

Conservation Commission Chairman Don Hautman also wants to make sure the organic chemicals don't have access into the lake, but felt as though the commission had been "overloaded with information," and in order to move forward with the process closed the public hearing.

As far as the application on 9 Old Cider Mill Ln., a property that Sanford is in the process of buying, the commission has finally reached a conclusion. A maintenance plan for the wetland restoration and pond will be reported yearly in June for the next three years for town staff and commission approval. The gazebo size was reduced so that it will not exceed a maximum of 15 feet in diameter and all lighting fixtures must be fixed to raised walkways or the gazebo on the justification that these feasible alternatives have less impact on the wetlands.

Following the Lake Advisory recommendations, the commission said it believes there is no need for the total area of the dock to exceed 200 square feet, and cannot extend more than 25 feet into the lake. Sanford must also post a bond, in an amount determined by the town staff and executed prior to building, which would act as sort of a security deposit, to ensure that once the project begins to be developed, the work can be concluded.

Resident Jane Boston seemed pleased with the actions of the Conservation Commission in regards to 9 Old Cider Mill Ln. "The commission really listened to the residents and met their concerns," she said.

Hebron, Developer Head to Court

by Sarah McCoy

At the end of Wellswood Road sits a 188-acre parcel mostly covered by tall grass and trees. The future of this land is up in the air for one simple fact: the road is in Hebron and the land in Columbia.

Ronald Jacques, a Glastonbury developer and owner of the land, had hoped to develop the property into an active adult community. Town officials are vehemently against the plans, because the sole access way to the neighborhood would be through Wellswood Road.

In the fall of 2005 the Board of Selectmen voted to close Wellswood Road at the town line, thus preventing Jacques from developing his land. Jacques then sued the town. Last week, the two sides presented their cases at Rockville Superior Court.

Judge Lawrence Klaczak presided over the three trial days and is expected to render a verdict within the next four to six months.

"The issue at hand is whether or not a town has the right to regulate its roads," Town Manager Jared Clark said. "We believe they do."

Jacques, who says he approached the town in 2004 about the matter and had complied with their every request prior to the Board of Selectmen's resolution to close Wellswood Road, does not share this sentiment. "I never expected that we would be where we are," he said.

Jacques said that he altered his initial plans, at the request of the town of Hebron, to reroute storm water runoff and to provide for future connections to a Columbia roadway, namely Route 66. Still, the Board of Selectmen opted to close Wellswood Road.

"It would bring extra expenses to Hebron without the benefit of tax relief," Clark explained. "Wellswood Road is already a heavily-burdened road and the additional traffic this development would bring will negatively impact the town. Hebron was forced to act in its own best interest."

Jacques bought the land in 2004 with plans to turn the vacant parcel into an active adult community. Phase One of his plans, which has been approved by the town of Columbia, calls for 15 residential units. Eventually, Jacques would like to expand that to 75 units but before that can happen he must jump this last hurdle.

"It is inconceivable, to me, that a judge could allow Hebron to illegally block access to our property," he said.

Clark disagreed, saying, "Clearly, in this case, there are rights on both sides. We are expecting a decision that will recognize Hebron's right, in some way, to open or close its roads." He added that he could see the judge preventing Jacques from extending the roadway but not from preventing a driveway access into the property.

If Clark is right, Jacques' development would be all but defunct without finding another access way into the property. The Board of Selectmen has said it would not close Wellswood Road if there was another entryway into the property. "We just don't want the sole access to the property to be through Hebron," Clark explained.

The lawyers for both sides will present their briefs in late March, and then Klaczak will have four months to make his final decision.

Portland Selectmen Shoot Down Charter Revisions Again

by Michael McCoy

For the second time in less than two years, the Board of Selectmen has rejected proposed changes to the town charter.

The selectmen made the decision Jan. 24, one day after meeting with the Charter Revision Commission (CRC). The changes the selectmen made to the CRC's proposed charter changes were so extensive that commission member Carl Fitzgibbons suggested the selectmen should just reject the document outright.

For members of the CRC, this was nothing new. In August 2006, the Board of Selectmen also rejected proposed revisions to the town charter. While the commission immediately disbanded, it reformed two months later, with nearly the same membership.

After two more years of back and forth, the Board of Selectmen gave official feedback to the CRC in December. While the selectmen called the proposed charter "more user-friendly" they said that, "with the exception of the revisions required by the statute," they did not endorse any of the CRC's other recommended changes.

The CRC had recommended unlimited budget referendums, while the selectmen suggested the number of referendums be limited to three. (Currently, the selectmen set the budget if it fails at two referendums.)

Other concerns over the proposed charter changes dealt with the inclusion of public overrule of all Board of Selectmen resolutions, as well as the elimination of centralized purchasing. Centralized purchasing requires the Board of Education to report its financial activity to the town's finance director.

On Jan. 10, the CRC voted 5-0 to submit their final proposal to the Board of Selectmen. The only substantial changes from the document the selectmen saw in December were the reinstatement of centralized purchasing and the elimination of the creation of a Public Safety Commission.

The selectmen were required to accept or reject the proposed charter in part or in full by Jan. 25. They conducted a joint meeting with the CRC on Jan. 23. Four of the CRC members were present, as was their attorney

Stephen Mednik.

Over the course of five hours, the selectmen made extensive changes and deletions. Around midnight, they recessed and reconvened the meeting the following night. Eventually, the Board of Selectmen voted 4-3 to reject the entire document, with selectmen Mark Finkelstein, Brian Flood, and Sharon Peters Gibala casting the dissenting votes.

First Selectman Susan Bransfield said much of the reason she voted to reject the charter was, "There were so many changes that it wasn't [the CRC's] document anymore."

In addition to the aforementioned concerns, Bransfield also found fault with other omissions in the proposed charter revisions. For instance, currently, the Board of Selectmen needs at least four affirmative votes to pass a resolution. However, the proposed charter would allow a resolution to pass on a 3-1 vote. "I think that's an important part to have retained in the charter," remarked Bransfield.

The charter also would not have allowed for interdepartmental transfers, something Bransfield thought necessary, an example being especially light or especially severe winters.

Bransfield said she also would have preferred a more collaborative effort: "There wasn't enough give and take between the Board of Selectmen and the [members of the CRC.]"

Though he voted against a full rejection, Flood did not seem upset that the document failed. "I understand everyone's position," he said. "There were problems with the document. Some people weren't comfortable with the changes... I felt comfortable with the changes." Flood added that he thought the changes the selectmen made Jan. 23 "cleaned up the document."

When asked if she anticipated another Charter Revision Commission being established in the near future, Bransfield responded, "No."

There has been intermittent talk on the part of some CRC members to petition the decision, should the Board of Selectmen reject the proposal. Those commissioners, as well as other residents, have until March 10 to petition the decision.

Marlborough Police News

1/31-Keith Barnas, 28, of 18 Quarry Rd., Granby, was charged with disorderly conduct, injury or risk of injury/impair morals of a child and interfering with an emergency call, State Police said.

2/4-Carmelo Aresco, 51, of 36 West St., Cromwell, was charged with operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol and reckless driving, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

1/30-Michael Nazario, 50, of 271 Parum Rd., was charged with violation of stop sign and misuse of plates, State Police said.

1/31-Paul Nieves, 47, of 21 Mohawk Trail, East Hampton, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

2/1-Kristoffer Fowler, 30, of 158 Main St. Apt. B, East Hampton, was charged with breach of peace and threatening, State Police said.

2/4-Kimberly Benevides, 38, of 298 Rt. 66, Columbia, turned herself into State Police for an arrest warrant charge of second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

East Hampton Selectmen Lend a Hand to Chatham Court

by Michael McCoy

At its regular meeting Wednesday night, the Board of Selectmen unanimously decided to formally help out Chatham Court.

Chatham Court is a federally owned low-income housing development, located off of Airline Avenue. Though it is located in Portland, the federal government funds it.

Housing Authority member Mike Giuliano attended a January Board of Selectmen meeting and asked the selectmen to help the development, which had been running low on funds. He said that the federal government had only provided 85 percent of the necessary funding this year, chalking much of it up to the war effort.

"We're facing bankruptcy," Giuliano said that night, petitioning the board for any help they could give, such as changing light bulbs or cleaning gutters.

Speaking about the residents who occupy the 140 units in Chatham Court, Giuliano said, "There's a group of people that's really hurting now."

The Board of Selectmen agreed to look into the matter. Public Works director Rick Kelsey, after meeting with members of the Housing Authority, said Wednesday, "We've come up with a number of things we can collectively do to help each other out."

"Rick gave us tremendous help," Giuliano said at the meeting.

Kelsey drew up a document that outlined ways the town could ease Chatham Court's burden. This included allowing the development to piggyback on the town's Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (CTDAS) bids, yielding them savings they are not currently getting. This could apply to the purchasing of trucks, plow equipment, road salt, asphalt, stone, chip sealing, and other items.

Kelsey said Chatham Court could also piggyback on the town's heating oil contract with East River Oil through June 2009, which would allow the development to purchase heating oil at \$2.32 per gallon.

Kelsey also included the Housing Authority in bids for sewer and catch basin cleaning. This would save the development money, though it would still be responsible for the cost.

The document also said that Kelsey has agreed "that in the event of emergencies, the Public Works Department will assist with such things as plowing, sanding, sewer cleaning, tree cutting, contract HVAC services etc."

Kelsey also agreed to meeting with the housing authority periodically and that he and the town engineer would make themselves available for questions.

The Board of Selectmen voted 7-0 to support Kelsey's plan.

Portland Residents Pass Ethics Ordinance

by Michael McCoy

Three weeks after the Board of Selectmen sent it to town meeting, voters approved the town ethics ordinance Wednesday evening.

The ordinance was passed 13-2. It defines what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate conduct by elected or appointed officials, as well as town employees, while addressing procedure and consequences should a breach of conduct take place. In an effort to make the document more accessible, the ordinance also contains a seven-page list of definitions.

The Ethics Commission was formed three years ago, with their first charge being to create an ordinance. The group worked through various scenarios, exploring every possible situation they could think of, while frequently reporting to the Board of Selectmen.

On Jan. 16, the Board of Selectmen held a public hearing, where residents were welcomed to comment on the ordinance. Attendance was scarce, but the few who showed up voiced their confidence in the document and the work of the commission. "It's really tremendous," selectman Mark Finkelstein said at the time. The selectmen that night voted 6-0 to send the ordinance to town meeting, where a simple majority would suffice for approval.

Following Wednesday's approval, the Ethics Commission plans to compose an even more concise users' manual, as well as conduct educational seminars on the ordinance. In an effort to supply ample time for these efforts, the ordinance will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2009.

Portland Police News

1/29 — Robert Segda, 18, of 152 Prospect St., Middletown, was charged with third-degree assault, Portland Police say.

East Hampton Police News

1/26 — Jason R. Pangretic, 28, of 275 Otrobando Tpke., Norwich, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police report.

1/27 — Xiomara L. Vega, 30, of Portland Cobalt Road, Portland, was arrested for second-degree harassment, police say.

1/28 — Jacqueline A. Ucci, 47, of 22 Lake Blvd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for disorderly conduct and failure to appear, police say. Also on 1/28, Ucci was arrested for operating an unregistered vehicle and operating without insurance, police report.

1/28 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police report.

1/29 — Albert G. Knous, 49, of 164 Grand St., Middletown, was arrested for illegal burning, police report.

1/29 — Daniel H. Cook, 44, of 240 Lake Rd., was arrested for interfering with an officer, police report.

1/30 — Luis Alvarez, 38, whose last known address was 130 Church St., Bristol, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-

Andover Police News

1/27-Patrick Sullivan, 50, of 105 Liberty St., East Hartford, was charged with second-degree motor vehicle theft, operating under the influence of drugs and alcohol and operating of motor vehicle when registration or license is refused/suspended/revoked, State Police said.

degree burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary, second-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit larceny, police report.

1/31 — Johnny Figueroa, 22, whose last known address was 75 Oak St., Manchester, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree burglary, third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary, second-degree larceny, second-degree conspiracy to commit larceny, credit card theft and receipt of money, goods or services obtained by illegal use of credit card, police report.

2/1 — Stacy D. Rivera, 27, of 38 Wangonk Trail, was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, operating under suspension, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, improper rear lamps and second-degree failure to appear, police say.

2/1 — Russell J. Baker, 20, of 107 Quarry Hill Rd, Haddam Neck, was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant on charges of speeding, operating under suspension, and two counts of second-degree failure to appear, police report.

Obituaries

Portland

Douglas Allen

Douglas Omar Allen, 86, of Cromwell and a longtime resident of Portland, passed away at Haven Health care Center on Tuesday, Jan. 1. He was born in Olean, NY on March 3, 1921, to the late Benjamin F. Allen and Helen Kent Allen.

He is survived by his two sons, Arthur A. Allen of Las Vegas, NV and Benjamin E. Allen of Mesa, AZ; his three daughters, Susanne A. Anderson of Portland, Rose A. Tozier of Newington and Nina L. Gliniski of Guilford.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth West Allen, and his youngest son, Curt D. Allen.

He also leaves behind nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was a decorated World War II veteran, attaining the rank of staff sergeant and serving with the 520th Air Transport Group. He was stationed at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts and his military occupational specialty was airplane propeller mechanics.

Over the years, he was employed by Monsanto Corporation, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, *The Middletown Press*, K-Mart and also was self-employed as an independent contractor. Some of his special interests in life were his love of animals, boating and dancing. He was also an avid walker before his illness.

His family would like to gratefully acknowledge the staff at Haven Health Care Center of Cromwell for the professional care and compassion shown to Douglas during his stay there. A private graveside service, with full military honors, will be held in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland, at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland

Memorial donations in Douglas' name may be sent to either the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 or to the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter, 279 New Britain Rd., Suite 5, Kensington, CT 06037.

Colchester

Richard A. Day

Richard A. Day, "Rich", 63, of East Haddam, and formerly of Colchester and Salem, beloved husband of Tess, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Jan. 31. Born Nov. 24, 1944 in Middletown, he was the son of the late Ernest Day. In November of 1966, he enlisted in the US Army, proudly serving during the Vietnam War. On Sept 11, 1993, he wed the former Teresita (Ponce) Flynn in Middlefield.

Richard was a loving and generous husband, a dedicated father and grandfather, as well as a best friend to all. Within his lifetime, this kind and gentle man was a Vietnam veteran and an entrepreneur who owned and operated his own auto body shop and home improvement business. He was known to go out of his way to help others. He was a communicant of St. Andrew Church, an avid fisherman and outdoorsman, a NASCAR and Karaoke enthusiast and a self-proclaimed chef. Richard touched the lives of so many people. He will be greatly missed.

In addition to his loving wife of 14 years, he is survived by his daughter, Pamela Galvin of East Hampton; two sons, Richard Jr. of Danielson and Robert of Meriden; two stepdaughters, Monica Paredes of Austin, TX and Donnabelle Casis of Northampton, MA; two stepsons, Michael Pingree of Colchester and Dennis Pingree of Upper Nyack, NY; two granddaughters, Maliah and Kimberly Day; seven grandsons, Maddox and Mason Pingree, Stefan and Mathieu Johnson, Gabriel Paredes and RJ and Johnathon Day. He is also survived by a sister, Virginia Stephenson of Salem.

Friends called 5- 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 5, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli, officiating. There were no calling hours Tuesday morning. Committal with full military honors followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. Visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com) for online condolences.

Colchester

Thomas Leonard Jr.

Thomas John Leonard, Jr., 82, of Williams Road, Colchester, and formerly of Wethersfield, beloved husband of Polly, went home to the Lord on Thursday, Jan. 31, at Hartford Hospital. Born Sept. 6, 1925 in Wethersfield, he was a son of the late Thomas and Mary (Kudlak) Leonard, Sr. On Sept. 14, 1957, he wed the



former Pauline Bernier at St. Christopher Church in East Hartford. Together, along with his brother Henry, they operated a family dairy farm in Wethersfield for many years. In 1987, they retired to Colchester, purchasing their current farm on Williams Road. Tom was a faithful communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester, where he had served as an usher for many years.

Mr. Leonard was a member of the Wethersfield Firefighters Assn., AARP of Colchester, the Quinebaug Valley Engineers Assn., the CT Farm Bureau, New London County Pomona Grange No. 6, St. Joseph's Polish Society in Colchester, where he enjoyed playing on their setback league and currently served as Gatekeeper of Colchester Grange No. 78. He was also a former member of the Connecticut Milk Producers Assn. and had been active with the Wethersfield 4-H when his children were young. In his retirement, Tom enjoyed gardening and continued to tend to all facets of farming.

In addition to his loving wife of 50 years, he is survived by four children and their spouses, Thomas and Gina Leonard, III of Mt. Arlington, NJ and Diane and David Leith, Jeanne and William Kowalsky and Judith and Dennis Tozier, all of Colchester; 11 grandchildren, David, Michael and Cheryl Leith, Spc. William Kowalsky, Jr., and Daniel, Jaimie, Makaila and Elizabeth Kowalsky and Paulette, Julianna and Tara Leonard; a great grandson, William Kowalsky, III; three brothers, Frank of Newington, Henry of Coventry and Edward of Albany, MN; his sister-in-law, Doris Bernier of Wethersfield; two special nephews, (his godson) Thomas M. Leonard of Wethersfield and Andrew Leonard of Albany, MN; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by a grandson, John C. Leith, III, his sister, Minnie Leonard and four brothers, Michael, Joseph, John and Stanley.

Friends called Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Grange Memorial Service was also observed that day. The Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Monday, Feb. 4, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli, officiating. There were no calling hours Monday morning. Interment followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. In lieu of flowers, donations and Mass offerings in his name may be made to the Church or to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, P.O. Box 5037, Hartford 06102.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Russell D. Jose

Russell D. Jose, 87, of Ashlar Village, Wallingford, formerly of Marlborough, died, Sunday, Feb. 3, at Masonic Healthcare Center. He was the husband of the late Edna Cecile Brouillette Jose. He was born in Alfred, ME, Aug. 21, 1920, son of the late Roland and Leah Weeks Jose, and had been a Marlborough resident for over 40 years until moving to Wallingford in 1995.

He studied forestry at the University of Maine Orono and went on to operate a Christmas tree farm, and be a member of the Connecticut Nut Growers Association. He had been employed by Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford for 40 years until his retirement, and was a member and volunteer at the Marlborough and East Hampton senior centers. Mr. Jose was a deacon at the Marlborough Congregational Church and a Boy Scout troop leader.

He is survived by his three daughters and two sons-in-law, Genie J. and William A. Lazzano of Cheshire, Judy A. Jose-Roddy of West Roxbury, MA, and Nancy M. and John Valentine of Marlborough; his son and daughter-in-law, David R. and Kathleen Jose of Gallatin, TN; seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; a sister, Faith Simpson, and a brother, Richard Jose and his wife Geraldine, all of Maine. He was predeceased by his son-in-law, Gerard Roddy.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday at 3 p.m. in the chapel of the Masonic Healthcare Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford. In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to The Masonic Healthcare Center, 22 Masonic Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492, or the Alzheimer's Association, 279 New Britain Road, Suite 5, Kensington, CT 06037 Arrangements are under the direction of the Yalesville Funeral Home, 386 Main St., Yalesville, CT, 06492. www.yalesvillefh.com