

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem

Volume 34, Number 7

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

May 8, 2009



Hike Success... The "Hike4Hope" was held April 26 to benefit the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). Several Portland students raised over \$425 by hiking up Great Hill Mountain and reaching the top rock cliff shown in the photo. Pictured are, sitting: Ian Gotta, Dave Bordonaro (CCD teacher) and Kevin Crosen. Standing: Colby Townsend, Jay Bordonaro, Gina Waller and Shelly Ziegler. Missing was Angela Chadsey. The NMDP finds donors for those in need of life saving transplants. Dave Bordonaro received his transplant in 1993.

RHAM Budget Sent to Victory

by Sarah McCoy

Now it's time for the real work to begin.

On Tuesday, voters in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough approved a \$23.90 million budget for RHAM. With this number now set, Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski said school staff and board members can now get started on planning and preparing for the coming year. "Now that we know what we have, we can begin the work for next year in earnest," Siminski said.

Among those items most paramount will be the hiring of new teaching personnel and Director of Special Education. Also, student and teacher schedules will now be determined as well as planning for some curriculum rewriting over the summer.

This is the second year in a row that all three towns passed the RHAM budget. Hebron voters okayed the spending plan by a count of 698-481. In Marlborough there were 294 who voted in favor of the budget and 181 against, while in Andover the budget passed 105-83.

However, none of the three communities saw the turnout town officials had hoped for. In Andover, 8 percent of the eligible voters in town cast ballots, while in Marlborough, turnout was only 11 percent. In Hebron, where taxpayers were also voting on the town budget, the turnout was just under 19 percent.

Regardless of the turnout, Siminski and Board of Education (BOE) Chair Sue Griffiths let out a sigh of relief on Tuesday night.

"I was hopeful [going into the vote] because we had had people at a variety of meetings, asking great questions," Griffiths said. "They seemed to be paying attention to how the budget was being put together, understanding what we were trying to do as well as the constraints."

This year the RHAM BOE held budget meetings in all three towns, where audience members had a chance to converse with school board members about spending issues. Griffiths said she believed this communication was invaluable and suspects the other board members will want to continue to work with that format in the future.

Shortly before voting Tuesday, Hebron resident Pam Jeroszko said she was casting her ballot in favor of the RHAM budget but, she said, "I think it's too low. I would have approved more. Education is that important to our town, our kids, and our future."

"I'll approve this budget if that's what the town is willing to accept," she continued, "but honestly, I think we undervalue education."

Fellow Hebron resident Sylvia Grzybowski also was in favor of the spending plan, saying, "We need to pass this budget or we'll lose out on teachers and resources that we so desperately need."

The now-approved budget represents a 1.45 percent increase in spending. The major drivers for the budget increase include a 2 percent raise for the teacher's union as well as factors

See RHAM Budget on Page 2

Portland Propane Saga Continues

by Michael McCoy

Around 50 people packed a Portland public hearing Wednesday to discuss a proposed ordinance that would prohibit bulk fuel storage in town.

And the discussion turned heated at times, as residents spoke both for and against the proposal.

Last fall, a developer proposed a bulk propane storage facility on Gospel Lane. While that application was eventually withdrawn, the proposal still touched off a spate of comments at town meetings and letters to the editor in the *RiverEast*, the majority of which were opposed to the presence of propane in Portland.

In April, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) proposed an ordinance that would prohibit bulk fuel storage, whether it be kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas, propane, natural gas, wood, coal, or any similar substance. It would limit liquids to less than 1,000 gallons, gasses to less than 1,000 cubic feet, solids to less than 1,000 cubic yards. The ordinance would exempt existing tanks.

Despite those aforementioned comments against the proposed propane facility, opinions Wednesday on the proposed ordinance were decidedly mixed.

Riverdale Motel owner Joe Seiferman led off the hearing by saying, "I believe this ordinance

is very much anti-business." He said he has tanks that exceed the proposed limit, and explained that one reason for the tanks is they are not easily accessible by truck, so, in the fall, they need to be able to store three or four months worth of fuel at a time. Also, he said, "The selectmen really have to think twice about solid fuels...I'm not aware of any major fires in coal yards or wood piles that our fire department can't take care of."

Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) Chairman Don Bascom also spoke against the amendment, and revealed that the rest of the commission was too.

In May 2008, the PZC approved a text amendment that allowed bulk propane storage in the IP (Planned Industrial) zone. Bascom said the PZC speaking about any one application at that time would have been illegal. Also at that time, Bascom said, "no negative comments were received from staff or the public."

In February, a group of residents went to PZC with a proposal for a text amendment effectively banning bulk propane storage. The PZC rejected the proposal, Bascom said, as it "prohibited the activity [of bulk propane storage] rather than regulate it. The Planning and Zoning Commission cannot approve a proposed change to a regulation that will prohibit the activity it is

regulating."

Bascom said that during a May 4 meeting the PZC unanimously voted to oppose the ordinance for several reasons, including its negation of "existing zoning regulations" and prohibition of "healthy competition" and "economic growth in the town of Portland."

Instead, he recommended the BOS drop the ordinance, allow the PZC and fire marshal to gather information and present further findings at a joint PZC and BOS meeting. He endorsed the submission of a text amendment to be presented at a PZC hearing.

Bascom then spoke for himself and not as PZC chair, and then criticized the BOS, saying, "A lawyer was hired [instead of an engineer.] Engineering facts have been ignored." He also alleged that proponents of the ordinance have "resorted to lies and exaggeration that distort the real issue." He asked the town to rely on "facts, not hysteria."

A tense couple of minutes occurred shortly thereafter when Gospel Lane Properties attorney John Boccalatte rose to speak. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the hearing was for residents to speak only. Boccalatte said he represented a resident, but when told this was not good enough, his client, Ken Woronoff, erupted, "I am a taxpayer in Portland!"

Bransfield responded, "You're out of order!" and Woronoff shot back, "You are out of order with what you're doing!"

Bransfield said Boccalatte could speak later in the hearing if there was time. (He was eventually given his chance.)

Resident Sebastian Amenta said, "It's impossible to fight the professionals [Gospel Lane] have lined up." He continued, "I'm for the ordinance, but we have to change some things," figuring that, as written, it may hamper legitimate business.

Buddy Hernandez revealed similar sentiments. A Portland firefighter for 43 years, he said the department is fully qualified to address malfunctions with smaller propane tanks, but figured the 30,000 gallons tanks that were previously proposed would be unmanageable.

"Propane is dangerous," he commented, but, he added, "I'm against the proposal here tonight, because it's not fair to the businesses."

Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps spoke in favor of the ordinance, and noted his opposition to the previous propane application, he said, "I guess that makes me a liar too." He was neither the first or last to take a shot at Bascom for his comments.

Phelps called the ordinance "the right thing

See Propane on Page 2

Propane continued from Front Page

for the town of Portland,” adding, “The Board of Selectmen needs to take action on this and take action on this soon.”

Resident Paul Decelles spoke at length and took the most pointed aim at Bascom. During much of his comments, he addressed Bascom directly, saying his comments revealed “just how strong a proponent [of the previous application] you are, and just how objective you’re not.” Decelles called Bascom’s role as chairman “particularly bothersome to me.”

Decelles alleged that, going into the Gospel Lane application, Bascom was “already prepared to accept a positive outcome.” He continued, “You almost sound like an advocate. ... That’s scary to me.”

Bill Willinsky also directly addressed Bascom’s comments. He said the BOS had the “final say” with a decision like this since they are elected, while the PZC is appointed.

Toward the close of the two-hour-plus hearing, Boccalatte spoke. He said, “There’s been a lot of misinformation. Maybe that’s to be expected.” That comment was met with groans from the audience, so much so that Bransfield had to reestablish control of the hearing.

Boccalatte called the ordinance “a thinly-veiled attempt” to stop his client’s application, and said the selectmen “dressed up the ordinance to make it look like it’s not about propane.” He also accused them of “bending to the will of a very vocal group of people.”

He criticized the ordinance’s grandfathering

of existing business, but discrimination of new ones, figuring the newest facilities were also the safest.

Boccalatte said passing the ordinance would stop potential “cash flow [from taxes], stifle existing business, and tell potential new businesses, ‘don’t bother.’”

Scott Adamsons retorted to Boccalatte by saying, “Thank God for democracy and elected officials who do bend to the will of the people that put them in office.”

Bascom commented again at the end of the evening. The usually mild-mannered chairman may have been the single loudest speaker of the night.

“Let me set the record straight, OK?” he said. The PZC members “are not proponents of propane. We are proponents of finding out the facts.”

Referring to one of the aforementioned criticisms of him, Bascom said, “Mr. Decelles likes twisting facts. ... He only wants to know the cons.”

Finally, addressing a couple of residents who criticized the PZC for entertaining the propane application after establishing nearby land as residential, Bascom said, “If you buy a home that borders industrial land, expect industrial development. It’s going to happen.”

Bransfield said the selectmen would discuss the matter during their Wednesday, May 20, meeting.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The *Courant* had another unfortunate week, as it was announced Tuesday two veteran editors are leaving the paper (and only one of the editors is leaving of their own choosing; the other saw their position eliminated). But, in my view, the biggest black eye the Tribune Company (the *Courant*’s owner) endured in the past week came courtesy the *Chicago Tribune* itself.

According to an Associated Press story last Thursday, the *Tribune* in recent weeks had solicited subscribers’ opinions on stories before they were published. The AP obtained a copy of an e-mail signed by various *Tribune* reporters and other editorial staff, alleging that readers were shown synopses of several unpublished stories, including some the staff was working on. This drew the ire of the reporters, and understandably so. They wrote in their e-mail (which was sent to the *Tribune*’s editor and managing editor) that asking readers their thoughts on in-the-works stories appeared to “break the bond between reporters and editors in a fundamental way,” and noted that a “fundamental principle of journalism” is that those outside the newspaper aren’t given the option of deciding whether or not a story gets published.

All of which made perfect sense to me. And it begged the question: what was the *Tribune* thinking?

After the e-mail broke, the paper’s editor, Gerould Kern, announced the surveying – or, as he called it, the “market research project” – would immediately be stopped, and chalked it up to a “failure of communication” and a “breakdown in judgment.” He admitted that to “prematurely disseminate information about stories in progress compromises reporting.” (Well, *duh*.)

Kern said the project was a collaboration between the paper’s editorial and marketing departments. If that’s true, you’d think somebody – *anybody* – on the editorial side would have recognized this as a bad idea, and would have encouraged marketing to find another “research project.”

So, again: What were they thinking? I guess the answer is, they weren’t.

* * *

This past Sunday, the Hallmark Channel had an all-day marathon of *The Golden Girls*, as a tribute to Bea Arthur, who died the week before, at the age of 86. It was a nice salute from them, for a terrific actress.

When Arthur died, a lot of the discussion dealt with *Maude*, her groundbreaking sitcom from the 1970s. And while I fully appreciate the importance of the show – for example, *Maude* was the first primetime TV character to ever have an abortion – it was before my time, and aside from bits and pieces of a few reruns over the years (the series has never been rerun as frequently as Norman Lear’s other shows, like *All in the Family* or *The Jeffersons*), I never saw much of it. But *Golden Girls* was a different story. I grew up watching *Golden Girls*.

When I was a kid, I had a strict bedtime of 9 p.m. during the week – which is why I re-

member watching *The Cosby Show* and *Family Ties* but not *Cheers* – but that bedtime wasn’t in place on the weekends. So this meant I was able to watch *Golden Girls*, which aired Saturday nights at 9 p.m. (Yes, there actually did use to be original programming on network TV Saturday nights. Highly-rated original programming at that.) I’m not quite sure why; I’m sure many of the jokes, particularly the ones more sexual in nature, went flying right over my 10-year-old head. But still, I ate it up. And while some shows I enjoyed during my youth don’t hold up when I view them as an adult (sorry, *Who’s the Boss?*), I’ve caught *Golden Girls* repeats many times over the years, and I still find the show quite funny. The best sitcom ever made? No. But well-done, and certainly a strong showcase of Arthur’s talents.

While *Golden Girls* was an ensemble show, the star, in my mind, was always Arthur, whose character, Dorothy Zbornak, was the most realistic, most identifiable character on the show. (And perhaps others felt the same way; the cast and crew attempted to carry on after Arthur left in 1992, renaming the series *The Golden Palace*. The reworked show – which also starred a then-unknown Don Cheadle – lasted only a season.) And Arthur played her to the hilt. She was a master of deadpan comedy; no one delivered a sarcastic reply to a foolish statement quite like she did.

She could also accomplish a lot by doing very little. On the show, the director would often cut to Dorothy for a reaction shot whenever, for example, Rose would wrap up a cooky St. Olaf story, or Blanche would make an “I can’t believe they got away with that on network TV, especially in the ’80s” type of sexual comment. While some actors might have felt the need to roll their eyes, or reposition themselves in their chair to express the character’s discomfort with what had just been said, Arthur’s Dorothy would just stare at the person. No eyes bugging out, no jaws dropping; she’d just look at the person who said it, while the studio audience laughed. And Arthur knew exactly how long to hold the reaction before continuing with her lines.

Arthur deservedly won an Emmy for her work on *Golden Girls* (as did the other three women on the show). After *Golden Girls* ended, she did a couple of guest spots on various shows, but never starred in another one, nor did she, as far as I know, even attempt to. She didn’t need to. She’d already starred in two long-running, critically-acclaimed sitcoms, and ensured she’d leave behind quite the legacy of laughter. And she most certainly did. While, like I said, *Maude* reruns don’t really turn up much of anywhere anymore, *Golden Girls* repeats are shown several times a day, on Hallmark and also on We-TV. If you get either of these channels, you’d do well to check out an episode or two, and just sit back and laugh.

* * *

See you next week.

Marlborough School Board Considering Part-Time Superintendent

by Adam Benson

When Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo leaves the Marlborough School District this summer, he may leave a bigger void than some expected.

That's because, last week, the Board of Education (BOE) opted to begin its search for Menzo's replacement by advertising the position on a part-time basis.

"We can't kid ourselves to believe there is another Sal," BOE member Betty O'Brien said. "Because of what he has done and because of the economic situation we're in right now, I think the public would be outraged if we stayed full-time."

Though support for the idea was mixed – a preliminary straw poll among board members taken at last Thursday's meeting found two of its nine members opposed to reducing the job to part-time – Board of Education Chairwoman Maria Grove said the message coming from the district should be unified.

The district has already posted an ad on its website, with a May 22 application deadline, and the school board hopes to have a new superintendent in place by July 1.

Menzo, who has been at the helm of Marlborough's only school since 2004 – is leaving this summer to become superintendent of schools in Wallingford. His first day in that position is July 1.

As a result of more than \$330,000 in Board of Finance-mandated cuts to its proposed 2009-10 spending plan, the school board has already lowered the next superintendent's starting salary by \$15,000.

Services that have already been eliminated or on the chopping block include the district's summer reading program, funding for AHM Youth Services, purchasing of new materials like library books and technology supplies and staff reductions.

Shelling out more than \$100,000 a year for a full-time superintendent against the current economic conditions wouldn't have been fair to taxpayers in the community, some board members said.

"The dollar sign at this point is a very important aspect of our search," board member James Angelo said. "The job specifications are a moving target for what we want, and we have to balance what we're looking for with what's available out there and try to get the most we can for the money we're willing to spend."

The BOE voted to re-examine whether the district should have a full-time or part-time superintendent in two years, once the economy rebounds and officials get a chance to see how effective a part-time person can be.

But some on the school board worried whether a part-time superintendent would be able to handle the minutia of the job, and if he or she would take their role as a community liaison seriously.

"I don't want someone who is going to take this job but they're also thinking about their golf game the rest of the time," Corinne Chapelle said. "We've been spoiled, but I just think it's a top priority [to have a full-time superintendent], and it's just not something I'm willing to sacrifice."

But later in the meeting, Chapelle said she wouldn't "shut down" the option of a part-time person, if he or she were the right personality for the job.

Board of Education Chairwoman Maria Grove said while hiring a full-time superintendent might cost more up front, the investment could pay off down the line if the person followed in Menzo's footsteps.

"I think that we would spend more than we think we would be saving in the long run," she said. "Dr. Menzo has saved what he has cost."

BOE secretary Louise Concodello worried a part-time hire would put more of a strain on teachers and administrators across the district.

"I can't see how a part-time person can do everything [Menzo] does for us on a day-to-day basis," she said. "More work would be put on the principal and the assistant principal with all the things they already have to do. We have to look out for the children in our district, that's our charge."

Menzo became known through the district – and, board members said, around the state – for the number of responsibilities he took on during his tenure, including the development, implementation and maintenance of building use and scheduling system for weekend use, facilitating professional development opportunities, conducting administrative round tables with educators from neighboring schools and the RHAM schools and taking an active role in the development and leadership of strategic planning across all content areas.

But it was because of his advancements in

those areas that a part-time superintendent could be set up to succeed, board member Karen McKinney said.

"I don't believe a part-time person can't come in on the heels of somebody who has streamlined the budget and keep the ship headed in the direction we want to head in," she said. "We were very fortunate when we found the rising star, but we could go out there and find a full-time person who's not really ready to step up."

But several former school board members and current Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Principal Loraine Giannini petitioned the BOE to retain a full-time superintendent.

"I can see what happens when you have somebody in the building every day and willing to be a part of all decisions," Giannini said. "The bottom line is we will always do the job, but I do believe you are going to see a difference with a part-time person."

Joe Farrell, the BOE's chairman when Menzo was hired, worried officials were rushing the process to get somebody in place.

"I want you to make the right choice, not just the expedient choice. You appear to be making a financial decision to go part-time, because you're trying to save money," he told the board. "Hire for attitude, not just for some threshold issue. What you are left with then are people who are truly interested in leading the best elementary school in the state. At that point, the community will see that you did your job."

Colchester Resident Opens Boutique for Cancer Survivors

by Adam Benson

Dru Mitchell was able to turn a nightmare into a dream.

During a routine mammogram in 2006, doctors discovered a benign tumor on Mitchell's breast that indicated an increased risk of cancer.

With a strong family history that included the deaths of her aunt and grandmother from the disease, Mitchell knew first-hand the devastating changes cancer can usher into the lives of patients.

"I think it's always been something that's been close to me. It's kind of like a family business. Cancer has not been fair to our family," she said.

Though her tumor proved to be benign and subsequent biopsies have shown no indication she's carrying the illness, Mitchell viewed the experience as a call to action.

So on March 28, Mitchell opened The Pink Boutique, a unique shop tailored for the needs of women diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Although it's here for breast cancer patients, I want other women to know I have products for them," Mitchell said. "I just want to let people know this is a service in the area."

In fact, Mitchell said, her store is the only one of its kind in the state.

Flanked by co-workers she refers to as the "Pink Power Team" Mitchell said the Pink Boutique offers people living with a cancer a tranquil escape from the routine of hospital visits, anti-nausea medication and daily maintenance of the disease.

In addition to carrying a full supply of products including wig services, mastectomy garments, caps and scarves, vitamins and minerals, educational resources, radiation therapy lotions, educational resources and cancer awareness items, her shop also provides customized massages and a full-service salon with

cosmetologists trained to work with cancer patients.

Mitchell, who retired in February after 15 years at the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, brings a proven knowledge of the cancer lifestyle with her.

She worked for the past five years as office manager of the facility's radiation and cancer services center where she helped plan Relay for Life events and last summer was part of a team that received the prestigious Commission on Cancer's Outstanding Achievement Award – an honor Backus shares with only 67 other centers across the country.

"It is just a mission," Mitchell said of her store. "I started seeing a need for women. Women couldn't find their products."

As an added bonus, customers get full-service attention from Francesca, Mitchell's 8-month-old black poodle.

"She visits all the clients. She's like the little mascot of the building," Mitchell said. The dog was a gift to Mitchell from her daughter following a November biopsy.

"She's the best healing I ever could have had," Mitchell said.

In addition to her line of products and massage therapy offerings, Mitchell makes handmade jewelry for sale, with proceeds going back to the Pink Boutique Hardship Fund that provides financial help for women who can't afford goods at the store.

On June 14, Mitchell and her staff will take part in the Colchester Business Association's Tag Sale on the Green, offering massages to residents with proceeds going to the Hardship Fund.

Since opening her doors, Mitchell said business has been "busy and steady," but she views the shop as a labor of love.

"This team is willing and wanting to help as



Dru Mitchell recently opened The Pink Boutique, a unique shop tailored to the needs of breast cancer survivors. She's shown here with her dog, Francesca.

much as we possibly can," Mitchell said. "I'm happy and honored to give them (cancer patients) a little piece to help them through their journey."

The Pink Boutique is located at 11 Hayward Ave., and is open Monday through Wednesday

from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Fridays from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

For more information, call 367-1745. Private appointments are available upon request.

Election Day Leads to New Faces on Andover Boards

by Sarah McCoy

Changes are coming to Andover boards and commissions, after the town held its municipal elections on Monday.

On the Board of Finance (BOF), the three Republican candidates – Georgette Conrad, Alicia Lee and Jeanne Gagnon – garnered the most votes, but, due to the town charter’s minority representation regulation, only Conrad and Lee will serve. Conrad received the most votes, 308, Lee finished second with 284 and Gagnon had 277.

James McCann led the Democrats with 224 votes and will also serve on the finance board.

Prior to the election, there had been a 5-2 split on the BOF with the Republicans holding the majority. Democratic Town Committee Chair Don Keener said he had hoped his party could gain a seat at Monday’s election but, instead, the split will remain the same at 5-2.

Visibly absent from the top vote-getters is Democrat Marie Burbank. Burbank, the lone incumbent seeking reelection, lost her bid for a second term, receiving just 196 votes. “I was certainly surprised but I didn’t really do a lot of campaigning,” she said Wednesday. “I’m, of course, kicking myself now.”

At last year’s annual town meeting, some residents commented that they felt Burbank’s position on the BOF was a conflict of interest given that her husband is Andover’s First Selectman Bob Burbank. But she didn’t seem to think her loss was due strictly to who her husband was.

“I don’t know how much family relations played a part in it,” she said. “One of the individuals that was elected – Alicia Lee – is the daughter of our Town Clerk.”

Marie Burbank said she still has an interest in serving the town in some capacity but will evaluate what that position is. She will continue to serve as chair of the Ordinance Committee.

On the Board of Education, current incumbent Danny Holtsclaw was elected to serve another term. He will be joined on the board

by Christina Tamburro and Whitney Covell.

Keener, who finished fourth, lost his bid to serve on the school board.

Republicans Leigh Ann Hutchinson and Robert Russell were elected to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). Hutchinson currently serves on the commission, while Russell was previously an alternate.

Democrat Eric Anderson was elected to serve as the PZC alternate.

Republican Michael Palazzi and Democrat Walt Weir were elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals, while Republican Edward Nagy was elected to serve as the board’s alternate member.

Current Fire Commission members Barry Hansen and Peter Yeomans, both Democrats, won their reelection bids. They ran unopposed.

Conrad, who serves as the secretary for the Republican Town Committee, said she went into Monday thinking that her party would fare well. “We did better than I expected,” she said.

Conrad credited the success to campaigning efforts as well as to a desire for change by residents. “We had a slate of candidates that balances the ideas of long-time residents as well as younger voices,” she said.

Keener said he wasn’t too disappointed in the results. “The split on the Board of Finance remains the same. The split on the Board of Education remains the same,” he said. “We would have liked to pick up a seat here or there but, unfortunately, that didn’t happen.

“When the economy gets tight some people think that Republicans will spend less,” he said. “That’s not always the case but maybe that thinking influenced people.”

Only 505 individuals came to vote on Monday. That represents a 22.5 percent voter turnout rate.

The election results will take effect with the start of the next fiscal year on July 1. The current members of the boards and commissions will remain until then.

Paper Ballot for Next Week’s Budget Vote in Marlborough?

by Adam Benson

On Monday, May 11, Marlborough voters finally get their chance to vote on a proposed \$20.97 million 2009-10 budget that includes deep cuts to the school district and a 3.56 percent tax increase.

But at least two Board of Finance (BOF) members hope to see the process conducted via paper ballots, in an effort to avoid a potentially volatile and confrontational atmosphere.

Against the backdrop of a mangled economy and with a 100 percent rise in unemployment across town, this year’s budget cycle proved to be one of the most difficult ever for town officials.

Emotions have spilled out repeatedly over the course of public hearings and budget workshops, to the point where some people feel intimidated to cast a vote either for or against the budget, BOF member Pasquale Amodeo said.

“I don’t think people feel comfortable standing up in that atmosphere. I can tell you without hesitation that people have expressed that feeling to me,” he said.

Last Saturday, Amodeo began circulating a petition asking First Selectman Bill Black to allow for votes by paper ballot at the May 11 Town Meeting. State law requires a minimum of 200 signatures to ensure that will happen, and Amodeo said Wednesday he was confident he’d deliver.

“I’ve gotten very little push-back in terms of signing it,” Amodeo said. “My plan is to hand it in with a buffer.” He said he planned to hand the petition in by the end of the day Thursday, after press time.

Last week, nearly 150 people attended a BOF-hosted public hearing, where they were given details on the budget officials are asking voters to approve. In addition to the tax increase, the finance board voted to slice more than \$256,000 from the school district’s operating costs as officials look for ways to balance a debt load set to increase by 13.6 percent.

That move came after a concerted effort by the Board of Education to keep its cuts at \$208,000 – a level district educators said would prevent any reductions in services.

Tensions also built between board members and some residents who felt the proposed tax increase and mounting debt load would price

homeowners out of town.

At last week’s public hearing, one resident accused First Selectman Bill Black of “spending money like a drunken sailor.” That drew a heated response from Selectman Joseph La Bella, who called the comment “completely out of line.”

With that kind of climate, Amodeo said more residents would be encouraged to participate in the process with the pressure of a public vote removed.

“I’m disappointed we even have to do this. There’s an immaturity level here that’s just shocking to me in a small town,” Amodeo said. “I don’t ever remember this kind of behavior.”

Though the petition drive was solely Amodeo’s idea, it has the support of his colleague, BOF chairwoman Catherine Gaudinski.

“I think it’s a good step to take, and I do think because of the rancor, that people should have the ability to vote their conscience,” she said. “I think it would be helpful for the process.”

Amodeo said it was important for the BOF to present its proposed budget with a unified voice – and suggested several of his colleagues who were opposed to some of the cuts should have publicly supported the board’s stance.

“Once a decision is made, you ought to get on the team and play to win,” he said. “Vote against it personally, but I think you’ve got to be a good member of the team and support it.”

Amodeo said the BOF first proposed the idea of a paper ballot vote to Black several weeks ago.

“When we brought it up, he wasn’t as committal as we would have liked him to be because to me, it’s complete no-brainer,” he said. “Given the behavior, I can’t imagine why it would be a controversial thing.”

Amodeo said he’s hopeful voters on Monday will accept the proposed spending plan and that the community can begin patching up bruised egos and move on with other town business.

“I think we all need to get back to life and not keep fighting over this,” he said.

Town Meeting is slated for 7 p.m. Monday in the cafeteria at Elmer Theines-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Rd.

Andover Voters Send \$10.41 Million Budget to Referendum

by Sarah McCoy

Board of Selectmen member Elaine Buchardt sat back and let out a sigh of relief. First Selectman Bob Burbank sat silently. Board of Finance Vice-chair Cathy Desrosiers said it was, “the fastest Town Meeting in my 26 years in town.”

On Wednesday night, 56 voters gathered for the annual town meeting, to vote on whether to move the proposed \$10.41 million 2009-10 budget to referendum later this month. The motion to move the proposal forward passed by a 45-11 vote. The townwide referendum on the proposed budget will be held Tuesday, May 19, with voting taking place from 6 a.m.- 8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

The proposed budget represents an overall increase of 1.35 percent in spending. This includes a 2.02 percent increase in Andover’s portion of the RHAM schools budget, which passed in all three RHAM towns at Tuesday’s referendum. It also includes a 1.92 percent increase for the local Board of Education budget. Town government spending is down over \$26,000 from the current year’s budget.

If the budget passes at referendum, the town’s mill rate will be 27.6. This is the same as was billed to residents last year; however, that mill rate was set prior to the town having approved

a budget. Once the budget was approved by voters the resulting mill rate moved to 27.3. The .3 mill difference yielded an \$83,000 over collection in taxes which is being applied to the 2009-10 fiscal year budget.

Both Burbank and Desrosiers said they are confident that this budget will pass on its first go around, something that hasn’t happened in Andover in four years.

Burbank said that, with the tax bills remaining flat, the repayment of last year’s over-taxation being applied to this year’s budget and the “reasonable” budget increases from RHAM and AES, voters saw “what they wanted to see in their budget.”

He added, “The town employees deserve accolades for not taking a raise this year. Department heads deserve credit for cutting their budget wherever possible.”

Wednesday night’s town meeting lasted under a half hour, as only one clarifying question was asked and no residents made a motion to cut the budget further. “My hope is that tonight was a forecast of the upcoming referendum,” Desrosiers said.

Copies of the proposed 2009-10 budget are available from the Town Clerk at the Andover Town Office Building.

Hebron Voters Approve \$33.16 Million Budget

by Sarah McCoy

While they didn’t exactly turn out in droves, Hebron voters did head to the polls Tuesday, to support the town’s proposed 2009-10 budget.

The \$33.16 million budget passed by a vote of 712-466. The budget includes a 1.90 percent increase to the Hebron portion of the RHAM schools budget (which also passed Tuesday, at a tri-town referendum), a 1.96 percent increase to the local Board of Education budget and a .47 percent reduction to the town government budget.

The Capital Improvements Plan budget also passed Tuesday, by a vote of 672-507.

Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel, who said he was unsure how the budget would fare at referendum, said the key to success was “the amount of work done by the Board of Finance, the selectmen and department heads. It was an open process that, for the most part, allowed people to feel comfortable supporting”

Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney said he was, “ecstatic” to hear that the budget passed. “It was a united budget,” he said. “We worked hard to get down to a minimal increase.”

Tierney added that he felt the sacrifice made by town employees to take furlough days next year sent a message to voters that the town was doing the best they could to control spending.

With the budget passed, Hazel and Tierney both said the focus for town officials will now turn to closing the books on the current fiscal year. The town is currently on track to end the year within budget. “We’ll move forward with caution and frugality while affording residents the quality services that they expect,” Tierney said.

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said she was extremely “relieved” by Tuesday’s results. With a reduction in spending for the town government, Cruz had feared that the BOE would have been the area to be reduced if the budget didn’t pass on Tuesday. “I don’t know where we would have looked,” she said.

Fortunately for Cruz, she can focus her energies elsewhere. “Now it’s time to move on with our work,” she said. “The budget is always a bit of a distraction but, honestly, I don’t think things could have gone any better.”

On Tuesday 1,183 cast their ballot at the referendum. This is a turnout of just under 19 percent.

The Board of Finance has a regularly scheduled meeting on May 28. Hazel said it is likely that the BOF members will set the town’s mill rate at that meeting. Hazel wouldn’t estimate what that mill rate might be without discussing the matter with the entire board.

Hebron Charter Revision Commission Shoots Down Bifurcation Idea

by Adam Benson

Bifurcation looks to be off the table in Hebron.

Satisfied that the town's budget process is transparent enough – and worried about taking authority away from its governing boards – the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) voted 4-2 Wednesday night to quash the idea.

“If it ain't broke, we don't need to fix it,” CRC chairwoman Karen Strid said. “But there is always room for improvement.”

Commission members David Morrison and Bob Zamojcin were in favor of bifurcation, but Peter Casarella, Harvey Desruisseaux, Stan Marchut and Strid all were against it. Committee member Donna Lanza abstained from the vote.

But the body did agree Wednesday to forward to the Board of Selectmen suggestions about how the selectmen can further increase the amount of information that gets to residents around budget time, including the modification of its newspaper ads to reflect annual budget percentages or even broadcasting meetings online.

If approved by town officials, bifurcation would give residents the chance to cast separate votes for the local school district and local government operating budgets, rather than having the former appear as a line item on the overall plan.

Proponents of bifurcation said the process gives voters more information about how money is spent by both entities and forces officials to give a clear accounting of where they plan to allocate dollars from year to year.

But at Wednesday's meeting, representatives from several town and area boards pleaded with the commission to keep the town's budget vote intact.

“My position is that I don't support bifurcation, and it really stems from my feeling that we're a full community, and it sets up a process of special interest thinking and special interest voting,” said Board of Education member Mark Allaben.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Mark Stuart agreed.

“This process as it exists today is wide open. It's very transparent, but it's up to taxpayers and voters to be informed,” he said. “If a voter has not bothered to attend the public meetings, read the public record, then they're still going to be uninformed regardless of how many times you take portions of the budget and break it out into separate questions. If we put another number on the budget, it's just a number. There's no clarity with it.”

Towns gained authority to bifurcate their budget votes in 2003, following a state Supreme Court ruling. Since then, nearly 70 municipali-

ties have taken advantage of the option, according to information presented at Wednesday's meeting.

But, Morrison said, the concept is an inexact science, as towns have the ability to decide which parts of the budget should be separated. He said he looked at the charters of Clinton, Killingly, New Milford and Windham – all of which have different processes in place.

Still, Morrison said he liked the idea of bifurcating Hebron's budget because it provides the average taxpayer with an extra set of tools when it comes to voting on a spending plan.

“People just want to see what it costs to run town government,” he said. “We who have served for decades in this town know how the process works. But if we hadn't gone to decades of meetings, we wouldn't know one board from another.”

Hebron began exploring the possibility of bifurcating its budget early last month, after resident Richard Gale requested “the opportunity to view the Board of Education budget figure on the ballot,” according to the CRC's April 1 minutes.

Gale then reached out to five members of the commission asking them to look into bifurcating the town's budget.

Gale said in a letter read into the minutes Wednesday that he was concerned about the

Board of Education keeping its budget “hidden from taxpayers” because it's currently represented as a line item in the town government spending plan.

Gale had also presented a non-binding petition signed by 30 people in favor of bifurcation.

Board of Finance member Donna Ferree expressed concern about the issue because she feared it would drive a wedge between members of the community and create unnecessary strife.

“Everybody is working together and working to do what's best for the community and come to a bottom line that we can feel good about presenting,” she said. “To introduce an issue that will put another split in this town, I don't want to go back there.”

Marchut agreed the town's budget process as it stands now is working, and worried bifurcating it would give a large voting bloc the ability to delay timely passage of future spending plans.

“It's an issue of giving the taxpayer an additional hammer,” he said. “It was never the intention of the Supreme Court to give taxpayers ultimate authority over the budget process. It's hard for me to believe the real issue for these people is transparency, because I find the process to be quite transparent.”

Budget, Bonding Projects to be Decided Next Week in Colchester

by Adam Benson

Colchester residents this Tuesday will decide whether to adopt a proposed \$48.35 million budget for next year that includes deep cuts to both school and town side spending after both budgets were unanimously moved forward to referendum following the May 5 town meeting.

And while at the polls, voters also have the chance to determine the fate of four bonding initiatives that would free up cash for the purchase of two new vehicles and allow the Bacon Academy track to undergo major renovations.

In all, the four capital spending questions total \$2.3 million, with payments set to begin in the 2010-11 budget cycle. Here's a closer look at what each item would bring to the town, according to information provided by school and municipal leaders over the course of their budget workshops.

Bacon Academy Track: Probably the most-talked-about referendum question asks whether taxpayers wish to authorize \$680,000 for the reconstruction of Bacon Academy's track. Throughout the Board of Education's budget process, financing replacement of the track was a heavily-discussed issue among board members and parents. And at Colchester's public budget hearings earlier this month, opinion on whether the structure should be paid for in the current economic climate was decidedly mixed.

But town and school district leaders say bringing the surface up to standards will provide the community with a significant economic

benefit over the long run.

Each year, between 70 and 80 athletes on the Bacon Academy Track and Field team use the facility, along with nearly 95 middle school athletes, 25 Special Olympics track and field competitors and 250 physical education students.

Officials estimate about 1,000 community members use the track on an annual basis. Before 2005, the track was patched annually by Colchester's Parks and Recreation department staff with major repairs contracted out every five years.

Over the winter of 2005, the boards of education, finance and selectmen met to discuss the site's long-term viability but spent nearly \$18,000 more on repairs through 2008.

Now, officials think their best bet is to completely resurface the track, giving it a 20-year life span and a new moisture-resistant barrier.

However, several opponents of the idea point to the track's location adjacent to existing wetlands as a reason not to spend so much refurbishing it.

“I'm concerned that the budget will not pass with this one bonding issue, and I just don't think we can afford it,” Colchester resident Steve Schuster said at the May 5 town meeting. He made a motion to remove the item from the referendum ballot, but it died for lack of a second.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Cohen, Public Works Director Mark Decker, Superin-

tendent of Schools Karen Loiseau and Colchester Town Engineer Sal Tassone have all expressed confidence that the track's location is suitable with the upgrades in tow.

Ambulance: Another question asks whether taxpayers wish to spend \$280,000 for the acquisition of a new Type 1 ambulance. The town's current ambulance has been on the road since 2000 and travels an average of 17 miles to one of nine regional medical facilities each time it responds to a call. The medium duty vehicle is capable of transporting up to two patients at a time and is staffed by a driver, a lead emergency medical technician, a medical response technician and a paramedic to provide advanced life support.

Since 1994, when the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department (CHVFD) assumed responsibility for medical transport, there has been a 68 percent increase in emergency medical responses over that time. In 2008, CHVFD responded to 1,865 calls for emergency aid, of which 1,180 were medical emergencies.

Ambulance services in Colchester generate roughly \$450,000 a year to the town's general fund, town officials say. The new vehicle would phase out the town's 2000 model and is expected to have a 10-year life span.

Fire Engine: The next question deals with \$760,000 for the acquisition of a new fire engine tank. Firefighters say the new truck would have a 20-year life span to replace the 1982 American LaFrance fire attack engine currently

in use by the department. The engine – which serves as the primary fire protection engine in the Westchester area – also serves as a water supply apparatus for the community.

During its 27-year run with the current truck, CHVFD has seen a 107 percent increase in fire, rescue and hazardous material responses.

The current model has no onboard firefighting foam system, and a water tank capacity of 1,000 gallons and a pump capacity of 1,250 gallons per minute. The truck's open cab design also exposes firefighters to the elements during responses, town officials say.

In 2008, the CHVFD responded to 1,865 fire, medical, auto accidents and other rescue emergencies including six structure fires, 21 brush fires, 15 vehicle fires and 35 hazardous material responses. As of April 22, the department has responded to 587 emergency calls, while the Westchester District has responded to 159 calls.

Road Improvements: Also on the ballot is \$560,000 for road improvements. The repairs would allow for the reconstruction of Chestnut Hill, Linwood Cemetery, Clark Lane and the lower intersection of Gill and Wall streets. They would also provide structural enhancements along Sashel Lane, Jurach Road and the first 1,200 feet of Christy Lane as well as pay for the construction of a drainage outfall and slope work for Marvin Road.

A sample ballot is available on the town website, www.colchesterct.gov.

Andover Police News

5/2-Douglas Francis, 44, of Hartford, was charged with driving under the influence and improper parking, State Police said.

5/3-Christopher Sovers, 21, of 19 Parker Bridge Rd., was charged with third-degree assault, State Police said.

5/3-Gerald Wilcox, 21, of 19 Parker Bridge Rd., was charged with third-degree assault, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

5/3-Lisa Richards, 20, of 9 Daniel St., East Hampton, was charged with failure to wear a seatbelt, driving while intoxicated, possession of alcohol by a minor and failure to keep right, State Police said.

Police News

4/20-Ivan Caballero, 32, of Willimantic, was charged with misuse of license plates, speeding and operating a motor vehicle without a license, State Police said.

4/24 - Teresa Boucher, 24, of Hampton, was charged with failure to drive upon the right, driving while intoxicated and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, State Police said.

4/25 - James Oechsler, 20, of Lebanon, was charged with driving under the influence, possession of alcohol by a minor and traveling too fast for conditions, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

4/28-Michael Desfosses, 39, of 175 Borte Rd., was charged with driving while intoxicated, State Police said.

4/29-Patrick Small, 54, of 435 Old Hebron Rd., was charged with failure to drive right and driving while intoxicated, State Police said.

5/1-Kevin Franck, 39, of New Britain, was charged with two counts of fifth-degree larceny and two counts of sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

5/2-Wayne Clark, 44, of East Hartford, was charged with criminal impersonation, operating a motor vehicle without a license and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

5/2-Richard Martinez, 18, of 73 Nelkin Rd., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and breach of peace, State Police said.

5/5-Michael Gokey, 18, of 19 Bell Court, Portland, was charged with third-degree burglary and larceny, State Police said.

Portland Police News

4/25 — Arielle Zaczyk, 19, of 186 Market St., New Britain, was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, Portland Police said.

4/25 — Edgar Brito, 29, of 894 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, was charged with simple trespass, police said.

5/3 — Shana Knowlton, 23, of 100 Ward St., Wallingford, was charged with criminal violation of protective order and breach of peace, police said.

5/3 — Jerame Henderson, 23, of 173 Airline Ave., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

East Hampton Voters Reject \$37.43 Million Budget

by Michael McCoy

It's back to the drawing board for the Board of Finance, after the proposed \$37.43 million 2009-10 town budget got shot down by voters at referendum Tuesday.

The spending plan failed by a vote of 775-671 (including 10 absentee votes, which were 7-3 against the budget).

The proposed budget represented a \$486,590 (or 1.32 percent) increase in spending over the current year. It also called for a .38 mill increase, which represented a tax hike of 1.6 percent.

One thousand four hundred and forty-six taxpayers showed up at the polls, for a 17 percent voter turnout. Though this exceeds last year's 15.63 percent turnout, no one seemed happy with it.

"I'm disappointed at the turnout," Town Council Chair Melissa Engel said, but added she was "not surprised" by the outcome.

Engel had predicted the referendum would fail, but when asked what it would take to pass a budget at this point, she seemed at a rare loss for words. "I really don't know," she said, wondering whether a 0.25 mill increase or zero-mill increase would be necessary. In any event, during a brief Board of Finance meeting, which directly followed the tally in the gym, Engel told finance board members, "You guys need to seriously think about what it's going to be at now, because .38 is too high."

Even more pointedly, Engel announced, "As we agreed upon in the past, the hit will come out of the Board of Education."

Council member Scott Minnick, who also

seemed discouraged by the turnout, said he too was "not surprised" concerning the result. He said an insufficient amount of students' parents came out, a constituency he felt would have been necessary to pass this budget.

Minnick also said he "didn't agree with the way the process went down," alluding to a plea he and fellow council member Sue Weintraub made during the council's April 14 meeting try to have vendor costs and a delay a vote. "Our proposals were met with disgust and rude comments" by the other council members, he said. "We were breaking their rubber-stamping party."

With Tuesday's budget defeat, Minnick said, the Town Council and Board of Finance are "just going to cut more." He criticized the idea of following standard practice, which he said was just making cuts all around, primarily to education. "It doesn't have to be that way," he said, figuring there were more creative ways to reduce the bottom line.

And, he added, "Who's to say the vote today was because it was too high?"

Councilman Tom Cordeiro, who criticized Weintraub and Minnick's 11th-hour notion at that April 14 meeting, said that looking at the vendor costs was not a bad idea overall, and figured the town should "leave no stone unturned." However, he said any savings realized through vendor savings would be far from sufficient.

"The bulk is going to have to come from education unfortunately," Cordeiro said.

As for the 'no' vote, he said, "The complacency of the electorate is what did us in," adding, "They should not be shocked by what happens next." (Cordeiro said he voted just after 7 a.m. and was the only voter present at the time.)

Last week, Engel said she hoped the vote would be clear one way or the other. But, Cordeiro said, "I don't think it told us anything; it just tells us no one came out. I don't think this was a mandate."

Cordeiro admitted that the budget may have been insufficiently publicized, and that there was not much of a back and forth to speak of, as far as letters to the editor go. "We weren't lighting up the newspaper with battles," he commented, instead, assessing, "It was actually a cordial process."

Board of Education (BOE) member Don Coolican said it's best to pass a budget as early as possible, calling the rejection "a disappointment, no matter what the bottom line was."

Coolican said he did not have a clear sense of what the public felt of the education budget, but, given the decrease in the town operating budget, said it was inevitable that the BOE would be hit by future cuts. He only wondered whether this would manifest itself by the board "dropping the golf team or getting rid of a teacher." He mentioned the elimination of support staff, high school students paying to park and athletics converting to pay-to-play as other options.

Acknowledging that some people want the budget lower, he said, "I can understand that;

I'm retired. I'm on a fixed income."

Coolican added that the vote may have amounted to a "taxpayers' rebellion."

BOE Chairman Michael Vasquenza said he was "extremely disappointed and discouraged" both at the budget rejection and the voter turnout.

While no council members or Board of Finance members would offer any specifics in regards to possible future cuts, Vasquenza said he heard speculation that the BOF would cut \$200,000 more from the BOE. Operating under that assumption, Vasquenza said, "Nothing's off limits," including staffing, programs, athletics or transportation. Nevertheless, he vowed to do everything possible to keep cuts from affecting "the everyday lives of the kids."

"Frankly, the public spoke, and the budget got defeated," summed up the chairman.

Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe said he was not surprised, calling the vote "a sign of the times."

"Certainly, there are those that would like a 0 [mill] increase budget," he acknowledged, but reminded residents that given the decrease in revenue, such a budget would be an effective decrease

The Board of Finance will meet Tuesday, May 12, at 5:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex, 20 East High St., to put forth a second budget proposal. Immediately afterward, the Town Council will discuss and possible vote forth a budget during its regular meeting that same day at 6:30 p.m., in the town hall meeting room.

Portland's O'Rourke to be Charged in Woman's Death?

by Michael McCoy

State Representative Jim O'Rourke could be charged in connection to the January death of a Rocky Hill woman, according to published reports.

According to reports, Rocky Hill Police are looking to charge O'Rourke with negligent homicide, concerning the death of Carol Jean Sinisgalli.

Sinisgalli, 41, a Rocky Hill resident, was found dead by a cross country skier on January 22. The state medical examiner deemed the caused of death hypothermia, and police expected no foul play. Within days, O'Rourke was questioned because he was allegedly one of the last people to see Sinisgalli alive.

Reports said Sinisgalli was an acquaintance of O'Rourke's who jumped into his car as he was leaving O'Leary's Digger Macduff's Tavern, a Cromwell bar.

Reports said Sinisgalli had no coat or shoes, and that she leaped out of the car about a half-mile from her home.

Last week, published reports surfaced saying Rocky Hill police are looking to charge

O'Rourke with negligent homicide, and that the arrest was merely pending approval by the state's attorney's office in New Britain.

Last Friday, following the report, State House Speaker Christopher Donovan suspended O'Rourke from his post as Deputy House Speaker last week.

Reached by phone Wednesday, an aide to O'Rourke said the legislator was in session.

As of press time, neither O'Rourke nor his attorney, John Donovan, returned calls for comment. New Britain prosecutors also did not return calls. Reached Thursday, Rocky Hill Police Lieutenant John Herbst said, "We have sent the investigation materials to the court. [The court has] asked us not to comment." He declined to answer any other questions on the matter.

O'Rourke, 45, has lived in Cromwell for 20 years, and served in the General Assembly for the last 17. His constituency is the 32nd District, which includes Cromwell, Portland and a portion of Middletown.

East Hampton Police News

4/19 — Guy Paladino, 74, of 100 Grand St., Middletown, and Chun O. Chan, 67, of 2 Serafin Terr., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Route 16, 125 feet west of Gulf Road, East Hampton Police said, and Paladino was issued a ticket for making an illegal U-turn.

4/24 — A 17-year-old was issued a ticket for traveling too fast and failure to obey a control signal, police said.

4/24 — A 17-year-old was issued a ticket for failure to ride to the far right and failure to obey a stop sign, police said, adding that he was also arrested for interfering with a police officer and a minor possession tobacco.

4/25 — Evan S. Ogren, 20, of 7 North Maple St., was arrested for second-degree threatening and interfering with a police officer, police said.

4/26 — Kristen Ann Chapone, 19, of 4 Depot Hill Rd., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said. Chapone was also arrested on a court-issued warrant for sixth-degree larceny and failure to appear, police added.

4/27 — Kevin R. Paradis, 49, of 18 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for

evading responsibility, operating under the influence of alcohol, first-degree reckless endangerment and second-degree assault with a motor vehicle, police said. Paradis was also arrested for possession of marijuana, police added.

4/27 — Alex Niver, 24, of 39 Old Middletown Ave., was issued a ticket for failure to drive right, police said.

4/29 — Marshall K. Allen, 20, of 135 Ballahack Rd., East Haddam, was arrested for camping in a non-designated area after park hours and possession of marijuana, police said.

4/29 — Ashley Schnagel, 19, of 29 West High St., and Owen Potter, 21, same address, were issued tickets for camping in a non-designated area after park hours, police said.

4/29 — Andrew Bonertz, 19, of 100 Colchester Ave., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree burglary, third-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny, police said.

4/30 — Herbert Sanchez, 52, of 85 Wopowog Rd., was arrested for drinking alcohol while operating a motor vehicle, police said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Donna Marcy Cerniglia

Donna Marcy Cerniglia, 40, of Colchester, wife of Vincent, passed away Saturday, May 2, at the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, after a brief battle with cancer. Born May 23, 1968 in Southington she was a daughter of Donald M. and the late Ethel Murray (Mann) Messmer.



She was married to Vincent Cerniglia on Feb. 28, 2005. Donna worked as a salon manager at JC Penny for 21 years. Her hobbies included knitting, crocheting and needlepoint. Donna was a gregarious person, loving wife, mother, and friend who had a wonderful smile. Balloons were a favorite of Donna's ever since she was a young girl and she never lost her love for them. Being a doll lover she was a member of the Madame Alexander Doll Club.

Including her husband and father she is survived by a daughter, Krystal Marissa Lundberg of Colchester, two sisters, Dawne Fritz of Old Lyme and Lindy Kwasowski of New Britain, grandmother Lillian Mann of Vermont and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by her mom in 2000.

Friends called Tuesday, May 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 6, at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 499 Town St., East Haddam. Burial will follow in the First Church Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Patricia Ann Gould

Patricia Ann (Leone) Gould, 57, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, May 4, at Hartford Hospital after a long illness. She was the beloved wife of William "Bill" H. Gould, Jr. Born in New Britain on Oct. 30, 1951, she was the daughter of Angelo Leone and Beatrice (Costanzo) Leone Dagata.

She was a 1969 graduate of New Britain High School and received both her BA and master's degrees in education from CCSU. For the past 10 years Pat taught at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in their Cancer Center, and has served as the director for religious education at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough for 15 years. She loved life and her family meant everything to her. She and Bill loved to travel.

Besides her husband of 35 years, she is survived by her parents, Angelo in New Britain and her mother Beatrice and her husband Anthony Dagata of Berlin; her two children, Kristofer Gould of Marlborough and Shannon Gould of Tampa, FL; and her sister Constance Buxton of Berlin. She also leaves her uncle, Peter Costanzo, and three aunts, Jeannette Costanzo, Rosemary Sisti and her husband Tony, and Lucy Inkel. Pat also leaves her in-laws, William and Alma Gould of New Britain, brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dale and Regina Gould, also of New Britain, and many friends and coworkers.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held today, Friday, May 8, at 10 a.m., at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Everyone is asked to go directly to church Friday morning. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were Thursday, May 7, from 4-8 p.m., at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Pat's name may be made to the School on Wheels Program, c/o the CCMC Foundation, 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

To leave an online tribute or condolence, visit www.mem.com.

Marlborough

Kip B. Evans

Kip B. Evans, 52, of Marlborough, husband of Sarah (Scudder) Evans, died Wednesday, April 29, at home. Born May 15, 1956 in Cape May Court House, NJ, son of Elizabeth (Pedrick) Evans of Cape May Court House, NJ and the late Clarence R. Evans. He had lived in Marlborough since 1985.

Kip was an engineer at APCOM Power and Northern Telecom. He was a graduate Florida Institute of Technology and received his MBA from the University of Hartford. Kip was an active and longtime member of the Marlborough Youth Athletic League, and member and past director of the Marlborough Elementary Child Care Association.

Kip was an avid sailor, enjoyed racing "Magic" and summer cruising with his family. He was a bird enthusiast, a devoted viewer of the Weather Channel and recently took up photography. He was the webmaster for RHAM High School football and lacrosse teams and his pictures are posted on the websites. He loved vintage cars with a particular interest in '69 Mustangs.

Besides his wife and mother he is survived by a son, Scudder J. Evans and a daughter, Bree A. Evans, both of Marlborough; a sister, Cheryl D. Boehme of Stuart, FL; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, David A. and Nancy S. Scudder of West Hartford; a brother-in-law, Timothy T. Scudder of Stamford; a sister-in-law and her husband, Linda and Jack Casey of New Hartford; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Monday, May 4, in the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., Marlborough. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Family and friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, Sunday, May 3.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Marlborough Youth Athletic League, P.O. Box 124, Marlborough, or the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 237, or to the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

Portland

Lynne N. (Hoisington) Haddad

Lynne N. (Hoisington) Haddad, 77, of Portland, beloved wife of Adeb S. Haddad for 55 years, passed away peacefully Saturday, May 2, surrounded by her family after a long battle with multiple myeloma. Born in Manchester, NH, on April 29, 1932, she was the daughter of the late Elver and Georgia (Boles) Hoisington.

Lynne was a paraprofessional and a secretary at Portland Middle School for 28 years, and loved both the children and the people she worked with. Her close friends, Mickey, Faye and Ginger, affectionately called her "pooh," and they could always be heard sharing a laugh. Her best friend and sister-in-law, Jeannette Fitts will surely miss their baking, casino trips and golf outings. Lynne's favorite pastimes included spending time at the Cape and in Arizona, and cheering on her beloved UConn Huskies and Boston Red Sox.

Besides the love of her life, Adeb, Lynne is survived by her three daughters, Sharon Roeder and her husband, Keith, of Berlin; Vicki Bernard, of Houlton, ME; Christine Manning and her husband, Thomas, of Portland; and her son, Scott Haddad, of Portland. "Situ" was loved by her grandchildren, Ryan, Lucas, Valerie, and Victoria Bernard, Nicholas and Lindsey Roeder, and Taryn, Logan and Hayden Manning. She is also survived by her sisters, Gwen Brooks and her husband, George, of Manchester, Katie Clemson of Enfield, April Deane and her husband, James, of Nantucket; sister-in-law, Faye Hoisington of Andover; brother-in-law Enrico Fiano, and many loving nieces, nephews, and their families.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her siblings, Joan Fiano and Stewart Hoisington.

Lynne's family would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Miklos Fogarasi and the staff at the Middlesex Cancer Center for their compassionate treatment over the past five years.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 6, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 381 Main St., Middletown, with the Rev. Margaret H. Minnick officiating. Interment followed in the Swedish Cemetery on High Street in Portland. Relatives and friends called Tuesday, 5-8 p.m., at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Lynne's memory to the Church of the Holy Trinity, 381 Main St., Middletown, CT 06457 or the Middlesex Cancer Center, 536 Saybrook Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Andover

Frances Nancy Gaudino

Frances Nancy Gaudino, 83, of Andover, the wife of John J. Gaudino died Monday, May 4, at her home. Born in Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Frank and Helen Wyberski.

She is survived by her children, Kathleen Giannelli and her husband Michael F. Giannelli of Southington, Janice Proll of Andover and Richard J. Gaudino; her grandchildren Kara Giammatteo and her husband Tim, Michael J. Giannelli and his wife Julie, Jason Giannelli and his wife Meghan, Kyla Giannelli, Dennis Proll, John Gaudino, Jared Gaudino, and Justin Gaudino and eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Shirley Buyak of Manchester and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son-in-law, Dennis Proll.

Funeral service was today, Friday, May 8, at 9:15 a.m., from the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. James Church, 896 Main St., Manchester, followed by burial in St. James Cemetery. Family and friends called at the funeral home Thursday evening, May 7.

Memorial contributions may be made to VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Drive, Mansfield Center, CT 06250.

For online condolences, visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Julian Charles Harper

Julian Charles Harper of Marlborough, son of Charles and Juanita Harper, was born Aug. 6, 1974 in Hartford. He left this life and ascended into heaven on Tuesday, April 28.

Loving memories are left in the hearts of all those he touched: his parents, Charles and Juanita Harper of Marlborough; grandmother, Gladys Sewell of Pittsburgh, PA; aunts, uncles and a host of other relatives, extended family and friends.

A wake and funeral services were held Monday, May 4, at the Metropolitan AME Zion Church, 2051 Main St., Hartford, CT.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Metropolitan AME Zion Church Building Fund, 2051 Main St., Hartford, CT 06120.

East Hampton

Jessica Lynn Robinson

Jessica Lynn (Jeffers) Robinson, 27, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Douglas Robinson, died Sunday, May 3, at her home.

Born Jan. 26, 1982 in Middletown, she was the daughter of Mark Jeffers and Claudia (Cameron) Stickler. Jessica was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and was the manager of the Food Bag Convenience Store and Gas Station on Main Street in East Hampton, where she had worked since she was 16.

Besides her husband and parents, she is survived by her stepfather, David Stickler of East Hampton; her stepchildren, Stephanie and Desiree Robinson; six brothers, Richard Tucker, Michael Stickler, Chapin Stickler, Sean Jeffers, Matthew Jeffers and Christopher Jeffers; two sisters, Tracy Woolley and Wanda Tucker; and six nieces and nephews.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Thursday, May 7. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

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

Portland

Mary Lynn Izzo

Mary Lynn Izzo, 54, of 61 Copperbeach Ln., Portland, died Sunday, May 3, at her home following a long illness. She was born April 16, 1955 in Baltimore, MD, daughter of Rosemary Warfield and the late George Schmidt. She was an account executive with John Hancock Insurance.

Besides her mother of Cambridge, MD, she is survived by a sister Kathryn Izzo of Baltimore.

A memorial service was held Thursday, May 7, at the Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Washington St., Middletown. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Home Care, 51 Broad St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Arrangements under the Direction of the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown.