

RIVEREAST

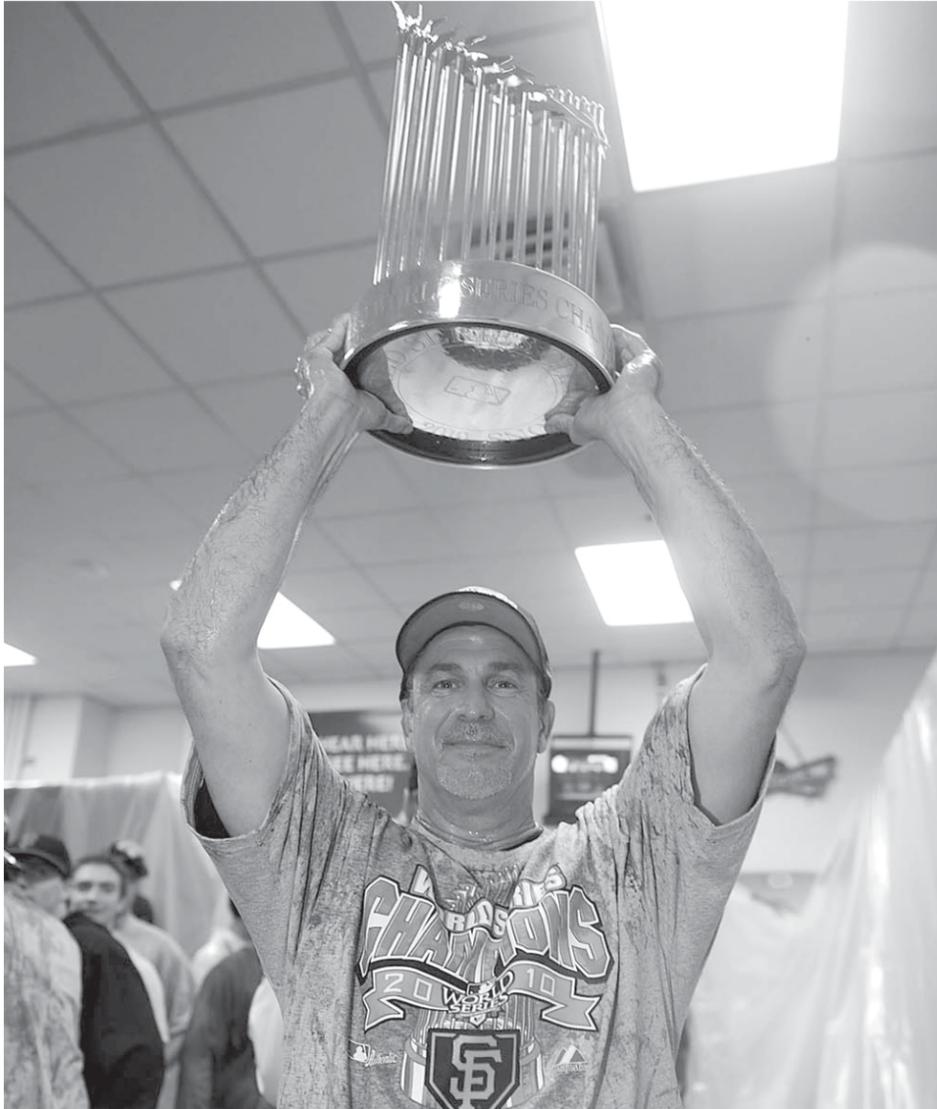
# News Bulletin

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

Volume 35, Number 33

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

November 12, 2010



Former Colchester resident Ron Wotus holds the World Series trophy high. Wotus is the longtime bench coach for the San Francisco Giants, who won the Fall Classic last week.

## World Series Win for Colchester

by Katy Nally

This baseball season spelled redemption for the San Francisco Giants and Colchester native Ron Wotus.

The Californian team celebrated its first World Series win last Monday, Nov. 1, after Giants pitcher Brian Wilson threw a 90-mile-an-hour slider on a full count and struck out Rangers' right fielder Nelson Cruz, to close out Game Five.

Ron, a bench coach for the Giants since 1999, got a taste of the series in 2002, but his team lost to the Anaheim Angels after six games.

But this year's "gang of misfits," as they were routinely referred to by sports commentators, came out with strong pitching and secured their first World Series title – something neither Willie Mays nor Barry Bonds ever earned during their time on the Giants. (Before last week, the last time the Giants had won the World Series was 1954, when the team was still in New York; it moved to California in 1958.)

"They called us the 'Dirty Dozen' because we don't have any superstars," Ron said. "But we certainly have a tremendous pitching staff, and that carried us."

Since Bonds left the franchise in 2007, the Giants don't have many "household names," he said.

"But they played better than any household names," Ron added.

And it seems the gravity of such an accomplishment hasn't sunk it yet, Ron's brother John, of Colchester, said.

"It think it'll take a while," John said. "Us fans are more excitable. I told Ron when he won, 'You gotta really sit back and savor it.'"

The Giants took the Division Series from the Atlanta Braves 3-1. Then the San Francisco

team moved onto the National League Championship Series and pulled off a huge upset against the Philadelphia Phillies, winning four and losing two.

The Phillies had the best record out of all 30 teams in Major League Baseball, at 97-65, and were the favored team to win the series. In 2008, the Phillies won the title, and last year they made it to the World Series but lost to the New York Yankees. This year they were looking to become the first National League team to win three straight pennants in 66 years.

The Giants took Game Six against the Phillies 3-2, with Wilson pitching the final five outs. The last out of the game was a called strike against Phillies' ace slugger Ryan Howard.

The Giants were rumored to have met their pitching match when they took on the Texas Rangers, with a strong staff on each team, including two Cy Young Award winners – Tim Lincecum on the Giants and Cliff Lee on the Rangers.

Still, the Giants prevailed. They won Game One, 11-7, and then blew away the Rangers in Game Two, 9-0.

Game Three went to the Rangers, but Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner secured Game Four after staving off runs for eight innings.

"That was a pivotal game," Ron said. "That one put us up."

In Game Five, Lincecum took the mound again, and gave up three runs, but struck out 10 batters.

"I knew from the first inning he was on," Ron said. "He was attacking the hitters."

Giants shortstop Edgar Renteria had the winning hit in Game Five, a three-run home run in

See World Series Page 2

## Vets Recall Experiences for PHS Students

by Claire Michalewicz

On Wednesday morning, six different men shared six different stories with Portland High School students, as part of a special assembly for Veterans Day.

All of them had two things in common – they had served in the U.S. military during a time of conflict, and they had some connection to Portland, whether they were a resident, teacher or coach. They told the students about their experiences in the military, and the importance of observing Veterans Day.

The event was organized by two social studies teachers, the husband-and-wife team of Michelle and James Stotler. James Stotler, a First Class Intelligence Specialist in the Navy Reserve, spoke about Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he served in 2007 and 2008.

Louis Nardine, the first speaker, served in both World War II and Vietnam, though he focused on his World War II experiences in his speech. Nardine served in the Army Air Corps, enlisting in 1942 and serving in Tunisia and

Sardinia. Nardine flew combat missions over Europe, and explained that he was probably one of the first people to ever see a German jet – a technology so new that he and his fellow crew members didn't know what it was.

Serving in the war, Nardine said, was "an experience. I'll never go through it again. Sometimes I wonder if I'd like to."

Franklin Hutchings, a substitute teacher at PHS, shared stories about his experiences in the Korean War, where he served for nine months. "I don't think I'd care to go through it again, but it made me aware of a whole world out there," Hutchings said of his experiences in the Air Force.

"Veterans Day is not just a day off from school, nor is it a day to go shopping at all the big sales," said Gene Reilly, a former teacher and basketball coach at PHS. Instead, Reilly said, the students should take a moment to honor and thank all those who served in the military.

He pointed out that veterans have not always

been honored with ceremonies like this. Reilly himself was drafted into the Army in 1968, serving a year in Vietnam.

"For me, it was a long year," Reilly said. "There were no brass bands when I left, there was no brass band when I returned. The Vietnam vet did not get the respect he deserved."

Portland native Thomas Manning said that when he was commissioned as a naval officer in 1985, he had no idea that he would one day be a veteran.

"All I wanted to do was fly jets in the military," he said. "I thought, 'That would be cool.'" But when the Persian Gulf War broke out, he served 27 combat missions in the Middle East.

"When I think of Veterans Day, I never think of myself," Manning said. "To me, I was just doing my job." Manning said that since most veterans don't seek attention, "we need to take a day to reflect and remember."

James Stotler, the PHS boys' soccer coach, spoke of how he was returning home from

coaching a game in 2007 when he got a phone call saying he would be deployed to Iraq for a year. He said he arrived in Basrah to find that he'd be sleeping in a metal bunker, and thought to himself, "It's gonna be a long year."

But as an intelligence specialist, Stotler said, he was lucky in many ways. He spent most of his deployment in an office, preparing several intelligence reports each day.

"I am thankful, certainly, for all the veterans that came before me," Stotler said.

Tim Gandini, a 2006 PHS graduate, served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq, he said, his base received indirect fire and car bombs, but Afghanistan was relatively quiet.

In January of this year, Gandini was deployed to Haiti, where he worked in disaster relief, clearing rubble from damaged buildings and retrieving bodies from under the wreckage.

Despite the challenges, Gandini said his time

See Vets Page 2



**Wotus is shown here with his brother John, and his two nephews, Connor, far left, and Justin, at his alma mater, Bacon Academy.**

**World Series cont. from Front Page**

the seventh inning. Renteria hit .412 with two home runs and six runs batted in during the series, and wound up being named the World Series Most Valuable Player.

When reached last week, Ron said he was “very excited” to have won.

“A lot of guys go their whole career and they don’t even get to the Series,” he said. “It’s certainly special.”

And although baseball fans and sports announcers weren’t so sure the Giants would make it, Ron said he wasn’t “really surprised” at his team’s success.

“The only ones that really believed we’d win was our team,” Ron said.

Ron’s mother Jean said she was told the Giants had a good roster this year, but, she added, “I never thought they would really clinch it.” John agreed.

“I don’t think anybody expected them to win the World Series in five games – maybe seven, at least,” John said. But, he added, “Baseball’s a funny game.”

“Nobody expected us to beat the Phillies or the Rangers,” Ron said. “We were the underdogs.”

Although Ron might have been confident throughout the postseason, his mother said this week she was too nervous to watch the games live, so she’s been watching reruns.

“I can relax now and take it in stride,” Jean said.

But other Colchester family members, like Ron’s brother John and his two nephews,

Connor and Justin, went to three National League Championship Series games in Philadelphia and also attended games one and two in San Francisco, to cheer on the Giants in person.

“We’re not used to seeing them win by such large margins [as in the first two games against the Rangers], and it was really nice to be able to share their experience,” John said.

And Ron did his fair share of celebrating with the team, after their victory. After Game Five ended last Monday, he said he arrived in San Francisco from Texas the day after around 6 a.m. The next day, on Wednesday, Nov. 3, the entire city celebrated the team’s victory with a parade through Civic Center Plaza, and Mayor Gavin Newsom presented the team with the key to the city.

“The whole city was ecstatic,” Ron said. “It was quite a day; there were a lot of excited fans.”

The parade route was also the same loop the Giants walked in 1958, to celebrate their relocation from New York.

And back home, there will be another, albeit smaller, celebration in honor of the Giants’ win and Ron.

When he comes home for Thanksgiving, Jean said there’ll be a party at the Polish Club, where her son can reminisce with high school friends and former coaches. But, she added, “Ron doesn’t want it to be a big thing, because he doesn’t like too much hoopla.”



**Retired Air Force Corporal Franklin Hutchings, left, and U.S. Navy Gunner’s Mate Second Class Tim Gandini were two of the veterans who spoke to Portland high School students on Wednesday. PHS students treated the six men to a lunch after the assembly. Hutching is a Korean War veteran, while Gandini recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**Vets cont. from Front Page**

in the Navy has “definitely been a very good experience. I’m definitely enjoying it.” The smell and devastation, Gandini said, was “unimaginable,” though there were some bright spots, like when he and a friend managed to drive a damaged truck out from underneath a collapsed hotel.

Gandini is currently stationed in Spain, and is due to be released from the Navy in just three weeks. He said he’s looking forward to starting nursing school after he’s discharged.

“Veterans Day honors all veterans,” Michelle Stotler said. “We must honor those who are no longer with us.” The students then stood for a moment of silence while “Taps” played. After the assembly, the six veterans who spoke were treated to lunch in the Bridges Café, run by students in Charlie Ryan’s culinary class.

“I want you all to take a moment to think about what you learned today,” she told the students as the assembly ended.

# Former East Hampton Marines Reunite in Belltown

by **Jim Hallas**

David Wylie and Butch Magee didn't have time for introductions in 1967; they were too busy trying to stay alive in a godforsaken corner of South Vietnam.

And then Magee was gone, severely wounded and medevaced to a field hospital with nearly 50 pieces of metal in his body.

Last month – 43 years after that frightening afternoon – the two former Marines had a chance for a more leisurely introduction when Magee showed up in Wylie's driveway in East Hampton to say hello to a comrade he had never formally met.

In February 1967, Private First Class David Wylie of East Hampton and Corporal Charles L. "Butch" Magee of Petersburg, IL, were both assigned to Bravo Company, First Battalion, First Marine Regiment of the First Marine Division for a Search and Destroy operation dubbed "Operation Stone." The operation took place in the I Corps area in the northern part of what was then South Vietnam.

Wylie, who did not know Magee, had only been in country about three weeks. A combat engineer, he had volunteered to go along on the mission as a rifleman. The day was overcast, he recalled. Bravo Company was moving along slowly, searching for any sign of the enemy.

Suddenly Wylie heard an explosion and the cry of "Corpsman up!" Radios were crackling. One of the Marines had stepped on a booby trap. An H-34 helicopter clattered into a hasty landing zone in a dry rice paddy.

"I look over and see Marines carrying a canvas stretcher with a poncho-covered body on it," recalled Wylie. A radioman told him to go give a hand with the casualty.

"The chopper is now coming almost down on top of us and I can see the door gunner's face clearly; he's scanning the paddies and appears to be speaking into his mike attached to his helmet, talking to the pilot, I guess," remembered Wylie. "The H-34 is now on the ground and we are right next to the door. We lift the casualty up and start to pass him into the chopper, with the gunner helping, suddenly the poncho covering the body comes loose in the downdraft of the rotor blades and the Marine's body is exposed, or what is left of it. Both legs are gone from the knees down and the stomach area is wide open, looking like a mixture of bloody hamburger."

Wylie was stunned. "It seems like I am staring at this man's body for minutes, my first look at a dead Marine, but it was only a few seconds, and suddenly the H-34 lifts off and starts gaining altitude," he said. "I felt very shaken by what I had just experienced."

Bravo Company continued its sweep, looking for an enemy Main Force Battalion that had been reported in the area. On the morning of Feb. 19, the Marines were supposed to assault into two villages. As they waited for other units to get into position, the company commander, Captain Bobby D. Lain, came over and sat down by Wylie.

"The CO asked where we were from back home," recalled Wylie. "He pulled out his wallet and showed us a picture of his children."

Suddenly, Wylie heard artillery booming in the distance and then the shells started hitting up ahead, in and near the villages. "We were moving now, my team had fallen in with the

60mm mortars," he said. "We came to the small collection of huts and one or two were burning, from the arty, I assumed."

He could hear some rifle shots and a few more artillery rounds exploding somewhere up ahead, unseen through the vegetation. The Marines cleared the villages and were moving through a tree line, along a small trail. "We were in single file, moving cautiously," remarked Wylie.

The vegetation thinned out and Wylie could see water – a river – to his right. The trail ended in an open grassy area marked by a small bamboo fence about two feet high. There were about six men ahead of Wylie.

"The first two Marines stepped over the fence; the third, I believe, stepped on one of the partially down fence rails," he remembered. "The next thing I know there was a loud explosion."

Two Marines in front of Wylie were hit by fragments from what was apparently a hand grenade booby trap fixed to the fence. Wylie and the man behind him were not wounded, but the Marine just behind them was hit in the thigh.

"The man who had stepped on the fence took the force of the blast right up the front of his body," observed Wylie. "His flack jacket was unzipped and fragments had penetrated his chest area."

A corpsman or "Doc" appeared almost instantly and began treating the wounded. Captain Lain and his radioman came over, glanced at the seriously-injured Marine and used the incident to offer a lesson in combat's classroom. "People, see what happens when you bunch up, keep your distance?" noted the captain.

The severely-wounded Marine was put on a stretcher and the men continued forward through the open area.

Enemy soldiers suddenly opened fire on them from across the river. "The blast of enemy fire scared the hell out of me," remarked Wylie. Marines were scrambling up a small slope and looking for cover, many taking shelter in a nearby Buddhist cemetery.

"Myself and three other Marines had hit the ground in the grass when the first bursts of fire started," recalled Wylie. "I was lying, facing towards the river, which the enemy on the other side was firing at us. I had a little grass covered hump not quite higher than my helmet, which I used for cover. The noise of the firing was intense."

Rounds were impacting all over the grassy slope. Return fire from Marines behind the grave mounds in the cemetery added to the din. "I felt completely exposed out in the grass that was only maybe eight to 10 inches high," he remembered.

A couple other Marines caught in the open with Wylie suddenly jumped up and ran in a crouch to the cemetery. They were fired on, but not hit. Wylie decided he needed to find better cover as well. Instead of jumping up, he crawled as fast as he could to cover the 50 or so feet to the safety of the graveyard – "safety" in this case being a relative term. He made it unhurt and crawled behind one of the earthen grave mounds. These were three or four feet high and gave good cover from the rifle and machine gun fire directed at the Marines.

"I had my back up to one of the graves, try-



**Former Marines, East Hampton resident David Wylie, right, and Butch Magee, met face to face over 40 years after both participated in Operation Stone in Vietnam.**

ing to get my heart to stop beating so fast. I glanced around and saw I was about eight feet away from a 60mm mortar crew who were returning fire with their weapon at the enemy across the river," remembered Wylie.

He could see some Marines moving around in a crouch in the cemetery. "There was an explosion somewhere behind me," he noted. A Marine to his right said something about mortars, but it wasn't a mortar round. The enemy had planted land mines in the cemetery, expecting the Marines to take cover there.

The mine killed one Marine and badly wounded another. Forty-one years later, Wylie would discover the identity of the wounded Marine – it was Butch Magee. A helicopter came in and managed to get the dead and wounded out.

Wylie's team leader was waving and yelling for him to come over to him. Firing was still going on and he heard the boom of another explosion.

"I was running in a crouch trying to make myself as small as possible," he recalled. "I came to a large grave mound and moved to the left to go around the grave. As I got around the grave, the first thing I saw was a radioman lying there on the ground, not moving; and I saw that Bravo's CO, the Six, Captain Lain, was there too. He had his back up against the grave and he looked very white. I could see that he had his legs blown off, and was covered in blood. There was a corpsman working on him frantically trying to get bandages on his wounds."

Another medevac clattered in in what seemed like seconds, swirling down. Wylie helped lift Lain into the chopper. The firing had begun to die down when Wylie saw another Marine take a step and "boom," a cloud of black smoke erupted around him, he had also stepped on a

mine. "The corpsmen got to him and as I got closer I could see he had lost a leg, the right one I think. It was almost unreal now to me," he said.

"We had been taking casualties from these land mines. I was afraid that I was going to step on one. They seemed to be all over," he recalled.

After a couple of hours things quieted down. "The new CO told us not to move around too much because there were likely more mines," observed Wylie. They stayed in the cemetery area for a few more days before finally being lifted out by helicopter.

PFC Wylie had survived his first combat operation. A year later he left Vietnam.

Forty-two years later, Wylie, now retired from a job with the State of Connecticut, was online searching the First Marines website for anyone else who remembered Operation Stone when he saw a message from one Butch Magee. The two compared notes and realized they had both been in the same place at the same time the day Magee had been badly wounded.

Magee told Wylie he had 43 pieces of metal removed from his body after being evacuated. He later went on to a career with the U.S. Postal Service. Captain Lain also survived and became a history professor.

Last month, Magee and his wife Mary went to visit their daughter in Maryland. They then drove up to Connecticut and paid a surprise visit to David Wylie in East Hampton. The meeting, admits Wylie, "was an emotional one." Both men are retired and they continue to keep in touch by phone and e-mail.

As for Operation Stone, Wylie says several hundred enemy kills were claimed by U.S. forces. Then he adds, "It made a paragraph in the papers back home."

## East Hampton BOE to Use Federal Money for Retirement Packages

by **Claire Michalewicz**

East Hampton schools will use federal stimulus money for education jobs to offer early retirement packages to several employees, the Board of Education (BOE) decided Monday.

The BOE voted 8-1 (with Don Coolican opposed) to offer retirement packages to three more employees. Last month, the BOE offered packages for 10 employees. All 10 positions were filled within days.

The money for the packages came from the federal Education Jobs Fund Program. East Hampton received a grant of \$444,128, which was announced in September, Superintendent Judith Golden said. The federal program distributed \$10 billion in grants throughout the country, to save or create education jobs.

Golden said the first 10 packages would save the town \$227,000, while the additional three would bring the total savings to \$295,000.

Of the grant money, most will go toward the

retirement packages. Golden said the remaining funds would be used to hire a part-time math tutor at Memorial School and a part-time literacy tutor at the middle school.

After employees came forward for the packages, Golden said, the BOE would be able to look at replacing some of the retiring staff.

The BOE discussed the plan in an executive session that lasted about 15 minutes, and briefly discussed it publicly before voting.

Coolican said he was opposed to early retirement packages in general, since the Connecticut Teachers Retirement Board was "under enough pressure already."

Coolican said the BOE should instead be using the stimulus money to create new jobs.

\*\*\*

Also Monday, the BOE discussed a board bylaw that imposes term limits on school board members. The bylaw requires BOE members

to leave the board after two four-year terms, taking two years off before they may run for re-election.

The BOE voted 8-1 to leave the bylaw unchanged, with only Joanne Barmasse opposed.

"It's beneficial after eight years to take some time off," Coolican said, explaining that he had been "a victim of term limits twice."

Fellow BOE member Carol Lane agreed, explaining that elected officials could lose touch with the community after years on a board.

"Just like any other position, you get insulated year after year after year," she said.

Barmasse said she would like to remove the limits, pointing out that BOE members who joined organizations like the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) and LEARN, a regional education service center, often had to leave the BOE just as they were getting involved.

Most school boards in Connecticut, Barmasse said, do not impose term limits. If a BOE member were not doing a good job, she said, they could be removed by voters in the next election.

\*\*\*

In her superintendent's report, Golden announced she would be giving a presentation about third-party bus inspections to the Town Council at its meeting the following evening (a full story about that meeting appears on page 14.)

The next regular BOE meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m. at Center School, 7 Summit St. In addition, there will be a Tri-Board meeting of the BOE, Town Council and Board of Finance on Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. in the high school library, 15 North Maple St.

# Team RHAM Special Olympics Gears Up for Competition

by Lindsay Fetzner

This month, Team RHAM Special Olympics is celebrating their fifth anniversary, and they're preparing to take their skills to the 2010 Holiday Sports Classic at Quinnipiac University on Nov. 20 and 21.

In its fifth year, Team RHAM is about 20 athletes strong; however, they started with a core group of only six back in November of 2005. Local coordinator Rose Kalisz, a Marlborough resident, said the team was formerly part of Glastonbury's Special Olympics, but broke away and formed its own team when the number of participants began to grow. As a result, Team RHAM, a delegation under Special Olympics Connecticut, was born.

Seeing the group grow over the five-year period has "been a pleasure," Kalisz said.

"Just to see their faces when they make baskets or hit the ball, there's nothing like it," Kalisz said.

And coaches, parents and others involved certainly agree.

For 21-year-old Scott Anderson, being a part of the basketball team the past couple of years is an experience he says he "looks forward to every year." Anderson, a resident of both Hebron and Marlborough, said he enjoys the sport of basketball the best, but also was excited to try his hand at golf this past year.

"I have made a lot of friends," Anderson said, reflecting on his experience as part of the team. He later added that his best experiences thus far are "having fun and being a good player."

As for 21-year-old Mike Krywonie of Hebron, it's the competition that has brought him back to Team RHAM for the past four years. Smiling, Krywonie said, "I like to win a lot." In addition to golf, as well as track and field, Krywonie is a member of one of the three basketball teams this season.

Even though the name suggests participants are resident of only Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, the group extends the offer to people in all surrounding towns. Residents of Columbia, East Hampton and Lebanon are just a few of those outside the "RHAM region."

Although the program began as a four-season program, with one sport each season, it has now expanded and offers five different sports throughout the year, including basketball, speed skating, track, softball and golf, which was added this year. But it's basketball that holds a special place with Team RHAM, as it was the first sport they competed in as a team, when they broke away from Glastonbury.

Participants are welcome at any and all ability levels, and can begin practicing with the team at age 6. However, in order to compete with the team, participants must be at least 8 years old.

The roughly 20 Team RHAM athletes practice twice a week at surrounding schools, ice rinks and golf courses all year-round. Some team members choose to practice all year, while others come out for only a season or two throughout the year.

Although the basketball season is underway and the team is currently practicing at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School in Marlborough, it won't be long before Team RHAM begins speed skating practice during the early winter mornings at the Bolton Ice Palace.

In addition to the teammates themselves, Kalisz said there are about 10 coaches from the surrounding towns who assist with various sports. Andover resident Dave Rhodes assists Kalisz with both basketball and track and field, and also has a daughter, 16-year-old Olivia, who is part of those teams. Olivia, Rhodes said, joined the program when members were still part of Glastonbury's team, roughly seven years ago.

"It's the best thing we've done for her," Rhodes said of joining the program. "These kids are her support."

And as for the coaching experience, Rhodes feels similarly.

"It's been a great experience," he said. "It's all about the kids and that's what makes it great."

Besides the coaches, there are more than 20 "partners," who compete alongside the athletes. Kalisz said the teams are comprised of "Unified Programs." The Unified Sports, a registered program of Special Olympics International, combines athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (those without disabilities) for competition and also training. Kalisz said this fosters and builds camaraderie and friendships between the participants.

An avid softball and basketball player at her local high school in Killingworth, 16-year-old Ashley Cook brings not only her enthusiasm but also her skills to the basketball practices, which are held twice a week.

Cook attended one of the Special Olympics track events earlier this year, and expressed interest in joining the program's softball team. One of the staff members of Special Olympics directed her to Team RHAM, and a partnership was formed shortly thereafter. Cook played alongside the other teammates in softball as a partner, and now plays basketball as well.

"It's been so much fun," Cook said. "I look forward to it every week."

And, Cook said, playing for fun is one of the best aspects of the program.

"You still feel like a winner no matter what the outcome is," Cook said.

Hebron resident Joe Paluso described the program as "a great secret," and a wonderful



**Team RHAM Special Olympics will travel to Quinnipiac University Nov. 20 and 21, to compete in the 2010 Holiday Sports Classic. Pictured above are the RHAM Rollers; from left, in the back row, are Nick McDermott, Ashley Roberts, Krista Pregony and Alan Bourbeau; in the front row, Chris Guerin, Jason Depersia, Olivia Namnoun and Anthony Blake.**

way to "get these kids out there." As a parent of three, Paluso said it not only gives his 14-year-old son Joshua a chance to be among the other Team RHAM players, but it's also a "great opportunity to incorporate [Joshua's] brothers into his activities."

"It has opened up a whole world for us," Paluso said. "It is great to see these kids have fun and smile and to watch and cheer for them. I can't say enough about it."

For Margie Lavallee, a Hebron resident and mother of four kids, the relationships and support network are just a couple of the reasons her 11-year-old son Logan has participated for two-and-a-half years.

"It is the greatest thing ever," Lavallee said. "It's been a gift to the whole family."

In addition to the sports-related activities, the team also participates in social events as well as a way to bring the teammates together even more. Kalisz said the team goes bowling and travels to basketball games – activities that create an environment "where the kids can have fun" and relationships are developed, Kalisz said.

As a "self-funded" group, Kalisz said Team

RHAM has been very fortunate to receive a lot of support from the community. Student clubs at RHAM, like DECA (a business-oriented club) and the Leos, have been very supportive of the team and organized events to raise money for Team RHAM. Special Friends Charities Inc., both the Blackledge and Tallwood golf courses in Hebron, as well as the elementary school in Marlborough, RHAM High School and Bolton Ice Palace have also provided the opportunity for the team to practice during the respective sporting seasons, Kalisz said.

On Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20 and 21, Team RHAM will travel to Quinnipiac University in Hamden to compete in the Holiday Sports Classic. Athletes from all over the state will attend, and compete in sports such as volleyball, powerlifting, bowling and basketball, the latter of which Team RHAM's three teams will take part in. Each sport will compete at a specific location either in Hamden, New Haven or East Haven.

For more information about the event, visit [www.soct.org/newsletters/](http://www.soct.org/newsletters/) and for information on Team RHAM or to volunteer, contact Kalisz at [RKalisz50@comcast.net](mailto:RKalisz50@comcast.net).

# East Hampton Charter Revision Commission Disappointed by Vote

by Claire Michalewicz

Members of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) are disappointed that the proposed changes to the town's charter failed at referendum last week. The charter revision was a casualty of the tense political environment in town, they say.

The question put to voters on Election Day was "Shall the Town of East Hampton approve the Charter changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and as adopted by the Town Council?"

It failed, with 3,996 residents – just under 74 percent – voting 'no' and 1,407 voting 'yes.'

The proposed changes would have updated the town's current charter, which has been in effect since 1987. The five-member CRC submitted its draft charter to the Town Council in April, and in May, the council voted to put the question on the November ballot.

The largest change in the draft charter was a switch to four-year staggered terms for Town Council members. The revised charter also would have clarified the Board of Finance's role, changed the threshold for appropriations that required a town meeting, and allowed voters to vote for as many candidates as there were seats on a board, among other changes.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, who served on the CRC, said she was disappointed the charter had failed.

"It's unfortunate, because a lot of people worked very hard," Engel said. She said if the town hadn't been beset by the ongoing controversy concerning laid off Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, she believed the changes would have passed.

Engel said the charter had failed because of pressure from the Chatham Party to vote down the charter changes and the revision of Ordinance 109, which would have officially eliminated Reimondo's position.

"They pushed it as hard as they pushed the referendum question," Engel said.

Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler said Engel's accusations were unfounded.

"It failed because of the Town Council's past actions," he said. "The people of East Hampton voted that down for a reason." Most of those who voted the charter down, he said, objected to the idea of giving Town Council members longer terms.

Dostaler was also involved in Take Back Our Town (TBOT), the group that campaigned to

have Reimondo reinstated to his job, and organized the petition that brought the chief's position to a referendum. Dostaler said that while TBOT did advocate for voting down the charter revision, its primary purpose was to bring Reimondo back. The charter revision referendum, he said, was bad timing on the town's part.

"There was just so much noise going on," CRC member David Balthazar said, explaining that the commission had trouble spreading information about the charter because East Hampton residents were preoccupied with other issues.

CRC Vice Chairwoman Julie Ciucias agreed, but pointed out that the commission finished its work in April, weeks before Reimondo was laid off. The charter wasn't related to the controversy, she said, but residents drew a connection between the two.

"All the work we did was misinterpreted," Ciucias said. "The work we did was suspect."

Another reason the charter had failed, Ciucias said, was that all the changes had been included in only one referendum question. Ciucias said voters had "thrown the baby out with the bathwater," rejecting all the changes

when they only objected to some of them. She said in the future, the CRC and Town Council should consider grouping the changes into about four separate questions, so voters have more choices.

CRC Chairwoman Terry Concannon agreed, explaining that the CRC had recommended that the more important changes in the charter – like the move to four-year terms for Town Council members – be put on the ballot as separate questions. Some of the less-controversial revisions, like simplifying the process for approving town projects, had been lost because of the others, Concannon said.

Ciucias said if another CRC convenes to try revising the charter again, she hopes residents will offer more input throughout the process. Very few people came to any of the CRC's meetings earlier this year, she said.

CRC members said there were no plans as of yet to revisit the charter again. Concannon said it would be the Town Council's decision to reinstate the CRC, but it should wait until the controversy in the town died down.

"I don't think the climate is there for us," Concannon said. "But it does need to happen."

# Devine Resigns from East Hampton Town Council

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council is seeking a new member, after Republican William Devine submitted his resignation last week.

Devine's succinct resignation letter, dated Nov. 3, stated simply, "After over 30 years of public service, I am resigning from the East Hampton Town Council, effective November 3, 2010."

Devine had been absent from most Town Council meetings since the spring, though he did attend two meetings held Sept. 8 and 10 to discuss a separation agreement for a "management-level Town employee," who was later revealed to be then-Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe.

Devine was one of three Republicans on the council, along with chairwoman Melissa Engel and Thom Cordeiro. His resignation came the day after a revised charter failed at a referendum, by a vote of 3,996 to 1,407. The proposed revisions to the charter would have changed the process for replacing an elected official. Under the changes, the resigning member's political

party would have put forward a candidate to fill the vacancy.

Under Section 6.4 of the town's existing charter, the council will appoint a new member to complete Devine's term, which expires in November of next year. Candidates can be Republicans, Democrats, Chatham Party members or unaffiliated voters.

Devine said he had been planning on resigning since last year, citing concerns with his family. He said he hadn't wanted to run in the 2009 municipal election, but agreed to because the council "had a lot of work to do," and the Republican Town Committee wanted him as a candidate.

Devine, who owns Devine's Jewelers on Summit Street, explained he had been serving the town as an elected official for decades. Devine was the town's last Board of Selectmen chairman and first Town Council chairman when the town switched from the former form of government to the latter in the 1970s, he said. He also served on the Board of Finance for six

years.

"He's had a tough time with personal stuff and he was gracious enough to hang in for so long," Engel said of Devine.

At Tuesday's Town Council meeting, resident Michael Block said he thought Devine's resignation had been planned for after the referendum. Block said Devine should have resigned months earlier so East Hampton residents could have the seven council members they were entitled to.

Engel tried to quiet him, saying Block was personally attacking Devine. Later in the meeting, the council and the audience both applauded Devine for his commitment to the council, despite the personal difficulties he's been facing. (Devine did not wish to elaborate on the personal difficulties.)

"He is such a dedicated father," said resident Nikki O'Neill. "I think the guy needs a little praise."

Engel explained that the council was seek-

ing interested candidates of any political affiliation to be interviewed at the next Town Council meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Town Council can submit their resume to the Town Manager's office by next Friday, Nov. 19. The council will interview them and discuss the matter at their next regular meeting on Nov. 23.

Engel said she hopes to appoint a seventh councilor that day, to break a tie vote in appointing a Board of Finance (BOF) member.

On Tuesday, the council attempted to fill the BOF vacancy left when Republican Judith Isele resigned. Engel nominated Republican Maria Peplau, the next-highest vote-getter in the last municipal election. The vote ended in a tie, with Engel, Cordeiro and Sue Weintraub favoring Peplau, but Chris Goff, Barbara Moore and John Tuttle – the three Democrats on the council – opposed.

The council agreed to wait until it had a seventh member to break the tie.

## Vietnam Vet Pens Poem Praising Colchester

by Katy Nally

In honor of Veterans Day, and the local heroes in town, resident and Vietnam veteran Martin Lopez will present a poem thanking Colchester for its support to First Selectman Gregg Schuster and the Board of Selectmen at its next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 18.

The poem, written by Lopez' friend and fellow Vietnam veteran Michael Monfrooe, is entitled "Thank You, Colchester." Throughout its five stanzas, it makes note of the outreach Lopez received from local businesses and groups this summer, after his collection box was allegedly stolen.

"May the citizenry of Colchester be an example to others./They opened their hearts to our sisters & brothers," the poem reads.

On Saturday, Aug. 7, when Lopez was selling raffle tickets outside the Stop & Shop on Linwood Avenue, he went inside the store briefly, and while his collection box was unattended, it was allegedly stolen by three men.

Since then, however, community organizations and local businesses have rallied around Lopez and his teammates on the Mullett Marauders, providing donations and support for the team.

"I think it's a tremendous statement about Colchester when we see all the people and community groups that rallied to help Martin after that unfortunate event," Schuster said.

"The poem was my idea," Lopez explained. "For the way Colchester reacted to the robbery, I know I put a thank you in [the *Rivereast*], but this is different."

Lopez and the Mullett Marauders are headed to Hawaii next May to participate in the annual National Veterans Golden Age Games. Lopez regularly raises money to attend the yearly games by selling raffle tickets outside area businesses.

Monfrooe, who wrote the poem, is not a member of the Mullett Marauders, but he and Lopez met each other at a Veterans Association hospital in Minnesota. Although he lives hundreds of miles away, Lopez has kept Monfrooe up to speed on Colchester happen-

ings.

"Over the years, I've always been amazed how the people there really support the troops," he said. "After all these years, the businesses still keep their doors open."

Monfrooe, a resident of Bemidji, MN, said he began expressing himself through poetry when he was a sniper in the 101st Airborne Division LRRP/Rangers in Vietnam.

"When I was in 'Nam, we'd have guys who lost a buddy," Monfrooe explained, "and my way of coping was to write poems for them."

Before he returned home, however, Monfrooe said he burned his poetry because he was upset about leaving. But, about 30 years ago, Monfrooe said he picked up the hobby again, after finding inspiration in the birth of his daughter. He has since begun to compile his poems and is currently looking for a book deal.

Monfrooe said some of his poems, many of which deal with "combat and surviving," are used by the VA to help veterans deal with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

And several times each year, Monfrooe writes poems for Lopez and the Marauders to "cheer them up" before they leave for the annual games, or to congratulate them on a job well done.

Monfrooe added it's important to support and pay tribute to veterans, especially this week.

"If it weren't for veterans, a lot of the freedoms we have, we wouldn't be enjoying," Monfrooe said. "The guys really deserve it, because of what they've been through mentally and physically."

Schuster agreed.

"On Veterans Day, it's important to remember the sacrifice that Martin and so many others made for our country and pause to celebrate all that they have given us."

"I think of the men and women we lost, but I also think of me too," Lopez said. "It's a time for all of us to be thankful. We do a great job in the service, and now our country says we did too."

The Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

### Thank You, Colchester

May the citizenry of Colchester be an example to others.

They opened their hearts to our sisters & brothers.  
Freedom doesn't come easy, they have lost their share.  
Vets, young and old, know that their neighbors care.

"The Marauders," your team, is Hawaii bound.  
The support you have shown is surely profound.  
We may be a bit older and really need our rest,  
But rest assures we will do our best.

The "Legion," "Antique Vets," friends to us all.  
When the need arose, the "Lions" and "Rotary" also answered the call.  
We're truly honored that the kids put on a special show.  
How much it meant to us they will never know.

"Stop & Shop" and "Noels Market" have earned our applause.  
You and "Plum Tomato" supported our cause.  
As we eat our chili, we want you to know,  
We will do our best and have taken our "Beano."

Thank you so much "Colchester" we say with a tear,  
We love our hometown, people and memories dear.

# Colchester School Board Approves Using Breathalyzers

by Katy Nally

After little opposition at Tuesday's Board of Education (BOE) meeting, the board unanimously passed a policy that allows administrators to subject students to breathalyzer tests at school functions and during the school day.

The BOE plans to pass a regulation with guidelines on how to breathalyze students both inside and out of school at its December meeting. A regulation was drafted and ready for Tuesday's meeting, however, it did not specifically address how to breathalyze students at afterschool functions, like dances.

After hearing a breathalyzer success story from RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie, and reviewing dozens of positive responses from parents in favor of the proposal, there was little hesitation from the board to approve the new policy.

Leslie told the BOE his school had instituted a policy in 2008 to "passively" breathalyze students when they entered school functions. During those two years, not one student has tested positive for being drunk, which, Leslie said, proves the success of breathalyzers.

"That was the whole purpose of this, to act as a deterrent," Bacon Academy Principal Jeffrey Mathieu agreed.

Leslie explained the students are passively breathalyzed as they enter any of RHAM's five dances during each school year, as well as when they get on the bus for, during, and coming home from, the senior outing.

However, this doesn't mean students wait in a long line and take turns blowing into a straw. RHAM administrators give passive breathalyzer tests, which involves holding the machine close to the student and taking a reading. The breathalyzer Leslie brought to the BOE meeting shows a range from green, to yellow, to red lights, depending on the prevalence of alcohol. He tested hand sanitizer, which registered red, otherwise, the machine showed green.

Leslie added that his breathalyzers will also pick up on strong cologne or perfume and mouth wash; however, these usually register in the yellow, whereas alcohol is red.

"It tends to get a much stronger reading with alcohol," Leslie added.

In addition to waving the breathalyzers in

front of students, Leslie said administrators also greet and interact with students as they enter an event.

Leslie said if students test positive for alcohol through a passive reading, they will be pulled aside and given an active test, which involves the conventional blowing into the breathalyzer machine.

BOE member Mike Egan said he was "comfortable" with the policy because "you're doing it in a way that doesn't infringe on students' rights."

"I would endorse it, strongly," Leslie told the board. "We've had a very successful return."

BOE Chairman Ron Goldstein agreed.

"To hear that no one has been caught, proves the point," he said.

After RHAM approved its policy, it purchased five breathalyzers for about \$250 apiece, and now the school uses two at every event. Leslie said the other machines are usually brought to the events as "backups."

Mathieu said money was recently appropriated to purchase nine breathalyzers, but that number has not been finalized. He noted money from the school's budget would not be used to purchase the machines, instead the Bacon Academy Student Council agreed to front the money it raised through dance ticket sales.

"I think that says a lot about how student leaders feel about this issue," Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisselle said.

Mathieu said the price of breathalyzers ranged from \$55 to \$225, and the Colchester Police Department would help him select the best model.

Along with administering breathalyzers at "all school sponsored activities and events where prior notice has been given," the policy the BOE approved also allows "trained school personnel" to breathalyze students during the school day if there is "reasonable suspicion" they have been drinking.

Currently, Mathieu said, students suspected of being drunk at school are assessed by having the school nurse take their blood pressure, examine their pupils and smell for any odors.

Mathieu said using a breathalyzer in this situation would eliminate any possibility of wrongly disciplining a student for drinking.

"That's the part where I feel very comfortable," Egan said. "You have that as a last resort."

The policy also outlines "prior notification" for both students and parents. Mathieu said he would "only be comfortable" if notification of breathalyzer tests was printed on tickets for school events.

The policy states notification "will include, but is not limited to, notification in the student/parent-guardian handbook, notification at school-wide assemblies, notification on event specific advertisements and/or tickets, and notification on guest permission forms."

Lastly, if a student has tested positive for drinking alcohol, his or her parents will be called to pick the child up at the school event, and the school will discipline him or her according to Bacon's current policy on drug, alcohol and tobacco use.

The proposal to institute breathalyzers as a deterrent for drinking before, during and after school came from Mathieu and his administration. Last month, parents were asked to give input on the policy, via the Bacon Academy website, and a total of 67 responses were gathered, which Goldstein noted is "a pretty good number."

Out of those 67, 56 responses were in favor of the proposal, and 11 were against. All those who gave input were parents of current Bacon Academy students.

"I really like the idea of using breathalyzers before school functions," one response read. "My belief is that it will serve as a deterrent and possibly lower the risk of any alcohol related accidents that may occur. Having been an educator for the past 32 years I have found that it is better to fend off problems before they occur rather than react after they have happened."

Another parent echoed the proactive incentive.

"Why do we wait until something tragic happens to talk about what could or should be – lets be 'pro-active' and take a stand for our kids – They are our future...and our lives...I say 'yes!'"

Many of the concerns parents expressed in the responses, regarding false-positive reads and

funding, were addressed Tuesday.

Among the negative responses, several said using breathalyzers was "unconstitutional" and others thought the policy would open the flood gates for future invasive policies.

"What's next – video cameras around school?" one parent asked. "Blood samples before events for drug testing? Drug sniffing dogs? Metal detectors? Is it a prison or a school?"

Another parent said, "this policy appears to be an invasion of privacy."

"Too many small personal liberties have been taken from Americans over the years with the rationale that it is for our own good, and this is just one more example of the same," the parent continued. "I also think that a student council that volunteers funds to provide for such a check should also be educated on their constitutional rights before making such a decision."

BOE member Mitch Koziol touched on these concerns Tuesday.

"What you're doing – I don't see it as outlandish within our society," he said, adding these types of tests are already routine at places such as the airport and courthouse.

He said some parents are seeing the policy as "a giant communism conspiracy," when, in reality, "it's not to go and catch, it's to prevent."

Parents also addressed the "unconstitutional" factor.

"For those who are concerned with violating our teen's civil rights by having them use a breathalyzer, I would say that our teens do not have a right to drink alcohol until they are 21; underage drinking is illegal," one parent wrote.

"The paramount importance of protecting our children is well worth the little inconvenience or perceived lack of constitution right(s)," another parent said.

Goldstein added Wednesday "we have complied with our regulations on any sort of constitutional principle."

Once the BOE approves the full regulation for administering breathalyzers, Goldstein said the machines would then "be available for use." He said prom would probably be the next major school event to see breathalyzers.

# Beloved Longtime East Hampton Resident Remembered

by Claire Michalewicz

In the nearly full century she spent in East Hampton, Iva Turner made quite an impact on the community. Turner, who died last Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the age of 95, was well known for the trips she organized for the town's seniors, and for her energy and desire to help people.

"It's kinda hard to encapsulate 95 years," said Turner's son, R.J. He explained that even though his father had died 20 years earlier, his mother "was never alone because she had all these people in East Hampton. That was her family."

"She just was not deterred by age," said Tom Kennedy, the pastor at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, where Turner attended church all her life. Kennedy said Turner continued driving to church every Sunday well into her 90s, and sometimes offered rides to other churchgoers.

"She was one of those special folks in our church," Kennedy said. Turner was skilled with arranging flowers, he said, and would make decorations for the church.

"She just touched a tremendous amount of lives through what she's done," said Senior Center Director Jo Ann Ewing. Turner had been involved with the senior center for decades, Ewing explained, helping organize the senior center in the 1960s, and running senior trips for over 30 years.

Over the years, Ewing said, Turner took seniors to far-off destinations like Hawaii, Britain and Las Vegas, and on shorter trips within New England. Turner always brought along cookies or other baked goods to try to make the trip as enjoyable as possible, Ewing said. Even if there were only two people who wanted

to go on a trip, Turner would still coordinate it for them, Ewing said.

Ewing recalled a moment when Turner came into the senior center "tickled pink" because one of the travel agencies she worked with had offered her a job. Turner had to explain to them that she was 89 years old, and not looking for a job, Ewing said.

"We owe her a debt of gratitude for all she did for the seniors in terms of getting them places they never would have gone," said Dean Waite, a longtime friend who frequently sat with Turner in church. Waite said Turner was "the kingpin" of East Hampton's senior community, organizing events and bringing people together.

"She was a good friend to everybody," he said. "She had a nice way about her and everybody loved Iva."

Born Iva Rich in East Hampton on June 17, 1915, she married James C. Turner in 1935. When they married, the Turners built a house on Crescent Street, Ewing said, in the same neighborhood where Iva was born. Turner remained in her beloved house for the rest of her life.

Turner's friends and family said that even as she got older, she remained busy with the senior center and her church, and kept her house and garden in immaculate condition.

"She loved people, she loved the outdoors, she loved her house," said Turner's daughter, Suzanne Seagrave. "That's pretty much the definition of my mother."

At the senior center this week, Turner's friends spoke of her warmth, her fashion sense, and her desire to help other people out.

"We're gonna miss her," said Jeanette Knotek. "That place won't be the same. She was always on board to help wherever she can"

and whoever she can."

Because of Turner's energy and involvement in many senior center projects and activities, Knotek said, "she was quite a role model for all of us."

Ann Eaton, café manager at the senior center, said Turner was always eager to help out, even if she wasn't feeling well. Turner would insist on putting milk on the tables every day at lunchtime, despite protests from staff and other seniors who urged her to take it easy.

Senior center assistant Donna Lindstrom said Turner remained fiercely independent, even in her 90s. Lindstrom said that after Turner lost her driver's license about two years ago, she said she would start riding a motorized scooter from her house to the senior center – down the steep curve of Barton Hill Road.

"She was adamant about it," Lindstrom said, and Turner had to be talked out of her plan.

After Turner stopped driving, Mary Borin would often give her rides to and from the senior center and other places she needed to go. Borin said she'd only known Iva for a few years, but they became very close in that time. After a while, Borin said, others at the senior center always expected her and Turner to be together – "like Bobbsey twins."

"She was very generous with friendship," Borin said. "You met her, and she'd be your friend for life." Borin said that even though Turner's family didn't live nearby, she had a strong network of friends in town who kept her happy and busy.

"I really loved her," Borin said. "I miss her."

Borin and Knotek both spoke of Turner's fashion sense, noting that she loved jewelry and red lipstick, and would make a point of getting



Iva Turner

her hair done every week. Turner was "prim and perfect," Knotek said.

"She was always fashionable," Borin said. "She was so cute."

"Everybody loved Iva," Ewing said. "She was a wonderful lady and she touched a lot of people in a lot of ways."

Seagrave agreed, explaining that her mother genuinely cared about other people and always wanted to help.

"Whatever she did, she did as much as she could for other people," Seagrave said.

# Marlborough Resident Shatters Football Records

by Katy Nally

After playing Division III football at Wesleyan University since his sophomore year, Marlborough resident Shea Dwyer finally got his time to shine this year as running back with a running-oriented offense.

And shine he did.

This year, Dwyer, 22, burned through two of Wesleyan's school records, and then he broke his own milestone.

In a game against Hamilton College on Oct. 20, Dwyer broke the record for rushing yards in a game, at 213, crushing Waldo Williams' 190-yard record set in 1986.

But the next game, Dwyer completed 31 carries and broke his own 213-yard record, with a rushing-yard total of 255, in a game against Colby College.

Several weeks later in his sixth game, against Bowdoin College, Dwyer also broke Tom Themistocles' record of 871 seasonal rushing yards, which he set in 1998. But also during that game, Dwyer broke through the 1,000-rushing-yard mark, achieving 1,007. Now his total sits at 1,128 rushing yards, which Dwyer secured in just seven games.

"He broke two pretty good milestones, at home, which was nice," Dwyer's coach Mike Whalen said. "It was really a remarkable feat."

Dwyer said it's been his goal all along to break the 1,000-yard mark.

"It feels great to accomplish one of the things I set out to do in my freshman year," he said.

With his average number of rushing yards per game, at 161.1, Dwyer is currently ranked sixth in the nation among Northern Collegiate Athletic Association running backs, and third among those in Division III. Entering the Bowdoin match, Dwyer was No. 1 in the nation, with an average of 170.2 rushing yards per game.

Dwyer's final game of his college career will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 13, at noon, against Trinity College at Wesleyan, but Whalen didn't want to guess how many more rushing yards Dwyer might pick up.

But Whalen did say, "He's gonna get a lot of opportunities."

This is Dwyer's fourth season as a Cardinal. Last year, his senior year, Dwyer also played

running back, but the team was not as running-oriented, he explained.

Dwyer played his sophomore year, but at the start of his junior season, he tore a ligament in his knee and was out all season. This year, as a graduate student, Dwyer had the chance to play for the Cardinals again, because he missed one year, and opted to use his "medical red shirt," which meant he was allowed to continue playing even though he was no longer an undergrad.

"I've been playing sports all my life," Dwyer said. "I wanted to keep playing as long as I could. This way I could do graduate school, and get a degree that would be useful."

In April this year, Whalen and other coaches were hired and "brought in a new philosophy for the team," Dwyer said.

Instead of focusing on the quarterback and receiver, the Cardinals became more passing-oriented, which meant Dwyer would get a lot more opportunities as running back.

"We went in a complete, opposite direction," Dwyer said. "I didn't know I was going to be as big a focal point for the offense as I am now."

When Dwyer was contemplating playing football as a grad student, Whalen said he asked him before the season started, "Are you the best running back in the program?" And with Dwyer's confidence, Whalen agreed to make him a more integral part of the offense.

Before, Whalen explained, "he wasn't asked to do what he can do best."

"He was very instrumental in this year's team," Whalen said. "He will be a serious candidate for offensive player of the year in NESCAC [New England Small College Athletic Conference]."

So this year, Dwyer received his second chance as running back, and followed through for his team.

"It's really satisfying for me as head coach to see a kid like that who's so committed, and then be rewarded like that," Whalen said.

Dwyer said he was "definitely" grateful for the chance to have more carries and rush more yards than during his previous seasons.

"To get that many carries as I do, it's definitely a change of pace from what I've been doing," Dwyer said. "It was a special opportunity for myself in the offensive line."



Marlborough resident Shea Dwyer, 22, is breaking records left and right as running back for Wesleyan University's football team. Dwyer completed over 1,000 rushing yards this season in just six games and he has one more to go, which is scheduled for tomorrow.

## Marlborough Police News

11/1: Troop K and Eastern District Major Crime Detectives are investigating an armed robbery the occurred at the 7-Eleven on the corner of Route 66 and North Main Street around 3:30 a.m. No one was injured during the event.

11/2: A 17-year-old male was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

11/2: Richard Zacher, 40, of 1782 Papermill Rd., was charged with two counts of possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and two counts of disorderly conduct, State Police said.

11/5: Pamela Cyr, 50, of 80 Paterson Way, Berlin, was charged with fourth-degree larceny and issuing a bad check, State Police said.

## LifeStar Transports Two After Car Accident in Marlborough

Two men were transported via LifeStar after a one-car accident around 2:53 a.m., on Saturday, Nov. 6, on Route 66, State Police said.

According to State Police, a 2006 Jeep Wrangler was traveling westbound on Route 66 in the area of James Drive and for "unknown reasons," drove off the roadway.

The two men inside the vehicle sustained injuries and were both transported via LifeStar to Hartford Hospital. It is not known who was driving the Jeep, State Police said.

Malcolm Privott, 22, of Middletown, sus-

tained "non-incapacitating" injuries and Donald Loree Jr., 29, of Cromwell, sustained "incapacitating" injuries, according to State Police.

Hospital staff said Loree was in critical condition Thursday.

The vehicle veered off Route 66 onto the south-side shoulder and rolled over, State Police said.

The case is currently under investigation and anyone with more information about the accident is asked to contact Trooper Tyler Charette at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

# Cassano Wins Senate Seat, Officially in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

Recounted results this week show Democrat Steve Cassano maintained the narrow lead he held over Republican Stewart "Chip" Beckett on Election Day, in the race for state Senate.

The recount put Cassano ahead by 73 votes, whereas before, he had a 66-vote lead.

Now, officially, Cassano will be state senator for the Fourth District, which includes Marlborough, Glastonbury, Bolton and Manchester.

In his hometown of Manchester, Cassano gained three votes after the recount and Beckett lost three. In Bolton the results stayed the same, and in Marlborough, Cassano gained one, while Beckett's tally remained the same. In Glastonbury, Beckett's hometown, Cassano gained three, and Beckett gained one.



Cassano

Beckett actually won Marlborough, Bolton and Glastonbury, giving him a 3,760-vote lead on Cassano. But his wide margin was squelched when Manchester's votes were tallied, and Cassano pulled ahead by 3,833 votes.

All told, Cassano received 18,561 votes after the recount, and Beckett, 18,488.

The recount was mandatory because the original 66-vote margin was less than one-half of 1 percent, at about 0.178 percent. After the recount, that winning-margin is still very slim, at 0.197 percent.

When reached this week, Cassano said, "I felt pretty confident the recount would hold up. Now that it has held up there is a sense of relief."

Cassano also praised his competitor's efforts. "Chip ran just a tremendous campaign," he said. "He worked everyday, day and night; we saw each other often and he did a class job."

Cassano will bring to the state Senate his experience as vice chair of the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board, as a former sociology professor at Manchester Community

College and as the mayor of Manchester for 14 years.

On the campaign trail, Cassano's platforms included streamlining operations at the state level, strengthening public education to better prepare students for college and eliminating the budget deficit.

Beckett congratulated the senator-elect this week.

"Steve will now be my senator, as well as the senator for everyone else in the district," Beckett said in a written statement. "I will offer my help and support for him to [tend] to our business of solving the problems of our state."

For Beckett, his success really hinged on Manchester voters. The Republican said Tuesday that town was the "hardest" place for him to secure votes, and when asked what he could have done to improve his chances in Manchester he replied jokingly, "I could have been a veterinarian there."

Beckett owns his own veterinarian practice in Glastonbury.

"His name was really well known there," Beckett added. "That's the way it went."

Although he lost, Beckett said he'd "continue serving as the majority leader on the Glastonbury Town Council and work to make Glastonbury a better place."

Beckett said it was too early to tell if he would run again in 2012. This year marked the second time Beckett vied for the Fourth District Senatorial seat.

In 2006 Beckett ran an unsuccessful campaign against Democrat incumbent Mary Ann Handley, who received about 61 percent of the votes. After representing the district for 14 years (and Marlborough since 2002, when the districts were redrawn), Handley plans to retire at the end of this year.

Beckett said his candidacy in 2012 would depend on whether or not the recently elected officials adequately address and fix the state's financial situation. The state is projected to face a \$3.26 billion deficit for the next two years.

"If they aren't able to, we'll have to revisit it at that time," Beckett said.

# Tense Public Comment at Town Council Meeting

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council had a full agenda of items to deal with at its meeting Tuesday, but it was the public comment sessions that bookended the meeting that seemed to cause the most controversy.

The two public comment sessions were tense, with many people speaking out both in favor and against the council. Resident Bunny Simko stood up and asked the audience to stop the bullying and intimidation.

“If you don’t like the way things are going, then run for election,” said Don Coolican. “You have to wait your turn.”

Residents on both sides urged the town to move on from the Police Chief Matthew Reimondo controversy that has occupied it for months.

“The negative thing is over,” said Nikki O’Neill. “Let’s move on. It’s time that we started thinking positive.”

“Don’t resign!” O’Neill added as she sat down. O’Neill and Pete Brown urged people to show the council members more respect.

“You may be right” in criticizing the council, Brown said, “but do it in a considerate manner. Do it in the rules of democracy.”

“Yes, you are volunteers, but you are *our* Town Council,” said Lori Weech, urging the councilors to start cooperating to get work done.

Dale Maynard explained that when he was collecting signatures on the petition to bring Reimondo’s position to a townwide vote, he had encountered residents of all political affiliations who “expressed their disdain for your decisions and arrogant behavior over the past few months.”

“I have decided to become a Chatham Party member,” Maynard said, “to help this town become a better place to live.”

On Monday, Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel had sent an e-mail to fellow council member Barbara Moore and supporters throughout East Hampton. The e-mail was later leaked to an online message board, and Engel confirmed that she had written it.

In the message, she asked for “friendly faces” to come to the meeting, and “for every call for

us to resign I need and equal and enthusiastic call for us to stay on board.”

Engel said that since council member Bill Devine had announced his resignation, “there are another few of us on the fence.”

“More resignations will NOT be a good move for the future of East Hampton,” Engel wrote in her e-mail. Engel said she couldn’t say which council members were considering resigning.

Engel added that if people needed to ask for resignations, they could say “I would request that the only resignation come from Sue Weintraub.”

Engel later said she had sent the e-mail to a “select group of people,” and she never intended for it to become public. She said it wasn’t fair for people to be offended by the message, since it wasn’t intended for them.

Engel also said she didn’t care whether or not Weintraub resigned. “We’ve been asked to resign so many times, and I thought it would be nice if somebody asked Sue,” she said.

\* \* \*

Also Tuesday, the council moved ahead with its plan to move the offices from the Town Annex to the building owned by Jeffrey Palmer, a local optometrist.

At its last meeting on Oct. 26, the Town Council reached a consensus that Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry would draw up plans for moving into the building, located at 240 Middletown Ave.

On Tuesday, council members briefly considered moving into a building owned by Rand Properties, located at 42 East High St. Engel said she liked the Rand building since it was closer to the town center, and had an elevator.

Council member Sue Weintraub explained she had heard concerns from residents, who said the Rand Building’s parking lot is unsafe in winter, and that the building has problems with mold and ventilation. Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb said he and the town annex employees had inspected both properties, and agreed that either would work.

“Two weeks ago, we all agreed the Palmer

building was the way to go,” council Vice Chairman John Tuttle said. He said that since the price difference between the two buildings was less than \$2,000 over the course of eight years, he saw no reason for the town to change its mind. Tuttle also pointed out that the Palmer property offered more privacy for food bank clients, since they could access the building from the rear.

Drewry explained that Palmer was looking for a seven-year lease, though the town could sublet the property if they found a better facility.

Palmer attended the meeting, and told the council he would have any necessary construction done for free within a few weeks after the town signed the lease.

At the last meeting, Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka said the rent for the 2011-12 fiscal year (the first full year of the lease) would be \$46,121. Currently, the town pays about \$55,000 a year for the annex space, Jylkka said. In addition, Jylkka said, moving expenses and phone and phone and internet connections would cost about \$21,000.

Drewry explained that since the town was actively seeking a new location for the annex offices, Connecticut Light & Power, which owns the building, would allow them to temporarily stay put. If the town was still undecided several weeks from now, Drewry said, the town may be facing an eviction notice.

At the end of the meeting, Drewry said he planned to draw up a lease with Palmer the very next day.

\* \* \*

In the other major agenda items of the evening, Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden and Board of Education Chairman Michael Vasquez presented the results of two bus inspections that had been conducted in June and August.

Earlier this year, the school board contracted Transit Resource Center (TRC) to conduct the inspections, which Nichols is paying for. In June, Golden explained, 40 percent of Nichols’s buses had safety defects, and the inspectors found the company’s maintenance records to be inadequate.

In August, TRC conducted another inspection, checking five buses and five vans. There were four serious defects, which could have kept three vehicles out of service, the report said.

Golden thanked Director of Business Services Karen Asetta for her work with Nichols, explaining that Asetta spent part of every day working on transit issues.

Golden also addressed bus complaints she had received last week, when East Hampton resident Kimberley Fontaine said her daughter was picked up in a bus that lacked flashing lights, a stop sign and a safety bar in front. Fontaine said the driver acknowledged that the

lights didn’t work.

The next day, Fontaine said, her daughter was transported home in a van, since the bus was taken out of service for repairs. But, she said, her daughter was put in the front seat of the van without a booster seat.

Golden explained that school vehicles are allowed to put small children in the front seat, provided the air bag is inactivated. She said the Department of Motor Vehicles and police department were investigating the safety problems with the bus, and that the driver had been issued a citation from the DMV.

Golden said Nichols Bus Service had worked hard to improve its safety record since March, when a *Hartford Courant* article highlighted the safety records of all the school bus companies in the state.

“It was really a firestorm for all the school systems in the state,” Golden said. “We believe that everything has been done that could possibly be done.”

Golden said the buses would be inspected again in January. “We need to continue to inspire confidence and you can’t do that with a one-shot deal,” she said.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, Becky Sielman, an actuary from Milliman, Inc., outlined to the Town Council the differences between a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan for the town hall employees. Due to time constraints, Engel said she would bring Sielman back to another meeting to continue her presentation.

Town Cemetery Board Chairman Kevin Reich also addressed the council, asking that Drewry be allowed to draft a letter to the owner of a property adjacent to the Skinnerville Cemetery. Reich explained that the town had a responsibility for burying residents who could not afford to do so, and that the property would provide space for enough graves to meet the town’s needs for about 100 years. He said that while the property owner was not selling the land immediately, he wanted the town to have the right of first refusal when it came up for sale.

In another agenda item, the council voted to accept four roads in the Royal Oaks development. The town will now be responsible for the maintenance of these roads – Mathieu Lane, Julia Terrace, Ray Lane and Rachael Drive.

\* \* \*

The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 p.m., at the high school library. In addition, a Tri-Board meeting of the Town Council, BOE and Board of Finance is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., in the same location.

Also, Drewry said he was trying to schedule a town council executive session next Monday or Tuesday to discuss the pending litigation against the town.

## Drewry Rules No Just Cause to Lay Off Reimondo

by Claire Michalewicz

The day after the referendum that reinstated Police Chief Matthew Reimondo to his job, the interim town manager has issued a legal opinion stating there was never just cause to remove Reimondo in the first place.

Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry, serving as hearing officer in the hearing afforded Reimondo under state statute 2-278, issued his ruling last Wednesday, Nov. 3.

“If the Town had amended the Ordinance prior to advising Reimondo that he would be dismissed,” Drewry wrote, “the Town would have had ‘just cause’ to dismiss Reimondo because the chief of police position would no longer have existed.”

Instead, the Town Council did not change the ordinance until Sept. 28. In addition, Drewry said, the revised ordinance was never effective. Ordinances do not take effect until 20 days after they are noticed in a local newspaper, and during that time, a successful petition drive brought the ordinance to a townwide vote.

The ordinance revision was overturned, with 3,701 ‘no’ votes and 1,617 ‘yes’ votes.

“Consequently, the vote to abolish the Chief of Police position and restructure the police department was not approved,” Drewry wrote.

In his decision, Drewry wrote that though he, as hearing officer, did not have the right to reinstate Reimondo to his position, Reimondo should be returned to his job because the revised ordinance had failed at referendum.

The ruling came a month after the hearing adjourned on Oct. 4.

“We never tried to hold it back,” Drewry said this week. He said that since the referendum happened as he was working on his decision, he included the vote in his reasoning.

Reimondo’s lawyer, Leon Rosenblatt, said Drewry’s ruling affirmed what he had argued during the hearing – that Reimondo’s job still legally existed and he should be returned to his position. Rosenblatt said he was angry that Drewry had not issued his ruling sooner, and called his actions “duplicious.”

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said she was “very disappointed” in the rul-

ing, saying she thought Reimondo had been laid off appropriately, with input from attorneys. But, she said, Drewry had followed the advice of Nicholas Grello, the attorney hired to advise the moderator.

Reimondo’s hearing initially started on July 2, but the town’s attorney, Mark Sommaruga, moved to dismiss the case, stating that Reimondo had been fired for financial reasons, not for cause, and therefore had no right to a hearing. Reimondo’s attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, responded with a motion that Reimondo was entitled to a hearing, and then-Town Manager Jeffery O’Keefe granted the hearing in August.

Since O’Keefe resigned on Sept. 10, Drewry filled in as the hearing officer at the October hearing, which lasted nearly five hours. Aided in the procedure by Grello, Drewry said at the hearing that he would issue a ruling “as soon as humanly possible.” Drewry later said he was waiting for the transcripts of the hearing to help him make his decision, and said he did not receive the transcripts until Oct. 25.

\* \* \*

Also last week, a Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) hearing was held about the complaint Reimondo had filed against the Town Council in July, alleging it violated FOI rules at the June 22 executive session at which they discussed his layoff and approved a severance package.

Shortly after Reimondo was laid off and driven home, the council met in executive session to discuss his termination. Reimondo alleged that he had not been properly notified about the meeting, and that he had the right to ask that the meeting be held in public session.

Rosenblatt questioned several witnesses, including Reimondo, Engel, Town Council Vice Chairman John Tuttle and council member Sue Weintraub, about the June 22 meeting.

Rosenblatt explained that he and town attorney Jean D’Aquila have until Dec. 16 to file any additional briefs, before FOIC counsel Kathleen Ross makes a decision. After that, he said, the matter would go to a hearing before the full FOIC for a final ruling.

# Quorum Meeting Highlights Park's, Quarries' Progress in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

It's been a community effort, with people working bit by bit over a decade, but the Portland Riverfront Park has become a popular spot for local residents to exercise and relax.

Last month, the Brownstone Quorum held its quarterly meeting to provide updates about the park, and to explain the history of the quarries and the efforts to turn the Riverfront Park and the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park into attractions.

Howard Rosenbaum, a member of the quorum's executive board, explained that creating Riverfront Park, located at the end of Middlesex Avenue, had been a slow but steady effort. Over the years, many people donated their time and supplies at no cost to the town, he said. Since the town obtained the land in 1999, Rosenbaum said, volunteers from the quorum had been coming to the park to clear the land bit by bit. At first, the entire property was covered with thick brush, he said, but now there are large patches of grass where people can relax, play sports and have picnics.

Earlier this month, Brian Kogut from Kogut Nursery in Meriden provided 58 plants, which were used to decorate the entrance to the park, and to help prevent erosion around a small stream, Rosenbaum said.

Now, Rosenbaum said, he sees people using the park every time he visits.

"You never used to see that two years ago," he said.

"Where we had seen piles and piles of trash and rubbish, we saw a park," said Jeanne Dilworth, past president of the Quorum. "The whole thing has been the case of a bunch of people loving what they do."

Quorum President Jim Tripp said hauling out trash wasn't glamorous, but it was "a lot of fun." And now, he said, instead of trash, there are walkways, signs and picnic tables. Tripp said that before Portland had Riverfront Park, there had been no public access to the river, even though the town has more river frontage than any other in the state.

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Dwyer explained that "parks are essential in any community you live in," and said the park was becoming a popular place for residents to relax, as well as hold picnics, reunions and other events.

"What you have here in this gem in the riverfront is amazing," he said.

Further developing the park, Dwyer continued, would be important in attracting more people.

The nearby Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park has also been popular. Under the agreement between the exploration park and the town, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained, the town received 15 percent of sales at the gate. Through September of this year, the town received almost \$155,000.

"It was a very dry summer, and a very hot summer, and there were a lot of activities down there," Bransfield said.

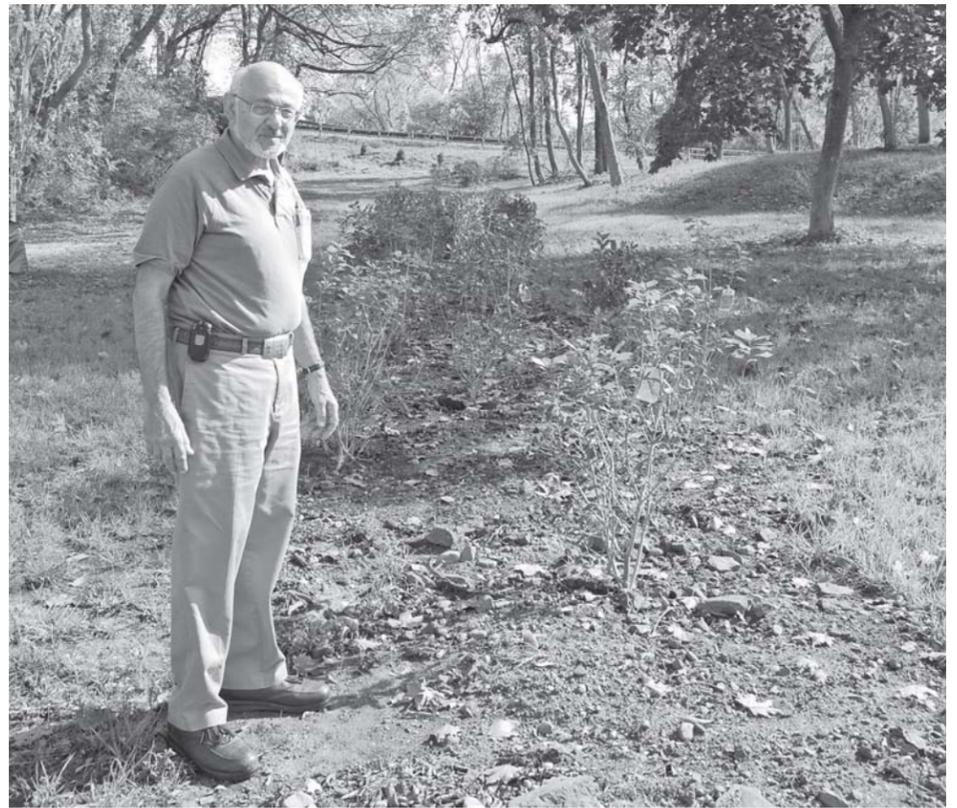
Bransfield also explained what the town intended to do with a \$250,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, which was awarded in September. The money, she said, could be used for an amphitheater or a building with bathrooms.

Previous STEAP grants had been used to extend the water system to the Brownstone Avenue extension, and to put new sidewalks along Middlesex Avenue, she said.

Dilworth explained that a core group of Quorum members had been instrumental in completing the projects, and she hoped more Portland residents would be inspired to join. The current members, she said, "weren't getting any younger."

"This has been such a wonderful group to work with," said Sari Rosenbaum. "We've always hoped what we did was contagious."

Chris Donahue, leader of Boy Scout Troop 2, explained that while on a recent camp out, his scouts had cleared some brush from one of the wooded areas of the park. He said he was trying to push the scouts to do more work in the community, and the park provided many



Howard Rosenbaum, a member of the Brownstone Quorum Executive Board, is pictured standing with Portland Riverfront Park's new plants.

opportunities.

Donahue said he was pleased with the way the park was turning out, and said he hoped more residents would use it.

"This passive recreation looks like it can be something for everyone," he said.

Also at the meeting, Portland resident Kearen Enright shared a children's book she's working on, which tells the story of a little girl named Olivia who visits the quarries with her grandfather and learns about their history. Enright

explained she's still finishing up the illustrations for the story, but is hoping to have it published.

Enright's friend Paul Smith, a content producer at CPTV, explained the book inspired him to work on his own quarry-related project. Over the summer, Smith produced a series of web videos about the past and present of the quarries, which are available at [yourpublicmedia.org/content/cptv/portland-brownstone-quarry-stories-part-iii](http://yourpublicmedia.org/content/cptv/portland-brownstone-quarry-stories-part-iii).

# Huffington Post Co-Founder Advocates Philanthropy in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

Americans need to do more to help out in their communities – this was the message political commentator, author and *Huffington Post* co-founder Arianna Huffington had when she spoke in Portland last week.

Huffington's appearance last Wednesday at Saint Clements Castle was a fundraiser for the Fund for Women & Girls, administered by the Middlesex County Community Foundation (MCCF). The fund supports programs that benefit and empower women and girls throughout the county.

Event co-chair Jessica Carso explained that getting someone so high-profile to come to the event took a lot of hard work and determination, but Huffington was willing to come because she cared about the fund's work.

Carso called Huffington "the woman who inspires me and so many to reach their full potential."

"As I began to research her a little more, I'm astounded by her," Carso said later in the evening. "Her career, her life, her attitudes; she epitomizes everything we said. It made it worth everything we did."

"This is all about philanthropy," event co-chair Maria Holzberg said as she introduced Huffington. "Oh, and I'm sure there will be a little talk about politics," she added, drawing laughter from the crowd.

MCCF President Cynthia Clegg said Huffington and her colleagues on the *Forbes* list of most powerful women were "dynamic, commanding, powerful, and changing lives everywhere."

"Now that sounds to me just like the women and men who give to the Fund for Women & Girls," she said.

As Huffington took the stage, she explained she wanted to speak at the event for three reasons – her respect for Wesleyan University President Michael Roth, who attended the event, the chance to visit her daughters and nieces at Yale and Wesleyan and, above all, because she feels the work the MCCF does sends an important message about philanthropy.

With a bad economy, Huffington said, "the biggest hope right now is the work you're doing right here." When she was growing up in a

small apartment in Greece, she said, her mother always instilled in her it was important to focus on the abundances they had, not what they lacked.

Philanthropy, she said, was a cause people of all political affiliations could unite behind.

"We can all agree, whether we're conservatives or liberals, that individuals need to do more," Huffington said.

"It's really the way to turn the country around," she continued. "We can really dramatically change what's happening in this country."

Huffington singled out several people throughout the country who were working to help others, including Seth Reams, who founded a website, [wevegottimetohelp.org](http://wevegottimetohelp.org), which matches unemployed people in Oregon with volunteer opportunities.

Huffington said she was optimistic that Americans were starting to realize that philanthropy is important, and she explained she was trying to spotlight the charitable work people are doing on the *Huffington Post*.

"I feel we're moving toward a life based on cooperation and meaning," Huffington said, and told the audience "You're early adopters."

Since the event was held the day after Election Day, several audience members asked Huffington questions about politics. Huffington said she hoped President Barack Obama would get back in touch with his roots as a community organizer, to get people excited about volunteer work. Another important goal for Obama, she said, would be to reverse the anti-incumbent sentiment in the country – something Huffington said "will require a lot of political courage."

Huffington also chided the Democrats in Congress for the way they talked about the economy – "The message can't be 'It could have been worse.'"

At the end of the event, the MCCF president announced Huffington was donating her speaker's honorarium to the fund. After signing copies of her latest book, *Third World America: How Our Politicians Are Abandoning the Middle Class and Betraying the American Dream*, Huffington explained why she feels the fund's work was so important.



Arianna Huffington, left, greets Portland resident Sari Rosenbaum, right, a Fund for Women & Girls board member, at a fundraiser held last week. Also shown are Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, center left, and Middlesex County Community Foundation President Cynthia Clegg, center right.

"Girls have to often overcome their own fears about speaking out and being heard," Huffington said. These obstacles, she said, added an extra layer to the challenges, like finding a job, that many young people face.

"It's important that we provide them opportunities to find ways to be engaged and make a living," she said.

After Huffington's speech, Cathy Branch-Stebbins, of Middletown, said she liked that Huffington focused on the positive message of emphasizing "our assets, and not our deficits."

"It was a good dose of inspiration," Branch-Stebbins said. "We're living in unsettled times."

The Fund for Women & Girls was founded in 2001, to fund programs throughout Middlesex County, board member Sari

Rosenbaum explained. Irene Silberstein, another board member, noted that only 6 to 7 percent of charitable giving is specifically targeted to women and girls, which she said wasn't enough.

This was the Fund for Women & Girls' fourth major fundraiser with a prominent speaker, Rosenbaum noted. Other speakers, Rosenbaum said, were academics Gina Barreca and Jeanine Basinger, and writer Amy Bloom.

Clegg explained that some of the recent projects the fund covered included a program called Girl Talk, which taught teenage girls to analyze the messages they received in the media, and an internship program that taught life skills to at-risk girls.

# Boards Discuss How to Tackle Budget Issues in Hebron

by Lindsay Fetzner

In preparation for the budget season, local boards held a joint meeting Wednesday evening to review the challenges the town will face in the upcoming months, communicating with the public and creating tiered budgets to present to the public.

The boards of selectmen, finance and education, as well as the RHAM Board of Education, each discussed timelines for individual budgets, as well as the hurdles the individual boards are faced with for the upcoming budget season.

"The last time we got together [Sept. 29], we discussed some of the challenges and the ways we thought would be a good way to communicate with the public," Selectman Jeff Watt said. "It is a good time to see where we are. We are at the point to set some parameters for our boards, talk about the process and communicating [during] the rest of the budget process."

Jane Dube, chairwoman of the local Board of Education (BOE), informed the boards that the board had just concluded and were compiling results of a survey offered online, which asked participants to prioritize various services offered by the district. The board also held three public forums to gain input from the public.

Although the forums were not "widely-attended," Dube said, there was good participation from the public and a lot of common themes were identified of what people value and would like to see moving forward. Class size, she said, was one of the most consistent themes. BOE member Kathy Shea agreed with Dube, and said that the biggest concern was class size. School board member Stephanie Raymond added, "people are concerned with technology" as well.

Dube also outlined the budget schedule for the board. In December, Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz presents her budget to the board. Throughout January, the board works with the budget, and in February, the budget goes to the town.

Cruz informed the other boards that the district started off the year with an approximately \$18,000 budget deficit, but with the Education Jobs Fund Program, was able to cover the deficit. The approximately \$176,000 left from the

\$220,043 total will be directed toward the 2011 budget, Cruz pointed out. Cruz said there is a heightened sense of awareness with monitoring finances, and added that they are discussed frequently.

"There are certain things we would love to do but it is what it is," Cruz said. "We continue to keep a very close eye on [finances] with myself, the board and [Director of Finance] Bill [Mazzara]."

Going forward, Cruz said, "The main priority is to keep the integrity of what makes us strong schools." Cruz said she wants to maintain class sizes, and give the students the highest quality of education everyday.

"I think we all want to be respectful about what the community has been clear about," Cruz added.

RHAM BOE Chairman Michael Turner identified the ways his board consistently communicates with the public – taped board meetings, visiting the three towns and holding workshops.

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said there will be a net gain of 50 students at the high school next year, and to prepare for those new students, furniture needs to be purchased.

"Every classroom is used every period everyday," Siminski added, and said this is one of the things that limits the way staff can schedule classes. The science labs, for example, can only have 20 kids due to the lab and state regulations.

Siminski said there is also increasing pressure to offer more electives and AP classes.

Looking ahead, Siminski said the RHAM budget is presented just after February vacation, and the public hearing for the public to voice their opinions is held in April.

BOF member Mal Leichter suggested that the boards work together to get state representatives in town to discuss the issues Hebron is being faced with.

"It behooves the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to get representatives in here early and put the pressure on them," Leichter said. "The issue with the magnet schools is just one of many."

At the Sept. 29 meeting, Leichter said the

magnet schools are started for a purpose and funded by the state; however, the tuition falls onto the town budgets. And, magnet schools are now widely advertising to recruit students to attend.

BOE member Brian O'Reilly added that the district has "excellent schools," and that the magnet schools have "excellent advantages" for students. But, fixed budgets continue to go up and districts are "getting backed in by the magnet schools." As a result, O'Reilly said, the board has to "really watch every little line item."

Watt provided an update for the boards from the BOS. He said the board conducted three workshops on various Saturdays and went through the process of identifying services that are mandated (federal, state or through the charter), priority services and optional services. He added that Town Manager Bonnie Therrien worked with the department heads to identify the time commitment with each of the services. At this time, Watt said the board is finalizing the list of core services, which will soon be presented to the public for their comments.

Overall, Watt said, "It was a good exercise. It was very educational to see those areas and the services we put in place."

Watt also said the board and Therrien have been working on updating the running list of expenditures. According to the budget impact handout passed out to attendees at the meeting, expenditures for the 2011-12 budget total \$482,540. Among the 13 expenditures are a 3.25 percent increase in salaries (\$82,456), a 15 percent increase in health insurance (\$79,983), leasing of new computers (\$30,000) and a 5 percent increase in capital costs (\$44,820), among others.

"The biggest change is health insurance," Therrien pointed out, and added that the committee that oversees it suggested starting at the 15 percent level. As time goes on, Therrien said the rates could potentially change.

Therrien also added that, in meeting with the assessor this week, she learned that the revaluation will have an impact "on all of our budgets." She said the values of homes have gone down, and that foreclosure rates have signifi-

cantly gone up. In addition, the town is also faced with "density issues" when it comes to attracting businesses to town. There is a 97-3 percent split between residences and commercial businesses in town, whereas the norm that communities usually shoot for is a 60-40 percent split.

Watt pointed out that there was a suggestion during the last meeting in September to prepare three different budgets, as Siminski has done in the past, and suggested that the boards consider doing this.

Each year, Siminski said, he proposes a "continuation budget," or what it would take to continue with the present services, a zero percent increase in the budget and a "halfway" budget. Lynn Guerriero, from the BOF, voiced that she thought Siminski's three budgets were very clear to the public and budgets they could understand.

"If we could follow that format," Guerriero said, "that would be great."

Mike Hazel, chair of the BOF, agreed with Guerriero and said the boards should present a "very simple waterfall" budget – one that shows what it takes to maintain services based on contractual and assumed increases, what a zero percent budget would look like, and "a stage in the middle." Hazel said the boards need to be "very open and honest" with the public.

In closing, Watt suggested that as each board draws near to key meetings where important decisions will be made, such as those regarding the budget, that they invite other town boards to the meetings. Other board members agreed, and said the more participation, the better.

Leichter also added that he believes the process surrounding the budget has been improved this year by getting the boards together earlier, and more than one time.

The Board of Selectmen will next meet Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m., at Douglas Library. The BOE will meet the same day, at 7 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. The Board of Finance's next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Office Building.

## Business is Booming at New Irish Pub in Hebron

by Lindsay Fetzner

Whether it is the tantalizing Irish nachos, the classic shepherd's pie or the freshly prepared Rhode Island clam chowder that brings you to town, it is Brian Fenn who is bringing mouthwatering, Irish-inspired cuisine to the east side of the river, again.

FennAgains Irish Pub and Restaurant had its soft opening Oct. 24, and ever since the 'Open' sign was illuminated, the crowds have yet to cease. The eatery is located at 54 Main St., near the firehouse.

Fenn, the owner of the restaurant, and Lori Dumas, its manager, said the restaurant did not advertise before opening, but that did not stall business one bit, as Fenn estimated that nearly 1,000 people came through the restaurant's doors on the 24th.

"We're absolutely jam-packed morning, noon and night," Dumas, a Hebron resident, said.

Both Fenn and Dumas were especially thankful for the patience of those who have dined with them thus far, as the staff is still being trained and "the kinks" worked out. But, despite the hurdles they have faced in the first few weeks since opening, Fenn said there has been a good response with the menu, and the clientele is very understanding of the situation.

For the meat lovers, the restaurant offers Irish potato skins piled high with chopped corned beef, Swiss cheese and Thousand Island dressing. The classic Reuben sandwich closely mirrors the potato skins, but is served on grilled rye bread with sauerkraut, instead of on potato "boats." For a variance in meat, try "The Rachael," which has all the ingredients of the Reuben, but the corned beef is swapped for thinly-sliced turkey. And, for those looking for a combination of chicken and vegetables with gravy, topped with creamy, mashed potatoes, stomachs will surely be satisfied with the cottage pie. The daily soups are also homemade; Rhode Island clam chowder, chili and a soup of the day are offered.

The menu offers something for everyone –

house and Caesar salads as well as a veggie burger for those looking to go meatless, and grilled cheese, chicken fingers and hot dogs for the younger bunch.

For those on the run or pressed for time, take-out is also available.

Fenn said his favorite menu item is the pub cheese steak, complete with shaved sirloin steak, sautéed onions and peppers, and a choice of cheese, served between a grinder roll, but added lightheartedly, that he has to be careful of how many he eats. The sandwich is denoted on the menu as a "FennAgains Favorite."

In the future, Fenn said the "opening menu" will be expanded to include lunch, dinner and drink specials as well. The restaurant, Fenn said, prides itself on being a family-owned and operated eatery with "good food and good prices." Right now, during all Sunday football games, the bar is offering 23 ounce football-themed glasses of beer for \$3.50, with refills costing an additional \$2.

Fenn, a Windham resident, and his wife Christina, who also works at FennAgains, are no strangers to the restaurant business. In fact, Fenn said he has been involved with the industry for 16 years. Fenn's wife owned the Eastern Perk coffee shop in Willimantic, and Fenn owned O'Brians Pub in Colchester, which was sold close to three years ago.

Dumas, a 38-year veteran in the business, has worked at a host of restaurants in the region as well, including Greenleaf Café in Hebron, the Log Cabin Restaurant in Lebanon as well O'Brians Pub.

"I know this entire area inside and out," Dumas said, smiling.

She said so far, although the beginning days have been long, opening up the restaurant has been exciting, and the crowds have been great." Dumas described Fenn's newest venture as "a place to socialize and have fun."

Fenn said he chose Hebron as the location for his newest restaurant because of availability, but also because "it stuck out to us as a



FennAgains Irish Pub and Restaurant owner Brian Fenn, on left, and Manager Lori Dumas, on right, will celebrate their third week of business this Sunday, since opening on Oct. 24.

good opportunity." And, the choice has proven to be a good one, as the outpouring from the community has been "very good," Fenn said.

"What sets us apart is just us, and the family that we have working," Fenn said, adding that although the staff is not all blood-related, many are like family to him.

"A family atmosphere, that is what we're aiming for," he said.

Fenn pointed out that he has visited several of the other local eateries in town, and said, "They're all great." Fenn added that he is also "glad to keep people in town."

"It's a work in progress," Dumas said. "But all in all, our clientele has been awesome and we are very happy to be in Hebron."

The official grand opening of FennAgains is slated for December, but a more definitive time and date has yet to be determined.

FennAgains is located at 54 Main St. and open everyday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (the bar is open later, until 11 p.m.) For more information, visit the restaurant on Facebook (with the keyword FennAgains Irish Pub and Restaurant, or via a link from the Hebron 24/7 Facebook page), or by phone at 860-530-1213.

# Hebron Selectmen Eye Increasing CIP Threshold

by Lindsay Fetzner

In an attempt to make progress on deferred projects, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) last Thursday discussed raising the threshold for projects that must go through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Also at the Nov. 4 BOS meeting, selectmen voted to remove a house on Village Lane from the Affordable Housing Program to remediate an incorrect formula calculation dating back to 2006.

In an Oct. 27 letter to the BOS, the CIP Committee stated its budget has remained "relatively static" at \$850,000 for the past 10 years, while the minimum size of an eligible project has remained at \$5,000 since the committee's inception 20 years ago.

As operating budgets over the past couple of years have been constrained due to budget pressures, the memo states that the CIP committee has "observed that the definition of a CIP project has drifted away from the core purpose of funding roads, roofs and large trucks."

In addition, the large capital items that need attention "have increasingly been deferred," the memo states, which has resulted in falling behind in both maintenance and replacement capital spending on these items.

"There is no way we can reasonably catch up within the current \$850,000 per year spending rate," the memo states.

This year alone, the CIP Committee was asked to fund projects that totaled \$8.5 million, which equates to approximately 10 times the amount of its budget.

As a result of falling behind in major capital projects, while being faced with budget constraints, the CIP Committee met Oct. 13 to discuss changes to its policies and procedures. One of the major changes the nine-member com-

mittee discussed and is unanimously recommending is changing the threshold of an eligible CIP project from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Even if the threshold is set at \$100,000, the memo states that "there will only be enough money to fund about half of the requests," prompting "tough decisions" to be made.

"It is time to give the CIP Committee the ability to maintain Hebron's roads, roofs and large vehicles, so that the community does not have to face dramatically higher costs of emergency repairs and maintenance in the future," committee members wrote.

Due to the \$95,000 jump in the threshold likely "disrupt[ing] the town and school operating budgets," the committee has recommended issuing a bond to fund a "one-time transitional CIP catch up." Issuing the bond will remove a large amount of the CIP "backlog" and prevent the operating budgets from being "burdened with the additional capital items all at once," the memo states.

CIP Committee members said they want to work with members of the boards of selectmen and finance to prioritize the most critical projects.

CIP members Judy Podell, Mal Leichter and Anne Fitzpatrick were present at the BOS meeting to discuss the changes with the board.

Leichter, also a member of the Board of Finance, said the town is "falling further and further behind" in roads and equipment, and that the changes to the amendments to the policy is the "consensus of the committee as to where we believe the funding of major projects should be."

Fellow CIP member Anne Fitzpatrick, who represents the Parks and Recreation Commission, described the \$5,000 threshold as "kind of antiquated."

She added that the one-time catch-up bonding could "clear off the stuff we have been unable to fund for years," such as the roads, plow trucks and fire trucks.

BOS member Mark Stuart inquired as to how the items under the \$100,000 threshold would be funded, if at all.

"Are those small items going to continue to fall behind and not get funded?" he asked. "The advantage of the small items is they stay visible but if the eye is taken off the long-term items, what happens to all the items under \$100,000? Do they get funded?"

BOS Chairman Jeff Watt agreed that it is time to revisit the policy, and added that solutions for funding the items under the recommended threshold would have to be considered.

Providing comment from the community at large, resident Dave Morrison said that with the new facilities study reports going public, he realizes that a lot of the town's equipment has become "antiquated and in need of help."

"Go after the real needs and the things that are breaking badly," Morrison said. "This is our community and these are our facilities."

\* \* \*

In other news, the BOS voted to approve the removal of 21 Village Ln. from the Affordable Housing Program of Hebron, pending approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A state statute was put in place in 1996 that allowed for the development of affordable housing units, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said, and the town currently has six units that are governed under the statutes.

In order to keep the homes "affordable," when a homeowner wants to sell the property, a formula outlined in the statutes is used to de-

termine how much the home can be sold for. In 2006, Therrien said the house on Village Lane was sold using the wrong formula, and was "sold for much more than it should have been [sold for] on the market at that time." The home was sold for \$237,853, according to the town manager's office.

Now, the current homeowner wants to sell the property. Therrien said the homeowner bought the property for too much money, and the property is no longer considered "affordable."

Using the correct formula to determine the selling price, the current owner would lose "quite a bit of money, due to our error," Therrien said. This is due to the fact that the homeowner would have to sell the property for a price that is much lower than what it was purchased for. If the home were to remain in the program, using the correct formula, the house would sell for \$192,408, or about \$45,445 less than what the present owner paid four years ago, according to the town manager's office.

As a result, in an effort to make sure the current owner does not lose money on the sale of the property, the BOS voted to remove the home from the Affordable Housing Program.

Therrien also noted that town staff members have examined the other units under the program to make sure the correct formulas were used, and no mistakes were found.

\* \* \*

The BOS also accepted the resignation of Bette Simpson as a part-time constable for the town, effective Nov. 1. She was with the town for four years.

The next meeting of the BOS is slated for Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Douglas Library community room, 22 Main St.

## Columbia Woman Dies in Route 6 Accident in Andover

by Lindsay Fetzner

A 75-year-old Columbia resident died Saturday, Nov. 6, due to injuries from a three-car accident in Andover, State Police said.

At approximately 1:35 p.m., Ingrid Van der Heide was traveling eastbound on Route 6, west of Route 316, when she and Karen Sheley, 43, of Chester, NH, collided head-on. Sheley was traveling westbound, just west of Route 316. Amanda Smith, 30, of Willimantic, was traveling westbound on Route 6 behind Sheley, and struck the left side of Sheley, after Van der Heide and Sheley collided, according to State Police.

Van der Heide was transported by LifeStar helicopter to Hartford Hospital with "serious injuries" and was later pronounced dead, due to her injuries, at the hospital, State Police said.

Born in Zandvoort, Holland, she devoted her life to raising her family. Van der Heide is survived by her husband of 51 years, Louis. She also leaves behind two daughters, Marjolein Rust, of La Jolla, CA, and Ilje Allsup and her husband Brett, of Portland, OR, as well as two sons, Mike, of Columbia,

and Pieter and his wife Kate Armstrong, of Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. In addition to a sister, Elly M. Klaje, of Holland, Van der Heide is also survived by 11 grandchildren, according to her obituary.

Friends and relatives called Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home in Wethersfield on Wednesday, Nov. 10. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday in Corpus Christi Church in Wethersfield, followed by interment in Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury.

Sheley was transported by Andover ambulance to Windham Hospital with "non-incapacitating injuries," according to State Police. On Tuesday, there was no record of Sheley at the hospital.

State Police said Smith was not injured in the crash.

Van der Heide's 1991 Volvo 244so sustained heavy front-end damage. The 2004 GMC Yukon that Sheley was driving had both front-end and left rear damage and Smith's 2001 Honda Civic sustained front-end damage as well, State Police said.

The accident, State Police said, is currently under investigation.

## Crash On Route 66 in Hebron Sends Woman to Hospital

by Lindsay Fetzner

A two-car accident on Route 66 on Wednesday, Oct. 27, sent one person to the hospital, while another evaded the scene, State Police said.

At approximately 9:56 p.m., Lynn Ristau, 51, of Ashford, was traveling southbound on Route 66 in Hebron, roughly two-tenths of a mile north of Millstream Road, when she was struck by Matthew Webb, 31, of Colchester. Webb, who was driving a 1992 Saturn SL1, failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection of Route 66 and Wellswood Road, State

Police said.

Webb was charged with evading, operating without a license and a stop sign violation, State Police said.

Ristau, who was driving a 1997 Buick LeSabre at the time of the accident, was transported to Windham Hospital by Hebron ambulance for an evaluation. On Tuesday, Nov. 2, Ristau was not listed at Windham Hospital.

There was right-side center damage to both vehicles, as well as front-end damage to the Saturn, according to State Police.

## East Hampton Police News

10/25: A 16-year-old from East Hampton was issued a summons for second-degree threatening, East Hampton Police said.

10/29: Gail F. Saltus, 46, of 20 Middletown Ave., was arrested for third-degree burglary, fourth-degree larceny, third-degree criminal mischief, credit card theft, illegal use of a credit card, third-degree identity theft, criminal impersonation and two counts of violation of probation, police said.

10/30: Eric J. Lachapelle, 25, of 74 Colchester Ave., was charged with disorderly conduct and violating a protective order, police said.

## Colchester Police News

11/3: Colchester Police are investigating a residential burglary that occurred on Gustafson Road around 5:40 p.m. A Sentry lock box was stolen. The case is under investigation.

11/4: Alexa Figueroa, 37, of 642 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with violation of probation, Colchester Police said.

11/4: Susan Glemboski, 60, of 318 Chestnut Hill Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to maintain lane and making an improper lane, State Police said.

11/5: A resident on Harbor Road reported someone was breaking into her house via the basement window, while she was inside. State

11/1: Amelia Cavanaugh, 18, of 133 Wopowog Rd., was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief and third-degree larceny, police said.

11/2: David J. Caldwell, 21, of 157 Daly Rd., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

11/3: Michael F. Biduk, 51, of 136 Main St., was arrested for first-degree failure to appear, police said.

11/3: Eric Lachapelle, 25, of 74 Colchester Ave., was arrested for violating a protective order and first-degree criminal trespass, police said.

Police arrived and arrested Sean Anderson, 23, of 12 Ferry Rd., Hadlyme, and charged him with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, third-degree burglary, second-degree trespassing and conspiracy to commit burglary, State Police said.

11/8: Todd Bellucci, 19, of 25 Bishop Boy Dr., Niantic, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree harassment, Colchester Police said.

11/8: Scott Folia, 45, of 116 Broadway St., Norwich, was charged with third-degree larceny, State Police said.

## Car Crash in Hebron Sends Two to Backus

Two Norwich residents were transported via Colchester ambulance to Backus Hospital last Saturday, Nov. 6, at around 2:44 a.m. after a one-car accident on Route 2, involving a deer, State Police said.

Kertus and Myriam Milius, 36 and 35 respectively, had complaints of chest pain, caused by seatbelts.

Myriam Milius was traveling eastbound on Route 2, about two-tenths of a mile past exit 21, when she turned the wheel to avoid hitting a deer and drove onto the shoulder and crashed into trees, State Police said.

Milius' 2002 Mercedes m1 320 sustained damage to the front bumper, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

11/1: Allison Coleman, 21, of 161 East Main St., Middletown, was charged with possession of narcotics and sixth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

11/2: William McDade, 23, of 136 Homestead Ave., Hartford, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, third-degree identity theft, five counts of illegal use of a credit card and four counts of credit card theft, police said.

11/5: A 17-year-old male was charged with third-degree identity theft, sixth-degree larceny, criminal impersonation, credit card theft and three counts of illegal use of a credit card, police said.

## Hebron Police News

11/1: Graham Waddington, 18, of 73 Smith Farm Dr., was charged with third-degree larceny, State Police said.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

There's big news here at the *Rivereast*.

No, I haven't suddenly become a conservative Republican. Nor have I denounced the Mets.

The *Rivereast* has gone online.

Effective immediately, archives of the past several months' worth of *Rivereast* are now up at [rivereastnews.net](http://rivereastnews.net). Each week's archives feature that issue's bylined stories by staff reporters, police news, obituaries and – because, hey, why not? – my column. Items such as the church listings or senior news or bake sale announcements won't be included.

Now, at the website, you won't be able to read the current week's issue – those will still be available in hard-copy only – but the issues from roughly one month ago and earlier will be on the site. More issues are being added all the time, so you'll want to check back often. As of my writing this Tuesday, the archives go back to June; East Hampton residents may be particularly intrigued by this, as they now can relive the Chief Reimondo saga from the beginning (see "Town Shocked as East Hampton Police Chief Ousted" in the June 25 issue).

Overall, I think these new archives will come in handy not just for the reader looking to find a story from a paper that was dumped in the recycle bin long ago, but also for the person who's moved out of state and is curious as to just what's news these days in their hometown.

Remember, go to [rivereastnews.net](http://rivereastnews.net). Once there, just click on "Rivereast News Bulletin Archives" and select an issue, or two, or three. Happy reading.

\* \* \*

While I was in no way a fan of the George W. Bush presidency, I've been intrigued by the little excerpts that have been leaked in the past few weeks from his new memoir (which was released Tuesday), as well as the nuggets uttered by Bush himself while out plugging the book.

In true Bush fashion, some of the comments have been head-scratchers (really, Bush? You view not reforming Social Security as the biggest failure during your eight years in office? Is Iraq even in the top five?), but they've been interesting.

One of the most outright bizarre – and rather graphic – revelations comes when Bush recalls the incident that solidified his pro-life stance. Apparently, when Bush was a teenager, his mother suffered a miscarriage. She then showed him the fetus, in a jar.

In an interview with Matt Lauer, Bush recalls, "She said to her teenage kid, 'Here's the fetus,'" and then he gestures as if he were holding the jar. Bush said in his book his

mother had saved the fetus in a jar to bring it to the hospital. "There was a human life; a little brother or sister," Bush told Lauer.

However, Bush insisted he didn't tell the story to try to show the "evolution of a pro-life point of view," but rather to "show how my mom and I developed a relationship."

Uh.....yeah. Not exactly your conventional mother-son bonding moment, but it definitely made an impression on Bush, especially considering he can recall it so vividly around 50 years later. But showing a miscarried fetus in a jar to your teenage son? Yikes. Sounds just a little extreme.

\* \* \*

I've written so much in the past about the whole Conan O'Brien mess with NBC, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention his new talk show, *Conan*, which debuted Monday on TBS. (If you somehow missed all the late-night drama of the past year or so, here's it in a nutshell: Conan takes over *The Tonight Show* from Jay Leno in June 2009. Jay, not ready to go yet, starts a new talk show at 10 p.m., an hour and a half before *Tonight* airs. Jay's new show bombs in the ratings, and Conan's *Tonight* doesn't do so great either. So NBC proposes giving Jay a half-hour show at 11:35, pushing Conan back to 12:05. Conan balks, and in January he and NBC have an ugly parting of the ways.)

I managed to only catch the opening of Monday's show, but it was great. After a hilarious cold opening depicting what Conan's been up to for the past nine months (which includes getting turned down for a job by *Mad Men*'s Don Draper and being unable to dispense sweet and sour sauce packets at Burger King), Conan launched into a solid opening monologue. During the monologue, he takes some good-natured jabs at the rather-uncreative name of his new show ("I [named it *Conan*] so I'd be harder to replace") and the fact that he's not on network TV anymore ("I have dreamed of being a talk-show host on basic cable ever since I was 46") and, of course, he does a few of his silly little dance moves.

But one of my favorite moments of the monologue comes when Conan said an awful lot has been going on in the world in the past nine months. "I wanted to cover it all in one joke, just in one joke," Conan said, "but then I realized that's like trying to keep an Icelandic volcano from wearing Lady Gaga's meat dress while a trapped Chilean miner cleans up the BP oil spill, comma, Brett Favre's penis."

Welcome back, Conan.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Marthe Coiro

Marthe Coiro, 70, of Colchester, passed away on Friday, Nov. 5, at her residence.

She was born on Aug. 25, 1940, in Strasbourg, France, daughter of Paul and Marie Christine Michel Amann.

She was employed for many years as a certified nurse's aide for local convalescent homes.

Surviving are her son, Eric Coiro; a daughter, Dominique Coiro-Ouellette; three brothers, seven sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two brothers.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. There was also a time of reflection.

## Portland

### Janina Furman Peel

Janina Furman Peel, 90, of Allen Street, Portland, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 9, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Poland Oct. 5, 1920, daughter of the late Peter and Aniela Kolanko Furman, she came to the United States from England in 1952 and was a Portland resident for many years. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Janina was the beloved mother of Albert Peel of Portland, Barbara Meadors and her husband Scott of Portland and Peter L. Peel of Middletown; beloved grandmother of Joseph Jarzabek III and his wife Shawna, Dianna Peel, and Brianna Schirra; and beloved great-grandmother of Joseph Jarzabek IV.

The family would like to thank all of the doctors, nurses, and aides who cared for their mother during her illness. They were all angels helping her on her journey to heaven.

Her family will receive relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Saturday morning, Nov. 13, from 10-10:45 a.m., when they will proceed to the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at the Swedish Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or to the Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit c/o Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

For directions, or to extend an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Colchester

### Geraldine Gibson

Geraldine Gibson, 81, of East Hartford and formerly of Colchester and New Haven, beloved wife of Elijah Gibson Jr., passed away suddenly Sunday morning, Nov. 7.

Born Aug. 10, 1929, in Martin County, NC, she was the daughter of the late L.V. Hill and was raised by her grandparents.

Mrs. Gibson was a talented beautician and was known to make home visits as well as working out of a shoppe in Middletown. She also worked at S&S Worldwide in Colchester for a number of years.

Ever devoted to her family, she took great pride in providing a warm and inviting home for them. Many cherished memories will include her wonderful cakes and delicious meals as well as for her beautifully decorated home, with many fresh, fragrant flowers.

Mrs. Gibson was an active and faith-filled member of the Crossroads Community Cathedral in East Hartford.

In addition to her loving husband of 56 years, she is survived by three sons, Michael of Middletown, Anthony of West Haven and Craig of Rocky Hill; her daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Vaughan Mitchell of East Hartford; two grandchildren, Jahmal and Brandon Mitchell; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by two sons, Alan and Barlery.

The family will receive guests starting at 10 a.m. today, Nov. 12, at the Crossroads Community Cathedral, 1492 Silver Ln., East Hartford, followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. Committal will follow in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



## Salem

### John Johnson

John P. Johnson, 56, of Salem, formerly of Glastonbury, beloved son of Mary (Pasquarelli) Johnson and the late George F. Johnson, passed away peacefully at home, Tuesday, Nov. 9. Born in Hartford, Aug. 14, 1954, John resided in Glastonbury most of his life prior to moving to Salem.

He was employed by Riverview Farms in South Glastonbury for many years, and then went on to work at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield. He loved his trips to Disney as well as visiting friends and family in Wisconsin.

In addition to his mother, John will be fondly remembered by his loving family; his daughter and son, Stephanie R. Johnson and Todd R. Johnson, both of East Hartford; sister and brother-in-law, Jude (Johnson) and Bruce Levi of Old Saybrook; brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Donna Johnson of Glastonbury; niece, Jessica Johnson of Glastonbury; and nephew, Shane Parker of Glastonbury.

A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating John's life will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m., in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury.

John's family will receive relatives and friends at the funeral home, today, Friday, Nov. 12 from 4 - 8 p.m. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

To extend online expressions of sympathy to the family, or for further information, visit [farleysullivan.com](http://farleysullivan.com).

## Colchester

### Alex Falbowski

Alex Falbowski, 88, husband of the late Mildred Gross Falbowski of Colchester, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the West Haven Veterans Hospital. He was born March 5, 1922, in Colchester, son of Tony and Mary Silkowski Falbowski.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army attaining the rank of Sgt. He was a machinist and worked for Pratt and Whitney, Electric Boat and then for the Harper Buffing Company in East Hartford before he retired. During his lifetime, he loved to do gardening, traveling, and go to Polka dances. He also was a fan of the Giants football and baseball teams and enjoyed watching the UConn basketball teams.

Surviving are three sons, Alexander, Anthony and Allen; one daughter, Dawn Marie Wellington; six step-daughters, Marge, Dot, Fran, Joan, Ruth and Sue; a sister, Jeanette Oldham; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Besides his wife he was predeceased by a son John, a stepson Frank, a brother Joe and three sisters, Theresa, Estelle and Jean.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 8, from the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Interment followed in St. Joseph cemetery with full military honors. Visitation was Sunday, Nov. 7, at the funeral home.

## Andover

### Marian Copeland

Marian (Vittner) Copeland, 87, of Manchester and formerly of Andover, departed this life Monday, Nov. 8. She was the wife of the late Russell E. Copeland and was predeceased by her daughter Judith Ann Adams and her son-in-law Norman P. Mortlock.

In addition, she was predeceased by her siblings, Frank, Will, Eleanor and Jack.

Marian was born July 17, 1923, in Manchester, daughter of the late Frank & Ruth (Wilson) Vittner. She grew up in the North End of Manchester and was a 1941 graduate of Manchester High School. Marian was proud of the sports that she played in school and was an avid bowler, bowling at the North End YMCA and the Parkade Lanes. She lived in Andover for more than 15 years and had worked at the election polls and canvassing the town for the census and other causes. Marian also worked at the Traveler's Insurance Co. for many years before leaving to raise her five children.

She is survived by her loving family, Randall Copeland and his wife Bette, Mary Lou Mortlock, Mark Copeland and Beverly Carr. She also leaves seven grandchildren, Rob, Kristy, Dan, Pat, Lindsey, Jonathan and Justin, and five great-grandchildren. Other survivors include her only surviving brother, Norman Vittner and his wife Bette, sister-in-law Sarah Carmen and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held today, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial will be in the East Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. To sign the online register book, go to [www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## East Hampton

### Iva Turner

Iva (Rich) Turner, 95, of East Hampton, widow of the late James C. Turner, died Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born June 17, 1915 in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Robert and Anna (Bailey) Rich.

Iva married James C. Turner on Sept. 28, 1935 and spent her entire life in East Hampton. She was a lifelong member of the East Hampton Congregational Church. Iva loved her home and her town of East Hampton. She loved gardening with its efforts and rewards, but most of all she simply enjoyed nature and the change of the seasons. In her retirement years she was active in the Belltown Senior Center and led trips and tours for seniors of all ages. She was known to ask, "Did you have a good time?" at the end of such excursions.

Iva leaves a vast family of neighbors and friends in East Hampton and New England, as well as a daughter, Suzanne Turner Seagrave of Greenville, SC; a son and his wife, R.J. and Mary Mitchell Turner of Winchester, VA; and a grandson, Robert J. Turner Jr. of Laramie, WY.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Nov. 6 in the East Hampton Congregational Church. Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiated.

Burial will be private in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Saturday, Nov. 6.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Congregational Church, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424, or to the Belltown Senior Center, 105 Man St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

## Colchester

### Milton Arnold

Milton C. Arnold, 100, of Colchester and formerly of East Hampton, widower of the late Joyce (Brown) Arnold, died Sunday, Nov. 7, at Waters Edge in Middletown. Born Oct. 18, 1910 in East Hampton, he was the son of the late Albert C. and Mary (Kiefer) Arnold.

Milton graduated from the University of Connecticut Forestry Program with honors and had worked as a fish and game biologist for the State of Connecticut Environmental Agency. He held the javelin throwing record at UConn, was a member of the UConn Glee Club, and a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. He was a forestry officer in the C.C.C. at Camp Ferno in eastern Connecticut from 1923 until 1941. Milton had also been a member of the Jewett City Rifle Club.

He is survived by his son, John C. Arnold of Colchester; a daughter, Joan E. Hageman and her husband David of Colchester; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Anne C. Rankl; and a brother, Norman Arnold.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 11, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in First Church Cemetery in East Haddam.

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](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Carol Athorne Bergquist

Carol Athorne Bergquist, 66, formerly of East Hampton, passed away peacefully with her husband of 38 years and her family by her side Saturday, Oct. 30. She was born in New Haven on Nov. 14, 1943, to the late Nellie and Albert Athorne. Albert was killed in World War II and Nellie later married George M. Gates.

Carol spent her formative years in the Middle Haddam section of East Hampton. After graduating from East Hampton High School, Class of 1961, she earned an associate's degree from Mitchell College of New London. She worked in several bookkeeping positions and was an accounting/bookkeeping supervisor at Liberty Bank of Middletown. After leaving Liberty Bank, she worked doing bookkeeping at several small companies. She retired in 1996.

Carol was the Girl Scout cookie chairman for Middlesex County for several years. She was a member of the Congregational Church of Marlborough. Carol and Fred moved from Connecticut to Florida in 1996, then to South Carolina in 2007. She and her husband enjoyed summers in Boothbay Harbor, ME, for many years, living in the house where her husband grew up.

Carol met people easily and had many friends. She loved life and smiled and laughed often. She loved people, flowers, animals and nice things. She enjoyed decorating her homes, liked gardening, reading, dining out and traveling. She worked hard at everything she did. Carol and her husband often traveled with her brother, Marc and his wife, Adair. Among the places they visited were Hawaii, Spain, various Caribbean islands, Mexico and many locations in the United States. She particularly enjoyed and adored her two grandchildren, Connor and Kelsey Bain.

She is survived by her husband, Fred Bergquist, daughter, Joanne Bain and son-in-law, Robert Bain

of Rhode Island; a stepson, John Bergquist of California and Washington state; two grandchildren, Kelsey and Connor Bain; a sister, Lynette Johnson and her husband, Clifford, of Florida; three brothers, Craig Athorne and his wife, Vicki, of Florida, Marc Athorne and his wife, Adair, of Tennessee and George Gates Jr. and his wife, Carleen, of Florida. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, an aunt and many friends.

A memorial service celebrating Carol's life was held at Sauls Funeral Home, 90 Simmonsville Rd., Bluffton, SC on Saturday, Nov. 6, and a reception was held immediately following at the Bergquist home.

The family requests memorial donations be made to Serenity Palliative and Hospice Care, Inc., 10 Plantation Park, Suite 104, Bluffton, SC 29910 or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Sauls Funeral Home of Bluffton, SC, assisted the family with their arrangements ([www.saulsfh.com](http://www.saulsfh.com)).

## Portland

### Gerard Arthur Denault

Gerard Arthur Denault, 84, of Saybrook Road, Middletown, formerly of Portland, died Friday, Oct. 29, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the husband of the late Lorraine A. Chartier Denault. Born in Central Falls, RI, April 24, 1926, a son of the late Henry O. and Marie Louise Martel Denault, he was a Portland resident for many years before moving to Middletown.

Mr. Denault was a teacher for the Middletown School System for 30 years retiring from Woodrow Wilson Middle School. He was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He proudly served his country in World War II serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Mr. Denault was a dedicated teacher who was loved by his students. He was truly a family man who loved his family with all of his heart and soul.

He is survived by his daughters, Karen Bates and her husband Kevin of Enfield, Paula Denault-Pasquale and her husband David of Durham, Lori Cray and her husband Tom of Durham, Lisa Sattler and her husband Craig of Middletown; his grandchildren, Erin, Brian and Kyle Bates and his fiancée Danielle Lonergan, Michelle, Erica, Julian and Elise Pasquale, Jacqueline, Abigail, Samuel and Jacob Sattler, Sage Stachowiak and David Stachowiak, Dawn and Theresa Pasquale; his great-grandchildren, Trent Spitz, Xavier Letourneau, and Mia Rose Fiero.

He was predeceased by his sister Rita Denault and brothers Henry "Hank" Denault and Raymond Denault.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Wednesday, Nov. 10. Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 11, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and at the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment, with military honors, followed in the State Veterans Cemetery.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Salem

### Carl Chamberlain

Carl Chamberlain, formerly of Salem, entered eternal rest peacefully with his children by his side in Belfast, ME, on Oct. 11 at the hospice unit of the Waldo County Hospital. He was born Sept. 5, 1929, in Rockland, ME, the son of Verna Jordan Chamberlain and Eugene Artemus Chamberlain.

He is survived by his former wife, Elinor Phibbs Chamberlain, and second wife, Sarah Chamberlain, daughters Susan McMin, Sharon Yaksta, Bonnie Vachon, Verna Chamberlain and sons William Chamberlain and Jordan Chamberlain, many stepchildren and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by a sister, Helen Beaufre of Titusville, FL.

A brother, Philip Chamberlain of New York, and a sister, Ethel Lang Johnson of Lincolnville, ME, predeceased him.

Carl was a sailor in his younger years and then a union painter while living in Salem. He retired to Maine and began the art of restorative painting on many of Belfast's beautiful homes, barns and bridges.

Carl was an active member of the St. Joseph's Polish Club while living in Salem. He was an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Northport Memorial 6131, also a foster grandparent for many years in the Head Start program in Belfast, ME, which gave him a great sense of accomplishment and he was loved by all. He served his country in the U.S.A.A. Corp. from 1947-49.

A private memorial will be held after the return of his cremains from the New England School of Medicine in Biddeford, ME.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Head Start Program, High Street, Belfast, ME 04915 or to the Hospice Unit at Waldo County General Hospital, Northport Ave., Belfast, ME 04915.

