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Sunday's explosion of the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown was felt by many in Portland and surrounding towns. As this photo, taken from Wellwyn Drive in Portland, indicates, the plant is located just across the Connecticut River.

Portland Residents Shaken By Explosion

by Claire Michalewicz

The explosion at the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown on Sunday physically and emotionally shook some Portland residents. Many of them are still shocked by the disaster they witnessed, and are trying to fix the damage their houses sustained in the blast.

Wellwyn Drive, directly across the river from the plant, was especially hard hit. Many people on the street saw the explosion and fire firsthand. The force of the explosion cracked windows, walls and foundations in the neighborhood.

On Tuesday, Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, State Senator Eileen Daily, and State Representative Jim O'Rourke met with residents of Wellwyn Drive to assess the damage to their homes and hear their concerns.

"It's mainly for the homeowners that we're out here," Daily said. She acknowledged that while the state legislature will do whatever it can, the plant is ultimately the federal government's responsibility.

O'Rourke said Wellwyn Drive, which runs parallel to the river, is the closest residential area to the power plant.

"The most important thing is that we conduct an investigation," he said. O'Rourke is on the state energy committee, and said that the committee would be conducting a thorough investigation into the explosion. He also stressed that if construction on the plant resumes, the

committee would review safety precautions to ensure that something like this doesn't happen again.

O'Rourke added that several explosions of this type have occurred around the country in the past few years, and he finds it troubling.

"I'm speechless," Bransfield said about the explosion and the damage to the homes. She emphasized that she wanted residents to know which town officials they could contact about the damage.

One of those is Portland Building Official Lincoln White was in the neighborhood assessing damage to houses. He said the most common damage included broken windows, cracked plaster, and radiators that separated from the walls.

"They got hit pretty good," White said about Wellwyn Drive.

Lynne Townsend has cracks in her walls, ceiling and foundation. She's contacted her insurance company about the damage, but said she's anticipating a long wait in getting the cracks repaired.

Dan Dziob owns two houses next door to each other on Wellwyn Drive, and said that both houses sustained similar damage: cracked walls, floors and foundations. His garage door buckled from the force of the explosion, and his attic hatchway was sucked upwards into the

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Resident Publishing Pictorial History of Town

by Lindsay Fetzner

Andover residents will soon have the opportunity to hold a piece of town history in their hands...sort of.

Town Historian Scott Yeomans is putting together a book entitled *A Historic Look at Andover, Connecticut*. Yeomans has combined his personal collection of photographs with other photos, articles, pamphlets and countless important historical pieces he has received into a book celebrating Andover's rich history.

Yeomans began doing genealogy research on his family a number of years ago and as a result, slowly gained a deeper understanding of the town's history. Yeomans, who has served as the official town historian for over 10 years, is a native of the town. In fact, he can trace his family's residency back to the Civil War era and currently lives on property that once belonged to his great grandfather.

First Selectman Bob Burbank said, "It's good that we are retaining a lot of history." Burbank commented on the long line of Yeomans that have been in Andover for countless years.

In 1978, when he was doing his own genealogical research, Yeomans said he became "happily fascinated" by the town's history. He decided it was time to put together a collection that displayed that history, in the form of a book. The more interest Yeomans expressed in the project, the more community members provided

him with historical artifacts, providing a significant portion of the book Yeomans has worked to put together.

"I didn't want to create a picture book," he said. "I wanted something much more substantial."

Yeomans said he hopes people will see and understand the dramatic changes that have taken place in town over the course of many years. Andover once was home to a large hotel in the 1800s, as well as an active railway system that saw as many as 50 trains per day.

"It was a very different time," Yeomans said.

Resident Dianne Grenier described Yeomans as "Mr. History" and a person who "knows more about Andover history than anyone else." Grenier commended Yeomans on a "job well done" and expressed interest in purchasing a copy of the book when it becomes available this spring. "It will be a fine book," Grenier said, adding that it will be a "must-have for anyone with a deep interest in Andover history."

One of the oldest photographs included in the book dates back to 1912, and is a class photo from Andover Elementary School. Just looking at the style of dress, Yeomans said, could be viewed as educational. So far, residents who have reviewed the book at the library have provided him with very positive responses,

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Included in a new book about Andover's history is this 1954 shot of the Andover Fire Department Softball Team, from the year the team was named league champions. Pictured front row, John Phelps, Steve Ursin, Buster Hutchinson, Stanley Gasper; middle row, Guy Taylor, Leslie Billings, Bobby Mann, Bernie Hudak, Sonny Covell, J. Cyler Hutchinson; back row, Eddie Yeomans, Joe Carter, Ed Whitcomb.



The explosion was so powerful, it even damaged the foundation of some Portland residences, including the Wellwyn Drive home of Dan Dziob.

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attic. Dziob spent Monday and Tuesday talking with his insurance company about the damage to his houses.

Wellwyn Drive residents said that they'd grown used to hearing noises from the plant, though the sounds were sometimes disruptive. Townsend said the noises "jolted us" back then as well.

"It's a noisy plant," she said.

Townsend said she had always been concerned about the safety of the plant, and Sunday's explosion confirmed her fears.

The previous weekend, Dziob watched the plant from his back deck, and noticed the way the controlled explosions echoed up and down the river. "They sometimes did it all day long," he said. "I was used to the sound."

Still, those commonplace noises were nothing compared to what happened on Sunday. Dziob said the explosion sounded the way he imagined an atomic bomb would sound. He said he immediately knew that the noise was coming from the plant, since he had been notified that they would be conducting gas purges over the weekend.

Townsend was standing near her front door when the plant exploded, and she saw and felt the entire thing. "You could feel the house almost coming off the foundation," she said.

Townsend said that she's still shaken by the explosion, and she feels terrible about the five workers who were killed. "It just makes you feel really bad," she said.

Another Wellwyn Drive resident, Diane Lockwood, called 911 when she saw flames shooting up from the plant. Many others did, too: Lockwood said that the 911 dispatcher answered the phone with "Power plant? We know."

Lockwood then ran outside with her family to watch the fire.

"There were all these flames shooting up, and lots of smoke," said her son Brandon Lockwood, 7. "I thought a bomb had gone off near us."

The flames subsided quickly, and the dam-

age to the plant was revealed.

"The walls had blown up," Brandon added. "You could see right through the building."

The explosion shook residents farther away from the blast, too.

"I honestly thought a truck had hit the house," resident – and *Rivereast News Bulletin* employee – Renee Snyder said. Snyder and her husband live on Portland-Cobalt Road. "We definitely knew something drastic and catastrophic had happened."

The force of the explosion echoed down the river.

"I used to live in California," said Sue Weintraub of nearby Middle Haddam, "and the shaking was more violent than any earthquakes I felt there."

"It was horrific. I didn't know where it was coming from," Weintraub added.

The violent shaking wasn't the only way that the explosion affected Portland. Though the Middletown police and fire department responded to the explosion, Portland police and firefighters helped out. Both departments answered calls and responded to other emergencies in Middletown while their workers were busy with the explosion. Meanwhile, Glastonbury firefighters responded to calls in Portland.

"It's a great mutual aid system that public safety people have in place," Bransfield said. "We were fortunate to be able to help out in such a tragic event."

Bransfield commended the police and fire departments for the way they handled the emergency.

"The response was excellent," she said. "It's the event that was so tragic. It's so very sad."

Other Portland residents agree. Dan Dziob says that while he's upset about the damage to his house, the worst part is knowing that five workers (including one Colchester resident; a full story about him appears on page 24) were killed.

"I just feel horrible for the families," he said. "That's horrible."



The back cover of *A Historic Look at Andover* shows the old railroad station that used to run through town on what is Center Street today. The station was across the street from the Andover Hotel. The picture dates back to approximately 1900.

Pictorial cont. from Front Page

Yeomans said.

The book, however, will be more than just a collection of photographs from the pre-1960s era. Yeomans combined other relevant pieces of town history such as newspaper articles, playbills and pamphlets, to name a few. A written history of the town will be also a key component to the book. Yeomans has already written this part, and said he included "as much as he knows."

The history "is a great asset to anyone interested in finding out how Andover came to be," he said.

Yeomans' work is no stranger to the Andover Library. In addition to an in-the-works copy of the book, which has been on display for almost three weeks, many of Yeomans' photographs are featured in the community room at the library.

This draft version of the book gives people a chance to look at the book, go through it and fill in the blanks, Yeomans said. Residents can step into the shoes of an editor, offering constructive criticism as well. Many of the class photos and group pictures are missing names, which Yeomans hopes to discover with the help of others who view the proof at the library.

Yeomans encouraged anyone with photographs of the town or town's people to visit the library and review what photographs have been included. Photographs containing the Gasper Cabin, Ken's Garage, the lumberyard, the ABC

Concrete plant, the WPA projects that re-routed Route 6 and Hebron Road, and the South West and North East District school houses are of special interest to Yeomans, as these locations are currently missing from the book. Yeomans said photos of places like the lumberyard and concrete plant might not be viewed as having "historical value" but are nonetheless a component to the town's history as a whole.

Yeomans said he wants to "get stuff to come out of the woodwork."

Yeomans said he started the book roughly one year ago and described putting it together as a "fairly simple process." He has relied heavily on web sites that offer publishing materials, software that Yeomans said has made it "so easy." He hopes that before springtime comes, residents will come forward with additional photographs he can incorporate into the book.

Yeomans plans on providing the Andover Historical Society, Andover Elementary School, RHAM Middle and High School, the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Historical Society with copies of the book when completed. He also said a number of residents have expressed their interest in purchasing a copy. The cost of the roughly 100-page hard cover book is estimated to be between \$75 and \$80.

If anyone is interesting in supplying photographs or other materials for the book, contact Yeomans at syeom98658@aol.com.



Portland recently received \$1,800 in rebate money, due to residents having their homes inspected through the Home Energy Solutions project. Pictured at a check presentation on Tuesday are, from left, John Greeno of New England Conservation Services, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Portland Clean Energy Task Force Chairman Andy Bauer and Peter Callan of Lantern Energy.

Energy Efficiency Paying Off for Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

The town is getting a little extra money to spend on clean energy programs, thanks to the efforts of Portland residents who try to be more energy-efficient.

A cooperative program between the Portland Clean Energy Task Force and two Connecticut companies is encouraging residents to get their homes checked out through the Home Energy Solutions (HES) project. Energy technicians inspect homes for places where energy can escape. They seal leaks that they find and better insulate drafty areas of the house.

Two of the HES companies agreed to give \$25 to Portland's Energy Efficiency Fund for every Portland resident who has their home inspected.

John Greeno of New England Conservation Services and Peter Callan of Lantern Energy were at Town Hall on Tuesday to present the rebate money the town had earned through December to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Clean Energy Task Force Chair Andy Bauer.

Between the two companies, Portland received over \$1,800 in rebates. The money will now be spent to help make town buildings more energy-efficient. Bauer said the task force is considering applying the money towards energy audits for municipal buildings, such as schools. He'd also like to start more local programs that encourage people to use energy wisely.

Callan said that many people are interested in making their homes more energy-efficient, and having an energy audit is a good first step. "People just want to know where to begin," he said.

Residents would normally pay \$75 for the HES service, but Bauer was able to obtain coupons for \$50 off. The price is now \$25, the same amount that the Lantern Energy and New England Conservation Services will refund to the town of Portland.

"Seventy-five dollars might be a barrier for some people," Bauer said. "We want to make it more available."

Bauer estimates about 200 houses in Portland have had an HES visit so far, but said there are about 3,500 houses in the town.

"We're just scratching the surface," Callan explained. He said he'd like to see more people participating.

Greeno said he's happy to reward the town for encouraging its citizens to be more energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly.

"People who participate are practically giving money to the town," Bransfield said. Any Portland resident can participate, even if they are a renter or live in an apartment building.

Bransfield had HES technicians visit her own house. The technicians noticed that her attic was drafty, and added more insulation. Since then, Bransfield has noticed that her house has been warmer, and she's been using less heating oil.

HES is part of the larger Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund program administered by Connecticut Light and Power. The rebate program continues until Earth Day on April 22. Participants will be entered into a drawing to win a laptop. Residents can get more information about Home Energy Solutions, and a \$50 coupon, from the Town of Portland's website, www.portlandct.org.

Portland Car Crash Sends Six to Hospital

by Claire Michalewicz

Three cars collided on Route 66 last Thursday, Feb. 4, sending six people to the hospital, Portland Police said.

The accident occurred around 2:30 p.m., Sgt. Scott Cunningham said. A Subaru Forester was stopped in the westbound lane, waiting to turn left into a Citgo station. The Subaru had been stopped for about 15 seconds, Cunningham said, when a Dodge Stratus approached from the rear and tried to pass the stopped Subaru on the right side.

The Dodge hit the Subaru, pushing it into the eastbound lane where it hit an oncoming Hyundai Santa Fe, Cunningham said. The impact pushed the Hyundai into the driveway of the Citgo station, while the Subaru and Dodge remained on the road, blocking traffic in both directions.

Cunningham said the driver of the Subaru,

Laurie Forester, 44, of East Haddam, suffered minor neck and back injuries. Margaret Chu, 50, of East Hampton, who was driving the Dodge, received a cut on her forehead as well as neck and back injuries. Both women were taken by ambulance to Hartford Hospital, Cunningham said.

The driver and three passengers of the Hyundai were taken to Middlesex Hospital, where all four were treated for minor injuries, Cunningham said. Virginia Medeiros, 64, of Naugatuck, was driving, and her passengers were identified as Joseph, Sally and Christine Soda, of Derby.

Cunningham said Chu was cited for driving too fast for conditions.

Traffic was diverted for about an hour and a half until the accident was cleared up, Cunningham said.P

Colchester Selectmen Take Care of Old Contract

by Katy Nally

Last Thursday selectmen took a trip down memory lane and retro-authorized an amendment to an old contract.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said Saturday the whole situation was "much ado about nothing" and it has since been resolved.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) also welcomed a donation of \$10,000 from the TD Bank Charitable Foundation for the Colchester food bank and discussed the town's overall budget.

At the meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4, the BOS approved a bill for \$5,400 for architectural services needed to renovate the old firehouse located at 100 South Main Street. Schuster said these funds would come from a professional services line item and from the town's share of two matching grants.

With the \$5,400-payment the town will pay off the total bill of \$13,300 for architectural services.

In addition to approving the funds, selectmen had to retro-authorize a 2008-amendment made to the original contract with the architect.

Schuster explained the original contract for Robert Hurd's architectural services was approved by the BOS in 2002. In 2008, this contract was amended to include an additional \$3,400 in fees. However the BOS did not approve this amendment, Schuster said.

According to Board of Finance (BOF) meeting minutes from Oct. 15, 2008, the BOF approved the additional \$3,400 for architectural services.

Former first selectman Linda Hodge said this week she asked the finance board for the funds because the BOS had already signed off on the original contract.

Either way, the amendment was retro-authorized and the final payment was approved at Thursday's meeting.

After discussing the snafu, selectmen accepted a \$10,000 grant for the food bank from the TD Bank Charitable Foundation. Schuster said Tuesday the grant can be used for any items related to the food bank including the acquisition of food, freezers, the expansion of services and renovation of the storage areas.

According to the TD Bank website, its charitable foundation was established in 2002 and partners with nonprofit organizations to "create meaningful change and improvement in our communities."

Schuster said the food bank was awarded the grant because it's "running a good program." He said so far, throughout the winter, Colchester Social Services has received steady donations of money and food from residents, adding there is no need for anyone in town to go hungry.

Selectmen also touched on the town's budget. The Board of Education's budget was presented on Jan. 26 and a vote from board members is set for March 9. Schuster said last Saturday, Feb. 6, that the town's proposed 2010-11 budget is not yet complete because each department has only recently submitted their individual budgets.

Although it has not been finalized, Schuster warned this would be a "brutal" budget. He said a "perfect storm" is at work because there are 78 new students in the school system, the Grand List only increased a fraction of a percent over last year's and unemployment is high statewide.

When budget discussions do get underway, Schuster said anything that is not state-mandated is on the table. However, he did say it was important to maintain the town's current level of services.

The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 18 at town hall.

Baltic Man Arrested on Multiple Charges in Colchester

by Katy Nally

After reportedly waving a knife at his ex-girlfriend, a 34-year-old Baltic man was charged with home invasion and several other offenses last Wednesday, Feb. 3, State Police said.

Michael Manifold, of 230 High St., formerly of Colchester, was charged with home invasion, four counts of risk of injury to a minor, five counts of second-degree threatening, first-degree unlawful restraint, third-degree assault and first-degree reckless endangerment.

According to an affidavit on file at Norwich Superior Court, Manifold entered his ex-girlfriend's residence - his former home - on the night of Saturday, Jan. 30. Manifold wanted the keys to the truck that was parked outside.

Manifold entered his ex-girlfriend's bedroom and allegedly began waving a seven-inch Round Table Dagger in his ex-girlfriend's face, the affidavit said.

The ex-girlfriend said in her statement, "I could feel the cold blade of the dagger against my throat," but said she was not bleeding. She said she noticed a "big mark from the pressure of the blade" on her neck, the affidavit said.

According to State Trooper Daniel Bavosi's statement, he observed a small abrasion on the ex-girlfriend's neck, four days after the incident. He said he looked at a photo of the injury dated Jan. 30 and it showed the abrasion to be about three inches long. The woman said the cut was "similar to a cat scratch," according to the affidavit.

In his statement, Manifold said he "probably did threaten [his ex-girlfriend] with the

knife by pointing it at her," though he alleges, "I never held the knife to her throat." According to the affidavit, Manifold said, "I was holding the knife while we were arguing and when we argue, I make a lot of big gestures with my hand. I can only assume that the knife was being waved around."

One of the children who were present during the incident said she saw Manifold grab his ex-girlfriend and put a knife to her neck. The other child who gave a statement said Manifold "said that he was going to kill my mother." Of the four children who were at the home Saturday night, three were kids of Manifold and his ex-girlfriend. The fourth child was not related.

According to the ex-girlfriend, Manifold said he would kill her if she didn't give him the car keys. "He stated that he had nothing left to lose," she said in the affidavit.

Manifold said in his statement, "I am not sure if I had told her I was going to kill her or not," the affidavit said. "I can't remember everything that I said during the argument."

Before he left the residence with the car keys, Manifold, according to the ex-girlfriend and two of the four children, threatened to kill everyone in the house if the cops were called, the affidavit said.

Manifold said in his statement, "I don't fully remember it but I may have said that I would kill everyone in the house if anyone called the police," according to the affidavit.

Manifold was arrested four days later, on Wednesday, Feb. 3, police said. He is due in Norwich Superior Court Thursday, Feb. 25, to enter a plea.

Hebron Grand List Climbs Less than 1 Percent

by Lindsay Fetzner

The Grand List for the year ending Oct. 1, 2009, showed a .65 percent increase over the previous year, Town Assessor Robert Musson recently announced.

The \$5.56 million increase brought the Grand List to \$861.30 million. While it may seem small, it's still more than what the town saw for the 2008 list. The Grand List that year grew just .164 percent over the 2007 list.

The Grand List represents the assessed value of all of the taxable property, and is broken into three categories: real estate, personal property and motor vehicle.

Overall, there was a .458 percent increase in real estate from October 2008 to October 2009. The change amounted to \$3.57 million, and brought the real estate total to \$783.67 million. Musson said the hike was due in part to some subdivisions that were filed and new construction in town.

Motor vehicles went up 3.375 percent, or \$2.12 million, to \$64.97 million. Musson said the numbers for motor vehicles were "better than I thought" and were largely due to the fact that many Hebron residents took advantage of the Cash for Clunkers incentive put out by the government.

Personal property decreased \$133,265, or 1.05 percent, to \$12.67 million. The decrease was the result of home occupancy businesses that closed, Musson said.

In general, the scant Grand List increase was a reflection of the state of the economy last year, Musson said. "I hope we have turned the corner and will see a larger increase next year," he said.

However, because the "economy is not on fire," Musson said it is difficult to determine when that turn will occur.

Interim Finance Director Elaine Griffin said, although she wishes the increase was more substantial this year, any "increase is better than a decrease." She said she was not surprised with the numbers, given the economic conditions the town has faced. Any further increases to the Grand List in the future will be contingent on what happens with the economy overall in the next couple of years, Griffin said.

Looking at comparable towns statewide, Musson said the Grand List figures are all about the same. Most towns are seeing an increase of

less than 1 percent, with an average between a half percent and 1 percent growth, Musson said. "We are a little better than most towns."

Acting Town Manager Andy Tierney said his "initial reaction" to the Grand List was very good. "Any increase is greatly accepted," he said. "It's welcomed news." Tierney said the town anticipated a lower rate than last year, but the outcome provided a "much better picture." He commended Musson for a job well done, completing the list in a very timely manner.

The top 10 taxpayers for real estate were: Blackledge Country Club Inc, with a net assessment of \$3.29 million, Footehills Farm Inc c/o Tallwood Country Club and McDermott Properties LLC at \$2.12 million, Village Shoppes LLC at \$2.12 million, Hebron Properties LLC at \$1.54 million, B.I.S.S. Inc. at \$1.49 million, Blackledge East LLC at \$1.45 million, Loveland Farms LLC at \$1.25, Hebron Country Manor LLC with a tax assessment of \$1.19 million, Holland Deborah Etal at \$934,560, and Malkasian, Robin at \$931,250.

In terms of personal property, Connecticut Light & Power Company and The Connecticut Water Company were the top taxpayers, with assessment values of \$5.64 million and \$1.03 million, respectively. The rest of the top 10 for personal property were: Ted's Inc. at \$356,340, Blackledge Country Club Inc. at \$314,510, AT&T Mobility LLC at \$215,150, CIT Technology Financing Services Inc. at \$210,600, Drake Petroleum Company Inc. at \$145,360, Hebron Pharmacy Inc. at \$145,160, Hebron Car Wash LLC at \$140,420 and Columbia Hospitality Associates LLC with a net assessment of \$137,450.

Musson hopes that next year, the numbers will see more growth. "It's too early to tell if we've turned the corner and the economy is coming back," he said, adding that, by the time the summer comes to an end, he said he will have a better handle on the situation.

If there are no reductions to the list made by the Board of Assessment Appeals, a mill will represent \$861,303.81. The Board of Finance uses the Grand List to set the mill rate, determined by dividing the town's budget by the Grand List total. One mill is equal to \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Residents can calculate their taxes by multiplying their total assessments by the mill rate.

Hebron Selectmen Vote to Retain Peters House Ownership

by Lindsay Fetzner

Last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) opened many new doors for the future of the Peters House.

The selectmen voted to finalize and retain ownership of the house, as well as to take the next steps in beginning restoration in light of two grants the town applied for.

The town of Hebron purchased the Peters House, located at 150 East St., in August 2004. Since that time, many ownership obstacles have faced the town, according to Donna McCalla, president of the Hebron Historical Society. However, the vote last Thursday, Feb. 4, put an end to these conflicts, as the selectmen laid out a definitive path for the future of the Peters House property.

"History is an important part of this town," said BOS Chairman Jeff Watt. "I am glad to see us come to the day we move forward."

The two grants that were applied for were the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) and 1772 Foundation grants. The STEAP grant awarded the town \$200,000 of the \$439,835 that was applied for in January 2009, McCalla said.

McCalla said she was excited to find out last Friday that the town had received between \$30,000 and \$35,000 out of the \$75,000 applied for on Dec. 11 from the 1772 Foundation. An e-mail to McCalla from Brent Leggs, field representative from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, not only informed her of the good news last week, but that the town would be encouraged to apply for further support when needed. McCalla said funds from the 1772 Foundation will focus on renovations for the ell portion of the Peters House, which will be the primary site for the museum.

The current budget for the Peters House calls for \$275,000 for renovations to the main part of the house and an additional \$75,000 for the ell portion.

"I am very grateful they [1772 Foundation] took a chance with us," McCalla said. "And so pleased that they had faith."

Due to recently undergoing surgery, McCalla was very limited in December in

meeting the many requirements of the grant application, aside from the grant writing itself. A group of five individuals completed the remaining legwork including inspections at the house, McCalla said, and as a team were able to complete the application by the December deadline. Lara Bordic, Mary Ann Foote, Bill Meyers, Mike O'Leary and Deena Watson were among those McCalla commended for their support.

The upside to the 1772 grant, McCalla said, is the funds can be used as matching funds for other state or federal grants that require them. McCalla said most, but not all, require this. McCalla's personal goal throughout the entire process has been to fund the house without the use of taxpayers' money, a goal that seems to be on its way to becoming a reality.

Over the years, McCalla said many people have voiced interest in donating their services to offset restoration costs, but were hesitant to offer them until the ownership issues had been put to rest. Now that those issues are not a concern, McCalla says she hopes people will come forward and offer their assistance. "Labor and materials from people will be critical," she said. "We know what we need to do and can do with what we have."

Selectman Brian O'Connell expressed that he would like to see the house in better shape than it currently is in. Selectwoman Gayle Mulligan agreed, and said that the house will be a great asset for the community, given the time and amount of research that has been put into the project.

The BOS announced last Thursday that, in addition to the funds that have been or will be awarded to the town, they will continue to seek out other grants that could help further offset the restoration costs. Board members said the house is a great benefit for the community and renovating the property will provide for both historic and municipal use in the future.

"I am glad to see this day is finally here," said Dan Larson, BOS member.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the BOS will be Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, located at 15 Gilead St.

Colchester BOE Hears Residents' Thoughts on Budget Proposal

by Katy Nally

Board of Education (BOE) member Betsy Ciccone summed up citizens' budget sentiments from last Thursday's meeting when she said "It's going to get down to everybody's different perception of priorities. We all want it all."

Two of those priorities, expressed by the teachers, parents and residents that packed Bacon Academy's media center for last week's BOE meeting, were enrichment and physical education (PE)/health.

Even some children advocated for the enrichment program at the meeting last Thursday, Feb. 4. Tucker Noniewicz, a 7th grader at William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS) told BOE members the enrichment program allows him to "excel to be extraordinary." "I plead on my knees that you please don't cut the enrichment program," he told board members.

The BOE proposed to eliminate the enrichment teacher from WJMS and reduce the enrichment program at Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JIS) by half. In total, 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions from enrichment were proposed to be cut.

Many parents echoed Tucker's plea, both during Thursday's meeting and through written letters to the BOE. Sandra Clark submitted a letter stating the reduction to the enrichment program would be a "step away" from the Colchester school district's mission statement, which states the schools are committed to meeting "the unique needs of individual students."

At the meeting, BOE Chairman Ron

Goldstein mentioned that "no one wants to step back from enrichment," but the board needs to balance "what's needed for the town and what the town can afford."

During her presentation to the board, curriculum director Barbara Gilbert said Colchester is ahead of the curve when it comes to enrichment. She said less than half the schools in Colchester's District Reference Group (DRG) do not have enrichment teachers like Laura Messenger, who works at JIS.

However, Gilbert added, "Not that we want to be part of the pack."

Susan Mausteller wrote to Goldstein and Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle, asking the BOE to keep Messenger on staff. She said her son greatly benefited from the enrichment program under the instruction of Messenger. Mausteller called Messenger's commitment to each student "paramount," saying Messenger "challenges her students and encourages them to find their passions. She understands that giftedness takes many forms."

Mausteller closed by writing, "You may think you can't afford to keep her, but there are many students and parents who know that you can't afford to lose her!"

During the meeting, BOE member Tim Lamp said if enrichment is left with 0.5 FTE the board can "consider this program on its deathbed."

BOE member Betsy Ciccone agreed with Lamp, saying she would not support the enrichment program as it was proposed. "I think

morally we owe it to these kids to keep the enrichment program in fully staffed; we provide for all the students," Ciccone said.

In addition to enrichment, Lamp also spoke on behalf of PE. "We do a lot of things for children above math, science and reading and one of those things is PE," he said.

During public comments, several PE/health teachers advocated for their department noting the health benefits PE class provides for children. Kevin Fennel, a PE/health teacher, said the nation faces a chilling trend of obesity and mentioned the show *The Biggest Loser* because it showcases the effects of the disease.

In a letter to the BOE, another PE/health teacher, Eric Shane, also noted the obesity trend among children. "In just over one generation," the United States' rates of obesity "have approximately tripled among preschoolers and adolescents, and quadrupled among children aged 6 to 11 years," Shane wrote. "This is the age group that this staff reduction is targeting."

Shane warned the BOE, "The evidence is clear that a reduction in physical education and health will only contribute to the sedentary lifestyles that our children lead today."

The proposed BOE budget cuts eliminate one full-time PE/health teacher from Bacon Academy and reduce weekly PE/health periods at Colchester Elementary School and Jack Jackter Intermediate from three to two. A total of 3.4 FTEs is slated to be cut from PE/health.

Anne DiFranco, another PE/health teacher asked the BOE at the meeting to reconsider their cuts to her department. "District-wide PE cuts was devastating for us," she said.

Later on, BOE member Mary Tomasi noted how she rarely sees kids playing outside anymore, adding "some kids get no exercise outside the school." Lamp said the PE requirement should be more like 60 minutes a day, not 82 minutes per week.

Overall, Goldstein recognized the proposed cuts "hurt." He said the board is making progress, but it proposed "painful reductions."

Goldstein also mentioned the slight increase in the town's Grand List, of 0.2 percent. (A full story about the Grand List will appear in next week's *Rivereast*.) With the small increase, Goldstein said any dollar the board adds to the budget, the mill rate would have to increase, thereby increasing taxes.

Although the board has proposed difficult cuts, Goldstein stressed the importance of providing a passable budget for voters. "It's incumbent on us to get a budget that we think can pass the first time." "The Board of Ed. is trying to propose something reasonable and perhaps passable," Goldstein said.

The BOE will hold another meeting to discuss the budget on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., in Bacon's media center. The BOE is scheduled to vote on the budget on Tuesday, March 9.

Three Men in a Tent Raise Thousands in Colchester

by Katy Nally

For the three men in a tent, it seems the harsh weekend chill has been quickly melted away by the warm spirit of giving.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Colchester Business Association President Jack Faski and Rotary Club member Fred Brown camped out on the town green last weekend to raise money for the town fuel bank.

As of Tuesday, the trio had raised \$7,445 and counting, as donations are still coming in via Rockville Bank. "That's 50 percent over the goal," Brown said enthusiastically. "It just goes to show how Colchester takes care of their own."

Schuster added, "Everyone came together, it was unbelievable."

Before the fundraiser, Schuster said the fuel bank had about \$11,000. When residents come to the fuel bank, they receive money for about 100 gallons of fuel. Schuster estimated the 100 gallons would last a household about three to four weeks, depending on the weather. He said assistance from the fuel bank is a short-term solution for people who are unable to heat their house.

Faski said Monday no one should be embarrassed to utilize fuel bank funds. "That's what the money is there for," he said. "If you're having a tough time, you don't want to be cold; you don't want your family to freeze. Everybody has a problem once in a while. There's no shame in it at all."

Now, thanks to the cold-weather stamina of the trio, the fuel bank will be able to assist more residents in need.

"It was very, very heartening even in this tough time people came out and really really gave," Faski said Monday. Even the local Girl Scout troop stopped by to pledge 20 percent of their cookie sales, Schuster said. "It was very nice to see the outpouring of support from the community," Faski said, adding residents from Marlborough, Willimantic and other neighboring towns also stopped by.

Schuster said some of his favorite donors were the little kids who deposited their pennies and dollar bills into the orange collection bucket. One little contributor, 5-year-old Sammi Angelo stopped by on Saturday to make a donation.

Along with the constant flow of cash came the continuous donations of food and warm beverages. On Saturday, Brown said he was experiencing a caffeine rush from all the donated coffee he drank to stay warm. He quipped on Tuesday, "I'm still working off the high." As residents kept the coffee cups topped off, restaurants like Subway, Hung Won, Illiano's and Family Pizza donated meals for the trio.

Schuster said the only downside to the donated warm meals was the three-minute window to eat the food before it turned cold. According to www.weather.com, Friday's low was a frigid 13 degrees and had a high of 35. There was not much temperature change for the rest of the cold weekend, though Schuster mentioned Saturday he was happy there was no rain.

In an attempt to ward off the cold, the trio huddled around a fire in a metal barrel Saturday afternoon as freezing winds seemed to pound them from all directions.

Brown said he had never been so cold while sleeping as he was Friday night. Both Brown and Schuster agreed Saturday the worst part of living outside was the wind, which whipped right through the thin nylon tent during the night.

Aside from the weather, the men noted the cacophony of noises that "lulled" them to sleep on Friday and Saturday night. Schuster said it was difficult to sleep in the tent with the sound of his teeth chattering. Brown said he heard every "bong" from the Colchester Federated Church except one and two o'clock in the morning, which he managed to sleep through. The number of chimes from the bell tower depends on the hour, so at midnight, the trio heard 12



Pictured from left, Gregg Schuster, Fred Brown and Jack Faski kept warm by their barrel fire Saturday as they camped out on the town green. The trio raised a total of \$7,445 for the Colchester fuel bank.

rings.

For Faski, he said he was surprised to be awakened to the title song from *Beauty and the Beast*. Apparently the cast from the upcoming Colchester Community Theater stopped by at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday to serenade the men.

But after spending a day to warm up, Faski didn't remember the worst part as the wind or the freezing temperatures. He said the worst part of the weekend was just knowing that there are people who actually endure homelessness everyday.

Like Faski, Brown and Schuster said Satur-

day their stints with homelessness have made them more appreciative of what they have. "We are exceptionally fortunate," Brown said Saturday. "I don't live in a McMansion but it's warm."

Faski said the three men in a tent experiment was "well worth it" because it brought awareness to begin homeless.

The fuel bank is located in Town Hall. Schuster, Brown and Faski encouraged all residents who need short-term heating assistance to contact the fuel bank at 860-537-7235 or to drop in.

Uruguay Principal Pays Visit to Marlborough

by Katy Nally

The small world of elementary school got a little smaller Monday when students welcomed their visitor from a hemisphere away, Laura Battaglia, an elementary school principal of Uruguay.

Youngsters marveled at their foreign guest Monday as she was introduced to students, faculty and staff in the packed community room at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Battaglia is principal of the Joaquin Torres Garcia school in Uruguay's capital city Montevideo. Her school, named after famous a Uruguayan painter, has about 350 students in grades kindergarten through sixth.

The visiting principal directed the crowd mostly in Spanish, but she did say in English, "Thank you because you have opened the door to your house and your school."

After some translating from Spanish teacher Kristen Vrabie, Battaglia told the students about her school on the southern coast of Uruguay near the beach — something that drew audible awe from the young audience.

As part of the introduction, there was a gift exchange between Battaglia and Marlborough's principal, Loraine Giannini. Battaglia was presented with a blue tie-dyed T-shirt with the school's name, Connecticut quarters and artwork from the students.

Similar to the artwork, Battaglia gave Vrabie and Giannini a newspaper called "Pinceladas," or Paintbrushes, which her Uruguayan students had created. Vrabie said it was Battaglia's hope that she could return to Uruguay with articles written by Marlborough elementary students. Battaglia also gave a map of Uruguay and informational CDs.

In addition to the gift exchange, elementary students also presented Battaglia with a song and a poem. First-graders chanted in unison, "We are different because, in Uruguay, children wear uniforms to school" and because, in Uru-

guay, "Lunch is the biggest meal," and children "speak Spanish." On their list of similarities, the youngsters said: "We both love to eat sweets" and "We both love to read."

Battaglia was also serenaded by third-graders who sang the multi-lingual song "Hello to All the Children of the World."

The visiting principal will stay in Marlborough for about another week and will say goodbye to Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Thursday. The exchange program began on Feb. 2 with a two-day seminar in Washington D.C.

Battaglia said after the assembly she came to the states to better understand the education system and to strengthen ties with the Marlborough school. Vrabie, a Peace Corps veteran, said she volunteered to host Battaglia so that Marlborough students could experience another culture. She said the best way to learn a language is through immersion and direct experience, which Battaglia and the exchange provides.

The program is organized through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Commission for Educational Exchange. According to Vrabie's acceptance letter, the experience provides a "unique opportunity" to share "teaching experiences, develop classroom methodology, and increase international understanding."

Battaglia said Thursday the students have learned a lot about Uruguay during her time at the elementary school. In her few days at the Marlborough school, the visiting principal said she already noticed some differences between the two educational systems. Battaglia said teachers in Uruguay have to be "very creative" with the few materials they have and said she was amazed at the level of technology and materials available at the Marlborough school. Classrooms in Uruguay, she said, have upwards of 30 students.

Because the program is an exchange, it is



Laura Battaglia, right, a visiting principal from Uruguay, gives Spanish teacher Kristen Vrabie a map of her country. Battaglia is part of an exchange program and spent this week at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Vrabie's hope to travel to Uruguay this summer and experience Battaglia's school. February is the summer for Battaglia, who was a little shocked by Wednesday's snowstorm. Battaglia said Thursday she had no idea how debilitating snow and ice could be, because in her hometown, snow is virtually non-existent.

Although very different, Battaglia said she has enjoyed Marlborough, not only for its landscape, but also for the hospitality of its residents. She said she loves the snowy woods, the

peace and quiet and the security of the rural community. All the movies and shows about the U.S. misled the Uruguayan about American small-towns, she said, because they usually depicted city life.

Regarding the exchange program, Battaglia said she was "grateful" to have had the opportunity to "open doors" and to share experiences. During her stay in the U.S., Battaglia said she has learned more about her own culture by stepping away and viewing it from the outside.

Colchester Friends, Town Officials Remember Crabb

by Katy Nally

Above all else, Ron Crabb was a family man, his friends said.

"His eyes would just shine when he talked about his family," Linda Hodge, former first selectman, said this week.

Crabb, 42, was one of the five people who died Sunday in an explosion at the Kleen Energy plant in Middletown. He was a steamfitter for Local 777, the plumbers and pipefitters union.

Crabb, an Illinois native, settled down in Colchester after marrying Jodi Thomas in Fairfield in 1994. Thomas is currently the town's probate judge.

Town officials and friends of Crabb said Tuesday they were shocked to hear the news of his death. Hodge said she was in "total disbelief."

Hodge said Crabb was a friend and a fellow Democrat who helped her campaign in 2007 when she ran for first selectman. As the two became friends, Hodge said she recognized Crabb's love for life and described him Tuesday as a "caring" family man.

While Hodge was in office, Crabb was on the Board of Finance (BOF). Hodge said he was dedicated to serving Colchester because "he wanted to make a difference. He loves his community and he believes in this community," Hodge said.

Crabb won a seat on the BOF in 2003, but after completing a six-year term, he did not run for reelection.

BOF Chairman Bruce Hayn said Crabb made the decision not to run again because he wanted to spend more time with his family. Hayn said Crabb was the type of man who put "family first."

John Malsbenden, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), said Crabb hoped to spend more time with his young son and "watch him grow up." Crabb leaves behind

two sons, Dylan, 6, and Tyler, 18.

Many town officials and friends recognized Crabb's compassionate, easy-going character. Crabb was continually described as "caring," "kind" and "committed."

Malsbenden said Crabb's work ethic and sense of family even reminded him of his own late father. Both men, Malsbenden said, were members of the plumbers and pipefitters union.

Malsbenden recalled the first time he met Crabb and the two bonded over the commonality of Local 777. Crabb lit up when asked about his work, Malsbenden said.

Crabb was a part of the union for 18 years and was the immediate past president from 2006 to 2009. Before that he was an executive board member and served as the recording secretary.

In 2002, Governor M. Jodi Rell appointed Crabb to the state's Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheet Metal Workers Examining Board.

As he served the state and his local union, Crabb also made time for his community.

Crabb and Malsbenden worked together on the DTC for about two years. Throughout his time on the committee, Crabb was always even-tempered and yet he still "knew what he stood for," Malsbenden said. "He was very committed to the DTC because he was very committed to people."

Malsbenden recalled an exemplary situation when Crabb apparently diffused an argument within the DTC. According to Malsbenden, Crabb stepped into the crossfire and told DTC members, "Just remember people, we're all friends here. We're all on the same side."

Hayn, who worked with Crabb on the BOF for six years, also remembered Crabb's sense of kindness. Hayn described Crabb as neighborly, saying "I wish he was my next door neighbor."

Crabb's dedication to Colchester and its residents also stuck with Rotary Club member Fred

Brown. "He was one of those people who loved his town and would do anything for it," Brown said.

Brown organized the DTC's website and worked with Crabb when he ran for the BOF. "He was a slight, unassuming guy that would do anything you needed," Brown said. "He was such a nice guy."

To volunteer for a six-year term on the BOF, Brown said candidates had to be serious about the commitment, something Crabb was. "He had the desire to serve," Brown said.

In addition to his community, friends said Crabb also loved the outdoors. Hayn remembered discussing hunting and fishing after BOF meetings and Crabb would "get all lit up."

Friends noted several things that drew a spark from Crabb, including his family, his town and the outdoors. He is remembered as a compassionate man who was devoted to not only his wife and children, but also his community and its residents.

"Ron was loved by everybody," Town Clerk Nancy Bray said.

"We lost a great citizen," First Selectman Gregg Schuster said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family."

Crabb's funeral will be held Saturday, Feb. 13, at 9 a.m. at St. Andrew Parish. Friends can call from 4-8 p.m. today, Feb. 12, at the parish, located at 128 Norwich Ave.

Donations can be made to the Thomas Crabb Family fund, which was set up by Bray and Thomas's friend Ellin Grenger. Checks can be made out to the Thomas Crabb Family and sent to either Ellin Grenger of Grenger Law Offices, 49 Whitehall Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355 or Nancy Bray, Town Clerk's Office, 127 Norwich



Ron Crabb

Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415.

Bray, a close friend of the family, said the fund would benefit Crabb's wife and his two sons. "Instead of flowers, we just thought this would benefit the family more," Bray said.

Donations can also be made to the Ronald Crabb Children's Education Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 219 South Main St., Colchester, CT 06415. Proceeds will benefit his children's education.

Resident Finds Running Business 'Rewarding' Experience

by Lindsay Fetzner

Exactly two months have passed since Lynn Bjork, owner of Liberty Square Collectibles, opened her doors on Dec. 12.

Driving through town in early October, Bjork saw the former model log home for sale. When she entered the building, Bjork said her heart became set on the property and decided to pursue her first business endeavor. "I loved it," she said.

Bjork has been a resident of Hebron for 30 years, 24 of which have been spent working in town at the local Ace Hardware. She credits her relationships with numerous town residents as a plus when opening a new store, drawing on many of those people for support.

"I always wanted to have my own business," Bjork said. "But I never took the plunge."

Bjork described herself as a "driven woman," who enjoys working and feels that owning and operating her own business is something she considers worthwhile. So far, Bjork said, opening and running her own business has been "rewarding" and an easy flow with little stress or hassle. Despite the time of year she opened and the present state of the economy, Bjork said, "business has been better than expected."

Liberty Square Collectibles sells a unique variety of antiques, furniture and crafts, a blend of items she referred to as "eclectic." It is a multi-dealer shop, with "something for everyone." By the middle of January, the capacity for local vendors had been reached. Currently, at least eight vendors from surrounding towns sell their items out of the store. Columbia, Andover, Amston, Marlborough and North Branford are just a sampling of the towns Bjork's vendors call home.

Susan Berry, owner of Country Family Soaps

in Hebron, says sales have been "fairly successful" and have recently started to pick up. Berry sells a variety of natural, plant-based soap and skin care items. She described Bjork as a warm, trusted person and someone that she admires.

"It is a really great place for people like myself [to sell]," Berry said.

As a local producer and resident of Hebron, Berry said being able to sell her items in her own town has been great. Berry also began selling her products at the first Hebron Farmers' Market last year, a location that many of Bjork's other vendors sell their items at as well. This year, the market will open on June 19, and run until October.

Kelly Radding, of TuckerWoods Farm in Columbia, sells a vibrant collection of pygora, llama and mohair yarns and fibers at Liberty Square Collectibles. She described the shop as a "brick and mortar" for her, a place she could sell her products at while still pursuing other interests on the side. The Raddings' farm currently has a website, but Radding says the fact that customers are able to pick up and physically feel her products has brought an added bonus the website could never offer. Radding said she hopes for continued success for everyone and said the exposure overall has been great.

Catherine Haugh, owner and designer of SiS Jewelry, has also hopped on board with Bjork, selling her jewelry and other inspirational items at the store. A vendor at the local Farmers' Market as well, she said it's great to have a retail spot in town that people can visit any day of the week, as opposed to just once a week at the market.

"It's a community coming together to support a new business," Haugh said. "It's ex-



Liberty Square Collectibles owner Lynn Bjork stands inside the former model log home that now houses her store. This month, Bjork celebrated the two-month anniversary of the store opening. Pictured are pieces of furniture and crafts that are for sale.

citing."

The opening of Liberty Square Collectibles was a positive addition to the town for Cute as Country owners Ed and Diane Peck as well. The country store was an online-only establishment for the Hebron residents, but they have now expanded into Bjork's store. They join the other local vendors who have also made the

same decision.

Liberty Square Collectibles is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store is closed on Monday. For more information, call 860-228-1175 or contact Bjork at LibertySquare@att.net.

East Hampton Residents Discuss Proposed Moving of MHHD

by Claire Michalewicz

East Hampton residents gathered at Town Hall on Tuesday evening to discuss an ordinance that would redefine the boundaries of the Middle Haddam Historic District, though the town council won't vote until later this month.

The Town Council was originally scheduled to vote on the ordinance at their regular meeting after the hearing. Because not all council members were present at the hearing, the council delayed their vote until the next Town Council meeting on Feb. 23 (see related story on page 13).

The existing ordinance, from 1977, did not define the western boundary of the district. A study conducted prior to that ordinance recommended that the boundary be placed in the middle of the Connecticut River, along the official East Hampton town line, but this study was never officially included in the law.

The proposed new ordinance would officially define the shoreline as the district's western boundary. These boundaries define the area that the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission (MHHDC) has jurisdiction over.

The commission regulates external changes to houses in the district, to ensure that the houses retain their historic character. Many residents are concerned that redefining the district will make it harder for the commission to do that job.

The proposed revision would also remove a list of the homes' original owners that is currently attached to the ordinance. Documents from the town attorney say the list wasn't a part of the 1977 ordinance, but was added in 2006.

Resident Margaret Faber spoke out against the revision, saying that state laws and geographic studies placed the boundary in the middle of the river.

In an interview the next day, Faber said she worried that redefining the boundary at the shoreline could prevent the MHHDC from controlling any structures built along the water. The commission has jurisdiction over the parts of the historic properties that can be seen from a public way. Faber said that with the boundaries moved, the commission could lose control over the shoreline if someone argues that the river is not a public way.

"It's one less layer of protection," she said in the Wednesday interview. "The historic riverfront is probably our most valuable historic asset."

Faber also said she objects to the chart being removed from the ordinance.

"It's an honorary listing," she said Wednesday, "but it's an important one because it defines the historic district. There's no good reason to remove the list after 33 years."

At the hearing, another resident, Kyle

Dostaler, wanted to know why the commission wanted the changes made.

"I just have to ask why the commission would weaken its ability to protect the historic district," Dostaler stated. He said that he suspects the law is being changed to save the town money.

His wife, Mary Ann, agreed. "It's completely not been made clear why the town is bent on reducing their ability to maintain the history of East Hampton," she said. "It goes against the grain of why the historic district exists."

"It's important that we know the boundary is in the middle of the river," explained Laurie Wasilewski, another resident. She argued that it's important for the commission to have jurisdiction along the banks of the Connecticut River, so it could oversee any docks or other structures built along the river.

Supporters of the revision argued that the changes would not diminish the significance of the historic district. Middle Haddam is on the National Register of Historical Places.

Nanette Woodcock, a former MHHDC member, explained that the listings for the National Register are compiled by the state. She wanted to make it clear that the East Hampton town ordinance would not affect Middle Haddam's status as a nationally significant historic site.

Woodcock added that there is no real reason

for the boundary to be in the river. Structures built on the river are under state jurisdiction, and the historic commission also has no control over any archeological sites that may exist underwater.

MHHDC Chairman James Royster also spoke in favor of the revision. He said that the map from the 1976 study and the list of original property owners did not belong with the ordinance to begin with.

"It's not a good idea to put statutes into law that don't do anything," Royster said.

Royster said the list of historical property owners would remain a valuable historical document, but leaving it attached to the ordinance could create confusion about the district's boundaries. He said that removing the list from the town law would not diminish the houses in any way.

Many of the residents who attended the hearing stayed for the regular Town Council meeting. Some were upset that the vote had been postponed.

Mary Ann and Kyle Dostaler felt that the ordinance had been discussed and debated for long enough, and wanted to see a decision made. They both urged the council to vote on the issue immediately.

"It's disheartening to see it moved to another date," Mary Ann Dostaler said at the meeting.

East Hampton Council Postpones Vote on Historic District

by Claire Michalewicz

East Hampton residents and Town Council members got into some lively debates at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, but the biggest item on the agenda was postponed until the next meeting.

The council had been scheduled to vote on a revision to the ordinance redefining the boundaries of the Middle Haddam Historic District (MHHD). The historic district vote was postponed until the next town council meeting on Feb. 23, because two town council members were absent from Tuesday's meeting. Since the vote was postponed, Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila agreed to research whether the revised ordinance would affect property values in the area.

The MHHD ordinance was intensely debated in the months leading up to this scheduled vote. Just before the Town Council meeting, residents gathered for a public hearing on the issue. Many residents opposed the changes, arguing that it would weaken the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission's (MHDDC's) ability to protect the houses in the area.

The MHDDC supported the changes, saying that they would make the ordinance easier to understand, and would in no way change the

commission's policies.

Though the vote on the historic district was postponed, the council did vote on two other items. They granted J Associates Architects the contract for proposed renovations on the senior center. They also approved a new water connection policy that would connect 16 new properties to the town water system.

Also on the agenda was the discussion of a new ordinance that would eliminate the town's liability for injuries or property damage caused by ice or snow on public sidewalks.

Public Works Director Keith Hayden proposed that East Hampton require property owners to clear snow and ice on public sidewalks adjacent to their property. The new law would shift liability for accidents on uncleared sidewalks from the town to the property owner responsible for snow removal. The town would only be responsible for clearing sidewalks adjacent to town property.

Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe supported Hayden's proposal, but not everyone on the Town Council was convinced.

"It still doesn't save us a lot of money," said Town Council member John Tuttle. "What are we gaining?"

Hayden replied that shifting liability from

the town could save money if someone was injured and sued the town. The council plans to vote on Hayden's proposal in March.

Another debate sprang up around O'Keefe's proposal that East Hampton adopt a nuisance ordinance.

"The definition of a nuisance could be anything you think is a nuisance," O'Keefe explained. He listed noise, speedboats and blight conditions as examples. He recommended that increasing penalties be implemented for repeat offenders.

Tuttle felt that the definition of a nuisance was too arbitrary, but Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel explained that the council would draw up a list of nuisances, and that the police would use their own discretion in responding to nuisance complaints.

"It's a quality of life issue," added Susan Weintraub, also supporting the ordinance.

The council agreed to discuss the issue again in March, after O'Keefe researched how effective nuisance ordinances have been in other towns.

Engel announced that two of Congressman Joe Courtney's transportation project requests in East Hampton have been approved. Old Marlborough Road will be resurfaced,

and the Air Line State Park Multi-Use Trail will be extended into the center of East Hampton.

The council also decided to schedule a tri-board budget meeting on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school library. "Let's Talk East Hampton," a community forum that had been scheduled for that night, will be moved to another date.

Some residents expressed concern over the way the council handled the important votes at the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Mary Ann Dostaler and her husband Kyle urged the council to vote on the Historic District Ordinance even though two members were absent. Later, she compared the way the council handled that ordinance to their granting of the senior center renovation contract.

Mary Ann Dostaler felt that the vote on the historic district was being unnecessarily held up, while the vote on the senior center was rushed. She said that town residents and the town council were unaware of the details of the project.

Engel explained that the building department had already chosen the architect, and that she trusted that they made the right decision.

Colchester Police News

2/4: Carona Gardner, 37, 229 Woodland Dr., Bloomfield, was charged with driving under suspension, failure to drive right, and three counts of failure to appear in court, State Police said.

2/4: A 16-year-old was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of tobacco, State Police said.

2/4: A 16-year-old was placed under arrest for charges from an outstanding arrest warrant stemming from an incident on Dec. 12, State Police said. The accused was charged with second-degree larceny, third-degree burglary and criminal mischief.

Hebron Police News

2/2: A four-car accident sent one driver to the Marlborough Clinic after complaining of minor neck and back pain, State Police said. At about 5:20 p.m. near the intersection of Route 66 and Route 85 Elizabeth Schernau, 28, of Willimantic, crashed her 2010 Chevy Impala into the rear of Eric Rohrbach's 2001 Volkswagon Beetle. Rohrbach hit Matthew Welch's 2002 Nissan Altima who hit Kristopher Narowski's 2010 Toyota Corolla. Only Rohrbach, 47, of Lebanon was taken to the hospital, State Police said.

2/4: James O'Connell Jr., 34, of 24 Lawrence Dr., Lebanon, was charged with violation of probation, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and driving under suspension, State Police said.

2/5: Craig Pander, 43, of 302R Crystal Ave., New London, was charged with DUI, reckless driving, failure to maintain lane, second-degree larceny of a motor vehicle, State Police said.

2/5: Dillon Anderson, 18, of 14 Ferry Rd., Hadlyme, turned himself in for second-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

2/5: Johnnie Olenick, 43, of 139 Olenick Rd., Lebanon, turned himself in for failure to appear in court, State Police said.

2/6: Carolina Strebeyko, 25, of 91 Elm St., 322C, Manchester, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

Salem Police News

2/7: Anne Belfiore, 22, of 17 Drumlin Rd., West Simsbury, was charged with disorderly conduct and reckless endangerment, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

2/7: Roshawn Clahar, 25, of 48 Evergreen Ave., C4, Hartford, was charged with driving under suspension and reckless driving, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

1/27 — Albert Maturo, 62, of 95 White Birch Rd., was issued a ticket for towing an unregistered trailer, East Hampton Police said.

1/27 — Shawn G. Vecchito, 40, of 22 Lakeview St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

1/28 — Stephen Owens, 22, of 29 Smith St., was involved in a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of Rt. 16 and Main Street, police said. Owens was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions, police added.

1/28 — Toni Means, 51, of 2 Abbey Rd., and Zachary Turner, 18, of 8 Dale Dr., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Young Street, 200 feet north of Old Young Street. Means was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

1/28 — David R. Jenson, 20, of 31 Old Skinner St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for breach of peace and third-degree assault, police said.

1/29 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was referred to Juvenile Court for second-degree breach of peace and second-degree threatening, police said.

1/30 — Keith A. Wofford, 32, of 27 Lakewood Rd., was arrested for failure to drive right and operating under the influence of alcohol, police said.

1/31 — Robert L. Heuffel, 62, of 106 Middle Haddam Rd., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

2/1 — Matthew Raymond, 31, of 87 Main St., was arrested for failure to display front marker plate, operating under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

2/2 — Jeffery Carr, 58, of 10 Dziok Dr., was arrested for speeding, police said.

2/2 — Michael C. Poe, 35, of 11 West Blvd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

2/4 — Mark Kneeland, 26, of 22 Lakeview St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and risk of injury to a minor, police said.

2/4 — Thomas P. Killiler, 47, of 11 Haddam Neck Rd., was issued a ticket for towing an unregistered trailer, police said.

Marlborough BOS Discuss Grant Opportunities

by Katy Nally

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) Tuesday discussed grant opportunities for home improvements and new fees at the transfer station.

Director of Planning and Development Peter Hughes told selectmen the town was looking for 15 to 30 homeowners who qualified for home improvement grants through the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

The program would cover any home renovations that increase energy efficiency and improve living conditions including: replacing a furnace, window, roof or well, repairing a septic system, making a home handicapped accessible and installing insulation.

Already, Hughes said, six people have applied, but only three qualified. Applicants qualify based on their household income. In a one-person home, the income cannot exceed \$44,800, with two people that number increases to \$51,200.

Hughes said the town attempted to implement the same program three years ago but it only received three responses. "If we don't have the need we won't get the funds," Hughes said.

The program would allocate a maximum of \$300,000 for homeowners, which would be available in January 2011.

The BOS tabled any action on the program until its next meeting, but Hughes said he would need a decision by the next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 23. A public hearing would follow on March 9.

The board also discussed which company would administer the grant proposals. Hughes suggested both LootScout.com and L. Wagner Associates, which are both based out of Waterbury.

Hughes recommended L. Wagner Associates because it charges \$3,000 per application that is awarded, while LootScout.com charges \$2,500 for every application prepared.

The town is using a third party to organize

the applications because this process is "more involved" than some other grants, Hughes said. The town did not use a consultant to prepare the application for the Small Towns Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. First Selectman Bill Black agreed with Hughes, saying "there was quite a bit of administrative work that we'd depend upon to get done."

All fees for consultants would come out of the grant money awarded to the town, Hughes said.

After Hughes, transfer station supervisor Brian Reynolds spoke to the BOS about the state of recycling in Marlborough. Reynolds told the board he was interested in establishing a \$3 fee to charge those who do not comply with recycling guidelines. "It's been my experience in life that people are well-educated through their wallets," Reynolds said.

The fee would act as an "annoyance" and persuade people to separate their recyclables from their trash, Reynolds said. "It would basically just wake people up," he added.

When residents dispose of their recyclables with their trash, Reynolds said the end result is a "double loss." The total volume of the trash increases and the town has to pay more to dispose of it and the town also misses out on refunds for its recyclable, which are collected by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority.

Reynolds said currently residents deposit a minimum of 500 lbs. of recyclables with their trash. "This isn't just a small number we're talking about," he warned.

The board agreed a \$3-fee was a good idea. Selectman Riva Clark said recycling was a "proactive way to your taxes."

Black said he would work to update residents' transfer station stickers and more information about recycling would be mailed out in March or April.

The next BOS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The Oscar nominations came out last week, and even with double the nominees in the category this year, I *still* haven't seen the majority of Best Picture contenders.

I've seen three of the nominees, which is certainly more than I see most years; however, considering there are 10 nominees this year, three is not very notable. Percentage-wise, I'm about where I usually am this time of year.

The three Best Picture nominees I've seen are *Avatar* (which I wrote about just a couple weeks ago), *Up* and *Inglorious Basterds*. Of those three, *Avatar* probably has the best chance of winning. Also, of those three, *Avatar* is probably the only one that would've been nominated had there been the standard five nominees this year.

That's not to say those other two movies aren't good; indeed, I think they've probably got more rewatchability than *Avatar*. (Like I said in my earlier column, the chief appeal of *Avatar* is its eye-popping visual effects; its story and dialogue are nothing to write home about. It's not really the kind of movie you can envision yourself placing in your DVD player in a couple years and watching on your 25-inch TV screen.) But, had the selections been just limited to five, *Up*, though it received near-universal acclaim (and deservedly so), would almost certainly have been relegated to the decidedly less-glamorous Best Animated Picture category. As it is, *Up* now becomes the first animated movie to be nominated for Best Picture since *Beauty and the Beast* in 1992 (which, incidentally, was before the Best Animated Picture category was created).

As for *Inglorious Basterds*, while it was interesting, and I enjoyed it, it didn't have the same type of widespread praise *Pulp Fiction* (director Quentin Tarantino's only other movie to be nominated for Best Picture) did. Truth be told, I was more surprised by its selection than *Up*'s.

The decision to increase the number of

Best Picture nominees from five to 10 was seen as a way to not just honor more movies but to try to get more high-grossing movies included in the running, and not just the less-seen, more art house-y kind of fare that has tended to dominate the category in recent years. This would broaden the appeal of the race – and in turn get more eyeballs glued to their TV sets when the winners are announced.

And as it turned out, of this year's nominees, five have grossed more than \$100 million at the box office: *Avatar*, which has made something like 80 gajillion dollars (well, okay, only about \$600 million or so), *Up*, *The Blind Side*, *Inglorious Basterds* and *District 9*. There have been years in the past where *Up in the Air*, which as of Monday has made about \$76 million, would have been the highest-grossing of the Best Picture contenders.

Up in the Air, incidentally, is probably the only one of the remaining Best Picture contenders I might seek out before the awards are handed out on March 7. The rest just don't look super-appealing to me. There are some I might check out when they hit DVD (like *An Education* or *A Serious Man*), and some I might just skip altogether (like *The Blind Side*; it seems like a well-intentioned tearjerker, sure, but it also looks a little on the sappy side.)

I believe I've mentioned in the past, but 1997 was the only time I saw all five of the Best Picture nominees before the Oscar ceremony (which was actually in early 1998, but it was for the movies released the year before). Now that there are 10 nominees, I'll probably never bat 1.000 again. But, if this year is any indication, the years of me seeing two or even just one of the nominated films are behind me. At the very least, the odds of a movie winning that I've at least seen a commercial for have increased.

* * *

See you next week.

Portland Company Pays Penalty for Violations of Oil Pollution Prevention Regulations

A Portland asphalt company has agreed to pay \$68,400 in penalties for failing to comply with federal regulations designed to prevent oil spills from reaching waterways.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Triram Connecticut, LLC, illegally discharged approximately 1,000 gallons of oil from its facility to the Connecticut River in January 2009. The oil spill occurred when piping connecting a 13,000-gallon oil tank to a boiler failed and released 8,000 gallons of oil into the facility's secondary containment area.

The oil discharged into the river prompted an emergency response from the local fire department and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Triram also hired an oil spill response company to contain the spilled oil and spent over \$500,000 on the cleanup.

EPA's New England office determined that the company had failed to fully maintain and implement its Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan, as required by the Clean Water Act. These oil spill preven-

tion regulations require that specific preventative measures be taken at facilities that store greater than 1,320 gallons of oil, and could reasonably be anticipated to release oil products into a waterway of the United States or adjoining shoreline areas. According to the EPA, these regulations help ensure that tank failures or accidental spills do not lead to oil contamination of surface waters, such as rivers or streams, which could harm human and ecological health.

"Because oil spills can do significant damage to the environment, EPA makes it a priority to ensure that facilities handling oils must follow established procedures to minimize risks of oil spills," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "We hope this enforcement action will encourage all companies that store significant quantities of oil to follow the established procedures to prevent and minimize the impacts of oil spills."

For more information about federal oil spill prevention requirements, visit www.epa.gov/oilspill/

Obituaries

East Hampton

Dana Francis Healey

Dana (Dan) Francis Healey, 87, of St. Augustine, FL, formerly of Cobalt, died Jan. 24 at his home. He was born in Ashland, NH, son of Katherine and James Healey.

Dan was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 53 years, Dana Jean (Dee) and his children, Patricia Moore of Overton, TX, Pamela Harding of Milford, Dana F. Healey Jr. of St. Augustine and Jillana Eadie of Fredericksburg, VA. He was predeceased by his son Grant and he has 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was the eldest of 15 children and is survived by four brothers, David, Carl, Roy and Gary and by three sisters, Maxine, Joyce and Katherine.

He served in World War II in the Army Air Corps, 364th Fighter Group, stationed in England. He flew 48 missions in the P-51 Mustang and he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, four air medals, three battle stars and two presidential citations.

After the war he continued his service in the Connecticut Air National Guard. He flew the P-47 in the Air National Guard until the Korean Conflict. He was reactivated into the Air Force in 1950 and after retraining he was stationed in Japan. He flew the F-80 and was assigned to patrolling the Sea of Japan. In 1951 he was trained in the F-84 and completed his active service in January 1953. He continued in the Air National Guard flying the F-94, F-86 and the F-100. He retired from the Air National Guard in 1962 after 20 years of service.

He was hired by American Airlines as a pilot in April 1953. He flew both prop and jet aircraft and qualified as captain on the B-707 in 1965. He retired from American in 1982 after 29 years and accumulated over 30,000 flight hours.

After retirement, Dan fulfilled his dream of building a farm in Pennsylvania with his own landing strip for his airplane. He lived in Pennsylvania until his move to St. Augustine in 1996. Dan had multiple interests including flying, golf, tennis and fishing. He was a member of the St. Augustine Sports Club, the Quiet Birdmen, the 364th Fighter Group Association and the American Airlines Grey Eagles.

A memorial service was held Friday, Jan. 29, at the Craig Funeral Home in St. Augustine, with Pastor Lon Chenoweth officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 9010, St. Augustine, FL 32085 and the St. Francis House, P.O. Box 1885, St. Augustine, FL 32085.

Craig Funeral Home Crematory Memorial Park (St. Augustine, FL) is in charge of arrangements.

Marlborough

Theodore Rankl

Theodore M. Rankl, 86, of Avon Park, FL, and formerly of Marlborough, husband of Loraine (Porter) Rankl, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, in Florida. Born Jan. 19, 1924 in Marlborough, he was the son of the late John P. and Emma (Guenther) Rankl. He had worked as a dairy and citrus farmer in Florida for many years and was a member of the Marlborough Grange.

Besides his wife of almost 65 years, he is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Theodore W. and Sally Rankl of Florida; his daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and James Lyman of Massachusetts; two grandsons, James and Troy Lyman and four great-grandchildren, Emma, Aidan, Kyle and Jaxyn.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in Marlborough Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home on Wednesday before the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

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

East Hampton

Joan Arcidiacono

Joan Pigeon Arcidiacono, 74, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Peter Arcidiacono, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Feb. 5, from complications following emergency surgery precipitated by Lupus. She was born in Meriden July 17, 1935, to the late Gerard E. and Mary (Roach) Pigeon.

Joan graduated from Meriden High School in 1953 and the Ona M. Wilcox School of Nursing in Middletown in 1956. She worked as an obstetric nurse prior to taking on the full-time job of homemaker and raising three children. She later earned an Associate Degree from Middlesex Community College and worked as an infection control nurse at Cobalt Lodge. In retirement, she wrote articles for *Nursing Spectrum* magazine, served as a Literacy Volunteer and as an online tutor on AOL.

As a faithful and active communicant at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, Joan served her heavenly father and the parish in many capacities including eucharistic minister, Parish Council member, Engaged Couple Coordinator, Pro-Life Committee member, Faith Formation Coordinator and Teacher, Parish Nurse, Cornerstone Prayer Group Music Ministry (playing the tambourine and banjo), and co-editor of the *Marriage Encounter Newsletter*. Joan was a member of the non-denominational Footprints Spiritual Music Group singing and playing the bank. She also served her community as a Girl Scout Leader for many years and as a First Aid and CPR instructor.

In addition to her husband of 52 years, Joan leaves three children, Steven Arcidiacono and his wife Christine of Bellingham, MA, Karen DiGiro and her husband Steve of Hebron, and David Arcidiacono and his wife Michelle of East Hampton; and her sister, Nancy Barry of Meriden. She also leaves her eight grandchildren: Christopher, Matthew, Paul, John, Danielle, Drew, Elyse and Grant, as well as a large extended family of cousins, nieces and nephews, many friends and, last but not least, her very active but loving black Labrador, Molly. All will miss her greatly.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton, followed by burial at St. Patrick Cemetery. Family and friends called prior to the Mass on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Lupus or Sjogren's Syndrome Foundations. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Alice A. Griffin

Alice A. (Tarnowski) Griffin, 85, wife of the late William S. Griffin Jr., of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Feb. 7, at Hartford Hospital with her loving family by her side. She was born Sept. 7, 1924, in Hartford, daughter of John and Anna Poplowski Tarnowski.

She was a member of the St. Joseph Women's Alliance and the Adler-Boluck Women's Auxiliary Post 6990. Alice was past member of the Democratic Women's Club. She loved to bake and was known for her apple pies and coffee rings which were featured at many bake sales. She always participated in school activities of both her children and grandchildren and enjoyed attending Bacon Academy basketball games and Cornell University concerts. Alice also loved preparing holidays which were open to friends and neighbors. She and her late husband Bill enjoyed trips to Hawaii with several Polish groups and they loved to dance.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Gail and Thomas Kittle; a son and daughter-in-law, William and Constance Griffin; a granddaughter, Jennifer and her husband Dr. Karl Dauphinais; a grandson, William S. Griffin IV; and her special and loving caregiver, Sharon Aschom.

Funeral Service was held today, Friday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m., at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Visitation was one hour prior to her service, starting at 9 a.m. Interment followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Mary's Ukrainian Church Beautification Fund, 178 Linwood Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 or to the Annual Bishop's Appeal Fund, c/o Norwich Diocese, 201 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360.

Colchester

Kymerly Pratt

Kymerly Morgan Pratt, 42, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 26, in Waterford. She was born Jan. 25, 1968, in Syracuse, NY, daughter of Daniel L. Morgan and Sandra Gilday Darnall. She was employed as an RN for St. Francis Hospital.

Surviving besides her parents are two sons, Alex and Nathan; two brothers, Joel Darnall and Jason Morgan; a sister, Kelly Smith.

Private funeral service was held at Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. There were no calling hours.

Colchester

Gary Ross Avery

Gary Ross Avery, 65, of Colchester, beloved husband of Roberta (Streb) Avery, passed away peacefully, Wednesday, Feb. 3, at home. Born Nov. 13, 1944 in Coos Bay, OR, he was a son of the late Wendell and Betty Lou (Donley) Avery.

A proud Navy veteran, he was a nuclear submariner during the Vietnam War from 1962-71. On Aug. 27, 1969, he and Roberta were married at St. John Church in North Creek, NY. Together, they settled in Colchester in 1976 and raised their family. He was extremely active in the Colchester community; both in his career and as a volunteer.

Gary was director of facilities for the Town of Colchester and the Board of Education for 29 years before his retirement in April of 2006. He had served as Clerk of the Works for the construction of the newest Bacon Academy, vice chairman of the Cragin Memorial Library expansion, charter member of the Colchester Learning Foundation, chairman of the Conservation Commission and secretary of the Westchester Cemetery Association.

His other true dedication was that of his active 33-year life membership with the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Company. Over the years, he worked his way up through the ranks, serving in numerous officer positions including captain, deputy chief and chief. He served on numerous truck committees, but was most proud of the meticulous restoration of the company's 1936 Federal.

He was a talented and avid electrician, craftsman, designer, woodworker, gardener and cook whose legacy will live on through the hearts and minds of many.

In addition to his loving wife of 40 years, he is survived by two children and their spouses, John and Michelle of Colchester and Shawn and Brandolf Schlieper of Norwich; five grandchildren, Justin Avery, Brandolf and Alexander Schlieper, Christina Geary and Matthew Chapman; four siblings, Laurie Meunier and Danny, David and Robert Avery, all of Michigan; his Colchester-Hayward family; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Monday, Feb. 8, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble starting at 10 AM Tuesday at the Colchester-Hayward Firehouse, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a 10:30 AM Service with Rev. Fred M. Dole, CHVFC Chaplain, officiating. Committal with full military and department honors will follow in the Westchester Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward VFC, 18-54 Old Hartford Road, Colchester 06415 or to the Colchester Learning Foundation, P.O. Box 215, Colchester 06415.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Michael Richard Gosselin

Michael Richard (Goose) Gosselin, 49, of East Hampton, died Friday, Jan. 22. Born April 2, 1960 in Springfield, MA, he was the son of Richard and Marilyn (Broadbent) Gosselin of East Hampton. Michael had lived in East Hampton since 1971 and had worked as a Master Mechanic who was able to fix anything.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his former wife, Sheila Gosselin of East Hampton; his son, Jason Gosselin of East Hampton; three brothers and their wives, James and Colette Gosselin of East Hampton, Jeffery and Kellie Gosselin of East Hampton, Gregory and Dawn Gosselin of Marlborough; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. He also leaves his special friend, Tammy Scherp of East Hampton.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial was private at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the funeral home Wednesday morning before the service.

Memorial donations may be made to The Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073, or the charity of the donor's choice.

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

Marlborough

Lorraine Cavanaugh

Lorraine (Rainbow) Cavanaugh, 80, of Marlborough, beloved wife of the late John Cavanaugh, died peacefully Friday, Jan. 22, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Barre, VT on May 10, 1929, she was the daughter of the late Fanny and John Mortiere. She was a proud and devoted member of the Marlborough Moose Club.

She is survived by her five children, Alice and her husband Bill Dove of Kittery, ME; Dorothy and her husband Maurice Blanchette of Harwinton; Patrick Cavanaugh of Fairfax, VA; Michael Cavanaugh of Marlborough; and Timothy and his wife Carrie Cavanaugh of Glastonbury. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Simon Dove, Nicholas McGuffie, Kimberly McGuffie, Kaitlin McGuffie, Megan Cavanaugh, Matthew Cavanaugh, Jamie Cavanaugh, Haley Cavanaugh and Jennifer Dehne; six great-grandchildren, Alexis McGuffie, Sophie McGuffie, Akasha Mavec-Dove, Amanda Dehne, Nathaniel Dehne and Eadoian Dehne; two nephews, David and Scott Vshalifski. She also leaves her sister, Jean Vshalifski and her husband Bud.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 30, in the Marlborough Moose Club on South Main Street in Marlborough.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447, or the Royal Order of Moose Building Fund, 303 South Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

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

Portland

Theodore Tine Sr.

Theodore Tine Sr., 83, of Portland, beloved husband of Diane (Aleia) Tine, left this world peacefully, at his home on Feb. 9, after several years of declining health due to Myasthenia gravis. Born Oct. 26, 1926, in Middletown, Mr. Tine was the son of Joseph and Santina Tine.

He was predeceased by his parents, his brothers, Francis (Frank), Salvatore and Anthony (Tony) Tine, and his sisters' husbands, Michael Stagon, Gerald Perrone, his brother's wives Mary Tine and Rosemarie Tine, nephew Michael Stagon Jr., and a niece Patty Brown. He served in the United States Army during World War II as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. He received an M-1 expert marksmanship badge and was awarded the Army of Occupation, Asiatic Pacific Campaign, Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals, after serving his country as a part of the first occupying troops in Japan.

He was a lifelong parishioner of Saint Sebastian's Church in Middletown, and volunteered as a library assistant for Saint Sebastian's school, where he encouraged and comforted young students, providing his undivided attention as they practiced their reading skills and shared their worries. He was a well-known figure in Middletown, where he and his brother, Joe Tine Jr., were owners for many years of T & T Sunoco Service Station located on the corner of Main and Liberty Streets. He was also the former owner of Midstate Auto body.

During his lifetime, Ted served as an auxiliary State Police officer affiliated with Troop K, a Deputy Sheriff and Justice of the Peace. He was a 50-year member of the Forest City Knights of Columbus, having served as a Grand Knight, and a member of the 4th degree Bishop McFarland General Assembly. With a love for martial arts and teaching, Ted became a 6th-degree black belt in Aikido as well as a Marital Arts instructor. He was inducted into the Middletown Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his level of achievement in Aikido.

Ted led an exceptional life and was a wonderful example of a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. All who met him were touched by his love for life, enthusiasm and were changed by his kindness and gentle manner. He will be greatly missed.

Besides his wife of 56 years, he is survived by his son, Theodore J. Tine Jr. of Portland, and three daughters, Kimberly Tine Snow and her husband, James Snow, of Saybrook, Robin Tine of Middletown, Michele Tine Castelli, her husband, Ettore Castelli, their children, his granddaughters, Sara and Jordana Castelli of Essex, and his siblings Marie Tine Stagon, Helen Tine Perrone, and his brother, Joseph Tine Jr.; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends may visit the D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, today, Friday, Feb. 12, from 5-8 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 13, at 10 a.m., at Saint Sebastian's Church, 155 Washington St., Middletown. Interment will follow at St. Sebastian Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Weiss Hospice Unit Middlesex Hospital Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 in Ted's memory.

Portland

Martin Miller

Martin Miller, 84, of Portland, husband of Gail (Lewis) Miller, passed away Saturday, Feb. 6, with his loving family by his side at Middlesex Hospital, due to heart failure and other complications. He was born and brought up in Brooklyn, NY, son of the late Jewish immigrants, William and Rose Miller.

Marty was a veteran of World War II and received a Bronze Star while serving in the US Army. He owned and operated his own company, "Miller Machinery," until his death. He was known as a world traveler and his real claim to fame was meeting many famous and interesting people throughout his life.

Besides his wife, Gail, he leaves behind his loving daughter, Jodi Lisitano; and his loving son, Mark Miller; and will be missed by his three grandchildren, Maegen, Cody and Bennett and Bennett's mother, Mary Jo.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 11, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, with Rabbi Allan Lefkowitz officiating. Burial followed in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland with full military honors. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Marty's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450.

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

Colchester

Robert J. Shaeffer

Robert J. Shaeffer, 78, of Colchester, widower of the late Beverlyanne (Halas) Shaeffer, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 2, at home. Born Dec. 12, 1931, in Philadelphia, PA, he was the son of the late Clarence and Margaret (Weidmer) Shaeffer.



He proudly served during the Korean War; first with the U.S. Army for two years, with four months at West Point, and later with the U.S. Naval Reserves. On Nov. 25, 1961, he and Beverlyanne were married and shared 38 years wonderful years together before she predeceased him on June 3, 2000. Since 1980 until recently, he owned and operated Shaeffer Plastics Co. in Colchester.

In his spare time, Bob loved motorized sports; from flying to racing to boating and he was an avid fisherman. He was a member of the American Race Drivers Club as well as the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

He is survived by two daughters, Nikki Griffin of Woodstock and Holly Reese of Pennsylvania; a grandson, Ryan Griffin of Colorado; two great-grandchildren, Rowan and River Griffin of Colorado; two sisters, Lorraine Hampel and Peggy Connelly, both of Philadelphia; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a sister, Katherine Morehouse.

A memorial liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward VFD, 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Ronald Jeffrey Crabb

Ronald Jeffrey Crabb, 42, beloved husband of Jodi Thomas of Colchester, passed away Sunday morning, Feb. 7, due to a tragic industrial accident in Middletown. Born Aug. 16, 1967, in Spring Valley, IL, he was a son of Marilyn T. Crabb of Chicago, IL and the late Carle (Bart) Crabb, IL.



He was married to Jodi M. Thomas on July 2, 1994, in Fairfield. The couple later moved to Colchester where they made their home. Ron proudly worked as a steamfitter for Local 777, Connecticut Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, for 18 years. As an apprentice, Ron received the Department of Labor, Fitzgerald Award for outstanding apprenticeship. Throughout his career, he was a champion of workers rights and job safety.

Holding a strong belief in unionism, Ron was immediate past president of the Local. Prior to that, he served the Local as recording secretary and executive board member. Receiving appointment by the governor, Ron also served for six years on the State Licensing Board for Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheet Metal Workers. He worked to maintain the integrity of the profession and protect work jurisdiction and consumers from fraudulent contractors.

An active member of his hometown, Ron served on the Colchester Democratic Town Committee and he just completed a six-year term on the Board of Finance. Ron was awarded the Secretary of the State's Public Service Award for his long-standing dedication. He touched countless people's lives in an everlasting way.

Ron held an avid love of the great outdoors. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family for his devotion and hard work.

In addition to his loving wife of 15 years and his mother, survivors include two sons, Dylan Thomas-Crabb of Colchester and Tyler Barboza of Spring Valley, IL; a brother, Carle Ray Crabb, IV of Spring Valley, IL; step father, Jerome Sisul of Chicago, IL; stepsiblings, Tawny Sisul, Francie Sisul, David Sisul and Jerome Sisul; mother in law, Susan Thomas of Milford; a special aunt, Sandra Thomas of Stratford and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call from 4-8 p.m. today, Friday, Feb. 12, at St. Andrew's Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, directly at St. Andrew Church. Burial will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to benefit his children's education: Ronald Crabb Children's Education Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 219 South Main St., Colchester, CT 06415. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

