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A group of students at PHS have started their own radio station, which launches next week. Shown preparing for the debut broadcast are, in the back row, from left, Nick Blanchard, Liam McCarthy, Justin Brown and Damon Gray, and in the front row, Chris Howell, Mike Tully and Charlie Shattuck.

Portland High School Soon to Make Radio Waves

by Claire Michalewicz

Starting next week, listeners can tune into music, news and sports coverage, all broadcast live from Portland High School. WPHT, an online radio station, is set to launch at wphtphs.com on Monday, Jan. 31.

Program Director Phil Shattuck has been leading the effort to get the station on air.

"I've always been interested in radio," Phil, a sophomore at the high school, said.

The station would feature a mixture of music, news and discussions, and coverage of PHS sports games. Phil said he wants to start a variety show in the after-school hours, enabling students to show off their talents.

"There's a lot of freedom with what they want to do," he added.

Phil said he first had the idea for a radio station last spring and became interested in trying to go on air when he learned previous students had done radio programs. The group's advisor, technology teacher Krista Karch, explained that she had run radio programs before with students who broadcasted from basketball games. Phil said he liked that idea, and wanted to expand it to broadcast a wider variety of programming throughout the day.

Phil said he asked some of his classmates, and asked for volunteers on the morning announcements. A crew of about 10 people came forward, and they've been working to get the

station ready to go on air.

This week, the students learned how to use the recording equipment, finalized their schedule and put the finishing touches on the website.

"We're all pumped for it," Phil said. "They've all been really excited for it."

The station was supposed to launch this past week, but it's been pushed back a few days because of several snow days.

WPHT will broadcast every day from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with students covering shifts before and after school, and during their free class periods. Because WPHT is run by students during their study halls, most of the programs are 40 minutes long, Phil said.

Sophomores Justin Brown and Liam McCarthy plan to do a current affairs program in the early afternoon. Justin said he likes the flexibility current affairs allows, since they can talk about world and national news, or things that are happening at their school.

Damon Gray, a junior, is covering the first shift in the morning, and said he wants to focus on fun music to remind people of warmer weather.

"I want summer to come back," Damon said, explaining that he doesn't like all the snow and cold weather Connecticut has had lately. His

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Colchester Superintendent Pitches \$37.18 Million Budget

by Katy Nally

Colchester Superintendent of Schools Karen Loisel presented a proposed \$37.18 million education budget to board members Tuesday, a spending package that represents a 3.34 percent increase over the current year.

While the spending proposal features no cuts to programs or sports, it does eliminate 9.5 FTE of teachers and paraprofessionals.

There are two "extraordinary expenditures," which total about half a million dollars, that Loisel said were necessary to fund this year — about \$280,000 worth of repairs to the schools, the majority at the middle school, and \$232,000 for "Other Post-Employment Benefits" for current and future retirees.

The largest chunk of Loisel's budget, at 63.3 percent, is salaries, with benefits, at 14.4 percent, coming in second.

Salaries for the 2011-12 package total about \$23.90 million. In the teacher contract that covers 2011 through 2013, Loisel noted, there are no general wage increases for teachers who are at steps one through 11. A general wage increase is when a certain step increases from year to year. Without the general wage increase, steps one through 11 remain the same for the two school years.

Loisel added, the salaries at steps one through 11 have remained the same since the

2009-10 school year. For example, the salary for an incoming step one teacher with a bachelor's degree was the same in 2009 as it will be for the 2012-13 school year.

But, although there are no general wage increases in the contract, teachers will still benefit from step increases.

There are 12 steps for Colchester teachers, and every year teachers move up a step and receive a salary increase. The step increase is small at first — incoming teachers with a bachelor's degree see a 0.58 percent bump in pay after one year — but they become increasingly greater over time. From step 10 to 11 for this contract, the same teacher with a bachelor's receives a 3.75 percent raise.

But, because steps one through 11 have not seen a general wage increase, while step 12 has, the jump between steps 11 and 12 has grown. The teacher with the bachelor's incurs a 13.07 percent raise when going from step 11 to 12 in the 2011-12 school year. The raise is even greater for a teacher with more credentials.

Loisel noted, however, that Colchester does not pay its teachers as much as other towns in its District Reference Group. For example, salary for an incoming Colchester teacher with a bachelor's, which is \$41,764, is ranked 17th out of 24 towns in the DRG.

However, Loisel pointed out, Colchester students routinely earn marks above the DRG. Colchester's per pupil expenditure for 2009-10 was \$10,929, which ranked last among the DRG, coming in 24th.

"Talk about getting an effective bang for your buck," Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said.

Although there will be some reductions to staff, the total spent on salaries for Loisel's package will increase by 2.29 percent.

The proposal eliminates one teacher from kindergarten, two from fourth grade, one from fifth, one science teacher at Bacon Academy and one half-time teacher who teaches computer science at William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS). Also, a full-time music teacher is retiring and only half the position will be filled.

Also, three paraprofessionals, two from WJMS and one from Bacon, are slated to be cut, as well as 0.5 FTE of an office staff member from Bacon.

Loisel she said she chose these staff cuts based on projected student enrollment. As of Jan. 1, total enrollment was at 3,092, which is 95 fewer students than projected. Because of this overestimate, Loisel said she was able to find reductions in staff.

The projected enrollment for the next school

year is exactly the same, at 3,092. Still, by losing three classroom teachers at the intermediate school, Loisel projected class size to increase slightly in grades three through five. Also, class size is projected to increase in second and sixth grades, as well as ninth, 10th and 11th grade science classes.

Although personnel cuts were proposed, Loisel said after hearing from parents and residents "loud and clear" she decided to retain all programs. She highlighted the Bacon lacrosse program that has been completely funded by parents and participants for several years, and was included in her proposed budget this year.

Lastly, Loisel touched on the "extraordinary" expenditures. The "Other Post Employment Benefits" is a new account set up for retired teachers and future retirees who opt to buy into the district's health care plan. She said it was "the responsible thing" to begin funding that account in the upcoming budget cycle.

Then there's the capital outlay budget that has "been woefully under-funded," Loisel told the board. Director of Facilities Greg Plunkett gave a presentation to board members that showed just how badly WJMS is in need of repair.

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Radio Waves cont. from Front Page

show is “gonna be summer for 40 minutes,” he said. Along with favorite summery music like Jimmy Buffett, Boston and Bob Marley, Damon said he’ll also go over top headlines of the morning.

Senior Kyle Johnson is running the technical aspect of the show. Kyle said he’s volunteered at a radio station before, and is training all the other people involved to run the computer and recording equipment. He said he hopes the other students will be able to manage, but he’ll be around for any troubleshooting.

Karch said she was impressed by the students’ motivation, especially their willingness to come to school early and leave late.

She said the administration, including Principal Andrea Lavery and Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen, has been supportive of the students’ endeavor. The administrators were also helpful in making sure the students had the proper licenses to broadcast music, she said. Some teachers have even agreed to play the station for students during study halls, Karch said.

After the school day, Phil said, the station will replay recordings from earlier in the day, so anyone who might have missed the broadcast during school will have another chance to listen.

Justin and Damon both said they were drawn to radio because it offered more freedom than

television. With radio, Damon said, he didn’t have to worry about how he looked or how much he moved – he just had to talk.

“You can be a different person if you want,” Damon said. “You can be whatever you want to be.”

Karch, who also teaches television and computer classes at the school, said the radio program was another outlet for students to get involved in media and communications. She said it was important to make these opportunities available for students, adding some who participated in the previous radio program had gone on to work at their college radio stations.

“I’ve always loved music,” said Chris Howell, a senior who’s hosting a rock and metal show in the morning. Chris said he wants to stay involved in music and broadcasting in the future.

Damon expressed similar sentiments, explaining that he had been interested in radio for years, and was looking forward to a chance to try it out.

“This is something I’ve wanted to do,” he said. “This is what I was going for.”

WPHT is also looking for sponsors. Karch said costs have been minimal so far, but the students want money in case any repair costs arise. Local businesses interested in spending \$10 a month for commercial airtime can contact Phil at pshattuck13@phsportlandct.us, or Karch at 860-342-1720 ext. 2029.

Budget cont. from Front Page

“The middle school really needs the most attention, in a very dramatic way,” Plunkett said.

For instance, radiator valves are perpetually stuck open, so the temperature can’t be controlled in the classrooms. Also, several windows are cracked and others “are so broken some have been taken down,” Plunkett said.

He showed pictures of doorframes that are rotting and rusting, and ceiling tiles with water damage. Also, plumbing issues span from a cracked urinal that’s been covered with plywood to faucets that need new hardware, but are so old that the parts aren’t manufactured anymore.

These suggested improvements made to the schools fall into two categories: capital outlay and capital improvement. Outlay includes maintenance and repairs, while capital improvements cover constructing new facilities or making long-term improvements.

Loiselle’s budget includes capital outlay, at \$283,800, which is more than a 4,000 percent increase from the current year. In the 2010-11 budget, that line item was only \$6,400.

Her budget includes about \$198,000 for WJMS alone and about \$75,000 for Bacon Academy.

The capital improvements, which total \$964,000, aren’t included in Loiselle’s budget. Goldstein said the Board of Education and First Selectman Gregg Schuster would look at ways to finance those items.

The school board will receive another budget presentation, this time focusing on curriculum and instruction, on Wednesday, Feb. 9. Before that, on Wednesday, Feb. 2, there will be a budget forum in the Bacon Academy cafeteria, starting at 7 p.m.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Turns out censorship is alive and well and living in Enfield.

The news made the rounds of the local papers and TV stations, but in case you missed it, last Wednesday the Enfield Public Library canceled plans to show the Michael Moore documentary *Sicko* under pressure from the majority of Town Council members as well as the town’s mayor – Republican Scott Kaupin, who had even threatened to cut library funding if it went ahead with screening the film.

Sicko is a controversial 2007 documentary that critiques the American health care system. The library had planned to show it as part of a new nonfiction film series. (Other entries in the series were going to be Al Gore’s film on global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*, as well as a movie documenting the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.)

Kaupin’s successful attempt to squelch the screening brings up a whole host of problems, such as censorship, violating free speech, violating free expression and, last but not least, abuse of power. I mean, threatening library funding? Come on.

It’s troubling that the Town Council went along with Kaupin on this one. There was only one member of the council to speak against canceling the movie, Democrat Cynthia Mangini, who correctly labeled it censorship and said it was akin to banning books.

(Alas, not all Democrats came away smelling good in this mess. Another council member, Democrat Patrick Crowley, said he didn’t think canceling the movie was censorship because libraries should be a “place of relaxation and fun for the kids.” Uh, the movie was going to be shown at 1 p.m. on a weekday. Most kids would be in school.)

Shouldn’t a public library be the ideal venue to show a movie like *Sicko*, which was designed to get people thinking about tough issues? Getting people thinking and talking about controversial subjects....isn’t that part of what a library is all about? One would think so. But apparently, a nice, bland, middle-of-the-road library is what Kaupin has in mind for his town.

“Do nice stuff,” Kaupin was quoted as saying in the *Journal Inquirer*. “Do uncontroversial, or if you want to step in the mode of being controversial, make sure it’s fair on both sides and it becomes a discussion.”

Last I checked, the stacks of a public library weren’t filled exclusively with family-friendly books by authors who solely wanted to write “nice stuff” and be “uncontroversial.” So why should the movies the library shows be this way?

Not surprisingly, the cancellation of the movie set off a tidal wave of criticism. Among

those who spoke against the move was Andrew Schneider, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut, who told the *JI* said “a free society like ours suffers when government officials like the mayor take this type of action.”

I agree completely. Simply put, last Wednesday in Enfield was a sad day for democracy.

* * *

In news that should come as a surprise to no one, this is now the snowiest January on record.

Not including any snow we got Wednesday night and Thursday morning – as of my writing this on Tuesday, we were forecast to receive anywhere between six and 12 inches – January has seen more than 43 inches of snow. And unless Wednesday night’s storm fizzled out, by the time you read this we may have broken the record for snowiest month altogether: December 1945. Connecticut received 45.3 inches of snow that month.

In fact, unless things change in February and March, this could be the snowiest winter ever. According to WTIC meteorologist Joe Furey, the most snow Connecticut has seen in one winter is 115 inches, which fell during the 1995-96 winter season.

I remember the massive snowfall that year, but for a strange reason. I was a junior in high school that year, and the school I went to – East Catholic – had a built-in graduation date for its seniors. The graduation was held at the cathedral in Hartford every year, and East had to book the place months in advance. So, if you were a senior at East, that was the date you graduated, and no amount of snow days could change that.

Therefore, while freshmen, sophomores and juniors had to make up snow days at the end of June, seniors sat pretty. Snow days for them were basically bonus days off, and never needed to be made up.

I forget exactly how many days were canceled due to snow my junior year – but with 115 inches falling, you can be sure it was a lot. And I wound up taking classes in the hot school until late June.

The following year, 1996-97, was my senior year, which meant it was my year to soak up the snow days with no fear of having to make them up. And while I can’t find the data from that year, I remember it as being decidedly milder. I still had snow days, but not nearly as many as the seniors of a year before. Of course, I still got to graduate in early June, and that’s a nice perk, regardless of how many snow days you get.

* * *

See you next week.

Marlborough Zoning To Review Pool Company Proposal

by Katy Nally

A public hearing regarding a pool company setting up shop in Marlborough will be held next Thursday, Feb. 3.

Cherry Hill Pools, which currently has two locations in Massachusetts, submitted an application to the Zoning Commission to construct an outdoor display area and another building in the empty lot near the exit ramp of exit 12 off Route 2. A public hearing on the proposal opened Jan. 6.

The parcel, located at the corner of Portland Road and North Main Street, and situated across the street from the Citgo gas station, “has been vacant forever,” Zoning Commission Chairman Scott Miller said.

“We’re excited to see someone put a piece of vacant property to use,” he added.

Because of its location next to Route 2, Miller called the area a “high-impact parcel.”

“It’s the first thing you see when you get off

at exit 12,” he said. “In my opinion, it’s a very high-profile property.”

There is currently a small house on one side of the lot, Town Planner Peter Hughes said, and the applicant proposed keeping the home and using it as an office. Hughes said Cherry Hill Pools would also look to construct a second building to store equipment.

The property was marketed as one unit, Miller explained, with the field zoned for commercial use and the small house as industrial use. The applicant was granted a special permit to change the land use to retail, he said.

Hughes said the Zoning Commission would likely examine the lighting in the outdoor display area. Miller said he couldn’t comment specifically on the proposal, as the public hearing is currently open, but he mentioned most of the impact of any project stems from noise and dis-

play.

“That’s why we have a commission, to protect the character of the town,” Miller said.

The Feb. 3 Zoning Commission meeting will include a full presentation regarding the proposal, and it will be an opportunity for residents to comment. Miller encouraged citizens to attend, as not many have given input thus far.

Since December, the Cherry Hill Pools proposal has been approved by the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. According to minutes from the Jan. 10 Conservation Commission meeting, Cherry Hill’s approval hinged on several factors, including: the site must use an oil separation catch basin and the construction of the roof drain must be revised so it is connected to a dry well instead of the catch basin.

The Zoning Board of Appeals had fewer conditions attached to its approval. Based on Dec. 8 minutes, conditions included adhering to landscaping plans that showed plantings along the west border.

“It’s met all the regulations,” Hughes said this week.

If the application is approved, Hughes said, Cherry Hill could potentially move to Marlborough this spring.

“It’s an important application for the town,” Miller said.

The applicant, Jim McGill was unavailable this week to comment.

There will be a site walkthrough of the property for the Zoning Commission at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 3. The public hearing for the proposal will continue that night at a Zoning Commission meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

East Hampton Council Ponders How to Handle Complaint Decision

by Claire Michalewicz

The Town Council debated how to handle a recent decision in a complaint against former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe at its meeting Tuesday evening. Most council members said they consider the issue closed, but Sue Weintraub said the town should pursue it further.

Sergeant Garritt Kelly brought the complaint against O'Keefe in July, accusing him of verbally harassing him during a June meeting about O'Keefe's attempted restructuring of the town's police department.

Attorney Glenn Coe sent his report to the Town Council two weeks ago, ruling that Kelly's allegations did not meet the strict requirements of a "hostile work environment."

Weintraub suggested the council vote to accept or reject Coe's report, as it had done with the report from attorney Mark Sommaruga about O'Keefe's alleged harassment of three town employees in the spring. She also suggested the council hire a human resources consultant to review the complaint.

Weintraub said that while Coe had rejected Kelly's complaint on the grounds that it didn't meet the technical requirements of a hostile work environment, no one involved in the investigation had disputed what O'Keefe had said.

"I'm not comfortable with the way it's ending," Weintraub said.

"The town manager had inappropriate behavior toward Sergeant Kelly," she said. And while O'Keefe had never retaliated against Kelly, she said, he had an e-mail conversation with Sergeant Timothy Dowty about a proposed retirement package for Kelly.

But other council members said they didn't see the point of voting on it, or having a human resources specialist review it. Thom Cordeiro

pointed out that the report was already a public document.

"All we're saying is 'Was it a hostile work environment issue?'" Cordeiro said. "And all we're saying is 'No.'"

Barbara Moore and John Tuttle both pointed out that since none of the council members had been at the meeting where O'Keefe allegedly taunted Kelly, they couldn't know what happened.

Cordeiro suggested having Lisa Seymour, the town's human resources director, review the report with Kelly, but Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry said he would go over it with him. When the town received Coe's report, he said, he had tried to contact Kelly as soon as possible to tell him about the complaint.

Some residents expressed their concerns about the complaint during the meeting.

"Harassment of any kind in the workplace is wrong and should not be condoned," said Angela Sarahina. She asked council members why they had hired a "high-end lawyer" to investigate the complaint if they weren't going to vote on it.

Mary Ann Dostaler told the council she hoped the item hadn't been "on the agenda as a mere formality," but said after the meeting she thought it had been.

"An opinion from an attorney is just an opinion," Dostaler said. "The lawyers are not the decision-makers. You are the decision-makers." She also criticized the council for announcing Coe's decision on Twitter (which Cordeiro did after he received the report), and for handing the report out to the media before Kelly had a chance to read it.

Dostaler also questioned why Allison Phaneuf, a consultant O'Keefe hired to help

with the police department restructuring, had been interviewed, since she was being paid by the town and had "an interest to downplay whatever it was that happened."

Weintraub also brought up the ongoing debate over instituting a noise ordinance for the town. She said she wanted to make sure the council agreed that citizens have a right to peace and quiet, and that they had been pushing for a noise ordinance for the past four years. Weintraub passed out copies of Windham's ordinance, which uses a 100-foot threshold for determining if a noise creates a problem for nearby residents.

As an alternative, Cordeiro suggested banning amplified music, which he called "the biggest issue in the community."

At the end of the meeting, resident Kyle Dostaler urged the council to move ahead with the ordinance, so it would be in place before outdoor entertainment started up again in warmer weather.

"The time for you to do this is actually running out again," he said. "If you want one, then say so."

The council also revisited the proposed regionalization of the dog pound with East Haddam. At their last meeting two weeks ago, the council was preparing to move their pound operations to East Haddam's facility, when the owner of East Hampton's pound accused the council of violating their lease agreement by not maintaining the facility.

Cordeiro said he had received an e-mail from resident Barbara Suprono, who said residents could donate their time to help fix up East

Hampton's pound, and said that might be a better option than moving to East Haddam for a savings of only \$4,000.

Council member Chris Goff said East Haddam's attorney had not yet drafted a lease, so there was no action the council could take.

The council did move ahead with its quest for a new interim town manager, who would take over for Drewry until a new council is elected in November and can start a search for a permanent manager. The council set an application deadline of Feb. 28 for interested candidates, and Drewry will be posting the ad on several job websites.

In his town manager's report, Drewry thanked the public works department for their work to remove snow in the several snowstorms that have hit the state in recent weeks. So far, he said, the department had used 81 percent of its materials budget, and 56 percent of its overtime account. He said the town was applying for federal funding to help with costs.

Drewry said most residents had been "pretty cooperative" with the parking bans the town institutes during storms. When a vehicle was in the way, he said, the police department was usually able to contact the owner to have them move it, and they only towed as a last resort.

Drewry also announced that the town was hiring a new law firm, Kainen, Escalera and McHale, to handle its labor issues. The Hartford-based firm will replace Sullivan, Schoen, Campana and Connon, which the town had been using.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 E. High St.

Golden Proposes 3.80 Percent East Hampton School Budget Increase

by Claire Michalewicz

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden presented a proposed \$26.86 million budget to the Board of Education at its meeting Monday evening – a spending package one board member called "flat-out too high."

The proposed budget calls for an increase of \$983,530, or 3.80 percent, from current year spending.

The goal of the budget, Golden explained, is to maintain services and programs at their current levels, and to continue upgrading technology and to maintain facilities. If the budget passes in its current state, there will not be any staffing cuts.

Golden urged board members and the audience not to compare her budget to those in other towns, some of which have smaller increases.

"Can I get you to a zero?" Golden said to the board. "Absolutely. But there's a big cost to that, and you all know that."

A zero percent increase, she explained, would require her to cut the equivalent of 17.6 full-time positions. She stressed that she would look for other areas to cut first, but said staff would eventually have to be cut to bring the budget down to last year's level.

Golden said enrollment for the next school year would remain steady, with a projected overall decrease of one student. Enrollment at the town's two elementary schools is expected to increase, while the number of students at the

middle and high schools will likely go down. Staff may need to be shuffled between schools, Golden said.

The single largest increase in the budget is for medical insurance, which is projected to go up \$422,497, or 11.49 percent. Golden stressed that this is an estimate, as the district is still waiting for a figure from Anthem, its insurance carrier.

Another major increase, Golden said, was the cost of utilities, with heating oil going up by \$16,000, or 4.73 percent; motor fuel going up by \$13,980, or 7.54 percent; and electricity going up by \$48,536, an increase of 12.61 percent.

Other anticipated increases include transportation, special education services and tuition to magnet schools and other out-of-district services. Golden said she was anticipating a decrease in excess cost reimbursement from the state, which covers programs like special education outplacement.

Golden said the board saved money this year when the teachers renegotiated their contract, for a savings of \$343,861. The school district is saving another \$221,646 by offering early retirement packages to 10 teachers, she said. Her proposed budget calls for all 10 of those positions to be filled, she said.

Without these savings, Golden said, the bud-

get increase would have been 5.99 percent.

The money for the retirement packages came from the federal Education Jobs Fund, which is designed to create jobs in schools. Other towns used the money to hire staff, which helped keep their budget increases lower this year, Golden said. But, she added, those districts might face problems when the money runs out, and they have to find another way to pay those employees.

The board agreed to discuss the budget at two upcoming budget workshops, scheduled for Feb. 7 and 28. But a few board members offered their opinions on Monday.

"Well, first of all, it's too high," Don Coolican said. "Just flat-out too high."

From 2005-10, Coolican said, the school system had added the equivalent of 41.5 full-time staff members. He said the board should look at reducing staff to bring costs down.

"It looks to me like we've gone down this road increasing and increasing and increasing, and that's where we're gonna have to cut," Coolican said. He suggested cutting all-day kindergarten, which he called "not beneficial at all to students."

Other board members were more positive toward the budget. Joanne Barmasse pointed out that most of the increase was being used for health insurance and other staff costs.

"All that stuff adds up," she said.

Mark Laraia echoed her sentiments, calling the board "the largest employer in town." Debra Robinson said she was glad the schools were focusing on improving technology, since it would be important for students to have technical skills.

Golden said the board has to adopt its budget by Feb. 28, to be submitted to the town the next day.

Also at the meeting, Golden addressed the concerns about discipline that bus drivers raised at the last meeting. Golden said she had met with Nichols owners Charlie and Marie Nichols and East Hampton dispatcher Tammy Sherp to review policies for handling bus drivers' concerns about student behavior. She said she will meet with all East Hampton's bus drivers next week to review policies. In addition, she said, the Board of Education's policy committee is working on a draft of a standardized bus behavior policy for all four of the town's schools, which the board will vote on at their next meeting.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. at the high school library, 15 North Main St. The board will hold a budget workshop before the meeting, from 5-7 p.m.

New East Hampton Bar Offers Variety of Food, Drinks in Casual Setting

by Claire Michalewicz

Anyone looking to sample East Hampton's nightlife has another option to choose from – Smokey O'Grady's on Route 66 is now open.

The bar offers a variety of food and drinks, and a casual place to hang out and watch a game. It opened the day after Christmas, in a snowstorm, but owner Tim O'Reilly said he's pleased with how business is going.

"It's been good for this time of year," O'Reilly said, joking that he wasn't sure if people would be able to see the building behind the snow banks that have been piling up outside.

This is Smokey O'Grady's second bar – O'Reilly owns another one in East Lyme, where he lives. His son is running that location while he focuses on his new one.

O'Reilly said he was looking to expand when he learned the building, the former Ernie's Place, was available. O'Reilly said he had visited Ernie's last year on a motorcycle run, and thought it was a good location, since Route 66 gets a lot of traffic.

"You're not sure what brings people in, what catches their eye," he said. But he said several customers have come in because they noticed the building looked different, and the word has spread throughout town.

Though O'Reilly is happy with business so far, he said he's looking forward to warm weather, when people can use the large patio. He also wants to draw the biker crowd that frequented Ernie's, and said he'd be happy for the pub to be a stop for motorcycle runs.

"I want to keep that tradition going," he said.

O'Reilly said his main goal for Smokey O'Grady's is to create a friendly local bar where people can hang out and enjoy some food. He has multiple flatscreen TVs throughout the pub, showing whichever sports games are on.

"We want to cater to the sports fan without being a sports bar," O'Reilly said.

O'Reilly has been working in the restaurant business for years – before opening the pub in East Lyme, he worked as a chef at the Yankee Silversmith in Wallingford, and at Red Coach Grills, a chain of restaurants in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. He said he enjoyed moving from more formal restaurants to pubs, where the atmosphere is more relaxed and he's able to socialize more with the customers. And, he said, he has more freedom with the menu.

Despite the Irish-sounding name, Smokey O'Grady's offers a wide variety of food, from quesadillas, wraps, sandwiches and burgers, and lighter fare like salads, soups and a long list of appetizers.

All the food is made in the kitchen – the potato salad is made fresh, and the burgers and French fries are shaped by hand, O'Reilly said.

But the highlight of the menu – and O'Reilly's personal favorite – is the chicken wings. The wings come in 31 different flavors, and are available with or without bones in piles as big as 50. Along with ribs and burgers, the wings are the most popular item, O'Reilly said.

Still, O'Reilly cautioned, "I wouldn't call us a barbecue place." The focus, he said, is to have friendly local pub with good food. And of course, there are also drinks – Smokey O'Grady's has nearly 20 kinds of beer on tap, as well as a wide variety of mixed drinks.

When he bought the property, the bar was run down, O'Reilly said, and he spent three months renovating. "The place needed a lot of exterior work," he said, and had to be repainted. The inside, too, needed renovations – O'Reilly said he replaced the 10-seat bar with one that seats 28, and installed new booths, a new ceiling and new bathrooms.

So far, the biggest challenge he's faced was that he had to expand the kitchen, since he's had more customers than he expected. But he isn't complaining.



Restaurant and bar owner Tim O'Reilly is pictured above in his new place, Smokey O'Grady's, located on Route 66 in the former Ernie's Place.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the amount of food we were selling, and we had to get the kitchen geared up for double the amount of food," he said.

O'Reilly said his favorite part about running a pub is the interaction he gets with the customers. The East Lyme location has a group of clients who come in regularly and chat with

the bartenders, and he said he's seeing that develop already in East Hampton.

Smokey O'Grady's is located at 227 W. High Street (Route 66), just east of the intersection with Route 16. It offers takeout as well as sit-down meals, and is open from 11 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. The pub can be visited online at smokeyogradys.com.

Epoch's Play in East Hampton Relives Sept. 11

by Claire Michalewicz

Its previous productions have dealt with typical issues of teenage life, but this year, Epoch Arts' program for teen girls is branching out to deal with larger issues.

The original one-act play, *A Time To Remember*, portrays a variety of real people who were involved with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The show opens tonight at Epoch Arts, with a second performance tomorrow evening.

Breaking Silences is Epoch's theater program for middle and high school girls, and director Elizabeth Namen said she wanted to challenge the 17 cast members with different material this year.

"It's tough stuff, but I think that's good for them," Namen said. She said the goal of the production was to not only improve the girls' acting ability, but to have them "know that they're a part of something so awesome."

Namen said she formed the group three years ago as a creative outlet for the girls, after many of them came to her for advice about personal problems. In previous years, the girls have written their own plays based on their experiences and challenges as teenagers.

Her inspiration for the play came from *With Their Eyes*, a book of monologues written by students at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, who watched the terrorist attacks from their school.

When she brainstormed with the girls, Namen explained, the ideas shifted away from high school students, to paint a broader picture of the events.

Epoch's finished product includes characters inspired by Stuyvesant students, plane passengers and hijackers, and people who worked in the World Trade Center, accompanied with photos, video clips and music.

Namen said the girls started working on the script in the fall, and began rehearsing in December. Since they came back from winter break, they've been progressing quickly, and should be ready for this weekend's performances, she said this week.

Namen said forcing the girls to grapple with issues outside their own experiences was a chal-

lenge for some of them, but said the girls had risen to the challenge.

"Some of the girls got really emotional," co-director Janel Kochuk said, "which was exactly what we wanted to accomplish."

Because the attacks have shaped American life into the present day, it's important for teens to understand them, Kochuk said.

Haley Farkas, a junior at East Hampton High School, said all she remembers from Sept. 11 was her parents picking her up at school and asking if she was okay. Being in the play, she said, has helped her understand the events better.

Haley also said she has grown a lot as a person in the two years she's been in Epoch plays.

Two years ago, Haley said, "I really was just a different person." Now, she said, she has a better sense of who she is, and gets along better with her family.

"This was a second family," she said. "It helps me see who I am. ...I love coming here and learning new things."

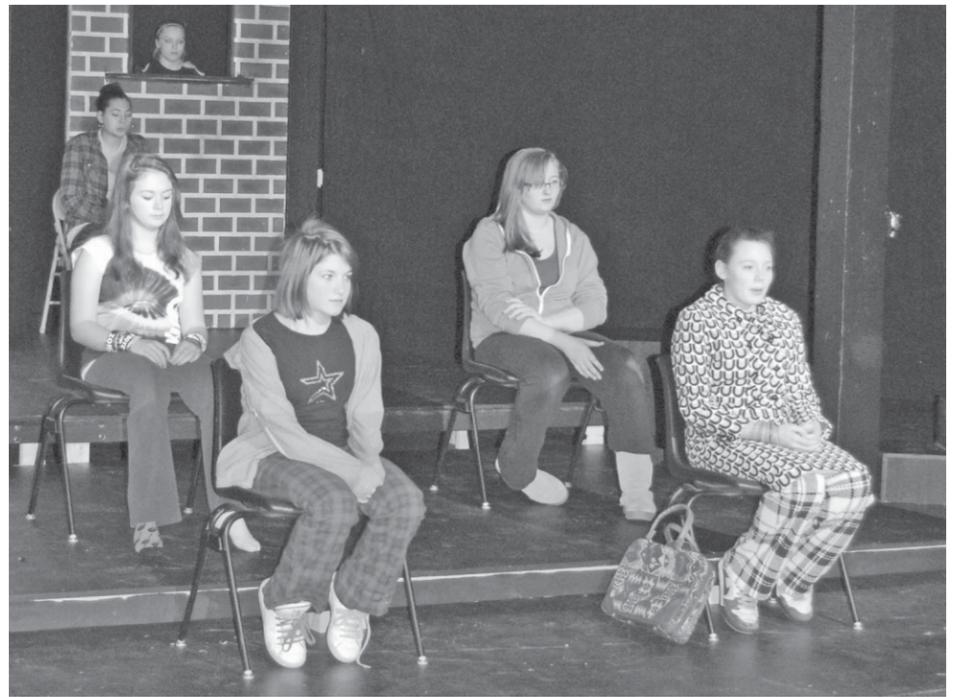
"The girls formed a support group," said Kochuk, who noted that they don't form cliques like they do at school. Some of the girls involved with Epoch never would have acknowledged each other at school, but have formed friendships by working together.

"Epoch is not about acting," Kochuk said. "It's about finding what you're good at and doing what you like to do."

Many of the girls in the production are new to the program, Namen said, while others have been involved for years. Erica Cunningham has been coming to Epoch for eight years, and was involved in the previous Breaking Silences productions. Now 19, she's working as assistant director, helping Namen and Kochuk with directing and technical aspects of the production.

Cunningham said she keeps coming back to Epoch because of the friendships she's formed over the years. She said she wants to study psychology in college, and advising the younger girls is helping her prepare for that.

Since all the cast members were children in 2001, Kochuk said, they don't have the same



Epoch Arts' latest production, *A Time To Remember*, focuses on the Sept. 11 attacks, and debuts tonight at 7 p.m., at 27 Skinner St. Pictured at a rehearsal last week are, bottom row, Brianna Snyder (left) and Julia Anderson; middle row, Reanna Holmes (left) and Amber Congdon; top row, Haley Farkas; and in the window, Rachele Kochuk.

memories and understanding of the attacks as adults. But Namen said while she expected she and Kochuk would know much more about the attacks than the girls would, she was surprised by the knowledge and research they brought to the play.

When they were brainstorming ideas for characters, Cassidy Rose said she wanted to play Kevin Cosgrove, who worked in the south tower of the World Trade Center and made a 911 call as the building collapsed. Cassidy said she had been watching online videos about the attacks last year, and remembered learning about Cosgrove.

Cassidy, a sophomore at Portland High

School, has been involved with the Breaking Silences program for three years. She said participating in Epoch has helped manage problems in her personal life. And she said that while the subject matter was difficult, she enjoyed developing and playing her character.

"It's different because I can't really put myself in that situation," Cassidy said.

"I was proud of her to come into that character," Namen added.

A Time To Remember runs tonight, Friday, Jan. 28 and tomorrow, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m., at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St.

Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$7 for general admission.

Colchester Residents Approve Joining Chatham Health District

by Katy Nally

Colchester residents unanimously voted to join the Chatham Health District last Thursday at a town meeting.

No one spoke in opposition or in favor of the proposal, and the meeting lasted only a few minutes. Selectmen, members of the Health District Task Force, town officials and 12 residents were in attendance, according to the minutes.

After the meeting, selectmen resumed business as usual and discussed the state of the Parks and Recreation program fund, which, according to one selectman, was operating at a deficit. However, Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove said the account is cyclical because of the timing of revenue and expenses for certain programs.

As part of the town meeting, an FAQ sheet regarding Chatham was distributed.

The decision to join Chatham is about a year in the making. The Health District Task Force formed last February, and the Board of Selectmen charged it to weigh potential options for Colchester's health department.

On Dec. 16, the Health District Task Force made its recommendation to selectmen that Colchester should, first, join a health district,

and, secondly, it should join Chatham, which currently covers East Haddam, East Hampton, Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

Because Colchester would be one of the largest towns Chatham covers, it would have two representatives on the Board of Directors, and staff in the Colchester health department would work for the Chatham Health District.

Among other reasons, the task force unanimously voted to join Chatham because of its geographical placement, services offered and membership fee that has risen minimally over the past few years.

The cost of joining Chatham is about the same as maintaining the current health department. First Selectman Gregg Schuster explained the reasoning for joining a health district was not financial, but to sustain the level of services that exist in town now.

Now that residents are on board with the move to Chatham, Schuster said Colchester's membership would begin at the start of the next fiscal year on July 1.

"Residents can expect the same level of service they received before being in the Chatham Health District," Schuster said in an e-mail this week. "In fact, the additional staff will make it

easier for them to get serviced at certain times."

After the vote, selectmen carried out their regularly scheduled meeting and looked at the state of the Parks and Rec. program fund. According to selectman James Ford, the fund was operating at about a \$30,000 deficit in December. Schuster said this dip is because of how the department's staffing is structured.

"I just wanted to raise a bit of a red flag," Ford said at last Thursday's meeting.

Based on Ford's numbers, which he said he extracted from the department's monthly performance reports, the program fund has ended the fiscal year at a loss for four of the past six fiscal years. Last year, it ended with a \$25,000 balance, after incurring about \$44,000 in losses. According to Ford, the fund accrued about \$55,000 in losses this fiscal year, netting a total of about \$30,000 in the red.

Director of Facilities Greg Plunkett added that, traditionally, the program fund was designed to finance activities that were supported by enrollment. If the interest from residents in a particular program isn't there, "it's not offered," Plunkett said.

However, Cosgrove said one of the most popular programs the program fund covers is

summer camp, which would account for the end-of-the-fiscal-year swing in expenses versus revenue, as camp begins at the end of June.

Also, during the 2009-10 fiscal year, officials decided to pay for the program supervisor position out of the program fund, at a cost of about \$47,000. Cosgrove said the cyclical swings are greater within the program fund with the addition of the supervisor position.

To make the program fund 100 percent self-sustaining again, Cosgrove said the solution might not be to increase fees for activities. She said there's going to be a "breaking point" for residents who eventually opt to drop the activity all together.

And, if a Parks and Rec. position is eliminated, the department runs the risk of not being able to offer as many programs, which would decrease the overall revenue coming in – a situation selectman Stan Soby called "the death spiral."

Schuster said he would continue the program fund discussion with the Board of Finance.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Resident Selected for Soccer Hall of Fame

by Katy Nally

For 28 years Colchester resident Rick Eddy called the shots on the soccer sidelines. But one recent call snuck up on him and caught him by surprise, he said.

Eddy, along with six others, were selected to be inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame.

An induction dinner will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Farmington Marriott, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

"It's just a humbling experience," the long-time referee said this week. "I'm just hoping I can remember and list everyone who helped me get to this point."

Pat Hennig, chairwoman of the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame, said Eddy has "been an exceptional referee, and has exceptional credentials."

Eddy began reffing after he graduated from Central Connecticut State University in 1982. Before that he played at the college level, spending three years at Middlesex Community College and two at Central, but after the "faint dream of being a professional player" faded, Eddy looked for other alternatives to stay on the soccer field.

He continued to play in a local amateur league, but started to notice his fellow teammates were "a couple years younger" than him.

"I said, 'I'm not gonna last at this much longer,'" Eddy recalled. "I'm starting to get

sore."

So he tried coaching, but missed the fast pace of the playing field. Then Eddy enrolled in an entry-level referee course, and remembered his mentor made the job look like a breeze.

"I thought, 'I'd give this referee thing a try,'" he said.

But, Eddy quickly learned a few things during his first game, which was a match between the New Britain Falcons, a Polish team, and the Hartford Hellenic, who were Greek.

"You find out you're the only one who speaks English," Eddy said. "I had my first game and I said, 'Wow, this is much faster than I thought.'"

After reffing a few games, Eddy said he began to get more involved with the position and strived to step up his skills.

"I started watching the players and the games," he said, adding that he even kept a notebook to remember certain soccer players who might be "problems on the field."

Then, in 1994, Eddy began reffing professional games for Major League Soccer. He spent 10 years as an assistant referee, or "the guy with the flag," as he called it.

Eddy explained there are four refs in a professional game, one with a whistle, two with flags and one who monitors the benches.

"I guess I was good enough that they kept me around for a while," Eddy said.

In 2006 he retired from the professional

ranks, because, he said, he wanted to leave on his terms, "at the top of my game" and before his 50th birthday rolled around.

"It really is a young man's game, not only as a player, but as a ref," he added.

Still, Eddy, who also works for the state Department of Developmental Services, couldn't completely abandon the soccer field. Now, at 52, he continues to referee high school and college matches in central Connecticut. He also works as an evaluator and mentors and trains young referees.

But despite his accomplished life as a referee, Eddy said he was surprised to receive the call from Hennig about his induction.

On Saturday, Eddy will join other notable referees in the Hall of Fame.

"Most of them are guys I looked up to," Eddy noted, adding he remembered thinking, "I'll never be in their shoes."

But, after nearly three decades of refereeing, Eddy has made it to their level, and will be honored for his contribution to soccer.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything else," he said about his experience as a referee.

Along with Eddy, Mark Holowesko, Kyle Martino, Mike Noonan, Paul Toomey, Steve Waters and Leszek Wrona will be inducted at tomorrow's ceremony.

Tickets for the dinner at \$40. For more information call Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame at 860-676-1161.



Colchester resident Rick Eddy will be inducted into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame this weekend. He's seen above, at right, along with fellow referee Dean Myshrall at the 2009 Connecticut State Cup Finals.

Colchester PZC Approves Renovation for Gas Station

by Katy Nally

The Sunoco gas station, at the corner of South Main Street and Dr. Foote Road, will soon undergo a total renovation, now that the Planning and Zoning Commission has given the go-ahead.

The applicant, Gas Development, LLC, of Bridgewater, MA, plans to tear down the existing garage and replace it with a small kiosk and new canopy, Zoning Enforcement Officer Craig Grimord said. There will also be five pump stations, each with two pumps.

The plans for the station, along with an application submitted by Affordable CDL Training School to move further down on New London Road, were approved at a Jan. 5 PZC meeting.

According to Grimord, for about the past six months the Sunoco gas station has been vacant. Prior to that, it was operational "off and on for two years," he said.

When the Sunoco was up and running in 2008, it incited a "price war" with neighboring gas stations, just weeks after opening. In November 2008, a manager of the Sunoco told the *Rivereast* he lowered gas prices every day since opening, sometimes by up to 25 cents.

During that time, the Sunoco, the Phillips 66 station, located across the street on South Main Street, and the Mobil station, next to the state police barracks on Old Hartford Road, all drove their gas prices way down, to around \$1.80.

With a new owner to take over the Sunoco, Grimord said it might elicit "that extra little bit of competition," but it probably won't create another price war.

Having another operational gas station in that intersection will create some new traffic patterns, Grimord said, adding, now commuters will have the option of one station on either side.

"We look at it as, it will help alleviate some of the traffic concerns," he said.

Grimord said the PZC as well as the town's Planning and Zoning Department would be "happy to see the change" once the gas station is renovated.

"This is a significant improvement because it reduces the amount of buildings on site," he said. "We're getting rid of an ugly-looking building."

The applicant still needs to demolish the existing building to begin the renovation, and no requests for demolition permits have come in yet, according to Building Official Tim York. He said the earliest the renovation would be finished is early spring.

When the PZC unanimously approved plans to renovate the Sunoco, it also granted a special exception application for Terry Howard

from Affordable CDL.

Affordable CDL Training School, located at 504 New London Rd., trains students to receive their commercial drivers licenses. Howard said this week the application was to move the training school down the road to 532 New London Rd, which was a junkyard.

Plans include creating a new driveway and clearing out junked cars.

Howard said the new location would allow for easier access to the school and "a lot more room to work."

He said he hopes to begin the move in March, but the transition would depend on the weather.

The training school, in its new location, would offer up to two classes per day, with no more than five students per class.

The next PZC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Committee: Bifurcating Budget Would Have No Impact in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

The Hebron Bifurcation Study Committee has found there would be no significant impact if they were to separate the town budget from the school budget.

The committee recently completed a study surveying both bifurcated towns and non-bifurcated towns, and presented a report to the Board of Selectmen last Thursday, Jan. 20.

In their study, committee members sent out surveys, via e-mail, to all 169 towns in the state. A 10-question survey was sent to towns that bifurcate their budgets, while a four-question survey was sent to those towns that do not.

Both surveys were reviewed by Dr. Han Srinivansan from the University of Connecticut School of Business, to ensure that proper formatting was used and that the questions posed were suitable.

There were 65 responses to the surveys, 21 of which were from towns that bifurcate their budgets. Upon receiving the responses and examining basic demographic data for all of the original 169 towns, the committee selected eight towns to study, in addition to Hebron. The towns chosen were considered to be the most similar to Hebron, and met that criteria by having populations between 7,500 and 15,000, be-

ing classified as “suburban” according to the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), and having a Board of Selectmen form of government. Five of the towns – Clinton, Cromwell, Old Saybrook, Ellington and Oxford – had bifurcated budgets, while the other three – Granby, Orange and Suffield – did not.

The study found that bifurcation has no effect on Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) revenue allocation or the town’s bond rating. (The town’s bond rating is measured by four major criteria: economic strength, finance performance and flexibility, debt, and administration and management strategies.) Likewise, research did not show any significant changes to property tax rates, property value, per capita education, per capita government expenditures, per pupil expenditures, or student performance; subjects where a change could cause a potential uproar by community members.

Within the bifurcated town’s survey, the question was posed: “What were you trying to achieve with bifurcation?” A 22 percent majority vote showed that the main benefit towns were hoping to gain from bifurcation was more “voter say,” allowing them to separate town and school budget issues. However, in a follow-up

question, 38 percent said there was no change in voter turnout and 5 percent said there was actually a decrease.

Bifurcation Committee Chairwoman Loreta McDonnell said the main finding of the committee had through its research and interviews was that, despite which department was in charge, bifurcation helped people better understand the budgets.

“Whatever body is in charge of defining budgets, such as Board of Finance, there was more clarity in bifurcated towns,” she said. “Whether people liked it or not...they did feel that it brought clarity.”

During their study, members of the Bifurcation Study Committee interviewed town officials for the five previously-mentioned bifurcated towns, to get their views on the subject. The general consensus of the town officials being that bifurcation had made their jobs easier in clarifying where budget changes were needed.

Board of Education Chairman Mark Allaben viewed bifurcation from a different angle. He said the main problem with budget bifurcation being that it will make the Board of Finance

obsolete.

“There is no need for a Board of Finance if the town’s citizens are going to vote on all aspects of the budget,” Allaben said. “The major function of the Board of Finance is to blend the Board of Selectmen’s budget and the Board of Education’s budget into one budget for the town to vote on.”

Bifurcation has been permitted by state statute since 2004, due to a ruling by the state Supreme Court. That year, in the case of Board of Education vs. Naugatuck, the court ruled in favor of the school board, permitting towns to amend their charters to allow for separate referenda on the town’s education budget and operating budget. According to the study, 39 municipalities in the state have bifurcated budget votes. (The town of Salem had bifurcated its budget, but then chose to put it back together.)

After last Thursday’s meeting, the Bifurcation Study Committee was disbanded. Since the findings showed no sense of urgency, no immediate action has been taken. McDonnell says the issue may be addressed when the Board of Selectmen forms its next Charter Revision Commission.

Marlborough Resident Left ‘Breathless’ By Lions Dinner

by Courtney Parent

The Hebron Lions recently held a fundraiser dinner for an area resident who had lost his job after an accident last summer.

The spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held Wednesday, Jan. 19, to benefit Marlborough resident Walter Kelly, 42, who lost his job after a motorcycle accident in Marlborough last July, in which he suffered leg and head injuries.

Prior to his accident, Kelly was a Utility Coordinator for Frito Lay, and also did some towing for Belltown Auto. He said this week that while his bones are mending well, he is unsure of how long it will be before he is able to work again. After a recent MRI showed increased damage to his knee, he was forced to cease his physical therapy.

Right now, he is currently waiting on a knee doctor. His previous doctor saved him from losing four toes and possibly his foot after the accident, but does not specialize in knee injuries.

Kelly said he was touched by the Lions Club’s efforts, the hospitality shown, and all those in the community who came out to show their support. He wanted to express his thanks to the Lions Club and everyone who took part in the fundraiser.

“I would have to say I was breathless,” he said. “It wasn’t necessarily me knowing that they’re financially helping me. It was a gift to have an open house to friends, family and neighbors. Seeing that those people care and were there was an amazing feeling. I’m very grate-

ful.”

Kelly’s father, Marlborough Fire Commissioner Mike Kelly, said his son is keeping in great spirits and also had nothing but praise for the Lions Club. He emphasized their selfless efforts, organizing and hosting the benefit.

“They just did a fantastic job,” Mike Kelly said. “They put on the dinner, making the food, serving it, and cleaning up. All of the members volunteered their time. I just can’t say enough about them.”

Lions Club President Adam Miclette said the dinner was a definite success, raising between two and three thousand dollars for Kelly. There were roughly 100 people in attendance. The Lions Club is anticipating a much bigger crowd

for the next dinner, with better promotion and community awareness leading up the event.

The next dinner, to benefit Cub Scout Pack 28, will be held Feb. 16 at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85.

Miclette said the Lions Club wanted to help the family support the cost they’ve incurred through hospital and rehab bills. Tickets for the fundraiser were \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3-8 years old. Gift baskets and gift certificates were awarded, with many local businesses making donations. There was also a silent auction held.

For more information on the Hebron Lions, visit e-clubhouse.org/sites/hebronct.

Salem Man Arrested After Driving With One Front Tire

Colchester Police arrested a Salem man Saturday, Jan. 22, after receiving numerous 911 calls that a vehicle was traveling through town with only one front tire.

Upon arriving on the scene on Route 354, police discovered that a witness had taken Ed-

ward Mrowka, 64, of 449 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, out of his vehicle.

Mrowka was then subjected to field sobriety tests, which he failed, and was subsequently charged with DUI, Colchester Police said.

Route 2 Rollover Sends One to Backus

An East Hartford man sustained a “non-life threatening head injury” last Wednesday, Jan. 19, after he veered off Route 2, State Police said.

John V. Dempsy Jr., 68, was traveling westbound near the Colchester-Lebanon town line around 8:30 p.m., when he lost control of the vehicle, hit snow on the south side of the roadway and rolled the car over, State Police said.

He was transported via Colchester ambulance to Backus Hospital. On Wednesday he was no longer listed at Backus.

Dempsy’s 2000 Nissan Maxima was totaled.

East Hampton Police News

1/13: A 17-year-old of East Hampton was arrested for first-degree forgery and conspiracy to commit first-degree forgery, East Hampton Police said.

1/15: Erin Clausi, 20, of 17 Penny Corner Rd., Portland, was arrested for DUI, following too close and failure to drive right, police said.

1/16: Owen Robert Burgess, 30, of 72 Shailor Hill Rd., Colchester, was arrested for disorderly conduct, third-degree assault, second-degree reckless endangerment, third-degree burglary, first-degree criminal trespass, interfering with an emergency call, first-degree criminal mischief, violation of a protective order and interfering and/or resisting, police said.

1/16: Nicole Irene Fazio, 27, of 85 North Main St., was arrested for possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

1/17: Ethan J. Sundell, 27, of 14 South Main St., was arrested for DUI and operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

Police: RHAM Student Made Bomb Threat

by Courtney Parent

A RHAM High School student was arrested after allegedly making a bomb threat last Thursday, Jan. 20, State Police said.

According to Resident State Trooper Mark Gendron’s office, at around 11:30 a.m., the 16-year-old stated that he had a bomb in his locker. However, after a check of the student’s locker, no bomb was found. The 16-year-old was arrested and charged with threatening and breach of peace and given a referral to Juvenile Court. The student was then released to his parents.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie confirmed the incident, saying that the student made the “statement” during a conversation with a staff member. “It was very clear that there was no intent to make a threat,” Leslie said. However, he said, anytime any type of threatening statement is made the school must take it seriously and stay consistent with their response.

Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski said he could not release any information, as it was a student matter and the police had been involved.

Teens Charged With Making Bombs

by Claire Michalewicz

Police have arrested two teenagers in connection with a series of chemical bombs planted in town during the summer and fall.

The two 16-year-old juveniles were arrested last week in connection with the bombs, at least five of which were planted in mailboxes and garbage cans throughout the northwest part of town, Sgt. Garritt Kelly said.

None of the attacks caused any injuries or damage, though the Department of Environmental Protection had to send a clean-up crew after a family on North Cone Road discovered a bomb fizzing in their mailbox in late August. All the bombs consisted of common household chemicals mixed inside plastic

bottles, Kelly said.

Officers John Wilson and Michael Salafia found the two suspects during a routine motor vehicle stop this month, Kelly said. In the car, the two officers found several types of chemicals like those used to make bombs. After interviewing the two teens, police were able to link them to the bombs, Kelly said.

One teen was arrested Sunday, Jan. 16, and the other later that week. Both teens have been charged with manufacturing of bombs, conspiracy to commit the manufacturing of bombs, third-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree breach of peace, and have been referred to juvenile authorities.

Portland Police News

1/22: Ryan Nielsen, 30, whose last known address was 35 Edgewood Rd., was charged with second-degree criminal trespass, sixth-degree larceny, disorderly conduct and criminal attempt to commit sixth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

1/23: Steve Marino, 20, of 47 Copper Beech, was charged with violation of probation, police said.

Portland Resident Says Town Should Clean His Ponds

by **Claire Michalewicz**

When Eric Handel bought his house on Gospel Lane 11 years ago, he was drawn to the two ponds on his property. The ponds, built by Indian Motorcycle co-founder Oscar Hedstrom, were “crystal clear all the time.”

But ever since the construction of the new high school and middle school complex up the hill from him, Handel said his ponds has been brown and cloudy. Since the high school was built on High Street, Handel said, his ponds have been filling with sediment. He says the construction interfered with the drainage in the area, and wants the town to take responsibility. With many trees now missing from the hill, runoff was flowing down the hill faster than before, bringing more dirt with it, he explained.

Town officials, though, say the construction didn't cause the changes to his ponds.

Handel said Hedstrom built the ponds about 100 years ago. Hedstrom, who lived in town for decades and had a large house on Main Street, dug them for his children to swim in, Handel said. In addition to their historical value, he said, the ponds are also home to turtles, eels and mussels.

Over the years, Handel said, he's consulted with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environ-

mental Protection, both of which referred him back to the town's wetlands department.

But, Handel said, Wetlands Agent Lincoln White has only told him to clean his ponds. Handel said he doesn't see the point in cleaning them, since they get filled with sediment again every spring.

Handel said he's consulted with lawyers, none of whom will take the case because there's no law protecting his ponds. The lawyers, he said, told him to contact his senator to get a law passed. In September, Handel contacted Senator Joe Lieberman, who replied to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

“As this is a matter that falls under the jurisdiction of the Town of Portland, I am respectfully referring his letter to you for an appropriate response,” Lieberman wrote.

Bransfield passed the letter to White, who responded to Handel and Lieberman, explaining that he had met with Handel on numerous occasions to study the ponds and suggest possible ways to reduce the sediment buildup.

“You should do what you can on your property to control the sediment which would thereby improve and insure the health of both ponds,” White said in his letter to Handel.

“I've tried to be more than helpful,” White said. “Eric won't do what he can on his prop-

erty.”

The plans for the high school athletic fields, White said, had been designed so they wouldn't affect the ecosystem in the neighborhood.

Furthermore, he added, it appeared Hedstrom had anticipated sediment flowing into the ponds when he built them. Three dams were designed to catch some of the runoff and keep the ponds clean, he said.

White noted that weather changes had been observed locally and nationally, and when the precipitation in each storm increases, it can affect drainage systems that were previously stable.

“I wish we could [clean the ponds] for him,” White said. But, he explained, the town didn't have the money, and unless Handel could definitively prove that the town had caused the ponds' problems, it wasn't the town's responsibility.

White said he was encouraging Handel to build an inlet that would contain the sediment that washed down the hill onto the property.

The construction would require permits from the town, White said, but he said the Inland Wetlands Commission would be happy to issue them, since cleaning the ponds would also help other waters downstream.

Bransfield said the issue was governed by

the town's inland wetlands regulations, which stipulate that property owners are responsible for drainage on their own properties. She said the engineers who worked on the school athletic fields had worked “to the best of their ability to mitigate flows of water.”

Bransfield said that if Handel had further concerns, he should continue directing them to White and the Inland Wetlands Commission.

But Handel said cleaning the ponds shouldn't be his responsibility, since he thinks the construction at the high school caused the sediment buildup. All he's looking for, he explained, was for the town to fix the situation. He said he'd looked into having a filtration system built, but it might be prohibitively expensive.

“I want them to do something to restore the drainage,” he said.

“Shouldn't the wetlands department care about the wetlands?” Handel asked.

Last week, he wrote a second letter to Lieberman, reiterating his concerns about the ponds and asking for help, since the town wouldn't help with repairs.

“Please do something more concrete to help out this conservation property,” he told Lieberman. “It is unlikely that the town of Portland will take responsibility without being made to do so.”

Portland School Board Approves \$18.10 Million Budget

by **Claire Michalewicz**

In a quick meeting Tuesday, the Board of Education approved an \$18.10 million budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The budget represents a zero percent increase from current year spending.

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen presented the spending proposal earlier this month, explaining that she was able to hold the budget steady for a variety of reasons.

Board of Education Chairman Christopher Phelps said Tuesday this was the most unanimous opinion on a budget in the years he's been on the board. The budget passed by a vote of 6-0 (board member Ben Srb was absent.)

Board member Andrea Alfano said she was glad that Portland was able to manage a zero percent increase. “I'm not seeing that in many other towns,” she said.

Board member Christopher Bongo said that even though the dollar amount was unchanged,

none of the schools' programs were suffering. In fact, he pointed out, the high school is adding two Advanced Placement classes.

“When you can do it at a zero rate, it's a win-win,” Bongo said.

“All in all, it's amazing,” added MaryAnne Rode.

“This budget reflects work done in the last number of years,” Phelps said. “We were able to avoid painful choices this year.” He said Doyen had been planning ahead in recent years, and had been able to reduce expenses gradually. Phelps also thanked the teachers' and custodians' unions for concessions they made two years in a row.

The board reviewed the budget in two budget workshops earlier this month, talking to school administrators about their expenses and needs. Bongo said the board had scrutinized

every line item in the budget.

Although the budget total is unchanged, there were some increases and decreases in various departments. One of the largest decreases was in the salary account, which Doyen explained came from six employee retirements. In addition, the district received \$250,000 from the federal Education Jobs Fund to help pay for staff.

Another major decrease came from an anticipated drop in utility costs. Doyen explained that the schools had finished paying for their new energy-efficient lighting systems. In addition, she said, most of the school buildings were now using natural gas instead of oil, and had not been using their entire heating budgets in recent years.

These reductions were able to offset expenses in other areas, which included small increases

in magnet school tuition, transportation, employee benefits and supplies like textbooks and software.

Phelps said he and Doyen would pass the budget on to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield later this week, so she could review it and incorporate it into the general town budget, which she will present to the Board of Selectmen on Feb. 28.

Bransfield said she was pleased with the budget.

“I think it's a very responsible budget, as they have presented to me over the years,” Bransfield said. Doyen and the Board of Education have done a good job maintaining services to students while keeping expenses low, she said.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. in the high school library.

Thursday Snow Leads to Portland Building Collapses

by **Mike Thompson**

Three building collapses were reported Thursday morning, and the latest snowstorm appears to be to blame.

The first call was reported shortly after 4 a.m., Portland Fire Chief Bob Shea said. Midstate Recovery on Airline Avenue suffered a “total collapse,” he said, when the roof of the building caved in under the weight of the snow. Shea said Midstate is a three-sided building, and when the roof came in, “all three sides rolled in with it.”

The business was closed at the time, Shea said, and no injuries were reported.

The second call came about an hour later, at the old A&M True Value on Route 66. This one was a partial collapse, Shea said, on an

unoccupied side of the building, so no one was injured. The left side of the structure, which is occupied by a nail salon, did not collapse, he said.

A third call came at around 9 a.m., from a residence on Tryon Street, where a sun porch collapsed. Like the other two incidents, no injuries were reported, Shea said.

The Wednesday snowstorm that continued into Thursday morning was the cause of the building collapses, Shea said, noting that the snow was “a little heavier” than previous storms, featured a lot of moisture, and the buildings “just became fatigued.”

“It's all snow load,” Shea said. “It's finally catching up with us. It's just too much.”

Colchester Man Threatens Victim with Sword

A Colchester resident was arrested after he reportedly threatened someone with a sword and caused a small fire in a house, State Police said.

State troopers were dispatched to a Colchester residence on Monday, Jan. 17, for a reported disturbance and arrested Steven Genovese, 20, of 116 Broadway.

Genovese was charged with third-degree arson, disorderly conduct, third-degree assault,

threatening, criminal attempt to commit second-degree assault and first-degree reckless endangerment, State Police said.

When police arrived, the victim had already left the scene, but he or she was reportedly not injured and there was no significant property damage in the house, State Police said.

Genovese was held of a \$20,000 bond and appeared in Norwich Superior Court on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Brief Power Outage Hits Area

Residents in Colchester, Salem, East Hampton and Hebron were in the dark briefly on Monday afternoon, due to a power outage.

According to Mitch Gross, spokesman for Connecticut Light & Power, the outage began around 2:30 p.m., and lasted only 39 minutes.

Gross said a power line that runs from Willimantic to Colchester malfunctioned, but “we were able to switch the power to other circuits.”

Parts of East Haddam also lost power.

The cause of the malfunction is unknown, Gross said.

Colchester Police News

1/24: Alan Crabbe, 44, of 30 Mountford St., Hartford, was charged with third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree larceny, Colchester Police said. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a Sept. 28, 2010 incident.

1/24: Arthur Roetting, 47, of 62 West Rd., was charged with risk of injury to a minor, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

Andover Police News

1/18: A building on East Street was burglarized sometime between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Trooper Jonathan Neihengen at 860-537-7555 ext. 4055.

Hebron Police News

1/23: Victoria Nixon, 21, of 90 Davidson Rd., Colchester, was charged with evading an accident and failure to drive right, after she allegedly drove into a CL&P utility pole on Paper Mill Road, State Police said.

1/23: Dean Molinari, 24, of 552 Church St., was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

1/21: Alen Alic, 24, of 129 Falls Rd., Apt. 4, Moodus, was charged with traveling too fast for conditions and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, State Police said.

1/24: Robert Murphy, 50, of 4 Hickory Rd., was charged with third-degree larceny and criminal trespass, State Police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Harriet Kinney

Harriet I. "Bunnie" (Jay) Kinney, 72, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Howard L. Kinney, died Thursday, Jan. 20 at Middlesex Hospital Hospice.

Born April 17, 1938 in Queens, New York, she was the daughter of the late Neal and Harriet (Beckett) Jay.

She had lived in the East Hampton area for over 50 years. Bunnie loved knitting and crocheting and gave most of her work away to family and friends. She was a homemaker who took pride in caring for her family.

Besides her husband she is survived by her two sons, Raymond Varricchio of East Hampton and Jason Kinney of Hebron; three daughters, April Varricchio of Glastonbury, Roseann Bullett and her husband Mark of East Hampton, and Linda Driscoll and her husband Thomas of Wisconsin; a brother, Neil Jay of East Hampton; two sisters, Barbara Kennedy of Wallingford and Catherine Baron of Middletown; five grandchildren, Angel Varricchio, Joseph Albert, T.J., Travis, and Todd VanBlaricom; and seven great-grandchildren, Angelina, Gianna, Hailey, Elisabella, LeAnn, Damon and Taylor.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Sunday, Jan. 23.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 24 in the Spencer Funeral Home with the Rev. Walter Nagle officiating.

Burial will be in Indian Hill Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Gaylord Hospital Development Office, P.O. Box 400, Wallingford, CT 06492-9982.

To leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Algert Usanis

Algert Usanis, 89, of East Hampton, widower of the late Louise (Leveque) Usanis, died Monday, Jan. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. Algert was born June 21, 1921, in Windsor Locks, and served his country during WWII in the U.S. Army. He had worked as a truck driver for Pratt & Whitney before his retirement. He was a member of St. Patrick Church.

He leaves his close friends Richard and Lois Caron of Eat Hampton and was predeceased by his wife Louise in 1989.

A graveside service will be held Monday, Jan. 31, at 11 a.m., in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton, with the Rev. Walter Nagle officiating.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Josephine F. Scrivo

Josephine F. Scrivo, of Portland, died Tuesday, Jan. 18. She was the daughter of the late Dominic and Josephine (Barilari) Scrivo.

She is survived by her two brothers, Anthony Scrivo of Portland and Angelo Scrivo and his wife Patricia of Harwich, MA; her two nieces, Deborah Scrivo Parafati and her husband Salvatore of Berlin and Heather Scrivo Lemieux and her husband Kevin and their two sons Tyler Braden and Chase William of San Diego, CA; and her nephew, Kurt Scrivo, his wife Kerry and their two daughters Sophie Grace and Alexandra Jeanette of Chester.

She was predeceased by her brother, Wayne Scrivo of Higganum.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland, Sunday, Jan. 23. Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 24, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and at the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was in St. Mary Cemetery.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Hebron

Virginia R. Kadelski

Virginia R. (Ouellette) Kadelski, 72, of Hebron, beloved wife of Vincent F. Kadelski, passed away Thursday, Dec. 30, surrounded by her family. She was born May 28, 1938, in Fall River, MA, daughter of the late Jean and Rose (LaFerriere) Ouellette.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Edmond and (Tammy) Frenette of Windsor, Shelley and (Mark) D'Amico of Illinois, Lynn and (James) Spadorcia of East Hampton, Mark and (Susie) Kadelski of Virginia, Sandra Rousseau of Vernon, and Wendy and (Brian) Carty of Rockville; her sisters, Louise Fletcher of Rhode Island and Jeanne Posey of Massachusetts; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were private and a private burial was held in Grove Hill Cemetery, Vernon. Arrangements were entrusted to the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the Rockville United Methodist Church, 142 Grove St., Rockville, CT 06066 or of the donor's choice.

For online condolences, visit pietrasfuneralhome.com.

Salem

Mary Civitello

Mary (Kropp) Civitello, 91, of Way Road, Salem, widow of the late John Michael Civitello, Sr., passed away Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born April 5, 1919, in New York City, she was a daughter of the late Peter and Rose Kropp.

She is survived by three children, Linda and husband Timothy Allard of Preston, John Jr. and his longtime companion Dorothy Meade of Salem and Rosemary and David Anderson of Salem; six grandchildren, Timothy and wife Erika Allard, Debra Allard and husband Peter Maynard, James and wife Toni Civitello, Brian Civitello, Jason and Sara Anderson; three great-grandchildren, Noah Allard Brynn Maynard and Zoe Weyant-Marino; and a host of extended family members and friends.

In addition to her beloved husband of 63 years, she was predeceased by three brothers, Joe, William and John Kropp.

The family wishes to acknowledge Irena LeVasseur for the loving care and friendship she gave to Mary for the past three years.

Friends may call today, Jan. 28, from 9:30-11 a.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The celebration of the funeral liturgy will follow at 11:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 752 Norwich-Salem Tpke. (Route 82), Oakdale. Interment will follow in the Salem Green Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, 429 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, CT 06420.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Amston

William A. Ellis

William A. Ellis, 80, of Amston, husband of the late Gladys (Heon) Ellis, died Tuesday, Jan. 18, in Marlborough Health Care of Marlborough. He was born May 26, 1930, in Denny, Scotland, the son of James and Cecelia (Moran) Ellis.

He was an electrician employed by Statewide Electric of Glastonbury for many years prior to retirement. He previously worked at the Electric Boat Division in Groton. Bill was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

His survivors include a daughter, Phyllis



Coughlin and her husband John of Hebron; two sons, Douglas Moseley and his wife Susan of Kernersville, NC, and James Ellis and his wife Carol of Woodstock Valley; two grandchildren, Lori Alessandro and her husband Carl and John Coughlin III and his wife Heather; also four great-grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Catherine Oliver of Manchester, and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a sister, Mary Hoskins and a grandson, Daniel Moseley.

His family received friends Monday, Jan. 24, at Bacon Funeral Home, 71 Prospect St., Willimantic. The funeral and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Marlborough

Dorothy Lillian Blais

Dorothy Lillian (Legault) Blais, known as 'Dot,' wife of the late Henry A. Blais, died on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, in Duxbury, MA. She was born in Holyoke, MA, on Dec. 12, 1921, and spent her childhood in Hartford.

Dot was a resident of Marlborough for over 60 years. She was the daughter of Aurelia and Alfred Legault and was the sister of Joseph Legault, and Mary Jarvis who predeceased her. Her sister and best friend Claire Paris died 11 days after Dot. Devoted brothers Bill Legault and wife Carol and Jack Legault and wife Fern reside in Manchester.

She leaves two daughters, Margaret 'Peg' Muraca and husband Gabriel of Marshfield, MA, Jacqueline 'Jacky' Tomkins and husband David of Racine, WI. Dot was very proud of her grandchildren, Nicole and husband Chris Cotroneo, Danielle and husband Andrew Sloane, Jonathan Muraca, Matthew Tomkins and Beth Tomkins. She delighted in the birth of her great-granddaughter Aurelia Rose and would have been thrilled with the arrival of great-grandson Charles Henry four days after her passing.

Dot was a devoted wife and mother, active community member and valued member of her church. She loved being outdoors, walking, gardening, reading and playing scrabble.

Dot was a valued staff member at RHAM High School for 25 years and was considered an advocate of education. Her favorite activities included swimming at Lake Terramuggus, activities at the senior center and attending daily mass.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, followed by interment in Marlborough Cemetery. Remembrance donations may be made to Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Dr., P.O. Box 387 Marlborough, CT 06447 or Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., Marlborough, CT 06447.

Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

Portland

Thomas W. Flood Jr.

Thomas W. Flood Jr., husband of Nancy McGetrick Flood, of Old Marlborough Tpke., Portland, passed away Sunday, Jan. 23, at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford. Born in New Haven Jan. 14, 1944, a son of the late Thomas W. Flood, Sr., and the late Mary Kennedy Flood, he was a lifelong Portland resident.

He owned and operated his own investigative business for over 35 years, helping thousands of injured accident victims and their families. He was active in town government, serving on the Portland Democratic Town Committee for over 35 years, the Portland Housing Authority for six years and the Board of Selectmen for over 14 years. He was also chairman of the nominating committee for the Democratic Town Party. He was instrumental in Portland's purchase of the Brownstone Quarries and the Riverfront Park. Throughout his life, he was a staunch supporter of education and youth services.

He was extremely dedicated to Portland sports, including CYO Basketball, Minor League Baseball, Little League Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball and American Legion Baseball. He was also proud of starting the Portland American Legion Baseball Program in 1980. Tom was pivotal in the creation of John Bransfield Park, which is still used by children today. In 2004, he was inducted into the Portland Sports Hall of Fame.

Besides his wife Nancy, Tom is survived by his daughter Colleen Chowanec and her husband Ben of Glastonbury; his sons Thomas W. Flood III of Middletown, Brian Flood of Portland and Christopher Flood and his wife Alison of Portland; his grandchildren James Flood, Courtney and Eric Chowanec; his sisters Anne Sundalls and Ellin Murphy, both of Vermont, Mary Flood of Portland and Betsy Flood of Manchester; his brothers Timothy Flood of Portland, Patrick Flood of Vermont, William Flood of Arizona and Joseph Flood of Guilford; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers Michael and John Flood.

Please note that there has been a change in the

arrangements. His family will receive relatives and friends in the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, today, Jan. 28, from 3-8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m., in the Church of Saint Mary.

Donations may be made to the Portland Food Bank, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Andover

George J. Collette

George J. Collette, 88, of Andover, passed away Monday, Jan. 24.

He leaves to mourn his loving companion, Barbara Foran of Andover, three daughters, Mary O'Connell of Elkhart IN, Dianne Collette and Louise Bisson both of Hampton.

George was born Feb. 1, 1922, in Shelburne, VT, to Louis and Ida Collette. He was an Air Force veteran, a B25 pilot in World War II and a past commander of the D.A.V. George also leaves a sister, Laura Woodling of Mansfield; nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. In addition, he leaves behind Barbara's children, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

George volunteered in the Andover Fire Department for 20 years and drove the Andover Senior Van as a volunteer for over 25 years. He also took care of the Veterans' Monument in the center of Andover Town. He was a member of the Andover seniors since its inception and was its president for 10 years. For many years, he was a chief chef at the senior picnic.

The John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, will have calling hours from 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30. A brief prayer service will be held at the funeral home at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. There will be a memorial service at the Andover Congregational Church Saturday, Feb. 5, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Andover Congregational Church or the Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Harriet Lee Werner

Harriett Lee (Jones) Werner, 55, of Cromwell and formerly of East Hampton, beloved wife of Carl Werner died Wednesday, Jan. 26, at Water's Edge Health Care in Middletown. Born July 10, 1955 in Middletown she was the daughter of the late George T. and Orlie (MacArthur) Richards.

She had lived most of her life in the Middletown and East Hampton before moving to Cromwell two years ago. Harriett was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of East Hampton, a member of the Gilead Social Club of Middletown and a member of the Rebekkah Lodge of Portland.

Besides her husband Carl, she is survived by her son, Donald C. Jones II and his wife Jill of Saranac Lake, NY; six step-children from her first marriage, Charlene, Marlene, Darlene, Pauline, Fred and Richard; two brothers, Tedford Richards of California, Clinton Richards of Monroe; three sisters, Candice Hartzell of Washington, Christine Pianka of Virginia, and Lynn Corthell of East Haddam; a grandson, Connor Michael Jones; her close and dear friend, Gail Sherman of East Hampton; and a large extended family.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, East Hampton. Burial will take place in the spring in the family plot in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Gilead Social Vocation Rehab Center 31 DeJohn Dr. Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com