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Ready for Some Football... Jacob Fortin runs for a touchdown after catching a pass from Peter Kazibwe during the Cougars A-Squad 30-12 playoff victory over Coventry last Sunday. The Cougars will now take on Cromwell for the conference championship this Sunday, Nov. 13. All three youth football squads won last weekend. See story on page 17. Photo by Starr Photography.

Chatham Party Cleans Up

by Joshua Anusewicz

A beautiful fall day ushered in "a new day" for East Hampton, as the independent Chatham Party picked up four seats on the Town Council – and eight seats overall – in Tuesday's municipal elections.

Chatham Party incumbent Sue Weintraub was the runaway winner with 1,475 votes. Weintraub will be joined on the council by fellow Chathams Kyle Dostaler (1,212 votes), Derek Johnson (1,200 votes) and Glenn Suprono (1,189 votes).

"What took place tonight was extraordinary," an emotional Weintraub said Tuesday night. "[The voters] are saying what they want. They want us to take politics out of town governance. They want us to lead this town forward, and that's what we're going to do."

A total of 3,374 residents – or roughly 41 percent of registered voters – came out to vote on Tuesday.

The other three seats on the council were picked up by Democratic incumbent Barbara Moore, with 1,215 votes, Democrat George Pfaffenbach, with 1,208 votes, and Republican Ted Hintz Jr., with 1,226 votes.

"I look forward to working with all of the new Town Council members," Weintraub said of the new council. "It's a new day in East Hampton."

Moore, who is also the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) chair, said Thursday she was "really pleased" to win re-election, and added

that she plans to make "the best decisions for the town."

"The make up of the board is interesting; there are certainly different personalities," Moore admitted about the new council members. "But I think change is good. I look forward to working with all of them."

Dostaler, who is also the chairman of the Chatham Party, said Wednesday that it was "wonderful" to be elected to the council again; Dostaler and Johnson both served on the council from 2005-07. Dostaler said that with the Chathams gaining majority on the council, he expects that "the town is going to move in a different direction."

He also challenged the three non-Chathams on the board, who said during their campaigns that the town is ready to move forward from issues that have plagued the town over the past two years.

"We hope that the offer from the Democrats to turn the page is genuine and that Ted Hintz is also on board," Dostaler said. "There will be disagreements, but we hope to return to civility. We want to see change. People want different ideas and want their local government to accomplish things."

The first gathering of the council took place at an organizational meeting on Wednesday night, where the new members elected

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In Marlborough, Gaudinski Squeaks By Gut

by Bailey Seddon

The race for Marlborough first selectman proved to be a close one Tuesday, with Republican Cathi Gaudinski edging out Democrat Mike Gut by a 736-706 vote.

It was a part of a good night for the GOP, with Republican newcomers also winning seats on the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

"I think it was a good campaign," Gaudinski said Tuesday night at Sadler's, where both Republicans and Democrats celebrated together after the polls closed, adding, "It's going to take people working together to have positive results" for the town.

Even though he lost to Gaudinski, Gut still collected enough votes to ensure a spot on the Board of Selectmen. "I think we will work well together," he said of Gaudinski.

Serving alongside Gut on the Board of Selectmen will be Republican Dick Shea, who received 746 votes. Democrat Amy Traversa lost with a total of 671 votes.

Shea said he was happy with Gaudinski's win and is looking forward to being on the board. "I hope we can get a lot of input from the citizens," he said.

Traversa was a gracious loser, saying that it is just "part of the game," and not everyone can

be a winner, she said.

"It's a matter of being involved" in the first place, Traversa said.

Besides the race for first selectman, the Board of Finance and Board of Education were the only other areas where there was competition. On the school board, Republican incumbents Louise Concodello, with 903 votes, and Ruth Kelly, with 841, won re-election, as did Democrat incumbents Betty O'Brien and Corinne Chappelle, with 577 and 563 votes, respectively. Also winning a Board of Education seat was Republican Bob Clarke, who collected 759 votes. Fellow Democrat Glen Peterson lost his bid for the school board, with 498 votes.

"I'm very happy I made it for another term," Concodello said, adding that she is "looking forward to the next four years."

Clarke was also very happy to be joining the board. "I'm really honored that people voted for me," he said. "I'm going to try to live up to their trust."

For the Board of Finance, four out of the six candidates were elected. The winners were Democrat incumbents Beth Petroni with 745 votes and Evelyn Godbout with 841 votes. Republican winners were Douglas Knowlton with

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Cathi Gaudinski edged out Mike Gut in the race for Marlborough first selectman on Tuesday. Gut, however, won enough votes to serve on the Board of Selectmen. Pictured Tuesday night, at a post-election celebration at Sadler's, are, from left, newly-elected selectman Dick Shea, Gaudinski, Gut and state Rep. Pam Sawyer.



After Tuesday's elections, the newly elected members of the East Hampton Town Council gathered at Town Hall on Wednesday night for an organizational meeting. The new councilors are, from left, Vice Chairman Glenn Suprono, Chairwoman Sue Weintraub, Derek Johnson, Kyle Dostaler, Ted Hintz Jr., George Pfaffenbach and Barbara Moore.

Chatham Party cont. from Front Page

Weintraub council chairman by a 4-3 vote, with Hintz, Moore and Pfaffenbach voting against. Suprono was unanimously elected vice chairman.

With 15 candidates running, more missed the cut than actually made the council. The closest to making the council was Republican Patience Anderson, who received 1,134 votes; Anderson, however, will continue to serve on the Board of Finance, where she has two years remaining on her term.

Also not making the council were Democrats John Moore (1,047 votes), James Vick (1,032 votes), and incumbent Chatham Carillo (962 votes); Republicans Josh Piteo (1,049 votes – Piteo will continue to serve on the Board of Education), Kimberley Fontaine (890 votes), and Sal Nucifora (829 votes); and Chatham Party member Angela Sarahina (1,095 votes).

Aside from the council, the Chatham Party was also able to pick up two seats on both the finance and education boards. On the Board of Finance, Chatham's Mary Ann Dostaler, with 1,312 votes, and Dave Monighetti, with 1,305 votes, will be joined by Democratic newcomer Ted Turner, who received 1,270 votes.

"Ted campaigned and worked so hard," Moore glowed. "He's such a man of principles; he's going to do a fantastic job." Two incumbents on Finance board, Democrat Tom O'Brien and Republican Maria Peplau, were not re-elected, with 1,200 and 1,065 votes respectively.

With an important accreditation of East Hampton High School underway and key decisions on the horizon, the Board of Education race was one to watch. Democrat Kenneth Barber earned the most votes with 1,519; he will be joined by Chatham's Bill Marshall (1,326 votes) and Scott Minnick (1,269 votes), and Republican incumbent Sheila Wall (1,260 votes).

Gaudinski cont. from Front Page

864 votes and Ken Hjulstrom with 813. Democrat incumbent Lauren Cragg lost with 724 votes as did Arron Frankum, with 712.

Godbout said that while she is happy she won she had "mixed feelings," because of the incumbents who were not voted in. However, she said she feels "everyone will work together better than they have in the past," because of the new administration.

While Cragg was disappointed that she was not re-elected, she joked she is happy to have some free time back. Cragg said she hopes those elected are ready for the issues that are facing the town.

"Will the newly-elected officials be ready for the intensely complex and difficult challenges facing Marlborough?" Cragg rhetorically asked, adding that she hopes so.

Hjulstrom said he was glad to win but also glad the race was over saying he was "wiped out."

A months-long campaign season "all comes down to about 10 minutes of waiting for that vote," he said, laughing. As the Republican Town Committee chairman, Hjulstrom said he was "very pleased by the outcome." Hjulstrom said the Board of Education surprised him the most because he thought it would be a much tighter race between Clarke and Peterson. "That exceeded my expectations," said Hjulstrom.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Richard Banbury first congratulated the Republicans for their wins, saying it was a good campaign. "It was positive on both sides," he said. Banbury wished Gaudinski well, saying she was "someone who really knows the town well," and is a smart and hard worker.

Notably missing re-election – by just nine votes – was Republican Donald Coolican, who has served on the Board of Education for a total of 18 years.

Democrats swept the remainder of the races on Tuesday: Dennis Wall (1,324 votes) defeated Chatham Paul Hoffman (1,062 votes) and Republican Lori Wilcox (939 votes) for Zoning Board of Appeals, term beginning in 2011; Brendan Flannery (1,670 votes) defeated Chatham Irene Curtis (1,365 votes) for Zoning Board of Appeals, term beginning in 2012; and Andrew Tierney (1,634 votes) bested Republican Margaret Jacobson (1,442 votes) for the Midstate Regional Planning Agency.

"I'm disappointed we didn't get more elected," Moore said of the Democratic slate. "But I think each one that was elected will be an asset to their board."

With all of the newly-elected officials in place, Weintraub announced Thursday that Interim Town Manager John Weichsel would return to his post Monday, Nov. 14. Weichsel has been on medical leave since September, and recovery was expected to take three months.

"He had expected to come back earlier," said Acting Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney, who said she has kept Weichsel abreast of all town issues. "He sounds good and he's in good spirits."

McKinney also spoke to all of the new council candidates at Wednesday's organizational meeting, stating that she hopes their "vision is unclouded" and asked that they "use all four points of [their] compass to make good decisions."

The first regular meeting of the new Town Council will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

Banbury said he feels Gut "will have a strong impact" on the Board of Selectmen. He also predicted that, while Traversa did not get on the board, "we will see a lot of Amy down the road," because she is someone with strong feelings and is very enthusiastic for the town.

Also at the Sadler's event Tuesday was state Representative Pam Sawyer (R-Marlborough). She came to the celebration to congratulate all the winners and thank them for providing service to their town.

"They do it for the love of the town," said Sawyer, who said it takes a special person to dedicate time to be on a board. "It will mean many nights away from family, but for so many of these people they believe in giving back to their town."

Voter turnout Tuesday was 36 percent. Before the ballots were counted residents went to Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School to cast their vote. Some of them were even willing to say why they felt strongly about who they were voting for.

Resident Julie LeGrant Kellam said she voted for Concodello because "she is an outstanding community member." Kellam also said that her two children were Concodello's first two clients at her daycare center.

Barbara Murray voted straight Republican because she said she felt "the whole town needs a big change," and needs to get better as far as spending.

Dave Mosher also voted for the Republicans, saying, "I don't like the way the Democrats are running things."

Newly-elected officials will take their seats Monday Nov. 14.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As I write this Tuesday night, thousands of Connecticut residents still don't have power due to the Oct. 29 winter storm. I finally got mine back last Friday night (still no phone, cable or Internet though) – and I consider myself one of the lucky ones. A few of the *Rivereast* staffers who live in Glastonbury didn't get theirs back until Sunday and Monday, and I heard on the radio Monday afternoon that more than half (!) of Farmington was still in the dark.

It's amazing how long-lasting this power outage was. There has been much anger about it, and I'm not blaming anyone for being mad (although reports of people swearing and throwing things at utility workers – some of whom had come in from out of state to help out – left me shaking my head; yes, being without power for a week, especially when it's 20 degrees out at night, sucks with a capital 's,' but let's show some civility, people), but I'm not convinced all of the CL&P hate is warranted.

A lot of people have said CL&P should have been better prepared for this storm, and they should have more workers on staff to respond in catastrophic situations like this. Well, I do think CL&P was unprepared for this – how else do you explain people still without power a week and a half later – but at the same time, it's unfair to expect them to be fully staffed for it. You have to believe two feet of snow in October, when there are still leaves on the trees, is the kind of storm that comes around only once in a generation. (All the more reason to curb climate change *now*.) So keeping an adequate number of people on staff to deal with a super-rare occurrence would be a colossal waste of money.

Instead, I heard an interesting idea on the radio last week: train an emergency reserve crew of workers and have them on standby, just in case something like the Oct. 29 storm happens. You can pay them a modest retainer, enough to make sure they'll remain available.

Of course, some more tree-trimming may help matters too. I realize there are some municipalities in the state that have been a little, well, resistant over the years when it comes to letting CL&P trim their beautiful trees. But something tells me they might be a tad more acquiescent in the future. And they should; we can still have our bucolic New England trees without having their branches be mere inches from transmission lines.

And I think the retainer and the increased tree-trimming can be done without rate increases to the customers. How? Well, perhaps trimming some salary at the CL&P administrative level. I'm not saying fire anybody; just perhaps do some salary reduction. I'd suggest CL&P President and Chief Operating Officer Jeff Butler's salary, but....turns out that salary's not regularly disclosed. Apparently, CL&P gets around state law disclosing executives' salaries by releasing only those of the execs at Northeast Utilities, CL&P's parent company.

But those NU salaries are pretty large, and have only gotten larger in recent years. According to the *Meriden Record-Journal*, Charles W. Shivery, board chairman, president and chief executive officer at NU, received a total of \$8.25 million in salary, stocks and other payments in 2010. Chief Operating Officer Leon J. Olivier and James B. Robb, a senior vice president, received \$4.26 million and \$2.26 million, respectively – more than double their 2009 pay. Chief Financial Officer David R. McHale got a \$2 million raise, to \$4.99 million; and Gregory B. But-

ler, senior vice president and general counsel, received \$3.57 million, an increase of more than \$1.6 million.

I'm guessing Jeff Butler's salary is a pretty penny too – but even if it's not, it seems like NU has some room to do some trimming without its execs reaching the poverty level.

When you read this – in case you're wondering, the *Rivereast* is coming out on Saturday this week because of Veterans Day – it will have been exactly two weeks since the storm hit. And for too much of those two weeks, too many people in the state were without heat and electricity. What our focus as a state now needs to be is how to prevent this from occurring in the future. The governor has said there will be reviews conducted of CL&P's actions during and after the storm, and he certainly sounds like he expects answers. I hope he finds them.

Because, quite frankly, this should never happen again.

Being without power for much of last week, I spent a fair amount of time listening to the radio, predominantly WTIC-AM 1080. And I must commend the job they have done since the storm.

With so much of the state in the dark and the cold, local radio was more important than ever. The 1080 crew was there non-stop, offering critical news updates, storm closings and shelter information, or simply giving people an opportunity to call in and vent.

In fact, I noticed they even preempted Rush Limbaugh (although folks could still listen by streaming his show on WTIC's website), in order to keep the 1080 programming strictly local. And I particularly applaud that move. The less of that dunderheaded windbag on the air, the better.

As many of you know, former *Rivereast* editor Jim Hallas, in addition to continuing as our publisher, is currently the editor of our sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. In the *Citizen*, he writes a weekly column entitled "This 'n That" where he, much as I do with this column, offers up little pieces of news, thoughts and other tidbits.

I've never borrowed anything from one of his columns, but a few weeks back he included a joke that gave me a nice little chuckle, and I thought I'd share it here:

A new CEO takes over at a struggling company and decides to get rid of all the slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO notices a guy leaning against a wall. He can't believe this guy would just stand around on the job. The new CEO walks up to the guy and asks, "What are you doing here?"

"I'm just waiting to get paid," responds the man.

Furious, the CEO asks: "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young fellow replies: "I make about \$300 a week. Why?"

The CEO quickly gets out his checkbook, hands the guy a check made out to cash for \$1,200 and says: "Here's four weeks' pay. Now get out and don't come back."

The man puts the check in his pocket and promptly walks out.

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looks around the room and asks: "Does anyone want to tell me what just happened here?"

From across the room comes a voice: "Yeah, you just tipped the pizza delivery guy \$1,200."

See you next week.

RHAM Energy Fair Promotes Sustainability and Savings

by Geeta Schrayter

At the Energy and Sustainability Fair scheduled for today, community members will be given the opportunity to learn how to save money while helping the environment.

Representatives from a range of companies including alternative energy vendors, local farmers, home energy auditors and “green” cleaning services will be present to discuss different actions that can be taken to improve sustainability.

There will be a series of short talks throughout the morning discussing such topics as solar and geothermal energy systems, energy saving steps, how to improve efficiency throughout the home and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

CSA is a way for individuals to buy food directly from a local farmer through purchasing a “share” in the farm and receiving a box of produce each week throughout the season.

Harry Childs of Brown Paper Bag Harry’s Farm in Franklin will be present at the fair to discuss the program. His farm participates in CSA and Childs said “it’s about better food and better food choices.”

Childs mentioned the “serious dilemma” in the United States due to poor food choices that result in such issues as diabetes and obesity.

“For the first time in American history, the parent will live longer than the children,” he said.

He discussed CSA as a way to get fresh, local produce that’s economical and helps the environment as well as local farmers.

“All the gas wasted in transportation is craziness when you have food right out your backdoor,” he said.

Along with providing participants with a variety of produce – at Childs’ farm, Child tries to offer 13 different vegetables and at least one fruit each week – CSA keeps money local and helps farmers during the off-season.

“We call it ‘seed money,’” he said, adding that the money often helps buy seeds and supplies, fix equipment and aid in other expenses during the winter.

“If you’re just sick and tired of being sick and tired, then maybe you should be talking to your local farmer,” he added.

Laurel Kohl, energy technical specialist for education and training at Eastern Connecticut State University, will also be there to present “Save Energy, Save Money: Energy-Saving Steps for Homeowners.” She said she wants people to know they have options.

“There are a lot of choices that individuals can make both in their actions as well as how they buy or use their energy that can help them save money,” she said, adding that those choices would also mean a decrease in the amount of fossil fuels burned and a safer environment.

Kohl mentioned steps like changing lighting, looking for and sealing air leaks, having a home energy audit done and thinking about where you buy your electricity.

“You can choose less expensive energy providers,” she said, mentioning ctenergyinfo.com as a place to go for information on “all things

energy,” including energy-saving programs and renewable energy information.

Receiving an energy audit may also provide some immediate savings along with the long term. The first 150 homes in the community to have an audit done by one of the approved Home Energy Solutions (HES) vendors (who will also be at the fair) will receive a \$25 rebate for the \$75 audit fee.

The fair is being held in conjunction with the Sustainability Now! contest currently going on at RHAM. In the contest – which runs through Dec. 22 – students earn points by achieving conservation initiatives such as increasing recycling, limiting shower length to 10 minutes, visiting a farmers’ market and switching to reusable shopping bags. Bigger initiatives include buying an “Energy Star” appliance, installing a renewable energy source and purchasing an electric car; each initiative offers a different number of points.

At the end of the contest, prizes will be given out to the four students in each school who earn the most, and each high school class will receive a donation based on the total points the class achieves.

The contest and the fair are put on by the Regional Energy Initiatives group, made up of residents from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough including RHAM High School chemistry teacher and Andover resident Richard Linden.

Linden stated the cooler months are a good time to hold energy related events because

people start thinking about their heating bill.

“Once oil consumption goes up I think people are more open to ways about conserving energy,” he said.

While noting he didn’t expect people to instantly decide to install an alternative energy source at home after attending the fair, he added it was a good way for them to start learning and thinking about the option.

“Overall it’s just a really good opportunity for the community to interface with the vendors who provide the types of services we’re trying to promote,” said Linden.

“I think it’s great to be able to use the school as a vehicle to help people conserve energy and thus lower their personal expenses,” said RHAM Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski. “Just from a financial point of view I think it’s just wonderful.”

John Corl, building committee chairman for AHM and member of the Regional Energy Initiatives group stated “it’s exciting for both the students and the community,” he added that he hopes the community “gets out and uses [the fair] as a resource for any energy initiatives that they might consider for their individual homes.”

The Energy and Sustainability Fair will take place from 9 a.m. to noon today, and admission is free for community members. Individuals who are unable to make it but are interested in receiving information about any of these areas can contact Richard Linden at 860-729-5817 or e-mail Lindenric@reg8.k12.ct.us.

East Hampton Podium Players Ready for Latest Production

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton is a town well-known for promoting the performing arts, with several theater groups in town. One of those groups, the Podium Players, will be the next to put on a show, performing *Disney’s Mulan Jr.* at East Hampton High School beginning Friday, Dec. 2.

The musical is based on the Disney animated movie *Mulan*, which tells the story of a girl named Mulan who impersonates a man to take her elderly father’s place in a battle against the invading Huns. The musical is a scaled-down version for children’s theater groups, but maintains most of the same themes.

Those themes are what drove Valerie Bozzi, the director, to choose the story of *Mulan*.

“I gravitated toward the legend,” Bozzi said Monday. “It’s about going against tradition and developing a sense of truth. It’s a good message.”

Bozzi said another reason the group chose the musical was because “it’s familiar” to the performers, which range in age from 5 to 16. Usually, Podium Players consist of performers from various age groups; this will be the first production with all children in three years.

Kim Cordeiro, the choreographer and a drama teacher at East Hampton Middle School, said most of the same music from the movie – including the most notable song, “Reflection” – will be included in the musical. She said that for such a young group, there are a lot of “great dancers and speakers that will be highlighted” in the musical, as well.

However, Cordeiro said one of the challenges of choreographing such a diverse group of performers, of all different ages, is having to “handle

each group a little differently.” And Cordeiro would understand – all three of her children are in the musical.

“I believe there aren’t many things where siblings of all ages can participate together,” Cordeiro said. “We see a lot of brothers and sisters. It’s not like sports.”

Cordeiro said the 60 children in the production come “from all over the area” and have gotten to know each other over years of performing together. Popping in on a rehearsal, you can see how well all of the performers get along and work together.

Rehearsals have been taking place since late summer, but they began in earnest this week with a shift to the high school stage. From now until the weekend of the performances, rehearsals will be held three times a week.

“It’s a real time commitment, and we commend all of the children and the parents,” Cordeiro said. When speaking of the parents, she was particularly thankful for all of the volunteer work the parents have put in, whether it be supervising, helping with props and costumes, or just being on hand for support.

With the increase of rehearsals, Bozzi said that the performers are starting to round into shape. “A lot of our performers are starting to develop their purpose and are getting into their roles,” Bozzi said.

But more than the finished product, Bozzi and Cordeiro both agreed that the “process” of the musical is the most important part. “It’s all about the experience,” Bozzi said.

“We want to make it fun for them, and we



A group of young thespians showed off their costumes at a rehearsal on Monday for the Podium Players’ upcoming production of *Mulan, Jr.* The show will be held on the weekend of Nov. 2-4 at East Hampton High School.

want them to come back and do it again,” Cordeiro added.

The performances will take place on Friday, Dec. 2, and Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2:30 p.m., all at the high school, located at 15 North Maple St. Tickets

are available on the Podium Players website, podiumplayers.org. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children ages 12 and under. Money from the tickets will go to fund future Podium Players productions and the group’s scholarship and camp programs.

Snak Shak Serving Up Favorites on Rt. 66 in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

When it comes to food, it's not hard for Johnny Finocchiaro to tell you where his passion and inspiration comes from.

"I was the youngest of five kids," said Finocchiaro, the owner of Johnny's Snak Shak in East Hampton. "I was the only one who watched my mom cook. I learned all of the recipes. Now, my brothers and sisters come to me."

Johnny's Snak Shak is the manifestation of Finocchiaro's dream to open his own restaurant. For the past two years, he's been close; Finocchiaro used to run a food truck under the same name at Bushnell Park in Hartford. There, he gained quite a following, feeding hungry businessmen all week long. He even started to cater events and parties.

Despite the success of his food truck, Finocchiaro still had the desire to open his own place. "People started telling me I should look into it, that I had the talent to be successful," he said.

While taking a trip through East Hampton, the town he grew up in, he spotted an opportunity – the Roadside Deli was closing on East High Street (Route 66). So, Finocchiaro jumped at it.

What has grown is a new place in town where residents and passerby can get quality "all-American" food – burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, milkshakes and ice cream. And what's unique is that Finocchiaro is a hands-on owner if there ever was one. He is there from open to close, manning the grill and serving up favorites like he has for years.

"Everything is made to order, and we get fresh ingredients everyday," Finocchiaro said.

"It means you have to wait a minute or two longer, but people like the result."

Finocchiaro's specialty is burgers, something he said he "loves" to eat. But he also offers a popular steak and cheese sandwich, and breakfast sandwiches with eggs, cheese and any meat you want. All of the items are affordable and all of the portions are generous.

"I still have people who came to see me in Hartford that come out here," Finocchiaro added.

Finocchiaro said the response from the community has been good, and that most are impressed with the interior of the building; the clean, modern design, with multiple two-person tables is certainly not what you'd expect when you first walk in the small building. The walls, too, are decorated with pictures and signs proudly displaying Route 66 (the more famous one, though).

And the restaurant has attracted all kinds of patrons, Finocchiaro said, from families to businessmen. He said that a few weeks ago, a group of construction workers came in with muddy boots and weren't sure if they should come in and make the new floor dirty.

"I said, 'Just come in and eat; we can sweep and mop later'" he said with a laugh.

It's a building process, Finocchiaro admitted, and he has dreams to make the restaurant bigger. He hopes that someday he will be able to own the property and build a full-sized restaurant with the ability to seat people who "want to sit down, relax and have a great meal."

For now, the menu has grown to include daily special, seafood on the weekends (think fried shrimp, clams and oysters), and there are



At Johnny's Snak Shak on Route 66, owner Johnny Finocchiaro mans the grill and serves up "all-American" favorites that have become a hit with the locals. One look at the menu and it's not hard to see why.

plans to expand the breakfast menu and open up earlier.

No matter when you go in for a meal or what you order, though, expect to see Finocchiaro serving it up.

Johnny's Snak Shak is located at 197 East High St. (Route 66) and is open from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. daily. For more information, visit johnnysnaksnak.com.

Marlborough Couple's Film Celebration a Success

by Bailey Seddon

Despite a dip in attendance – likely due to so many people being without power last week – a Hartford film festival held last weekend was a great success, according to the event's organizers, residents Tim Kulig and Chi LaBossiere Kulig.

The event, "Cinematic Celebration," was held Saturday, Nov. 5, at Real Art Ways Cinema in Hartford. It was a free film celebration where people could come to either show or view films. Short films and trailers of all different genres from all over Connecticut were screened.

About 100 people came this year to watch the 20 different films and trailers that were shown, LaBossiere Kulig said. She noted this was a decrease from the 150 that turned out for last year's event, and attributed the drop to the aftermath of the paralyzing Oct. 29 snowstorm that left so much of the state in the dark.

However, even with 50 fewer people, "it was a good event; everyone who went was satisfied with it," LaBossiere Kulig said. "Everything was good quality." The genres varied from documentaries, comedies, romance to thrillers. The short films and trailers lasted anywhere from a couple to 25 minutes. This is a change from last year, when LaBossiere Kulig said they showed full-length films over two days. This year, the couple changed it to one day of short films.

LaBossiere Kulig and her husband started the event last year to celebrate "filmmakers in Connecticut as a true art form," she said, and added

that finding an event that brought everyone together "seemed like the natural thing to do."

LaBossiere Kulig said people love to watch movies and enjoy movies, but most do not really understand all the work that goes into its making, and how many people are involved.

"It's really just amazing how much work these people do," she said, and her husband felt the same. That's why the event "celebrates film as an art form" – and the Kuligs have chosen films that have only been written, filmed or post-produced in Connecticut.

Besides honoring filmmakers, the event is used as a "networking event, [to] meet the filmmakers afterwards," LaBossiere Kulig said. "It was a really nice gathering," and helped bring filmmakers together from all over the state, she added.

Before her "Cinematic Celebration" LaBossiere Kulig used to run Open Studio Hartford, an event that celebrates the arts in all its forms and has been going on for 22 years. It started off small but soon turned into a massive event, to which 10,000 people showed up last year. Then, in 2002, LaBossiere Kulig helped to start a nonprofit organization called Artists in Real Time (ART) which houses Open Studio Hartford.

ART, said LaBossiere Kulig, "helps to run the event to help stimulate creativity in the community." Its also helps artists live off the work they love to do, she said. While LaBossiere Kulig enjoyed running Open Studio Hartford,

she had to step down due to the birth of her daughter Kaia, now 3.

"I just needed to be focused on her," she said.

Kulig has a different background than his wife's. For the past 15 years, he has been the chief financial officer of WSI, a construction company, but has always been interested in films and music. Kulig has been a musician for the past 20 years, an interest that started when he attended Plainville High School. He taught himself how to play instruments, not by reading music, but by listening to CDs and figuring out how to play on his own.

These days, Kulig does a lot of studio work on his own, including making scores for movies, such as the short film *Steam Driven*. Kulig produced all the music for the trailer of this film and for different parts of the movie.

"My real passion was studio work," he said. Kulig said he feels about music how a painter feels about his or her work. He shapes his music how he wants, but once he is done he wants to walk away and leave his piece alone, not play it over and over again. "You're interpreting a visual environment, a visual scene," for movies and it shows you "how incredibly important sound is," said Kulig.

At the event this year, Kulig and LaBossiere Kulig showed the trailer for a film they are executive producers of, *Mark of the Beast*. The movie, co-directed by Connecticut residents Jon Gorman and Thomas Edward Seymour, is a "modern interpretation" of Rudyard Kipling's

thriller/horror short story *Mark of the Beast*, Kulig said. It is the tale of a group of friends who, in one night, get into a situation where their morals are "put to the test." The group ends up having to make tough decisions and doing something that they would not have normally done. In the movie, among others, is actress Ellen Muth, who was in the Showtime series *Dead Like Me* from 2003-04.

"She was really great to work with," Kulig said. Kulig did the post-production sound design for *Mark of the Beast*. He did not write the score but cleaned up the audio from the background noise and made sure that when score comes into play he "balanced it against the dialogue."

Mark of the Beast wrapped up in August and was submitted by Seymour to Sundance, Flamedance and Cannes film festivals. Kulig said the movie is going to other circuits as well and they are hoping it will get picked up by a distributor soon. He also mentioned the possibility of a local premiere next fall.

As for their Hartford celebration, the Kuligs are hoping it is something they will be able to continue on with for years to come.

"We hope to create a movement...and help to celebrate film as an art form that it truly is," LaBossiere Kulig.

Kulig agreed, saying he and his wife "really want to continue on this path of celebration and the commodity that comes with it."

Storm Leads to Fire on South Main Street in Marlborough

by Bailey Seddon

Snowy conditions Saturday, Oct. 29 delayed the extinguishing of a fire at a South Main Street house; fortunately, however, no one was home at the time and the blaze and the damage the residence sustained was not severe.

Firefighter Bob Danek said he noticed the fire on 363 South Main St. at around 4 p.m., while he and an ambulance crew were on their way to another call on the street – a person experiencing difficulty breathing. Danek said the ambulance crew was blocked from its original call by downed trees and was attempting to find an alternate route when they noticed smoke coming from the South Main Street home. They dropped Danek off at the scene and proceeded to the initial call.

Upon further investigation the crew realized that the house, a raised ranch, was under “heavy fire,” Danek said. A tree had come down in the yard and fallen across electrical service wires, pulling them off the house and causing the meter box attached to the house to catch on fire.

Phone records list Scott T. and Michelle F. Killelea as living at the residence. Upon determining no one was home, crews started working on putting the fire out. However, they had

to wait for Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) to come and cut the power, because of the downed electrical wire.

“Our biggest issue was firefighter safety,” said Danek. So, firefighters were forced to watch the fire, as they waited for CL&P to show up and shut off the power. Due to the snowy conditions, it took the utility company half an hour to arrive.

“We basically stood there for a half hour watching the house burn,” Danek said. “We couldn’t do anything.”

Once CL&P cut off power to the house, firefighters got in quickly and put the fire out. It took about a half hour to put out the fire and another half hour to make sure everything was out, said Danek. Besides the Marlborough firefighters, there was mutual aid from East Hampton, Hebron and Colchester.

The firefighters “made a good attack,” Danek said. “I think we did a good job,” Danek said.

Danek said the house did not sustain too much damage, given how long it was burning. There was damage to the attic and basement and the whole fuse panel was completely destroyed. Danek said the house was not inhabitable after the fire.



A downed tree caused an electrical fire on South Main Street on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Bransfield Wins Fifth Term in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

In a night that saw little change in the political scene of Portland, the focus was on the race for first selectman between Democratic incumbent Susan Bransfield, Republican Don Bascom and Independent Lambros Lambrinides.

In the end, it didn’t end up being much of a race, as Bransfield cruised to her fifth straight term in Tuesday’s municipal elections. Bransfield earned 1,465 votes, Bascom had 683 votes and Lambrinides had 114.

“I’m indebted to the voters for their confidence,” Bransfield said Wednesday morning. “I will continue to work and provide quality services for the town.”

Bransfield said the turnout for the election was “not bad,” as 2,277 residents, or 39.3 percent of registered voters, came out.

The other notable race in Portland was for the Board of Selectmen, where seven candidates battled for six slots. All of the Democrats – all incumbents – that ran regained their seats on the board: Kathy Richards led all candidates with 1,558 votes, Brian Flood had 1,416 votes, Mark Finkelstein had 1,353 votes and Fred Knous earned 1,057 votes.

On the Republican side, incumbent Carl Chudzik regained his seat with 991 votes, and is joined by the only new member of the board, Ryan Curley, who earned 1,034. Republican candidate Peter Clark was the odd man out, earning 798 votes.

Bransfield was humble in victory, congratulating all of the candidates that were elected. “I

am very pleased that the entire [Democratic] slate was elected,” Bransfield admitted. “But I give all of the candidates a tremendous amount of credit; you have to be very interested in helping your town. I look forward to working with all of those who won.”

Over the past eight years, Bransfield has been busy improving town services, the town’s school system and keeping taxes low, and her campaign this year focused on what she and the Board of Selectmen have been able to accomplish. Now that she has been elected, she said she understands that a whole new set of challenges await her.

“There is a lot of work to do,” Bransfield said. “I look to face those challenges head-on over the next two years.”

Bascom and Lambrinides could not be reached for this article.

The board’s newest member, Curley, called Tuesday a “great experience” and said he was “looking forward to getting to work.” The 24-year-old said Thursday that he feels it was his charisma that earned him a spot on the board.

“I think a lot of people that voted for me did so because I’m passionate,” Curley said. “That’s something I plan to take with me to the board.”

Curley shared a lot of praise for the other Republican candidates, singling out Republican Town Committee (RTC) Chair Cindy Varricchio and Bascom for “running a great campaign.” He said that most of the door-to-door campaigning he did was with Bascom, and that the two got to meet “the real people of

Portland together.”

Curley also said he was looking forward to working with Chudzik, who he called “a really great guy.”

Richards, an eight-year veteran of the board, also shared excitement for being reelected and working with Bransfield, who she said has gained the voters’ “confidence for her leadership.” Richards, who is also the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) chair, added that she is looking forward to “working together [with the selectmen] and continuing to make Portland one of the top 100 small towns in America.”

With three spots available after Christopher Bongo stepped down, all three candidates for Board of Education were elected. Democratic incumbent MaryAnne Rode led the candidates with 1,419 votes, Democrat and current board chairman Chris Phelps had 1,348 votes and Republican Brenna Kosicki had 1,069 votes.

Democrats also swept the rest of the races. David O’Brien, with 1,387 votes, and Richard Murphy, with 1,317 votes, were voted to the Board of Assessment Appeals over Republican Peter Castelli, who received 1,137 votes. Democrat Don Snyder, Jr. was elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term beginning in 2011, with 1,625 votes in an uncontested race. For the Zoning Board of Appeals, term beginning in 2012, Democrat Kenneth Kearns defeated Republican Kurt Peterson by a vote of 1,064-1,018.

Finally, for the position of town clerk, cross-endorsed Democratic candidate Bernie Dillon



Susan Bransfield is all-smiles after winning her fifth term as the town’s first selectman.

received 2,029 votes, and will continue with the post she has held for 44 years.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held Tuesday, Nov. 22. Bransfield said that some of the items planned for the agenda are adopting the rules of order for meetings, appointing the deputy first selectmen and giving an update on the recent storm damage.

Portland’s Vega Releases Fourth Book

by Joshua Anusewicz

Local author Estevan Vega has developed a considerable following with his first three books, but he is hoping his fourth book, *Ashes*, will be his biggest success thus far.

Ashes is the second book in the series that began with his last book, *Arson*, which was released last year. The story focuses on Arson Gable, an isolated teenager who can create fire, and Vega said that *Ashes* will “pick up where the story left off.” He also said that *Ashes* will include many of the themes that have become his trademark.

“It’s got sci-fi, supernatural aspects and more fire,” Vega said. “It’s a lot faster-paced, too. It definitely takes things up a notch.”

Vega said that in *Ashes*, Arson has been separated from another character, Emery, and taken to an asylum where he is being experimented on. In the meantime, Vega said the story is taken “to the next level,” with more action and a new love triangle.

Like *Arson*, Vega said the story will include settings from the area, like Lake Pocotopaug, the Arrigoni Bridge, Middlesex Hospital and local restaurants. Vega has lived in Portland for nine years and is a graduate of Xavier High

School in Middletown.

Vega said that his books are marketed more towards a young adult audience, but has seen a range of readers. He describes the story’s theme as “its own beast” that provides “something for everyone.”

“It’s not full-on horror,” he added. “Most of the story gets inside the head of a teen, but you learn more about other characters, like his grandmother, that appeal to other readers.”

Vega said that even after *Ashes* is released, the series is “by no means over.” He recommended that readers who didn’t get a chance to read *Arson* should “hop in on this one,” then go back and read the first book of the series.

The book was released in e-book form a few weeks ago, but the paperback copy of the book will be released next week. Vega said he has received “great feedback” from the book so far and has posted a synopsis and reviews on his website, estevanvega.com.

Since the release of *Arson*, Vega has been steadily promoting his work throughout the country. He has done a book tour along the east coast, with book signings and appearances at bookstores, and numerous festivals and conven-

tions. Just this past week, Vega was in Idaho for the Idaho Book Extravaganza, where he spoke with classes of prospective writers.

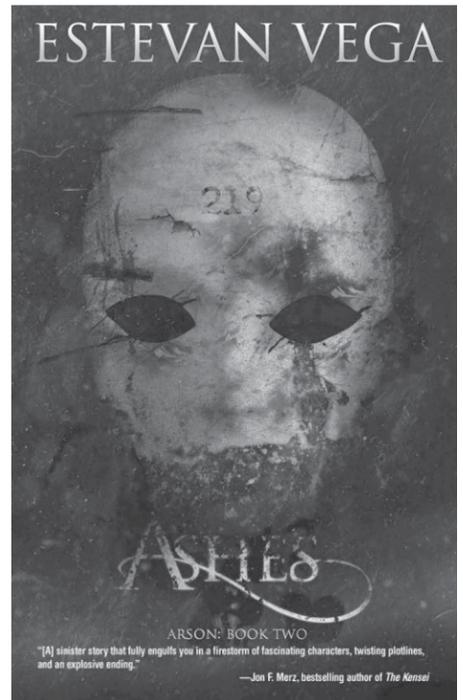
Not bad for a 22-year-old author.

“It’s been awesome, a really cool experience,” Vega said. Next weekend, Vega said he will be at Super Mega Fest in Boston, a two-day event where he will be signing copies of his new book and speaking on panels.

For local fans, Vega is holding a special event next Thursday, Nov. 17, for the midnight-premiere of the movie *Twilight: Breaking Dawn (Part 1)*. The event will be held at Holiday Cinemas in Wallingford, beginning at 9 p.m. Copies of his book will be available.

For those who can’t attend the event, the book will be available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. While there, you can also pick up a copy of Vega’s collection of short stories, *When Colors Bleed*, that was released in March to “give back to readers who were patiently awaiting” his next book.

For more information on Vega, you can also visit his Facebook page, facebook.com/wearearson, or on Twitter, twitter.com/estevanvega.



Local author Estevan Vega recently released his fourth book, *Ashes*. The novel bowed in e-book form a few weeks ago, and will make its paperback debut next week.

Andover, Hebron Working to Comply with Bullying Legislation

by Geeta Schrayter

Changes in the state's bullying legislation means area towns are hard at work ensuring their plans and policies comply.

The changes, which were signed into law by Gov. Dannel Malloy in July, broaden the definition of bullying, take various preventative steps and help ensure students have a safe learning environment.

Under the new legislation, schools need to develop and implement a safe school climate plan policy "to address the existence of bullying in its schools."

In an explanation of the law prepared by the Connecticut Commission on Children, the legislation was said to speed school response to bullying, expand staff training, make school employees "mandated reporters of bullying," address cyberbullying and launch "statewide school climate assessments."

To help reduce bullying, the legislation requires school employees to receive annual training on the prevention of and response to bullying. Employees are required to report acts of bullying to school officials which must then be promptly investigated, and parents of the children involved have to be notified within 48 hours after the investigation is completed.

Schools must also respond to instances of bullying that occur at the bus stop and on the bus, online, during after-school activities and outside the school setting if the bullying "creates a hostile environment at school," disrupts education or "infringes on the rights of the student at school."

At an Andover Board of Education Meeting on Nov. 9, Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia handed out copies of a proposed policy written by attorneys at Shipman & Goodwin to replace the one already in place.

The proposed policy is "in line with the legislation," Maneggia said, and much more detailed than the present policy.

Board members were asked to review the new legislation and proposed policy to be discussed at the next Board of Education meeting on Dec. 14.

"In many respects we have been addressing many of the components [of the legislation]," Maneggia said Tuesday. "But we still have more to do."

Maneggia stated Andover Elementary has had a school climate committee – one of the new requirements – in place for close to three years, and is in its third year of using a research-based program to address bullying called Second Step. The school also has a code of conduct and definitions of bullying already in their student handbook, another of the law's requirements.

"We're not that far out of sync with the current law," he said, but added making employees "mandated reporters" will need to be stressed more than it has been.

Andover Elementary School Principal Dave Griffin elaborated on some of the measures they have in place including Second Step, which includes a minimum of 40 minutes a week focused on teaching kids how to respond to and prevent bullying.

One of the things the program teaches, Griffin explained, is that "as bystanders, we can do a lot to help promote safe schools."

He also mentioned a fifth- and sixth-grade mentoring program that places a group of trained students outside with first- and second-graders during recess "teaching them different games and also appropriate interactions with students."

"This is a subtle way to bring it down to the younger children . . . so that it's not just limited to what's they're teaching in the classroom, it's what they're doing on the playground," he said.

Despite having such preventative measures already in place, Griffin said "you don't let your guard down, so to speak, you just keep on building on the positive things that are occurring." He added, "you're always striving to improve," and think of "something new, something better, something that can make an even better difference."

Hebron Superintendent of Schools Eleanor Cruz said Tuesday that work began in September to ensure the school system had everything in place and the policy contained all of the required legislative changes. A first read of the policy was scheduled for the Board of Education meeting on Nov. 10, after press time.

To help parents understand the changes, Cruz had sent out a letter that included the bullying legislation and posted the new definition on the school website. Once the policy is approved, Cruz said she'd also like to provide informational forums for parents and students.

"We're in the process of changing the student and teacher handbooks," she said, adding that they had attorneys from Shipman & Goodwin come in to ensure all of the staff understood the new legislation and requirements.

"I think the whole intent of the law is that we become more proactive rather than reactive," Cruz said, adding, "I think having a safe and nurturing school environment is so critically important."

Cruz also mentioned the Hebron school system has taken measures to appoint climate specialists even though the legislation doesn't require that until 2012. Kevin Hanlon, principal

of Hebron Elementary School, was appointed safe school climate coordinator for the school system, while Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi and Hebron Elementary School Assistant Principal Amy Campbell were named specialists.

As coordinator, Hanlon will be responsible for tasks such as implementing the district's safe school climate plan, working with the specialists and superintendent to "prevent, identify and respond to bullying," and provide information to the Department of Education.

The specialists in turn are required to investigate all reports of bullying and keep records of the reports and investigations.

"Your bottom-line concern," said Veronesi, "is that kids feel safe and secure and protected, and that they're able to learn and be a part of a school without ever having to worry about being bullied."

She added that school staff needs to "always, always, always be teaching kids – teaching kids how to have a voice, how to ask for help . . ."

Hanlon added his staff is "constantly teaching and supporting students to follow the golden rule – to follow the three 'Rs' of respect."

The three 'Rs' emphasized at both schools are respect others, respect yourself and respect your school and bus.

Hanlon said he feels the schools already have some positive programs in place including Second Step and character education, and in the future, they'll need to partner with parents to be aware of what happens outside the school.

Each town's board of education has to approve the safe school climate plan by Jan. 1 and submit it to the Department of Education no more than 30 days after its approval.

Hebron's Quiet Election Ends. . . Quietly

by Geeta Schrayter

There wasn't much suspense during election season this year, as there was only one competitive race in town. And on Tuesday, there weren't many voters either.

Attendance was down significantly from the last two municipal elections, with 855 total voters this year compared to 1,491 in 2009 and 1,859 in 2007.

Selectman candidate Gayle Mulligan received the most votes Tuesday at 602, while fellow Republican Jeff Watt received 559 and Democrat Brian O'Connell took in 529.

Hebron resident Cynthia Sullivan was one of the 13 percent who voted, but stated she's not happy with the way things are going in town.

"I think this town has really discouraged people," she said. "It seems like we pay more taxes, we get nothing for it. We pay for other kids coming to school here when our kids are already come and gone – it's just not right."

In regards to education, Democratic Board of Education candidates Maryanne Leichter received 489 votes while Stephanie Raymond took in 479. Republican Dominic Marino re-

ceived 564, while Amy Lynch-Gracias had 544.

Hebron candidates for the RHAM Board of Education Thomas Tremont and Amy D'Amaddio received 569 and 507 votes.

"I just try to vote for the lesser of the evil," Sullivan added. "And either way you know it doesn't matter because look at the wonderful turnout we get. That's how discouraged people are."

Other residents were also less than impressed with the options presented Tuesday.

"I had a hard time even getting excited to come down and vote," said resident Paul Hovey. "In these towns it's all the same thing," he added, stating he wishes there had been competition.

David Billard agreed.

"[There's] not enough people running," he stated. But now that elections were over, Billard hoped board members would "keep taxes down, spend money wisely – within our means."

"We're all in austere times, everybody's got miniscule raises these days so we expect all our finances to go along accordingly," he said.

On the financial front, Michael Hazel, Republican candidate for the Board of Finance, received the most votes with 558, while fellow Republican Lynn Guerriero received 549 and Democrat Paula Verrier took in 510.

Clara O'Brien, candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals received 604 votes. Candidates Frank Zitkus and Lewis Hinman for the Planning and Zoning Commission took in 527 and 579 votes respectively, while alternates Gilbert Salk and Loreta McDonnell took in 503 and 590 votes.

In the single competitive race, Democrat Cathleen Murphy and Republican Kevin McDonnell earned the two spots on the Zoning Board of Appeals with 435 and 544 votes, edging out Democrat Cynthia Grinnell, who received 333 votes.

Alternates for the Zoning Board of Appeals Anthony Novak and Donald Masters took in 517 and 487 votes.

"Is [the lack of voters] a commentary on people's apathy or are they happy with who's there?" said Marguerite Hayver, a lifelong

Hebron resident who stepped out to vote. "There ought to be more people to fill these spots."

"There's no choices," said resident Bob Dean. "There's not much to vote for . . . vote for three, and only three were there."

"We had way too few candidates. Not enough people are interested in running this town – the clique is still in charge," said resident Thomas Warmey, later adding, "if you look at the people who influence decisions made in this town you will see the same names popping up."

"If you wanted to vote at all," he said, "you had to vote for the people that ran. So you're not getting a mandate of the people, you're getting a default mandate."

But Warmey stated he believes things will eventually change.

"We need more choice – we need more people actively involved – and it will happen," he said.

But the next opportunity for more candidates – and hopefully more voters – won't come again until the next municipal elections in 2013.

Hebron Administration Discusses CMT Results

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Education reviewed this year's Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) results at its Oct. 27 meeting, and Superintendent Eleanor Cruz said Tuesday administrators' hard work is paying off.

"I think we have really seen some tremendous improvement in our reading scores which we're really pleased with," she said.

The percentage of students at or above goal in reading increased in all four grade levels from 2010. In the third grade, 81.9 percent of students were at or above goal, compared to 79.7 percent last year. Both fourth and fifth grade had 85.2 percent of students at or above goal compared to 80 percent of fourth graders and 85 percent of fifth graders in 2010. And 93.7 percent of sixth-graders scored at or above goal up from 91.8 percent in 2010.

Math scores fluctuated, and Cruz stated administration would like to see that improve.

"We did see a little bit of uneven performance," she said. "We want a little more distance between where students are performing against state average."

The percent of students at or above goal decreased from third- to fourth-graders, but then

increased to 92.5 percent in sixth grade, up from 89.9 percent the year before. Seventy-seven point eight percent of third-graders, 74.3 percent of fourth-graders and 85.1 percent of fifth-graders scored at or above goal. Last year the numbers varied, with 81.3 percent of third-graders, 74.1 percent of fourth-graders and 92.7 percent of fifth graders at or above goal.

"In math we identified that estimation has been an ongoing issue," said Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hanlon.

Cruz agreed. "One of our [goals] for the coming year is to increase the number at or above goal in the estimation strand," she said, adding more energy will be focused in that area.

Hanlon stated that every grade level has a data team that looks at the students' scores, determines what areas need improvement, and the possible implementation of new strategies and approaches.

Staff development days were also mentioned as a way to learn if teachers need "any training or support or time to collaborate – making sure that the instruction is as effective as it can be," said Hanlon.

Although tools such as an after-school writ-

ing club have been in place in the past, Hanlon stated what happens in the class is most important.

"We know that the highest impact strategies are what happens in the classroom with the teacher on a daily basis," he said, adding that's where most focus is placed.

Cruz said she's pleased with science – "consistently high-performing, above state average. . . I'm very happy about that" – but writing is a challenge.

"I think this is the area that has posed the greatest challenge for us," she said, adding that inconsistencies from grade to grade and gender gaps were an issue not just for Hebron, but towns all across the state.

"We're making some progress in terms of moving boys to a performance level where they should be," she said.

As students get older, Cruz explained there's a shift – more girls move up to the advanced level than boys.

"It's something we need to continue to work on," she said, saying steps include looking at the curriculum, incorporating new instructional

strategies, and investigating whether teaching material to the boys needs to be done a little differently than the girls.

Cruz said she's also happy with improvements made by special education students.

"I'm very pleased to say that we met AYP (annual yearly progress) in writing for special education students," she said, adding that the "bar was raised quite significantly," for those students from 2010.

Hebron Elementary School earned Safe Harbor status for 2011, meaning there was at least a 10 percent reduction in the number of students scoring below proficient in a particular subgroup.

Cruz said she'd like to continue to see upward gains in math and reading, as well as having more boys move to the advanced level in writing.

Hanlon stated he'd like to see success across the board.

"I want to see success for all," he said, "and that is our message: success for all the students. It really is about helping support the achievement for all the students."

Schuster Wins Re-Election in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

First Selectman Gregg Schuster could breathe a little easier as of 8 p.m. Tuesday, as he was re-elected for another two-year term in office.

Schuster won by a substantial margin, collecting 1,681 votes to petitioning Democratic candidate James McNair's 947.

"We went into this with open eyes," said McNair. He said his campaign was short, only 65 days, and he worked off of a budget of about \$360. Despite his loss, McNair said he is getting e-mails from residents thanking him for giving them a choice in their candidates. "This is the beginning of a movement," and he plans on running again in two years, McNair said.

Schuster, on the other hand, is glad he got to keep his seat. "I'm very proud of the campaign team and all my running team," he said. Schuster said the victory shows that the town is "happy with the progress that is being made."

As for the rest of the Board of Selectmen, there will be no change, as all the incumbents were re-elected. Democrats James Ford received 1,012 votes and Rosemary Coyle received 1,281. Republicans Stan Soby received 1,718 and Gregory Cordova received 1,501. Petitioning candidate Tearice Peters lost her bid for selectman, receiving 844 votes.

Peters said she was surprised that the incumbents were voted back in, as she thought people of the town wanted more change. "It's tough going against the machines," laughed Peters, who said the petitioning candidates did not have a very big campaign budget for this election year. Despite her loss, Peters said she would consider running again, "to serve the people of the town."

Conversely, Ford was happy to be back on the board. "I'm quite gratified that I was re-elected," and appreciate the confidence the town showed in him, he said. "I will not fail in representing them."

Soby is also happy to be continuing his work for the town. "I'm excited to be able to continue," and gratified by the support from the town, Soby said. He said there is a good team on the board, and he wants to work to move Colchester forward.

Coyle also was enthused by her win, although she was sorry that the town lost Democrat John Ringo from the Board of Finance.

"He was a great member of the Board of Finance," she said. "That's a loss to the town."

The finance board will look a little different following Tuesday. Taking Ringo's place on the board is Republican newcomer Art Shilosky, who collected 1,280 votes. Democrat incumbent Bruce Hayn was also re-elected with 1,244 votes. Petitioning candidate Linda Hodge, a Democrat, lost her bid for the finance board, collecting 1,133 votes.

"I'm very satisfied with the turnout," said Shilosky, and "looking forward to going to work and do my job."

While disappointed with her loss, Hodge said she has "great faith in the people that won" and feels they have the best interest of the town at heart.

Hodge, who was the town's first selectwoman from 2007-09, said she plans "to continue to serve Colchester in some manner."

Hodge's loss meant all three of the petitioning candidates on Tuesday's ballot – herself, McNair and Peters – were defeated. Still, Hodge said it was a good race and the petitioning candidates did the best they could on a small budget.

The race for the tax collector was the closest one Tuesday – so much so that it calls for a recount, which will be conducted next Tuesday. Democratic incumbent Tricia Coblentz received 1,337 votes and Republican Betsy Ciccone received 1,319, only 18 votes short of Coblentz.

In accordance with state law, there will be a recount, as the difference between the two candidates was less than 20 votes. However, Town Clerk Nancy Bray said she doesn't expect the outcome to change. "Our system is pretty safe."

Coyle is one person that hopes the results hold up in the recount. "[Coblentz] has done a phenomenal job," she said, adding that Coblentz being re-elected tax collector was in the best interest in the town.

Ciccone said she feels good it was such a close race between her and Coblentz.

"I'm sorry I lost; I worked very hard," she said. But for an incumbent to only be 18 votes away says a lot, Ciccone said. She added that she was happy to see democracy on display Election Day. "It's the process at work and I like it," she said.



Bob Hodge, left, the husband of petitioning Board of Finance candidate Linda Hodge, and Town Clerk Nancy Bray were among those greeting voters at Bacon Academy Tuesday.

Democratic Town Committee (DTC) Chairwoman, Dorothy Mrowka was happy that most of her candidates got in. Like Coyle though, she was disappointed that Ringo did not make it.

"I wish John had gotten in," she said.

Republican Town Committee (RTC) Chairman Brenden Healy said he was "very happy," adding, "our Republican candidates did very well." He said he was disappointed that Ciccone lost but otherwise the Republicans dominated the vote count in almost every area, he said.

"We now have control of the Board of Finance which we haven't had in a long time," said Healy.

Of 9,651 registered voters in town, 2,828 cast ballots – a turnout of 29 percent.

During the day on Tuesday, residents opined as to why they were voting for their candidates.

"I think Schuster is going to win," said Tom

Adams after he cast a vote at the Bacon Academy polling location. Holly Malicki felt the same. "Oh, I think Gregg is going to win," she said.

Another Schuster fan was Michelangelo Ciccone, son of Betsy Ciccone. Besides voting for his mother, Michelangelo Ciccone said he was voting for Schuster because "I feel he has done a very good job so far...I would like to see him get re-elected."

Schuster was not the only one getting support at the polls. Resident Tom Hardy said he was voting for McNair because, he "thought Gregg would be a little more productive than he was" during his past two years in office. Hardy said that Schuster had talked about making the police force smaller, but instead it got bigger. "Same old, same old," said Hardy.

Those new to their positions will take their seats on Monday, Nov. 21.

Colchester Resident Voices Storm-Related Complaints

by Bailey Seddon

While discussion of the recent snowstorm was not on the agenda for last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen meeting, the out-of-season storm was, not surprisingly, brought up by a resident.

During citizens' comments, resident Dayna Beal mentioned what she felt was a lack of response from the town during the storm.

"There seems to be a real lack of communication," she said, adding that she and her family, like many in town, had nowhere to go for a shelter where they could escape from the cold.

"It's really cold in a house that is 25 degrees," she said. Beal said she was not even sure if there was a shelter in town or where it was located, after the storm passed. Beal said she felt the Board of Selectmen did not take a very active or strong lead after the storm had passed.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster was sympathetic with Beal, saying he understood what it was like to have no power. However, he said, Bacon Academy was open as a shelter Sunday, the day after the storm, but people only used it for showers and to charge their cell phones. Schuster said the town decided to shut the shelter down after this and instead have a 90-minute school delay to give people a chance to shower and charge their devices. Schuster said in order to have a round-the-clock shelter, school would

have needed to be closed for several days.

"That means displacing 3,000 students," said Schuster. He said in light of the fact that no one used the shelter, this would not have been feasible.

"If you're playing a numbers game, there are more people affected with no heat" than children that would have been out of school, Beal said.

After Beal spoke, the selectmen discussed the impact of the storm amongst themselves.

"This is the second time we have heard about communication," said selectman Stan Soby, referring to complaints heard after Tropical Storm Irene. Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle agreed, saying she felt that residents were not getting all the information they needed during these types of natural disasters. Coyle said she felt the town should have a better plan in place so people know exactly what is going on.

Selectman Gregory Cordova agreed with Coyle, saying that, in light of the cold temperatures, the shelter should have stayed open.

"I do think the temperature has to be brought into that" decision, said Cordova. Schuster disagreed, saying that there are not enough resources for a long-term shelter when only a few people are showing up.

"Nothing will be perfect," Soby said. He

added that the town was doing the best it could – and always had room to improve, to which everyone on the board agreed.

Soby also said that after the storm, officers went around to neighborhoods on megaphones, giving people information about what was going on in town.

Schuster said that he was given an estimate by Connecticut Light & Power that Colchester should have 100 percent power by the end of the day on Saturday, a goal that was ultimately met.

* * *

Committees and commissions were next discussed by the board, the first one being the Building Committee for the William J. Johnston Middle School renovations. The committee would be overseeing proposed renovations of William J. Johnston Middle School to incorporate the senior center. Schuster has said he hopes to incorporate not only the senior center into WJMS but the Youth and Social Services Center too. This will help the town save money because then the senior and youth facilities can be shut down and combined.

The board first discussed who they were going to find to replace Theresa Hendrickson, as chairwoman of the Building Committee.

"I feel very strongly with Theresa resigning

from the building committee" that they should find someone on the senior center study group to be part of the committee, said Coyle. Selectman James Ford agreed.

"This is a very important to the town," said Ford. He said he felt that they should take the time and find someone who will be as knowledgeable as Hendrickson was on the study group.

Next up the board appointed members for the Agricultural Commission. The purpose of the commission is to "promote and preserve farming in Colchester." The commission will have five regular members and two alternate members. The positions would be three members for a three-year term, two members for a two-year term, one alternate for a three-year term and one alternate for a two-year term.

The first to be placed on the commission were David Wasniewski, Elizabeth Gillman and Alex Savitsky as regular members for a three-year term. Joanne Becker and Leslie Curtis were named regular members for a two year term. Jeff Savitsky was placed as the alternate for the three-year term and Andrew Lyons was placed as the alternate for the two-year term.

* * *

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, Nov. 17, at Town Hall.

New Massage Business in Colchester Offers Focus on Health and Wellness

by Bailey Seddon

While many people may think of a massage as a luxury, Stacey Pepper Schwartz, manager of the new Colchester Massage, thinks that everyone should get massages – in order to be more in tune with their bodies.

A massage “helps you get a sense of self,” said Pepper Schwartz.

Colchester Massage, which is owned by Aaron Casey, opened this week; the business, located at 16 Wall St., is open Monday through Saturday with daytime and evening hours. Colchester Massage is not a spa, said Pepper Schwartz, but a “wellness center.” People come either with aches and pains or just to give their body some respite from a hard work week.

“Our focus is on health and wellness,” she said.

While Pepper Schwartz has not always been involved in the massage business, she has always been in the business of bodies. Formerly a dancer for 10 years, as well as a choreographer and personal trainer, she knows what a massage can do for a person in pain. Ten years ago, Pepper Schwartz injured her lower back, for which she later needed surgery. Then two years ago, she pinched a nerve in her neck and was not able to have the same role as a dancer because of her injury. While Pepper Schwartz went to a chiropractor to help with some of the pain she also found that massages helped her a great deal.

Besides her own experiences, Pepper Schwartz’s mom has multiple sclerosis. Her mother’s illness got her to thinking about the body from a more therapeutic approach, she said. She realized that both she and her mother could benefit from getting a massage.

Pepper Schwartz said she has “always been interested in the body” and working at a wellness center seemed like a “natural fit.” So when she learned owner Aaron Casey was looking for a manager for Colchester Massage, she pounced on the opportunity.

She said she feels massages are important for everyone to get because it can help people stay connected to their bodies. While many people wait until they are injured to get a massage, she said getting a massage when everything is fine can be preventative, offering benefits ranging from stimulating one’s immune system and improving sleep to reducing depression and anxiety.

“If you have a body there is no reason why you should not get a massage,” she said with a laugh.

Colchester Massage offers different types of massages for people, including deep tissue or hot stone massage. People can also get aromatherapy oils, to help them relax and ease their pain even further. The oils include: lavender, to relax; lemon, to refresh; peppermint, to help with fatigue; orange, to help with nervous tension; and more.

Pepper Schwartz herself is not a massage therapist, but facilitates clients who want a massage. If someone makes an appointment she can help figure out what type of massage they want and who would be the best massage therapist to do the job. Pepper Schwartz said she can match a client to a certain massage therapist because she has gotten massages from them and so knows their styles. Currently, Colchester Massage has two massage therapists, but as the business grows, more will be employed, Pepper Schwartz said. She said the goal is to be open and accessible six days a week with availability throughout most of the day.

In addition to knowing her massage therapists’ styles, Pepper Schwartz said she did a lot of research for her job; she enjoys her work, and wants to make sure she knows all she can.

“I am serious about what I do,” she said. Pepper Schwartz said she only does what she loves. She joked that her daughter, 8-year-old Rachel, loves to give her mother massages and likes that her mom “helps others.”

Pepper Schwartz said she also walks new



Colchester Massage opened its doors this week. The manager of the new business, Stacey Pepper Schwartz, said she feels everyone should get massages, in order to be more in tune with their bodies.

clients through the steps of what a massage entails. She said this is because she wants everyone getting a massage for the first time to relax and enjoy the experience, not be uncomfortable with someone else touching their body.

“It’s about education,” she said: educating clients on what goes on, and educating staff on how to do their job well and improve upon what they already know.

To try to draw in new customers, Colchester Massage is offering several deals for massages. One of these is that anyone who mentions they

read this article will receive \$20 off an hour massage.

Massage pricing varies on how long and what type a customer gets. A 30-minute massage is \$40; an hour is \$65; 90 minutes is \$95; and a two-hour massage is \$125. Deep tissue and hot stone massages are an additional \$15 and aromatherapy oils are an additional \$5.

For more information visit colchestermassage.com or contact Pepper Schwartz at 860-531-9093 or through e-mail at info@colchestermassage.com.

New DOT Facility, Tractor Supply Store Coming to Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

Two new buildings – serving entirely different purposes – will soon be coming to the corner of Route 85 and Lake Hayward Road.

In early October, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a new tractor supply store to be constructed on a vacant lot on the corner. Then, three weeks later, the state okayed bonding for a new Department of Transportation (DOT) facility to be constructed on another vacant lot across the street.

The State Bond Commission approved \$35.45 million in funding for the DOT project on Oct. 28. The new facility will consolidate the operations of three other facilities in Montville, Lisbon and Higganum. The project will include not only the new DOT facility but the expansion of the sewer and water system to that part of the town.

DOT spokesman Kevin Nursick said the department decided to replace the three other facilities with the new Colchester one because they were deteriorating and “no longer suitable for really performing their functions.” Simply put, the other buildings are out of date. The Lisbon facility is from the early 1900s and the Higganum one has masonry and wood struc-

tures that date to the 1800s.

“It makes the job a lot more difficult than it needs to be,” with the old facilities, Nursick said.

The new 62,000-square foot facility will consist of a vehicle base, storage areas, storage stock room, materials-testing lab and a soil storage area. It will have 50 employees.

Nursick said it is technically a repair facility and not a maintenance one because it will be used to repair vehicles, heavy equipment and electrical items such as traffic signals.

Construction of the new facility will start in summer 2012 and is expected to conclude in the summer of 2014. The state Office of Policy and Management estimates the project will create 735 construction-related jobs.

When all is said and done, the new facility “will put us back in the 21st century when it comes to the fundamental maintenance of our equipment,” said Nursick, who added that the DOT “will be happy to be in Colchester.”

While Nursick is excited about the new facility, it is the accompanying extension of the water and sewer service that seemed to excite area officials the most.

“Extending water and sewer service will help us attract new business to Colchester,” state Representative Linda Orange (D-Colchester) said.

State Senator Eileen Daily (D-Westbrook) said the extension of Colchester’s wastewater treatment capabilities “represents the state’s commitment to infrastructure upgrades to better serve the local business community, which in turn will benefit all who depend upon the local economy.

“Colchester has shown remarkable growth over the past few years,” Daily added, “and this bond allocation is additional evidence of our resolve to keep pace with that progress.”

In addition to the new DOT facility, a Tractor Supply Co. will also be coming to the corner of Route 85 and Lake Hayward Road. Hartford-based New England Retail Properties (NERP) will construct the 19,000-square foot tractor supply store. NERP President Mark D’Addabbo said his company began looking into building in Colchester in 2006. Initially, the site was zoned only for commercial businesses. However, he said, the town rezoned the area to include retail stores, allowing the new

store to come in. D’Addabbo said his business is hoping to begin construction in the spring.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the new store coming in is great not only for the town but for the company. “It was a great fit for their business model,” because there is no other tractor supply store in surrounding towns, said Schuster. D’Addabbo said that the store fits in well because Colchester and surrounding towns are part of an “out-there lifestyle.” He said this means people in Colchester and surrounding towns have a little bit more land than cities or other towns, perfect for the merchandise at a tractor supply store.

“Those who enjoy the rural lifestyle” will benefit from the store, D’Addabbo said. The new store will have tools, heating equipment, lawn and garden equipment, fences, work clothing and footwear and will be the largest provider of Cub Cadet Products, which offer such tools as lawnmowers.

D’Addabbo said the Tractor Supply Co store would employ around 15-20 people.

“It’s going to really be a nice site” and will hopefully help bring more business to Colchester, D’Addabbo said.

East Hampton Police News

10/30: Anita Ackerman, 22, of 80A Middletown Ave., was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

10/31: A 17-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for third-degree criminal mischief, East Hampton Police said.

10/31: Sherri Bonin, 50, of 710 Middletown Rd., Colchester, was arrested for drinking while driving, DUI, failure to drive right and illegal storage of narcotics, police said.

11/3: Keith Allen Erbe, 49, of 177 Young St., was arrested for tampering with evidence, second-degree criminal trespass, improper use of license plate, and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

11/4: Crystal Watson, 30, of 27 Renee Ln.,

Enfield, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny and second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

11/4: Michael Philhower, 22, of 212 White Birch Rd., was arrested for DUI, evasion of responsibility in operation of a motor vehicle, traveling too fast for conditions, distracted driving and using a hand-held mobile device while operating a motor vehicle, police said.

11/7: Kevin Comeau, 23, of 89 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for third-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit same, police said.

11/7: Randy Ellin, 26, of 17 Meeks Point Rd., was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said.

Mold Moves Students in Hebron from Modulars

by Geeta Schrayter

School officials were prompted to move students into the main building of Hebron Elementary School after an odor was reported in the fourth-grade modular buildings in October.

"When you walked into the building there was a strong acidic odor," said Superintendent of Schools Eleanor Cruz.

"About two years ago we had a similar problem but were able to contain it and eradicate it," she said, adding it was more difficult this time because the source was originally unknown.

Air quality testing was requested immediately, and Mystic Air Quality Consultants, Inc. conducted air sampling on Oct. 18. The results showed a high spore count of the fungus *Smuts/Myxomycetes* and cited the most likely source as the boys' restroom.

Smuts/Myxomycetes was described by Mystic Air as "parasitic plant pathogens associated with the outdoors." It was also noted that "susceptible individuals may respond not only to fungi but also to the various by-products produced by these organisms including enzymes, mycotoxins and other chemical by-products."

Cruz said there are no health-based standards to go by as far as bioaerosol levels, which makes it harder to choose a course of action.

"That's what makes decisions like this situation difficult – you can't say 'here's a limit we reached, it's been passed,'" she said. "That's why it had to be a general consensus decision made."

At a meeting held on Oct. 27 with various individuals, including Board of Education chair Mark Allaben, the town manager, health inspector, building official and Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hanlon, short- and long-term plans were discussed.

"Short-term, we made the decision to move the children into the building for health purposes," Cruz said. "We did not want any residual impact or health issues on children."

"Health and safety come first," said Hanlon, "so that was certainly on our minds with this."

The modular buildings were closed up, and various rooms, such as resource rooms and a multi-purpose room, are being utilized to accommodate the classes they previously housed, included

"They're using a portion of the cafeteria for music," said Building Official Joseph Summers, who's been involved with safety aspects of the new classrooms. "And then the auditorium, and then all the other classes – they're sharing some spaces between teachers."

"It hasn't been easy but everyone has been very understanding," Hanlon said, adding the changes required everyone to be creative and flexible.

"We're operating under the mindset that this plan will be intact for the remainder of the year," he said.

As for a long-term plan, Cruz stated that decision lies with the Board of Education.

Marlborough Man Arrested for Public Indecency

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Marlborough man was arrested Monday, Nov. 7, after he was caught masturbating in public, Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police said Thursday.

James Tunstall, 26, of 32 Edstrom Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with public indecency and disorderly conduct. According to Kelly, at 10 a.m. on Monday, police received a phone call from a woman who was



walking that witnessed Tunstall masturbating on Old Marlborough Road. Kelly said that this area has "heavy pedestrian traffic."

After receiving the call, police responded to the area and found the vehicle that the witness had described that belonged to Tunstall. Kelly said Tunstall "took off" but was quickly tracked down and apprehended.

"It doesn't happen often, but it's out there," Kelly said of the nature of the crime. "He was clearly looking for an area where people would be."

According to Kelly, Tunstall was processed and released on a \$2,500 non-surety bond, and is scheduled to be arraigned on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Middletown Superior Court.

Colchester Police News

11/2: Mathew Dessureault, 22, of 7 North Maple St., East Hampton, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/3: Joseph Walz, 18, of 63 Lafayette Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

11/3: Robert J. Dettore, 47, of 192 Broadway, was charged with second-degree harassment, State Police said.

11/4: Colton J. Owens, 20, of 92 Parum Rd., was charged with third-degree larceny and criminal trespass.

11/4: Police are investigating the larceny of a painting from the Cragin Memorial Library. The painting is a watercolor of a squirrel holding an acorn. Anyone with information is asked to call Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

11/6: Jonathan Piktelis, 18, of 769 Middletown Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of heroin, State Police said.

11/6: Andrew Bates, 19, whose last known address was listed as 19 Gustafson Rd., was

Marlborough Police News

11/6: David Lucas, 38, of 401 Wells Rd., Wethersfield, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Mary S. Klemba

Mary S. (Andreoli) Klemba, 84 of Portland, wife of the late Edward J. Klemba, passed away Thursday, Nov. 3, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Sante and Ernesta (Padovani) Andreoli.

Born Feb. 9, 1927, in Middlefield, she grew up in West Haven and has lived in Portland for the last 63 years. She was the first to graduate high school in her family and was proud to be the eighth of 12 children. She was a cafeteria worker for the Portland School System. She was a member of St. Mary Church in Portland and the Ladies Guild of the church, a past member of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxilliary, friends of the Portland Library and she was an avid bowler in her younger years. She also did various charity work including collecting baby clothes for mothers in need.

She is survived by three daughters, Susan K. Arsenault of Middletown and Jane and Laura Klemba, both of Portland; three brothers, Harry Andreoli of West Haven, Skippy Andreoli of Hamden and Charles Andreoli of West Haven; two sisters, Toots Migliore and Carol Fatone both of East Haven; and four granddogs, Shadow, B.J., Cody and Noodles.

She was predeceased by three brothers, Albert, Bruno and Raymond Andreoli and three sisters, Sadie Santanelli, Lena Esposito and Irma Arcucci.

She will be especially missed by her friends, Robert and Bernice Lamontagne, Donna Warner and Linda Miller.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 7, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Sunday, Nov. 6, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 20 Taylor Dr., Portland, CT 06480 or to the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

The family would like to thank Middlesex Hospital CCU and Hospice for its compassionate care.

Marlborough

Joseph Henry Raffin

Joseph Henry Raffin, 70, of Marlborough, passed away Friday, Nov. 4, after a long courageous battle with multiple myeloma. His beloved wife, Patricia, of 48 years, was by his side. Joseph, also known as Joe, Joe-Joe, Dad, Papa, Grandpa, Uncle Joe and Sparky, was born on March 19, 1941, in New York City to the late Giuseppe Raffin and Assunta D'Andrea, both from Cordenons, Italy.

He was predeceased by his brother John. Joe was a graduate of Medford High (MA) and St. Louis University (MO). He worked for Pratt and Whitney for more than 33 years, traveling the globe. As a resident of Marlborough for over 40 years, Joe served on its boards of planning and zoning and of finance. He was a subsistence farmer, an avid cook, carpenter, woodworker, and a tinkerer and collector of all things mechanical. Joe loved opera, good food, good people, and Sunday dinner with his family.

In addition to his loving wife, Patricia, Joe is survived by his daughters Nancy Lynch and Christine Cammuso, sons Daniel, James, and Michael, son- and daughter-in-laws, Chris Lynch, Anthony Cammuso, Monica Escalante, and Minna Raffin, and grandchildren Keegan, Griffin, and Kally Lynch, Cara and Nicholas Cammuso, Max and Annabel Raffin and Violeta Escalante-Raffin.

His knowledge, advice and ravioli will be missed. His love continues.

Friends and family gathered to celebrate and honor Joe's life Thursday, Nov. 10, followed by a service later that morning, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury.

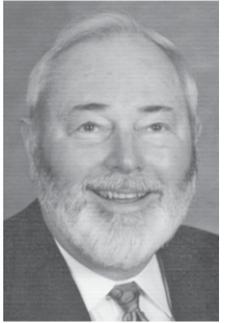
In lieu of flowers, to honor Joe please consider a donation to the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven (momentumfund.net/donate.html) or Closer to Free, P.O. Box 7611, New Haven, CT 06519-0611, or the New England Center for Children (nec.org/giving) or The New England Center for Children, 33 Turnpike Rd., Southborough, MA, 01772-2108).

To share condolences and view Joe's tribute online please visit glastonburyfuneral.com.

Andover

Ronald A. Haverl

Ronald A. Haverl, 75, of Andover, beloved husband of Julia A. (Hudak) Haverl, died Thursday, Nov. 3, at Hartford Hospital, after a brief but valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born April 2, 1936, in Bridgeport, son of the late Anton and Anna (Jacob) Haverl and moved to Andover in 1969.



Ronald was a 1953 graduate of Stratford High School and earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Brown University with the Class of 1957. Mr. Haverl was an entrepreneur, having co-founded four local companies. He retired in 1997 as C.E.O. of Bio-Plexus.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, to whom he was both father and treasured friend. Ron's children are Christina H. Tamburro and her husband Frank of Andover, and Carl A. Haverl and his longtime companion, Susanna Blackwell of Aptos, CA. Ron also leaves three grandchildren, Cecelia, Paul and Daniel Tamburro all of Andover; his brother Robert A. Haverl and his wife Tina of Oxford; nephew Scott Haverl and wife Karen of Milford; and niece Tamra Velleca and husband Frank of Woodbury. Several cousins survive Ron including Robert Sieb and wife Violet of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Ron was an entrepreneur first and foremost. With his good friend, co-innovator, and longtime business partner, Milton Stoller of West Hartford, he founded three companies over a period of 25 years. These companies were Scan-Optics, Inc.; Mediscan, Inc.; and Spetrascan, Inc. He then went on to found Bio-Plexus, Inc., with Carl Sahi of Coventry in the late 1980s. Ron had just received approval for start-up money to begin his fifth company in July 2011 when pancreatic cancer interrupted his active and hopeful life.

Ron valued innovation. His personal mission was to create revolutionary medical devices that would help mankind live healthier and longer. His second goal was to make jobs for people in Connecticut by providing interesting and exciting workplaces. Over the years, Ron's companies accomplished this. Several of his employees followed him to each of his startup endeavors. Throughout his years in the business community, Ron developed valued friendships, both locally and internationally. His associates were from all walks of life. His spirit of adventure, fearless problem-solving and nerves of steel were an inspiration to all. Ron believed firmly in the fair deal and the second chance. Many were helped by his generous outlook.

Ron never really retired. He was most at home thinking in his favorite chair, writing ideas on a legal pad. An avid reader until the final week of his life, he loved to study the military campaigns of Civil War general Stonewall Jackson. His sense of style was legendary, including his collection of beautiful French neckties, sensible shoes for every occasion, and unique hats. His three grandchildren gave him great joy. He particularly enjoyed sharing his love of engineering, music of all kinds, and his favorite movies from the 1930s and 40s.

Ron previously served the town of Andover as chairman of the Board of Finance and the RHAM Board of Education. He served as chairman of the Board of Directors for Citysingers of Hartford and supported many other musical organizations, such as The Goodspeed Opera House, The Hop River Chamber Series and the Newport Music Festival.

Ron was truly one of a kind. His keen intellect, kind words, thoughtful listening skills, and creative ideas will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. We will think of him whenever we "think outside of the box."

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 26, at 10:30 a.m. at the Andover Congregational Church, Route 6 in Andover. Burial will be private in Townsend Cemetery. Calling hours will be held Friday, Nov. 25, from 4-7 p.m. at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 E. Center St., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Ron's memory and sent to Brown University Class of 1957, Box 1877, Providence, RI 02912.

To sign the online register book, go to holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

Catherine Smith McFadden

Catherine Smith McFadden, 81, of Colchester, passed away peacefully, with her family by her side, Monday, Nov. 7, at the Apple Rehab Center in Colchester.

She will be sadly missed by her four children and their spouses, Dennis and Marge Marvin, Michael and Maureen Marvin, Cindy and Thomas Prescott and Timothy and Heidi Marvin, all of Colchester. She also leaves seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; a brother, John Smith of East Hartford; a sister, Estelle Watson of California; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Michael McFadden, and two sisters, Margaret Polhemus and Ann Prichard.

Catherine was born Aug. 31, 1930, in Brooklyn, NY. She was a daughter of the late John and Catherine (Helbock) Smith. She worked as a sales clerk at various retail stores in the area throughout her career. She also worked for Off Track Betting for the State of Connecticut and retired in 2004.

Catherine will be remembered for her talent for growing Bonzi plants and trees. She was a former member of the Bonzi Association and had a green house filled with beautiful Bonzi. She was also a member of the Colchester Farmers Club where she cooked for special events. Catherine will also be remembered for her talent for baking beautiful wedding and birthday cakes.

Funeral services will be private. Donations in her memory may be made to benefit Masonic Health & Hospice Care, 339 Flanders Rd. No. 215, East Lyme, CT 06333

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Kenneth Allen Lester

Kenneth Allen Lester, 78, of Columbia, died of complications from coronary artery disease Monday, Nov. 7. He was born in Colchester Nov. 19, 1932, to the late Robert and Evelyn Lester.

He is survived by Carolyn (Williams) Lester, his loving wife of 32 years. In addition to his wife, he leaves his son Warren Lester and his daughter Cheryl Blum.

He was predeceased by his brother Brian Lester and leaves a brother Lee Lester and his wife Joan, and a brother Curtis Lester and his wife Donna. He adored his granddaughter, Julie Blum, with whom he shared a great love of music. He also leaves several dear cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ken was a graduate of East Hampton High School, and earned a bachelor's degree in French and a master's degree from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate of education from Boston University. He taught at Suffield High School for nine years, and was the foreign language consultant at the Connecticut State Department of Education for 27 years. He founded the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) and had a lifelong love of world languages. He loved classical music and enjoyed being the first president of the Hop River Chamber Music Board of Directors.

A man of great faith, he was highly active at the Andover Congregational Church where he held positions as deacon and treasurer and enjoyed singing with the choir for many years. He was given recognition for his 50 year membership as a Mason, and of this he was very proud. He loved living on Andover Lake and then Columbia Lake, fishing, watching birds and wildlife, gardening and taking great pride in his tomatoes and roses, but caring about family and friends was most important to him. He also really loved his cat, Chatty.

Calling hours and a Masonic service took place at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic, Friday, Nov. 11. Friends and family are invited to the burial which will take place today, Nov. 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the Marlborough Cemetery on Route 66 in Marlborough, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, UCC, Andover, located at the corner of Route 6 and Long Hill Road, Andover.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Congregational Church, P.O. Box 55, Andover, CT 06237.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Nelson Henry Fries

Nelson Henry Fries, 90, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Eleanor (Floyd) Fries died Sunday, Nov. 6, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Born Nov. 18, 1920, in Jersey City, NJ, he was the son of the late Henry N. and Mary (Heim) Fries.

Nelson was a member of the Marlborough Congregational Church, a past member of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Masons. He retired from Pratt & Whitney after serving 32 years as a machine shop superintendent. Nelson was an athlete who enjoyed bowling, hockey, baseball, boxing and golf. He was one of the developers of the Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. He loved spending winters in Tequesta FL, but found true comfort in his home on Marlborough Lake.

Besides his wife he is survived by his children, Craig Fries and his fiancé Diana Noel of East Hartford, Mark Fries and his wife Nancy Taylor of Sandy Hook; grandchildren, Mary Ellen Fries of Marlborough, Kevin Fries and his wife Dawn of Colchester, Emily Elder and her husband Ben of San Francisco, CA, Matthew Fries of Ludlow, VT; great-grandchildren Adam Cafro, Tyler Cafro, Alissa Cafro, Emma Fries, Scott Fries, Ryan Fries, Asa Elder and Eleanor Elder.

A celebration of Nelson's life will be held Sunday, Nov. 13, from 2-4 p.m. at Blackledge Country Club on West Street in Hebron.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447 or to the Marlborough Congregational Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

East Hampton

Flora O. La Croix

Flora La Croix, 98, died Monday, Aug. 1, at Rosewood Manor of Vero Beach, FL. She was born in Norwich and lived in East Hampton on Barton Hill from 1952-74. She moved to Nampa, ID, in 1974 and in 1984 relocated to Vero Beach, FL, to be close to her daughter.

Before retirement, she was a telephone operator for the Southern New England Telephone Company.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Romeo La Croix, three sisters and two brothers.

Survivors include her son, Paul La Croix of Camano Island, WA; daughter, Susann Richards of Sebastian, FL; sisters, Jeanette Neilan and Rachele Geisler, both of Waterford; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. One nephew, Gilbert Thetreat, resides in East Hampton.

Andover

Richard L. Higgins

Richard L. Higgins, 68, of Manchester and San Antonio, TX, formerly of East Hartford and Andover, loving husband and best friend of 47 years to Lucy (Bradbury) Higgins passed away suddenly Sunday, Nov. 6, at home.

Richard was born March 3, 1943 in Manchester son of the late Claude and Nina (Nickerson) Higgins. He was raised in East Hartford and was a 1961 graduate of East Hartford High School. He then earned his Bachelor of Science degree at UConn graduating in 1966. Richard was employed for 25 years with the Connecticut Development Authority as executive director until leaving in 1992. He then continued his career as CEO of Bioplexis in Tolland from 1992 until his retirement in 1998.

He was an avid golfer and a 30-year member at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Throughout those 30 years he was club champion in 1993, '96, '97 and '98.

Besides his wife Lucy, he is survived by his daughter, Karen H. O'Neil and her husband Timothy of San Antonio, TX; his son, Kevin J. Higgins and his wife Angel of Coventry; his four beloved grandchildren, Griffin and Julia O'Neil and Alex and Spencer Amarante. He also leaves his two sisters, Darlene DeMarce and her husband Dennis Woodka and Linda Mathey and her husband David all of Florida; his three brothers, Gary Higgins and his wife Muriel of Florida, Dale Higgins and his wife Bobbi of Stafford Springs and Roy Higgins of Florida.

Calling hours were Friday, Nov. 11, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. A memorial service will be celebrated Sunday, Nov. 13, at 2 p.m., at Church of the Living God, 199 Deming St., Manchester. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Richard's memory to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, c/o Dr. Andrew Salner, 80 Seymour St. PO Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06101-9960. To sign the online guestbook, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.