

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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**Blue-Ribbon Baker...**Jillian Crawford of Portland recently won first place in the Junior Baking Contest at the Association of Connecticut Fairs annual contest. Having placed first in the contest, Jillian was invited to compete against 45 other eligible junior bakers (age 9-15), all of whom had to use the same recipe. The banquet, held at the Lyceum in Terryville, showcased the "Best of the Best" in the Junior contest, as well as the Adult Baking Competition and the Adult Apple Pie Competition. Jillian took first prize here too. Her prize included a blue ribbon, a baking basket customized for her and a cash award.

## Giving Thanks to Those in Need

by Bailey Seddon

While many of us downed plentiful helpings of turkey, potatoes and pie yesterday, there were still those in the state who could not afford a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Luckily, thanks to the Rotary Club and Liberty Bank, 27,000 Connecticut families in need were able to enjoy such a meal.

The tradition of giving is not new to Colchester Rotary members; it has been going on for over 30 years. It all started when Social Services asked different services throughout Connecticut if they could help provide needy families with an important holiday meal. The Rotary Club in Colchester was one such service that said yes. Every year, Social Services sends a letter out to families in need, asking if they would like to receive a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal. The families have to write back and Social Services sends the list of families to the Rotary and the Lions Club (who do the Christmas meals in town).

Eight years ago the fundraising got even better when Liberty Bank said they would match 25 cents to every dollar the Rotary raised. This year, \$5,904 was raised and matched in Colchester, down from last year's \$6,653.

While collections were down in Colchester, the families benefiting from the meals increased this year to 155, from 150 last year.

Sandi Churchill, Liberty Bank's branch manager for Colchester, has been part of the volunteering for the past six years.

"It's nice to be able to do it and help those in need," she said. She said she brought some of her children along but one, her son David came because he wanted to volunteer. He "just wanted to come out," said Sandi Churchill.

Besides the families in need that will benefit from the money raised, Colchester Rotary President Gretchen Marvin said that whatever money is left over will go to stock the senior pantry in the senior housing development. The last three years the Rotary has spent \$400-\$500 a month making sure seniors in the development always have the food they need and extra money from the Thanksgiving dinners will help that.

This year, like last, the packages of food are brought, assembled and sent off with volunteers at the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. When the *RiverEast* came to visit Monday night at the firehouse, trucks and cars were pulling in, piling in the boxes of food and heading out with their list of people to deliver them to. Half of the food is delivered from Noel's Supermarket in Colchester and the other half from the Westchester Market in Westchester.

Both stores are "wonderful," Marvin said. "Very, very giving."

Not only was Marvin helping to load the boxes into trucks and getting everything organized, but in the weeks leading up to Thanks-

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## RHAM Drama Club Brings Charlie Brown to Life

by Geeta Schrayter

Charlie Brown and his crew jumped off the comics page and onto the stage as the RHAM Drama Club performed *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* last weekend.

The characters, who have shared the breakfast table with families since the 1950s, sprang to life out of the hard work and dedication of the cast and crew.

"The kids did such a great job," said choreographer Shannon Yager, who volunteers her time to help with the musical productions.

"I go in and I work with what I get – and the kids just never disappoint," she said, adding the students impress her every year.

The play, which was set up as a series of vignettes – much like the comic strip – first opened in New York in 1967 and played for 1,597 performances. It ran briefly on Broadway in 1971 and was then revived in 1999 and played for 149 performances. The revived version, which is what was performed at RHAM last weekend, includes two new songs along with the original 12, and the addition of Charlie Brown's sister, Sally.

Director Lindsay Halle said she was "very

pleased" with the attendance. The play brought in 650 people on Friday evening and 400 on Saturday afternoon.

"We did very well," she said. "We were really happy that with a lesser-known show we still got the audience that we did."

The performances were the culmination of about two months of work from RHAM students in grades seven through 12. The show was cast on Sept. 15, and rehearsals began shortly afterwards.

"They have rehearsals about four days a week," explained Yager, "and then they go in Saturdays at the end."

For Halle, who teaches English at RHAM High School, it was her first time directing – although she'd previously acted. She said she liked being able to learn about the students outside of the classroom.

"It was a lot of fun to meet so many really talented kids. You don't see that aspect when you're in the classroom," she said.

For some of the students, *Charlie Brown* was their first performance. For others, it was one of many.

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The RHAM Drama Club performed *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* last weekend. Among the show's many musical numbers was "SupperTime," a large-scale performance in which Snoopy, joined by a majority of the cast, sings about – what else – suppertime.

**Holiday Shopping Guide Inside**



**Around 30 people gathered at the Colchester Hayward Fire Department Monday to prepare packages of food for 155 families in town.**

#### **Giving Thanks cont. from Front Page**

giving she had been dressing up as a turkey and going around to various places in town, such as Stop & Shop, to try to raise money for her cause.

"It's a very rewarding" experience, said Marvin.

"Okay kids, we need 12 turkeys!" Marvin yelled out as two more trucks came in to pick up deliveries.

In their deliveries, residents could find a 12-pound turkey, pies, eggs, bread, vegetables, potatoes, apples, cranberry sauce, a half gallon of juice, stuffing and butter – everything needed for a delicious Thanksgiving meal.

Marvin said there are 18 members of the Colchester Rotary. During the turkey drop-off, around 25-30 people, including club members, spouses, children, firefighters and friends, came to help package and deliver food. One such volunteer was Marvin's husband, Everett Marvin, who said he helps out every year.

"It's for a good cause," he said. "It's for the community."

Colchester Rotary's immediate past president, Linda Hodge, was there for her fifth consecutive year. Hodge said she returns each year because volunteering "helps our neighbors." She also said she was happy that the Rotary Club gets "a lot of community help to make it happen."

Abigail Eberle, a student at William J. Johnston Middle School, was volunteering for a school project. Volunteer work earns students points and whoever gets the most points wins. Besides the points she is earning for her volunteer work Abigail said she loves to volunteer.

"I love doing this," she said. "It's not everyday you get to touch turkeys!" she laughed. Abigail said she decided to volunteer for the rotary because her dad, Daniel Eberle, is in the Rotary Club.

Rotary Club member Karen Brinkman has been volunteering for the past seven years and is glad that Gretchen Marvin introduced her to the program.

"I love doing it," she said.

Resident Jessica Tucker was out delivering for the first time. She came into the firehouse, loaded 12 deliveries into a truck and headed out.

"I wanted to help people who need it," Tucker said.

Across the state, 27 Rotary clubs joined Liberty Bank to participate in the Thanksgiving fundraiser, an increase from the 23 that participated last year. Sue Murphy, executive director of the Liberty Bank Foundation and a member of the Middletown Rotary Club, said \$107,307 were collected in donations throughout the state and Liberty Bank matched that with \$25,000, meaning a total of \$132,307 for Connecticut families Thanksgiving dinners. This number was also up from last year's total of \$109,000 raised for the state of Connecticut.

According to a press release by Liberty Bank a traditional Thanksgiving dinner costs about 13 percent more than it did last year, or \$49.20 for a meal that feeds 10 people. This is why the money raised for families that cannot afford this cost is so important.

"It's inspiring to see that even in this poor economy, people are willing to give so that their neighbors can share in the traditional holiday feast," Murphy said.

#### **Charlie Brown cont. from Front Page**

Freshman Andrew Hawes, who played Charlie Brown, said it was probably his sixth or seventh performance going back to 6th grade. To prepare for the part, he explained he used some previous knowledge – gained from reading a lot of the original *Peanuts* comics – along with some additional research.

"I already kind of knew the character," he said, "but I did spend time reading the comics to see how he would react."

For Hawes, his favorite part of the play was the music.

"It's just all really good music," he said, adding his favorite scene was "The Kite," in which Charlie tries to get his kite to fly.

"It kinda shows Charlie Brown's resilience," Hawes explained, "and how he has to deal with lots of adversity and he doesn't give up."

And Hawes himself is an example of that as well – the Tuesday before the show, he injured himself on Schroeder's prop piano and received five stitches in his knee. But the thought of not continuing with the play never crossed his mind.

"Although it was a bit of a setback, I knew if I treated my knee well for those three days and followed the guidelines by the doctor, I'd be able to get it moving and in working shape by Friday," he said.

"I thought, 'we've already been working on this for a month and a half – there's no reason to stop now.'"

And so he didn't – and that dedication was apparent in other cast members as well.

Freshman Kelly Whitesell played Snoopy, and while she admitted "it was definitely a lot of work," she said it didn't seem too bad since she enjoys the craft so much.

"It's really what I do best and what I like," she stated, adding "my directors Mr. [James] Jancis and Mrs. Halle – they both helped the whole cast through it."

It was Whitesell's second performance, and she said acting as Snoopy wasn't too hard, since his personality resonates with her.

"I just kind of took on the character of Snoopy himself which was just dramatic, as I usually am anyway, so it wasn't all that difficult," she explained.

For Whitesell, the hardest part was remembering her many entrances, of which she said there were "too many to count."

Her favorite scene was "Supper time," a large-scale performance in which Snoopy, joined by a majority of the cast, exuberantly sings about – what else – supper time.

"There was just so much going on," said Whitesell, "between the chorus, tapping, the big lights... it was just a great big number."

Sophomore Dan Busa, who played the blan-

ket-toting Linus, said his favorite scene was "The Book Report," a vignette where Lucy, Linus, Schroeder and Charlie sing about their reports on *Peter Rabbit* and the various ways they go about finishing the assignment.

Linus' report was, of course, the most philosophical, and Busa said it was his favorite to sing.

"I liked being able to sing that one," he said, adding that he sings outside of theater and is in a band, Dino & The No-Names, where he plays guitar.

But the hardest part for Busa was another aspect of musicals – the dancing.

"Learning how to dance was the hardest part," he said.

But with all things, all it took was some dedication – which Busa applied not only to the singing and dancing, but to learning about his character.

"I watched a few of the cartoons online to see what I was trying to get at," he explained. "And I tried to get a little bit of a physical/emotional attachment for the blanket I'd be holding throughout the whole thing."

Linus' older sister Lucy was played by senior Molly Hallisey, and she said she had done the same sort of preparation.

"I had seen a lot of the Charlie Brown movies because I grew up watching them with my family," she explained, adding for her, "it was just a matter of knowing the lines."

Hallisey stated it was fun seeing everything come together.

"None of us were familiar with [the play]," she said. "We were all starting from scratch," she said.

The hardest part for Hallisey was the singing – particularly singing off-key.

"There were a lot of parts where I had to alter the way that I was hitting notes," she said. "It was kind of hard to purposely sing wrong at some parts."

Some of the songs were also played off of classical pieces. In one scene, Lucy sings over Schroeder's performance of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata."

*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* was Hallisey's third performance, and even though she'll soon be graduating with the hope of attending Champlain College for teaching, Hallisey said she'd like to continue acting.

"I do hope to continue with the theater program, and come back and see what the theater does in the future," she said.

Indeed, the kids' experiences with the RHAM Drama Club may stick with them for years to come, just as the *Peanuts* comics continue to cause laughter, even after 60 years.

## **Bullying, Electricity Topics for RHAM School Board**

by Geeta Schrayter

At the RHAM Board of Education meeting on Nov. 21, members discussed a variety of items, including bullying, the results of a recent electricity bid and the use of an online program to help students.

The state recently passed new bullying legislation, and administrators at RHAM are working hard to ensure they comply with the changes. However, as was shown through presentations by high school principal Scott Leslie and middle school principal Michael Seroussi, there are already numerous initiatives in place to prevent and curb bullying.

At the high school, these initiatives include formal programs such as peer helpers and mediators, the principal's advisory committee and student support groups.

Leslie explained the support groups meet in the conference room outside his office and are there to work with such issues as anger management and grief support.

"It's always interesting to be there when they're around," he said.

Leslie added that he meets with the advisory committee monthly, described it as a "sounding board for initiatives" and said they'd worked on updating the cell phone/electronic use policy, parking regulations, enhanced lunch choices and access to the media center.

At the middle school level, Seroussi mentioned team building days, school climate surveys that are administered three times per year and a school climate committee that meets monthly.

Seroussi also mentioned Spirit Week, Family Fun Night, No Name-Calling Week and Kindness Week, all as different ways to help foster a safe school climate.

Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski stated he'll be asking the board to approve the new school climate plan at the December board meeting.

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Also at the meeting, guidance department coordinator Joanne Prague Doyle discussed the use of Naviance, a program that has been in place at RHAM for the past three years.

Naviance is described as "the leading provider of student success solutions for K-12 schools," on its website, and Doyle explained this week it's used for a variety of things such as career exploration, "learning about oneself and learning styles," SAT prep, college and scholarship searches, compiling college materials and, for the second year now, the electronic submission of college material.

"Teachers can upload recommendations," Doyle explained, adding "When a student says

'my Common App is in' to a certain school, all supporting documents can be sent in 30 seconds." The Common App is a free online undergraduate application used by over 400 colleges and universities.

Inventories and surveys are also available to help students learn about themselves. For example, the learning styles survey is "100 really fast questions," asking students things such as "do you prefer studying with music on?" At the end, "it discusses learning styles and how to improve, what works, how to change..."

Doyle stressed that Naviance is "a remarkable program," and said that while it's used in the classroom at the middle school for guidance instruction, it isn't required at the high school, but stresses students should take advantage of it.

"It takes all of your information about yourself as a student, about yourself as an applicant to college or post secondary programs, all your post secondary test scores, your resume... and it puts it at your fingertips," she said.

"It really is a phenomenal program." An informational meeting "Introduction to Naviance" will be held Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. for parents who are interested in learning about the program and how to navigate the Naviance website.

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An informational report was provided at the meeting on a contract with a new energy supplier that will go into effect in December 2012.

"We went out to bid through the Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM)," explained Siminski this week, adding "when the bid was finalized three companies had bid."

The companies were Direct Energy, Integrys and TransCanada, with the winning bid going to Direct Energy at a cost of 7.883 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). The previous energy supplier, Constellation Energy, did not submit a bid.

"We're between the 2005-2006 price range," explained Siminski. In 2005, the cost was 6.8 cents per kWh, and in 2006 it was 9.8.

The new contract is fixed and four years, and Siminski stated the anticipation is "we'll save somewhere around \$70,000 in electrical costs" during the first year, and about \$140,000 the following year depending on factors such as usage.

"We're really pleased with the contract," said Siminski.

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The next RHAM Board of Education meeting will be held Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the RHAM High School Chorus Room.

# Well-Known Portland Dance Instructor Coming Out of Retirement

by Joshua Anusewicz

For Amber McAuliffe, the former owner of Encore Dance Studio in Portland, it's difficult to go anywhere in town without running into former students or their parents, most of which ask a variation of the same question: "When are you going to teach dance again?"

Now, she has an answer.

After taking a year off, McAuliffe has announced that she will begin offering dance classes again at The Lion's Den, a fitness center in Middletown where McAuliffe is the general manager. The classes will run the gamut of dance styles that McAuliffe has worked with in the past, from ballet to hip-hop and everything in between.

Locals who aren't familiar with area dance studios might still recognize McAuliffe's name; at age 19, McAuliffe, who grew up in town, opened Encore in Portland. The business jumped around a few locations in town, and finally settled in the Portland Shopping Center on Route 66, where it remained until she retired in July 2010. (The studio is now called Bravo Dance Academy.)

"The studio was successful, and I wanted to go out on top," McAuliffe said. "At that point [last year], I needed to take a break and change gears." So at age 39, McAuliffe retired from teaching dance and took an entire year off.

Fate intervened, however, when she came to join The Lion's Den to join as a member earlier this year. The gym's owner had a daughter that was one of McAuliffe's former students, and McAuliffe quickly went "from a member to an employee," as she put it with a laugh. Within no time, she jumped up to an assistant manager and, eventually, the general manager with the ability to add new fitness programs and "build up" the gym's membership.

With that ability, she decided to pull what

she called her "Michael Jordan moment" and come out of retirement to teach dance again. "I really do miss it," she admitted, "much more than I thought I would." McAuliffe has continued to train in dance in New York City, and said she has kept abreast with all of the newest styles and techniques.

Like Encore, the studio will focus on youth dance programs, catering to children from ages 3-18. She will offer classes for ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics, lyrical, contemporary, hip-hop and Irish step dancing, just to name a few. McAuliffe said that a recital will be planned at the end of the dance season, as well, including the costumes and music that she has "always loved."

For adults, there will even be classes for hip-hop and Zumba, which she has already started offering.

What's unique about the new studio, which will be named Lion's Den Dance Academy, is the setting. On the surface, The Lion's Den is a mixed-martial arts training facility, with boxing rings, heavy bags and two floors of weightlifting and cardio equipment. But don't expect to see hordes of muscular men beating each other into a pulp; the gym offers something for all ages and ability levels.

"It provides options for every member of the family," said McAuliffe, who said she will encourage parents and siblings to become members and find something that will whip them into shape. (A membership is not needed to join a dance class; the dance class registration will work much like your typical dance studio.)

Also unique will be when the season begins. Usually, McAuliffe said, the dance season coincides somewhat with a school year, with most sign-ups in the summer. McAuliffe's deadline for signing up will be on January 1, with the season ending with a recital in late June. She



One year removed from her re-tirement, dance instructor Amber McAuliffe is preparing to get back into the groove by offering dance classes at The Lion's Den in Middletown. After a few renovations to the studio, seen here, classes will begin on January 1.

admits it will be a challenge, but plans to work on "a small scale" for the first year.

"It will be hands-on, for sure," said McAuliffe, who admitted that smaller classes might work to the students' advantage.

And for someone who said she has always had the "passion" to teach rather than perform, it's easy to see how anxious she is to get back

into the swing of things. "I'm so excited," she said, smiling.

A full schedule and fees are in the works right now, McAuliffe said, but for those interested in more information, call The Lion's Den at 860-613-2394, or visit [thelionsdenct.com](http://thelionsdenct.com). The Lion's Den is located at 1385 Newfield St., Middletown.

# New Marlborough Business Offers Variety of Indoor, Outdoor Products

by Bailey Seddon

Superior Hearth, located at 6 Independence Drive, opened a month ago and General Sales Manager Rick Theriault could not be happier about being in Marlborough.

"This community has been awesome out here," Theriault said. He went on to say how "pro-business" Marlborough was, with local politicians and other business owners coming out to welcome them.

The Marlborough location is the newest one in the Superior Hearth family; there are also stores in Southington and Avon. All three carry hearth products, spas and outdoor living items. The Southington location has been in business for over 20 years, and the Avon store has been around for seven.

Superior Hearth is a division of Superior Product Distribution Inc., a family-owned business that has been around for 44 years. There are 15 other divisions, which includes construction supplies, concrete accessories, construction equipment rental and sales.

At his store, said Theriault, customers can experience personal consultation by certified service people.

"We are a very proud company," he said. This is something Theriault can say with certainty as he started working part-time at the Southington store 31 years ago, when he was a senior in high school. The business at the time was called Superior Equipment and Supplies, and was a hardware store. (It wasn't until 1990 that the business was renamed Superior Hearth and given an expanded focus.)

Theriault said he had been with the store for about a week when Thanksgiving arrived – and the company gave away turkeys for all the employees.

"This is the greatest place... I came home and gave my mother a 20-pound turkey," he laughed.

The following June, Theriault said, he graduated from high school on a Saturday, taking Sunday off and coming back to work Monday, full-time. He's remained ever since – and his 17-year-old son Derek now works for the company as well.

Theriault said there are many people in the company that have been with Superior Hearth a long time, which he feels "creates a profes-

sionalism that we are proud of."

Superior Hearth specializes in woodstoves, pellet stoves, gas stoves, hot tubs and outdoor leisure products, such as grills. It is also a full-service propane supplier. This way when someone comes to buy a gas appliance they no longer have to be sent somewhere else to get the propane.

It is a "one-stop shop," said Theriault. "We are in the propane business."

At the store customers can find many different types of wood stoves, ranging from \$899-\$3,500, depending on what style and brand someone decides to get. The same is true for pellet stoves, which range from \$1,299-\$4,000, and gas stoves which range from \$1,000-\$3,000.

Superior Hearth also features several different varieties of hot tubs, all of which have five-year warranties. Prices range from an entry-level tub at \$2,995 to \$14,000 for a more advanced tub.

The store's most popular brand is Jacuzzi, which has "been in the business of making hot tubs for the past 50 years," said Theriault. The Jacuzzi brand has the J-200, J-300 and J-400 series, with varying price ranges. There are also garden tubs, which can go in a customer's bathroom instead of outside.

Theriault said he does not consider hot tubs a luxury item because they are "good for the body and soul." He also considers them to be "hydrotherapy," something that can really help people to relieve tension and aching muscles. The store has 11 models on the floor, three of which Theriault keeps running so people can experience the different types of hot tubs.

"A presentation without demonstration is only conversation," Theriault said. This is why he has both wet and dry hot tubs for customers to try. He wants the consumer "to engage in the product" before they buy it. This could mean sitting in a dry hot tub or even donning a bathing suit to try one filled with water.

As for the outdoor living part of the store customers can buy anything from little portable grills around \$389 to grill islands around \$5,058. The most popular, and in Theriault's opinion the best, brand of grills they carry is



Stoves such as the ones shown here are among the many offerings at Superior Hearth, a new business located in Independence Plaza in Marlborough.

Vermont Castings. Theriault said this is a quality built grill that has a double layer of stainless steel and porcelain-coated cast iron that will last many years. He also said the grill is so great because it cooks evenly, not with hot and cold spots. Customers also have the option of having their favorite sports team logo on their grill, such as the Patriots, Red Sox, Yankees and others. Theriault also sells a wood-fired pizza oven for \$2,995, for those who enjoy the "smoky flavor."

While Superior Hearth had only been here a short time when the freak fall snow storm hit in late October, the store was ready with generators, said Theriault. He said the company looked for generators wherever it could find them so customers would be able to purchase them. A sign was placed out front and Theriault even went on WTIC-AM 1080 to let the public

know Superior Hearth was selling generators. Theriault said it was important for the business to stay open and to try to help people.

While Superior Hearth is new to Marlborough, Theriault said he has already seen people coming from Bozrah, Columbia, Hebron, Glastonbury and East Hampton to buy what Superior Hearth has to offer.

It was obvious that at least one customer was happy with Superior Hearth. On the day the *Riverast* came to visit last week, a customer was there to prove how happy she was with Superior Hearth's products and staff.

"They're nice people to do businesses with," said Maryanne Leichter of Hebron. "It's a beautiful showroom."

For more information, visit [superiorathome.com](http://superiorathome.com) or call Theriault at 888-236-5508.

# Joint Meeting in Colchester Looks at Energy Savings

by Bailey Seddon

Energy management services were discussed at a special joint meeting between the boards of selectmen, finance and education on Thursday, Nov. 17.

The meeting began with a little history. Facilities Director Greg Plunkett noted current selectman Stan Soby started the Energy Conservation Committee in 2007, when he was the town's first selectman. Soby said the committee's purpose was "trying to identify ways we could save money in terms of our energy use." This could mean making buildings more efficient or looking at possible sources of funding.

At the time, the committee made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen, but Soby said the board was not ready to go forward with a project. However, after Gregg Schuster became first selectman in 2009, he began to pursue options based on the research that was done by that committee. In March of 2010, Plunkett said the Board of Selectmen had decided that "it would be to the town's advantage," to enter into a request for proposal (RFP) to help select an energy savings company.

This is what brought Chris Halpin, owner of Celtic Energy a consulting company, to Thursday's meeting. Halpin said his company helped towns get "good fair deals," when drawing up contracts with energy-saving companies and had already helped Colchester choose Honeywell as such a company. Halpin's job also

entails working on the town's behalf to put together the technical details for the "energy baseline." He also said it will be his job to know the technical work that Honeywell would be doing to make sure the town gets what they want. "That's what we're here for," Halpin said.

While the Board of Selectmen has done a RFP, they have not yet entered into an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) with Celtic Energy or Honeywell.

Doreen Hamilton, who was representing Honeywell, spoke next to the boards. Hamilton explained that the IGA will consist of Honeywell going around to the town buildings and assessing what can be done to make them more energy efficient. Then Honeywell will come back to the board and give it different energy-saving package options. Until the IGA is done, there is no clear estimate of what the project will cost.

In order to figure out what kind of energy package they would want, Hamilton said the boards had to figure out what the long-term goals for Colchester are. She said Colchester needs to develop an accurate baseline to figure out what Honeywell can do versus what the town needs and can afford.

Hamilton said Honeywell looked at a whole different mixture of things they could do for the town by looking at energy costs just at Bacon Academy and Town Hall. Some of what

they looked into were: water conservation, cooling tower replacement in Town Hall, lighting upgrades and motion sensors, mechanical upgrades and wind turbine. Hamilton also said if Honeywell were to do the work, they will create a website so residents can go online and see what stage the project is in.

"It's a great journey" for citizens to be able to be part of, Hamilton said.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein was especially happy with the proposed upgrades to the lighting systems at the schools. As of now, he said, the lights stay on 24 hours a day and cannot be turned off. Goldstein joked that parents drive by at night and wondered why the lights were on. He said this was a huge waste of money and energy and having a new system where the lights could be shut off would save a lot of money.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle asked if there would be separate financing for the project. Hamilton told her it is all one bundle. She also said the town would be leasing equipment with a dollar buy out in the end.

"It allows you to do more," said Halpin. "There's definitely enthusiasm in this town to do this." He went on to say that energy savings is not an overhead item but is something the town can use and save money on.

Hamilton said the town would finance the project over a 15-year period. This concerned

some board members because they felt that, while some equipment might last that long, others might not. They also felt the town could need updates in the form of newer technology before then. Hamilton said there could be changes to certain equipment that would not last as long. For instance a boiler might only last six years while other equipment could last 15. She said for those the town felt would not last as long they could be put in the contract for only five to seven years.

The boards next considered if they wanted to proceed with the IGA. This took some discussion because if the town agrees to the IGA, but then does not go through with the project, it is on the hook for \$32,000.

Selectman James Ford said he wanted to go forward with the IGA only if the board reserved funds for the project ahead of time, so if they backed out they would not be looking at a debt of \$32,000.

At the end of the meeting the consensus was that all three boards wanted to move forward with the IGA, once the Board of Selectmen reviewed and approved the contract with Honeywell. Once the IGA is done if the boards of selectmen, finance and education agree to it, it will go to a referendum.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

## An Informant Comes To Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

After watching a recent movie about a whistle-blower, those gathered at Colchester Federated Church last Sunday got to meet one in the flesh.

*The Informant!*, a 2009 movie based on actual events, stars Matt Damon as whistle-blower Mark Whitacre, an employee of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) in Decatur, IL. Whitacre was overseeing the company's production of lysine, an amino acid, used in many manufactured foods. Whitacre informs the FBI of kickbacks going on in his company, and the bureau then pressures him into becoming an informant. He goes to meetings in rooms that are bugged and gives the FBI what they need to take down his company. Unfortunately, his world unravels toward the end of the movie, when he divulges that he too took kickbacks in the sum of \$11 million. Whitacre ultimately goes to jail from 1998-2006, along with some of his bosses.

After the movie, Beatrice Manning, a member of Colchester Federated Church, shared her own story about being a whistle-blower. While Manning did not profit from the kickbacks in her company, such as Whitacre did, she said "how the psychology...of a big company works" in the movie was correctly portrayed.

"The level of corruption internally...is totally accurate," Manning said.

Manning and two of her fellow employees became informants when they discovered the company they worked for Schering-Plough, located in Kenilworth, NJ, had designed departments such as Manning's mostly just for the purpose of kickbacks. Schering-Plough was a pharmaceutical company who sold such well-

known drugs as Claritin and Clarinex. Manning began working at the company in 1997 and was the manager of clinical opportunities for integrated therapeutics group.

Manning said Schering-Plough bribed insurance companies to put the company on their approved drug list.

Manning and the other informants became such almost by accident in 1998. The process started when they hired a labor lawyer, Neil Mullin, because their boss' secretary was being sexual harassed. Once they had hired Mullin, they told him about the kickbacks they suspected of going on in the company and the chain of events started. In the fall of 1998, Mullin filed a complaint in federal court in Philadelphia against Schering-Plough. Shortly after, the US Attorney's Office in Philadelphia investigated and joined Manning, her colleagues and Mullin in the suit. The suit that was filed, said Manning, "is a Qui Tam complaint, which is filed by individuals and sealed and the U.S. Attorney investigates."

Being a whistle-blower was hard, said Manning, as she had to worry about informing on her company while also keeping up her work performance. Manning said that while she did not wear a wire, one of her co-informants did. However, this did not mean she did not have her own form of stress. While Manning and her fellow employees did not work directly with the FBI, they worked with the U.S. Attorney's office, which was in contact with the FBI. But even with the U.S. Attorney's office acting as a middleman, Manning's dealings with the FBI were stressful.

"I can say that it always felt like the FBI

expected we should all have the same investigative and interview skills that trained official agents would have," she said.

Manning also said when she or the other employees had to call their lawyer they had to go "off-campus" to a cheap hotel down the road and use the phone banks. She also said the FBI would sometimes stop in at her company without telling any of the informants. Manning said one day they went to see her boss to ask him questions, but never informed them. Manning said that, even though the FBI would use the informants, she had the sense the bureau would have "thrown us under a bus" if it had to.

It also became hard once the company realized it was being investigated. The company suspected there were informants but did not know who. Despite this, Manning said she was sure she was on a short list of people they likely suspected.

"That pressure" could really get to someone, Manning said. In situations such as hers, Manning said, angry bosses try to label them as disgruntled employees and then liars, to dispel the blame she said.

Eventually, Manning and her fellow informants were laid off, and had to sign an agreement stating they would never sue the company. Then, after years of being an informant, the Schering-Plough case finally settled in the summer of 2003. Manning said it took from 1998-2003 to gather evidence against the company and for the US Attorney's office to enter into negotiations.

Schering-Plough paid \$292 million in civil penalties and \$50 million in criminal fines. A

few executives got prison sentences but once they got out many of them went on to other companies, which is what also happened with Whitacre. He ended up as the Chief Operating Officer of Cyprus Systems Incorporated, a California biotechnology company.

As they would have trouble getting any company to hire them after informing on their previous employers, Manning and her fellow informants received part of the settlement. They received 18 percent of the federal part of the civil settlement, just over \$30 million. Of this, \$10 million went to the lawyers, which left \$20 million for the three of them to divide. By the time they got done with taxes they each got a little under \$3 million, Manning said.

Despite what she went through, Manning said she was very happy she came forward. She said she agrees with the view that "the worst damage to one's spirituality is to convince yourself that what you do does not matter."

And her experiences also led Manning to a more faith-based career. Manning started seminary school in the 2002-03 school year, and graduated in 2007 from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Center, MA. Currently an ordained minister, she is waiting for a church to hire her as its minister.



Beatrice Manning

# Colchester Considering Curfew for Teens

by Bailey Seddon

Thanks to vandalism that took place over the summer, teenagers could be looking at a possible curfew at certain areas in town.

Nothing is decided yet, but First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he has been looking into the possibility of a curfew for months. The idea was first presented to Schuster by members of the Lions Club, after their trailer had been vandalized.

The Lions Club owns three trailers, which it uses at various events to grill hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and any other basic fair food. In June, one of the trailers was damaged on the town green following the Lions' annual carnival which was held June 1-4. The back door of the trailer and its window were smashed, and it appeared someone had tried to break into the water heater. Someone had even started a fire in a trash can that was on the gazebo.

While the Lions Club filed a report with the police it is hard to catch people because there is no ordinance that says residents cannot be

on the green after dark, Schuster had said. This is why the first selectman started looking into the curfew for those under 18.

Nothing is set in stone as Schuster said he is "just exploring the idea right now." He said the town attorney is drafting an ordinance for the Board of Selectmen to look at. Once the draft is written up it will be brought to the police commission, and then the boards of selectmen and education (because part of the curfew might extend to school property).

"If everyone is in agreement," Schuster said, the ordinance would probably go to a town meeting. He said he is hoping the draft will come to him in the next couple of weeks. After that it would take at least a couple months to bring to the boards and then to a town meeting.

The curfew would likely extend to minors for the town green, the recreation complex, the Ruby Cohen Woodlands and, potentially, school property. If minors were to get caught in these

selected places after dark, they would likely be subject to a fine, Schuster said.

"We don't want criminal mischief to occur overnight," said Schuster. "It would do a lot of good, protecting town property," to have this ordinance, he said.

Resident Trooper Supervisor Marc Petruzzi said the town has had a history of issues on the green, and is glad a curfew ordinance is being looked into.

"I think it's another tool that can be used," Petruzzi said. He said that while he would not decide the ultimate penalty for any minor being out past curfew, punishment could range from contacting the juvenile's parents or giving the juvenile or their parents a fine.

Selectman Stan Soby was also glad the town was looking into a curfew ordinance.

"I think it's something that we need to explore," he said.

However, he said that the board would have to do research by looking at curfews in other

towns and to see how they handle them. He says he wants to "make sure it's crafted well," before going forward with it. Soby said it should be in the best interests of the town and he does not want to limit what people can do, just stop vandalism that happens in the middle of the night.

Selectman James Ford said he felt the vandalism is a significant issue for the town and because of this said a curfew was "worth considering." However, he said he was "always hesitant to impact the rights of the public," but nevertheless said "we do have issues we need to address."

If Colchester goes with a curfew, it would hardly be alone. Schuster said other towns with curfew ordinances include Glastonbury, Hartford, Meriden, Naugatuck, New London, Norwalk, Stafford, Stamford and Vernon. He said no town's ordinances are identical; some are more specific, while others are more general.

# Hebron Selectmen Talk CIP Tweaks, New Town Attorney

by Geeta Schrayter

A special Board of Selectmen meeting was held last Thursday, Nov. 17, and board members touched on various topics, ranging from changes to the Capital Improvement Plan to the hiring of a new town attorney.

Since changes were made in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to raise the minimum amount of projects to be funded through CIP to \$25,000, how to fund items that fall in the \$5-25,000 range has been a topic of discussion.

At the Nov. 17 meeting, conversation took place regarding the Hebron Vehicle, Equipment and Building Improvement Replacement Policy and funding those requests under \$25,000.

An updated copy of the policy was passed out, in which guidelines for vehicle and equipment replacement and building improvements are contained "to act as a framework for decisions related to long-range vehicle/equipment replacement and building improvements" and also to act as a "budgeting guide" for the Board of Selectmen and town and school staff.

The policy applies to all municipal and education departments in town, all vehicle and equipment operations and town-owned buildings, and explains that annually, a list of all the items which fall in the \$5-25,000 range and need replacement or improvements must be submitted to the town manager.

"It's set up like CIP," said selectwoman Gayle Mulligan – there's a separate fund, but a smaller amount.

The motion to approve the policy passed, with the Board of Selectmen providing Town Manager Bonnie Therrien an \$85,000 fund maximum for the upcoming year.

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CIP funding for a new backhoe and truck for Public Works was also a topic of discussion.

In July, a bid to purchase a Volvo backhoe loader from Tyler Equipment for \$96,777 had been approved by the Board of Selectmen. However, Public Works Director Andrew Tierney explained he had been told there was trouble getting the machines, and received a

delivery date of March 2012. Tierney stated he began looking around for other options because of the need for the backhoe during the winter months.

It was found Harwinton had gone to bid for a John Deere backhoe loader from W.I. Clark, and Therrien explained in a letter to the selectmen that the town's Purchasing Policy "does allow us to piggyback off of other municipal bids."

In justification of the cost difference, Tierney explained the John Deere is "more of a machine," with more torque and horsepower.

It was also noted that \$140,000 had been budgeted for the backhoe, and purchasing one prevented the need to rent equipment throughout the winter.

"Last year we ended up spending close to \$10,000 in rentals," Tierney said.

The new machine would replace a 1973 backhoe that isn't taken onto the roads due to safety.

A motion to reject the original bid for the backhoe from Tyler Equipment and award the bid to W.I. Clark passed unanimously.

Additionally, it was mentioned a new truck needed to be purchased for Public Works because of an incident at the garage where a large dump truck ran into the performance pickup due to brake failure.

Tierney explained Public Works used the truck on a daily basis and had planned on continuing to do so, "but our insurance totaled it due to its age and mileage."

Members present agreed the public works department had done all they could to keep the older truck running.

"I agree with you that you need this truck," said Leichter.

"You and your department did a lot to maintain a lot of your equipment," added selectman Mark Stuart.

Similar to what had been done with the John Deere backhoe loader, a state low bid was discovered through the University of Connecticut for a GMC pickup truck and snowplow from

Scranton Motors for \$33,390, and it was suggested the remaining CIP money set aside for the backhoe be used to purchase the replacement vehicle.

However, deliberation ensued as to whether the money should come from CIP or the Capital Non-Reoccurring fund.

Leichter expressed concern because purchasing the truck meant they weren't adhering to the CIP process.

"We're trying to set a process and keep to that process," he said. "Speaking as a CIP member, I'd rather see it funded out of [the Capital Non-Reoccurring Fund]."

But Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt stated the purchase of a new truck would have been a CIP item down the road anyways. "My personal feeling is, it seems like it needs to be a CIP item," he said.

In the end, it was decided the money should come from CIP, "with the thought that in the last period, if there is money left" in Capital Non-Reoccurring, it will be transferred back into the CIP fund, explained Therrien.

The motion to purchase the truck passed unanimously.

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The selectmen also discussed appointing a new attorney. There were five candidates for the position: Updike, Kelly and Spellacy; Halloran and Sage LLP; Rome and McGuigan; Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco and Donald R. Holtman, the town's current attorney. Interviews were held on Nov. 3.

There was much discussion at the meeting as to whether to stay with Holtman or switch to Halloran and Sage LLP.

The merits of Holtman and comments on the successful job he'd done thus far were mentioned.

"I think Don's served this town very, very well," said Watt.

Selectman Mark Stuart felt similarly, saying he favored Holtman.

However, the idea of a larger firm was ap-

pealing to some.

"I like the idea of having a bigger firm with more resources," said Mulligan.

Selectman Dan Larson agreed. "I'm just afraid, for whatever reason, if [Holtman] is unable to do the job – that's it," he said. "There's no back-up."

"This is a little different than interviewing the auditor," added member Mark Stuart, stating you develop a close relationship with the town attorney, whereas "it's required you change auditors every five years or so."

It was also stated that now would be the appropriate time to bring in a new attorney, since it would give the board the next few years to work with them.

However, at a special meeting held this past Tuesday, Nov. 22, the selectmen voted unanimously to keep Holtman as the town attorney.

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Two firms sent in proposals to become town auditor effective July 1, 2012, for the fiscal year audit of 2011-12. Both were interviewed by the Board of Finance, representatives from the Board of Education, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien and Director of Finance Lisa Hancock on Nov. 15.

Leichter said at the meeting there was "a lot of good discussion on attributes, pluses and minuses" during the interviews.

He stated there was a unanimous decision by the Board of Finance to recommend CCR, LLP - which Therrien stated had just been bought out by Grant Thornton - over Kostin, Ruffness & Company, LLC.

The recommendation was to appoint CCR, LLP under a five year contract, renewable each year, for a total amount not to exceed \$43,500 the first year.

The motion passed unanimously.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

# Revaluation Process Underway in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Has it been five years already?

The revaluation of properties in Hebron is currently in full swing, and at a public meeting held last Wednesday, Nov. 16, residents were given the opportunity to learn about the process.

The presentation was put on by Rich Nagle, president of Appraisal Resource, the acting revaluation company. Project Manager John Hocking was also present, as was Hebron Acting Tax Assessor Debra Gernhardt.

The meeting explained revaluation, its process and importance as well as what to do if a homeowner disagrees with the new value assigned to their property. All seats were taken at the meeting, filled with residents interested in the process.

"There were approximately 30 people," Gernhardt said, "and a lot of good questions."

Revaluation is "the process of estimating new values on real estate based on specific rules and current market data," as defined by Appraisal Resource.

State guidelines, regional methodologies and standards set forth by the International Association of Assessing officers are all utilized to ensure a careful, systematic assessment. Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software is also used to store property information

and analyze the data.

Revaluation was described at the meeting as important for "equalizing" – balancing out the town's tax burden. Valuations are based on sales at a particular time, so as the market changes, property values may rise or fall, making the previous assessments inaccurate. Revaluation ensures "a fair distribution of the tax burden," Gernhardt said.

"We equalize the assessments throughout town, bringing them up to current market values," he said, adding that this, in and of itself, doesn't raise an individual's taxes. New taxes will be calculated by multiplying a property's assessed value by the new mill rate. The mill rate, in turn, is established by the Board of Finance after the budget is approved, in an attempt to meet revenue projections.

According to Connecticut state law, cities and towns have to perform a revaluation every five years, and the last revaluation in Hebron took place in 2006.

In the beginning of the process, authorized representatives inspect all of the properties in town, looking at such exterior aspects as property measurements and internal features like the number of bedrooms and bathrooms and whether or not the basement has been finished,

Nagle explained.

Hocking added the assessment is for what an individual owns property-wise and nothing more. However, it was also explained that similar properties can have different values based on such factors as location, the desirability of a particular neighborhood, how much traffic there is and whether it's waterfront property or not.

Nagle went on to say that while homeowners aren't required to let the authorized representative inside, it's recommended in order to acquire the most accurate data. If the representative has not been admitted after a letter has been sent and three attempts to enter a specific property have been made, estimates will be used to determine value.

Data collection in Hebron began in October 2010 and ended this month. The next steps in the process included a primary analysis and a field review. The analysis took place from May through August of this year and involved the examination of factors like building costs and land values. The field review was conducted in September and October and is a review of the proposed property values.

At present, the final analysis is currently underway. Data from the field review is taken into account, latest sales data is analyzed and any

final adjustments are made. New assessment notices are expected to be mailed in the middle of December, after which, informal hearings will begin.

If a homeowner doesn't agree with the value their property has been assigned, they can schedule an informal hearing with Appraisal Resource. Copies of recent real estate appraisals, photographs related to structural damage or other problems and any other evidence that supports the homeowner's claim are brought to the meeting, at which the hearing officer will listen to the claim and gather information. Properties are then reviewed and adjusted when appropriate, and individuals who attend receive written notice regarding the decision.

If they're not satisfied with the result, they can then appeal to the Hebron Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) beginning in March. Applications for hearings must be received by Feb. 20, 2012.

The BAA's decision is mailed within a week of the hearing, and if the property owner is still dissatisfied, they can appeal the decision with the Connecticut Superior Court within two months of the day the BAA mailed the notice.

The 2011 revaluation will begin affecting tax bills in July 2012.

## Equine Expert Gives Clinic on Horsemanship in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A semi-circle of about 15 people gathered around the circular gate, where Geoff Goodson stood with a 5-year-old Haflinger Gelding named Guinness, a gold-colored horse named for being "stout."

Moments earlier, Guinness was running laps around the enclosure at breakneck speed; he then patiently watched as Goodson explained to the group the importance of having control of your horse by taking command.

"We're overcoming adversity," said Goodson, stroking Guinness' neck. "Now he's showing trust and softness."

Incredibly, just an hour earlier, Goodson met Guinness for the first time.

The exercise was part of a clinic that Goodson held on natural horsemanship last weekend, Nov. 19 and 20, at Roundstone Farm in East Hampton. The clinic hosted four horses over the two days, each with behavioral or physical issues that Goodson hoped to teach the owners to deal with.

"As someone who has bred, bought, sold and trained horses," said Carla Cataldi, owner of Roundstone Farm, "I believe the natural horsemanship way of starting young horses and helping those horses who are in need of remedial training is a very important step in the training process of a horse."

Guinness, a horse from Roundstone Farm, is a horse that was started under saddle two years ago and was described as needing "work on canter and confidence building." Goodson said that with Guinness, like with many horses, the issue is having control over the horse, not the other way around. So Goodson utilized different tools to encourage or deter Guinness from performing certain actions.

"When you buy a horse, you think it's trained," said Marguerite Hayber, a horse-owner in attendance. "Then, sometimes, you find out they have behavioral issues. You have to find someone like Geoff to train them."

One of the demonstrations that Goodson

used was getting Guinness to move from a walk to a trot to a canter. He did this by staying the middle of the ring and keeping his body positioned in a way that would keep the horse moving in a circle. Goodson then used a whip-like tool that landed just behind Guinness to get the horse trotting and, eventually, running.

After using the tools several times, Goodson didn't even need to use the tool anymore; Guinness would begin to run or trot if Goodson made a certain motion toward the horse, whether he was holding the tool or not.

"I can kind of describe it like an obedience class for dogs," Hayber said.

The purpose of the exercises is to have the horse listen and respond to certain everyday commands, like getting a horse to go in the direction you want it to. If your horse does not respond to commands and you have no control, it develops into a dangerous situation for the owner.

"He's about 1,000 pounds, and I'm barely 200," Goodson said jokingly. "I don't need to tell you who would win that one."

Next, Goodson placed a halter – think of a dog leash – on Guinness and led the horse around the ring. Goodson also used the halter as a mechanism to get the horse to backup if need be, by flicking the rope and pushing the horse back. As the horse got used to the movement, just Goodson raising his arm forced the horse to take a step back.

Next, Goodson saddled Guinness, but performed a few exercises before he got on. Instead, Goodson used a long PVC pipe that he dragged behind the horse, which kept the horse's attendance on the ground. He also put the PVC pipe on the horse's back to see how it would respond to having pressure on the saddle.

"We're trying to get these bad tendencies out of his system," Goodson said before attempting to get on the saddle. When it seemed it was time to mount the horse, Goodson checked something: the PVC pipe had seen out of the horse's right eye, but not its left eye. When



**Local horse farrier Geoff Goodson leads Guinness, a 5-year-old Haflinger Gelding, around a ring at a natural horsemanship clinic at Roundstone Farm last Sunday. Goodson worked with four horses over the two-day clinic, just hours after meeting them for the first time.**

Goodson pushed the pipe across its back and into the vision of Guinness' left eye, the horse immediately got worked up. "That would have gotten me bucked," Goodson said.

"There is a lot involved in training a horse," Cataldi said. "It's a lifetime commitment, day-in and day-out interaction and, if done correctly, can provide an extremely rewarding relationship between horse and rider."

Cataldi said she has become good friends with Goodson over the past 12 years, as they have helped each other out with horse-related issues. She said he has grown his skills over a number of years of training, which include a

month of studying wild horses in Australia. Goodson operates Double G Farrier Service in East Hampton, where he specializes in tending to horses' feet by trimming their hooves or fashioning handmade horseshoes.

But his training skills were what brought him to Roundstone Farm. "Geoff is able to take the problematic horse back to the basics and figure out where the loophole in the training is, like why the horse rears, bucks or spooks," Cataldi said. "Sometimes the horse or the rider needs to take a step back to square one."

For more information on Goodson's training or his company, call 860-267-7839.

# East Hampton Council Terminates McKinney Contract

by Joshua Anusewicz

Two weeks after it was announced that Interim Town Manager John Weichsel would be returning from medical leave on Monday, Nov. 14, the Town Council officially terminated the contract of Acting Interim Town Manager Anne McKinney at a marathon meeting rife with disagreements on Tuesday night at East Hampton High School.

Controversy arose Thursday, Nov. 10, when Chairwoman Sue Weintraub and Councilor Kyle Dostaler met with McKinney that morning to announce that Weichsel – who had been on medical leave since late September – would be returning on Nov. 14, instead of Nov. 21, which McKinney had originally thought. According to other council members, Weintraub and Dostaler acted without the knowledge of the council.

Over the past two weeks, speculation from some residents has been that Weintraub and Dostaler made the decision to relieve McKinney because she was conducting evaluations of town departments – the police department in particular. Police Chief Matthew Reimondo has been under the microscope in recent months after Sgt. Michael Green was put on administrative leave and Officer Michael Salafia, the police union president, criticized Reimondo for his treatment of officers in the department.

On the other hand, McKinney has been criticized by residents for performing an evaluation on the police department, despite being in office for less than three weeks. Further criticism was levied on McKinney, this time from Weintraub, when a memo from McKinney to Reimondo about “job performance concerns” surfaced in a published report earlier this week. In another published report, Weintraub questioned how the memo became public and why a performance review was conducted despite the concerns related to the recent snowstorm.

McKinney has not made any comments since the events on Nov. 14, but broke her silence during a “report of acting town manager” at Tuesday’s meeting.

“I came here with no agenda,” McKinney declared to the council about her time in office. “I was asked to fill a need.”

McKinney discussed how she met with the heads of town departments and gained “a new respect” for the work that a town manager has to do.

McKinney did, however, single out Reimondo during her report, stating that he was absent for 11 of the 18 days that she was in office. (According to the town, Reimondo was out on medical leave for a short period of time last week.) McKinney said she wrote the memo and “put it under the door” to Reimondo’s of-

fice, stating that nobody had a key to get into his office. She said she left it there, with the intention of Reimondo getting it when returning to work the next day.

After explaining how the memo was delivered, McKinney denounced Weintraub’s feelings that she focused on the police department over the storm response. “I was focused on whatever was brought before me,” McKinney said, adding that she spoke with Director of Public Works Keith Hayden, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden and members of the former Town Council prior to and after the storm to make sure that cleanup went smoothly and power was restored.

During McKinney’s report, Weintraub and other council members questioned whether discussing the contents of the memo to Reimondo were “appropriate” during her report. Audience members also chimed in, some calling McKinney’s report “out of order” and some urging McKinney to continue.

“It seems you’re afraid of moving forward with the police department investigations,” McKinney said to Weintraub. “What were you so concerned about over the past week that you need [Weichsel] back?”

McKinney also questioned Weintraub for “ordering” Weichsel back, which McKinney said is what she was told by Weichsel.

“He said he was directed back,” McKinney continued, “and this is a man of integrity.” Weintraub countered by saying she never told McKinney that Nov. 10 was “her last day” and that she offered McKinney the opportunity to help Weichsel “transition” back into office last week.

Councilor Derek Johnson interrupted, stating that the town was “well-served” by McKinney during her time in office, but questioned whether or not the discussion should continue.

“I don’t think it’s appropriate to discuss what occurred or what was said right now,” Johnson said. “I also don’t think it’s appropriate for the acting town manager to question the interim town manager.”

Without discussing the matter further, McKinney announced her intentions of delivering the results of the police department memo, possibly by “handing it over to the media,” and left the podium to a round of applause from some members of the audience.

Later in the three-and-a-half hour meeting, the council discussed McKinney’s contract, which stated that McKinney was to be given seven days notice before it was terminated. Also, councilor Ted Hintz Jr. pointed out that, per the Town Charter, the council needs to vote on the decision to terminate the contract of a

town manager.

“I took no action,” Weintraub said in defense, stating that she was relaying information from Weichsel to McKinney that he would be returning. “Creating drama was never my intention.”

As discussion went on about the particulars of the Nov. 10 meeting, councilor Barbara Moore interrupted to try to put the situation in perspective. “It’s one person’s word against another,” Moore said. “I don’t know if it makes sense to go back and forth with ‘he said, she said.’” Moore also stated that she hoped that the council would eventually “get to the end of [McKinney’s] report” and discuss the concerns at the police department.

Because Weintraub never had the authority to “fire” McKinney without a vote from the council, and because McKinney never officially resigned, McKinney was technically still employed by the town.

“She didn’t resign, you can’t fire her,” councilor George Pfaffenbach said. “So she still has a job.” Because of this, the council unanimously voted to terminate McKinney’s contract, but pay her for the two weeks that she was technically employed but was not paid. Per the contract, McKinney will be paid \$50 an hour.

With the contract terminated, Dostaler expressed his concern that there were already “trust issues” between council members, to which Hintz responded, “You need to earn our trust.”

Johnson also expressed disappointment in the series of events that occurred, but said the town was put first in the decision. “It was not done as we would have hoped,” Johnson said. “There’s obviously a different interpretation of what occurred, but I believe that our chairwoman [Weintraub] and acting town manager [McKinney] were working in the best interest of the town.”

Different interpretations were the theme of the night, as council members continually clashed over items on the agenda – and some that weren’t.

At the beginning of the meeting, Hintz pressed for several items to be included on the agenda, including a reading of the town’s Code of Conduct, a discussion of the “action taken by Chairwoman Weintraub and Council Member Kyle Dostaler” about McKinney, and a “clarification and discussion of the duties and responsibilities of an East Hampton Town Council Chairman and individual Council members.”

“Less than 24 hours after being sworn in, there was already lots of turmoil,” Hintz said. “If we want to be open and honest, I think this deserves discussion.” The council voted 4-3 – Hintz, Moore, and Pfaffenbach against – to dis-

cuss the actions on Nov. 10, but did unanimously vote to discuss the matter during the discussion of McKinney’s contract. The council also voted 4-3, in the same configuration, to not discuss the responsibilities of the council chair.

“I ask for patience and forgiveness as I learn Robert’s Rules,” Weintraub announced about the rules of order for the meetings. “I will say that all council members have equal rights. My role as chair will be facilitator, not dictator. We should attack the issues, not the individual.”

The council also disagreed about the location of the council meetings, which will now be held at the high school library. Weintraub said that this will be to accommodate large crowds, but Hintz questioned how often they will need all of the space, preferring the smaller Town Hall meeting room. The council eventually decided to try the high school for three months and visit the matter again.

Another disagreement rose with the discussion of who can call a special meeting; that power, per the Town Charter, currently lies with the chair. Hintz said he had requested a special meeting last Tuesday to discuss the Nov. 10 matters, but Weintraub decided to discuss the matters at Tuesday’s meeting instead.

“It has been procedure for decades,” Johnson said. “If there was an issue in timeliness or quality in communication, we can change. But the system hasn’t broken down. Nobody wants to deny the rights of another member.”

Once again, with the same configuration, the council voted 4-3 to only allow the chair to call a special meeting.

The dissension among the council seemingly didn’t sit well with some residents, who voiced their displeasure during public comments.

“I hope not all meetings are like tonight,” resident Ruth Tegge said, acknowledging that it was close to 10 p.m. “This felt very uncomfortable.”

Resident Rowland Rux also commented on the council’s behavior and how it has subjected the town to legal ramifications in the past. He passionately stated that money that was being used to pay for legal counsel could be used to go into town services and keeping town taxes low.

“I’m sick of seeing my money going to pay lawyers,” Rux exclaimed. “That money could be going right here,” he added, pointing to the school floor.

\* \* \*

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton High School library, 15 North Maple St.

# Hebron Special Meeting Yields Various Actions

by Geeta Schrayter

The meeting room at Town Hall was packed on Nov. 17 as Hebron residents attended a special town meeting to act upon a list of resolutions.

While there were six resolutions voted on, only two generated discussion. One of these, “to discontinue the portion of Jagger Lane as is presently unimproved commencing at the cul-de-sac and running thence westerly to its intersection at Route 85,” caused points to be raised for both its passing and rejection.

John Hooker of Slocum Road felt strongly that the resolution should be defeated.

“The concern remains with having access” to the properties on that portion of the road if it were abandoned, Hooker said.

Conversely, Sharon Mason of Jagger Lane felt the road should be abandoned for safety.

“It’s in a state of disrepair,” she said. “I think it’s a lawsuit waiting to happen.”

In the end, the motion to discontinue the road failed 22-18, with six abstentions.

The last resolution, to approve a \$364,917.22 supplemental appropriation to the modular classroom fund balance from the general fund balance, also provoked comment. (The modulars, while located at Hebron Elementary School, are not the same modulars as those that

are currently closed due to mold issues.)

David Morrison of Blackman Road was concerned with its passing because he felt he didn’t understand enough about the situation.

“Clarification should be made to us,” he said.

Board of Finance Chairman Mark Hazel commented in response, explaining the money was being moved from one account to another and was “a point of balance sheet clear-up.”

“We self-funded,” he added

Board of Finance member Malcolm Leichter explained that when the modulars were constructed from 2003-05, “the option was to bond or make a loan to ourselves and pay it back through the operating budget,” he said, adding the finance director at that time left and the transferring of funds never happened. “It’s just really a clean-up,” Leichter said.

The resolution passed 26 to 14 with 5 abstentions.

The other resolutions passed with no discussion. Three of these were accepting conveyances of various parcels located throughout town, and the fourth was authorizing the town to purchase a 20-acre parcel on Old Colchester Road from Irene Harasimowitz. The purchase price of the parcel is \$141,000 and will come from the Open Space Land Acquisition account.

## Colchester Police News

11/16: Justin Geadreau, 22, of 213 Waterhole Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to drive right, State Police said.

11/18: Samantha Jean Jascowski, 28, of 99 Eastern Dr., Middletown, was charged with using a motor vehicle without the owner’s permission, State Police said.

11/16: Ryan Danion, 20, of 7 Parker Ave., Apt. 3, was charged with third-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny and making a false statement, State Police said.

11/16: Gerard Morin III, 20, of 165 North Canterbury Rd., Canterbury, was charged with third-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny and simple trespass, State Police said.

11/16: Daniel M. Ariewitz, 59, of 335 Hamilton Ave., Norwich, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

11/5: Joshua Winiski, 29, of 28 Main St., Apt. 1, was arrested for fifth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit same, East Hampton Police said.

11/9: Jason Bell, 29, of 32 Lakewood Rd., was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident on North Main Street near Sears Park. Bell was subsequently arrested for DUI, reckless driving, failure to drive right and traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

11/11: Michael P. Knuth, 23, of 386 West High St., was arrested for possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to drive right and littering, police said.

11/14: Christopher Gotta, 39, of 1345 Portland Cobalt Rd., Portland, was arrested for issuing a bad check and fourth-degree larceny, police said.

11/19: Brian J. Sellier, 22, of 5 Park Rd., Marlborough, was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

11/20: Santiago Liberatore, 40, of 38 Anna Ave., Waterbury, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

11/20: Ryan A. Canning, 20, 9 West Dr., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

11/21 Jose Pagon, 33, of 359 Campfield Ave., Hartford, was charged with DUI and operating a motor vehicle under suspension, State Police said.

11/21: William Stanley, 26, of 517 School St., Lowell, MA, was charged with second-degree assault and breach of peace, State Police said.

11/21: James Murphy, 56, of 6 Kneeland Rd., Marlborough, was charged with DUI, failure to maintain the proper lane and drinking while driving, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

11/6: Justin Carl, 26, whose address was unknown, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

11/11: Lorel Czajka, 31, of 8 Wildwood Rd., was charged with DUI and traveling too fast, police said.

11/14: Dexter Scott, 38, of 10J Riverview Dr., East Windsor, was charged with DUI, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

11/21: Kimberly Rodrigue, 24, of 56 South Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to

*From the Editor’s Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Happy Black Friday – or perhaps, depending on how much you overindulged, Thanksgiving Hangover: Day One.

I hope you all had a sparkling day yesterday, filled with good times with family and friends. Now that all the hubbub is dying down, you may be wondering just what the heck to do with all that leftover food.

Well, for starters, don’t throw it out. According to the USDA, every year 35 percent of perfectly good turkey meat goes uneaten after being purchased by consumers. That’s incredibly wasteful. A quick Google search for “leftover turkey recipes” turns up a host of options for the meat, including turkey soup, turkey club sandwiches, turkey pot pie, turkey casserole, even turkey primavera (which is simply pasta, veggies and leftover turkey). There are an awful lot of ways to eat different turkey meals for days.

I know, I know. Eventually you’ll tire of the turkey, no matter how it’s prepared. Well, so just make a casserole and drop it off at a church potluck dinner or something of the ilk. There are always a variety of these popping up this time a year.

The bottom line is there are simply too many hungry people in the world – heck, in this state alone – to toss out perfectly good food.

\* \* \*

CL&P head Jeff Butler’s resignation last week was perhaps inevitable, but I was still rather surprised it happened so soon. His departure was announced last Thursday, barely a week after the last remaining homes affected by the recent power outage got their lights back. I guess he felt the outrage over what had happened wasn’t going to die down anytime soon – and he was probably right.

After all, even with the resignation, there are still investigations aplenty going on into what exactly CL&P did wrong during its response – first to Tropical Storm Irene in late August and then to the recent nor’easter – and to what can be done to prevent similar situations from occurring again. (I have to admit, part of me is a little worried as to what will happen to my power during the next major snowstorm – a worry I never used to have.)

While it’s tough to feel too sorry for Butler – after all, he was likely very well compensated during his time at CL&P – I do feel like he was hung out to dry a little by his bosses at Northeast Utilities, CL&P’s parent company. Where were they during this whole mess? Sure, you heard plenty from NU Chairman Charles Shivery the day Butler resigned (saying stuff like NU “reluctantly accepted Jeff’s resignation” and to praise Butler’s “exceptional” commitment and dedication), but where was he during the 11 days people were without power in this state? Where was he when utility workers needed to be bussed in from Canada to do repair work? Where was he when people died from CO poisoning due

to detectors not working, or from using grills and propane tanks in their houses to try to stay warm?

It’s not like there was another state in NU’s service area that was dealing with 831,000 power outages.

Shivery told the *Hartford Courant* that while he was “monitoring the situation,” part of Butler’s role as head of CL&P was to be the face of the company. “Jeff was simply doing his job,” Shivery said. Well, yes, under normal circumstances, it seems perfectly reasonable to expect Butler to go at it alone on the podium at press conferences. But these were not normal circumstances.

Simply put, Shivery should have been there, if only to let the state know just how seriously everybody at NU was taking the situation. Probably nobody would’ve gotten their power back faster, and Butler probably still would’ve resigned, but in the crisis CL&P was experiencing, it would’ve been nice if the utility’s parent company had bothered to say.....*something*.

\* \* \*

Speaking of the nor’easter, I was watching a little bit of *Better Connecticut* last Friday – WFSB-TV Channel 3’s daily talk show, sort of like a local version of *Live with Regis and Kelly* – and saw folks there were pretty pleased with how widespread the referring to the storm as “Storm Alfred” has become.

Many in the state – and indeed, even some of the letter writers in the *Rivereast* – have mentioned “Storm Alfred” in the past few weeks. You might have noticed that the actual news stories in the *Rivereast*, though, have not. And that’s because it was a snowstorm. Hurricanes have names; snowstorms do not.

For years, though, the meteorologists at Channel 3 have had a different mindset. Anytime a storm produces six inches or more of snow, Channel 3 names it. It’s the only station or media outlet in the state to name snowstorms. Channel 3, to its credit, has never shied away from the fact it names its snowstorms. But still, there are always people in the state who seem to think the names are official, designated by the National Weather Service or some such entity.

Well, now it seems that belief has stretched down to Washington. On last Friday’s *Better Connecticut*, co-host Scot Haney noted that on FEMA’s official website, the storm is referred to as “winter storm Alfred.” Indeed, a quick Google search shows sites from across the state – not just blogs and media outlets, but town websites, even Sen. Joe Lieberman’s webpage – referring to it as “Storm Alfred.”

While I still think it’s kind of dope to name a snowstorm – this is Connecticut, after all; snowstorms are fairly commonplace – I have to give props to the people at Channel 3. They’ve definitely had an impact.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Zigfred Ziemba

Zigfred W. "Fred" Ziemba, 89, beloved husband of Mary Ziemba, died Nov. 17 at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Born April 16, 1922, in Meriden, he was the son of the late Michael and Victoria (Kotrys) Ziemba. Fred had lived in the Portland area for most of his life, but for the last 25 years had lived in Middletown and Lack Placid, FL.

Fred had served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard during WWII, and was a member of the American Legion in Lake Placid, FL, a former member of the Elks Club in Lake Placid and a member of the Eagles Club in Middletown. He had worked as a building contractor for most of his life, having built many homes in the Portland area, including Thomas Street and Susan Circle.

Besides his loving wife Mary of Middletown and Lake Placid, FL, Fred is survived by his children, Thomas Ziemba Sr. and his wife Gayle of Colchester, Susan Lanzi and her husband Jack of East Hampton, Karen Arvanitis of San Diego, CA, Cindy Schaner and her husband David of Gainesville, FL, Shaun Twiss of Middletown and Janis Czarnowski and her husband Mrc of Columbia; a sister-in-law, Ethel Ziemba of Lake Placid, FL; grandchildren, Thomas Ziemba Jr. and Steven Ziemba, Christopher, Katherine and Kevin Czarnowski, Ryan Schaner, Erica and Stephanie Arvanitis, Matthew Lanzi and Lisa Kauffman; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his 11 brothers and sisters.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated in St. Pius X Church in Middletown Monday, Nov. 21. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family in St. Sebastian Cemetery in Middlefield. Prior to the service, friends called Monday morning in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

Special thank you to the Hospice Unit of Middlesex Hospital and to his neurologist David Silvers MD of Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Church Street Station, P.O. Box 780, New York, NY 10008-0780.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Frank B. Lawson Jr.

Frank B. Lawson Jr., 90, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Joan (Monroe) Lawson, died peacefully Friday, Nov. 18, at Cobalt Health Care. Born May 3, 1921, in East Hampton, he was the son of the late Frank B. and Fannie (Ingraham) Lawson.

Frank proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Curtiss AV4 during World War II. He was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, a past Commander of the American Legion Post 64, member of the East Hampton Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a past chairman of the Cub Scout Pack 8, where he built the first Pinewood Derby track.

Frank did volunteer work at the Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital, and for Meals on Wheels. He enjoyed gardening and Lake Pocotopaug. He had retired from Pratt & Whitney, where he had worked as a foreman.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two sons, Bruce Lawson and his wife Kathleen of East Hampton, Roger Lawson of East Hampton; a brother, Robert M. Lawson of East Hampton; step-granddaughter Kerri Wilson and her husband Paul; a great-granddaughter, Kaylee Wilson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Everett and Kenneth Lawson.

The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, Nov. 22, followed by a funeral liturgy in St. Patrick Church.

Burial will be private at the convenience of the family in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Monday, Nov. 21.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

The family would like to thank the staff at Cobalt Health Care for the loving care they gave to Frank.

## Colchester

### Loretta M. Fedus

Loretta M. Fedus, wife of the late John G. Fedus, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the Harrington Court Convalescent Home in Colchester. She was born Nov. 5, 1917, in the Rockfall section of Middlefield, the daughter of Piotr "Peter" and Agneska Florian Myjak.

She is survived by two sons, John G. Fedus Jr. of Colchester and Ronald Fedus of Briarwood, NY; and two daughters, Elizabeth Bella of Northampton, MA and Lorraine Lott of Naples, FL.

Besides her late husband and parents, she was predeceased by a daughter, Dorothy Lewis.

She is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and two sisters, Sister Mary Florentine of Enfield and Gertrude Wnek of Cromwell.

She was predeceased by three brothers and a sister.

For over 25 years, Loretta worked with her husband John, who was the town clerk and tax collector in Colchester. She was a member of St. Andrew's Parish and a lifelong member of the Ladies Guild. She was a wonderful cook and an accomplished seamstress. In her later years she had the opportunity to travel and in October 1981 she met Pope John Paul II on a visit to Rome. She will be remembered by her family and grandchildren for the wonderful meals she prepared during the holidays. She was also very generous in supporting the educational needs of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Family and friends may visit the Belmont Funeral Home today, Nov. 25, at 144 South Main St. in Colchester from 2-4 p.m. and during the evening between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at St. Andrew's Church on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 10 a.m., followed by burial at St. Johns Cemetery. A luncheon celebrating Loretta's life will follow.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Felician Sisters, 1315 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082.

## Portland

### Grace Elizabeth Kitzmiller

Grace Elizabeth (Hanson) Kitzmiller, 100, of Portland, wife of the late John Kitzmiller, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Hospice Care at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Oct. 6, 1911, to Axel and Allida Hanson in an apartment overlooking Main Street in Portland. She had an older sister, Mabel Hughes, and two younger brothers, George and Norman.

She graduated from Portland High School in 1928. She received an award from the Portland Trust Company for excellence in senior commercial subject and set a school typewriting record. Upon graduation, she was employed as a secretary by P.J. Stueck of Middletown. Later, she was a supervisor in the Connecticut State Welfare Department, now the Department of Social Services, from which she retired in 1976.

During World War II, she served as a driver for the American Red Cross. She continued as a volunteer for years following her retirement. She and friends enjoyed taking cruises, among the highlights were Cuba and the Great Lakes, where she met her future husband. She lived for a number of years by herself until moving to the Portland Care and Rehab Center where she spent her last 10 years as a staff favorite. She was also a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church in Portland.

She is survived by a son, John William Kitzmiller Jr., of Fairfax, VA; granddaughter, Katherine Grace; her brother, Norman; step-daughters, Betsy Theken of Massillon, OH, Carol Menon of Medina, OH, and Phyllis Grim of Chatham, OH; and several nieces and a nephew nearby.

Services were held Saturday, Nov. 19, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland. Burial was in Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Red Cross, 144 S. Main St. No. 4, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, has charge of arrangements. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Portland

### John J. Cooper

John "Jack" J. Cooper, 62 of Portland, husband of Carla (Hetzl) Cooper, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Middlesex Hospital after a long illness. He was the son of the late John and Evelyn (Fiske) Cooper.

Born on Dec. 14, 1948, in Middletown, he lived in Portland for most of his life. He worked as a truck driver for Valli Construction in Portland and at Elmcrest Psychiatric Institute. He was a U.S. Navy veteran from 1968-70 during the Vietnam era on the U.S.S. Mattaponi.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Eric of Portland; daughter, Christa of Portland; a brother, Dennis Cooper of Portland; a sister, Diane Mochak of South Carolina; sister-in-law, Gail Stone of Portland; brothers-in-law, Michael Hetzel of Portland and Mark Hetzel and his wife, Denise of East Haddam; a nephew, Nick and three nieces, Holley and Leah Hetzel and Neva Hooper.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Nov. 20, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. Relatives and friends called on Sunday from 3 p.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, MD 20852.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Colchester

### Mary Ann Fleishman

Mary Ann Fleishman, 77, of Colchester, beloved wife of 36 years of Herman "Hy" Fleishman, passed away Saturday morning, Nov. 19, surrounded by her loving family at Hartford Hospital. Born Dec. 4, 1933 in Hartford, she was a daughter of the late Peter and Antoinette (Onorati) Drago. She grew up in Hartford and graduated with High Honors from Hartford High with the Class of 1952.

Early on, Mary worked for Riverside Trust and also dealt in real estate in West Hartford. Her career, however, was in the restaurant business in the Hartford area for many years, owning and operating Howdy Beef Burgers in East Hartford, the Dandelion in both West Hartford and East Granby and Fleishman's Luncheonette in West Hartford.

In addition to her loving husband, she is survived by two children, Marybeth and Marc Sanville of Hebron and Peter and Mary Di Pietro of Marlborough; four stepchildren, Roberta and her husband, Michael, David, Judith and Nancy; eight step-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a son, Mark Di Pietro. At Mary's request, and in lieu of flowers, donations for Mass intentions in her memory may be made to St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## Colchester

### Annette M. Dionne

Annette M. Dionne, 85, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, at Hartford Hospital.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, with visitation one hour prior to her service. Burial will be held at a later date.

## Colchester

### Annette M. Dionne

Annette M. Dionne, 85, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, at Hartford Hospital. She was born on April 9, 1926 in Madawska, Maine, daughter of Fred and Julie Pelletier Dionne.

She loved to play Scrabble, loved cooking for her family, enjoyed the beach, and also was very fashionable when it came to clothing. She lived on Old Orchard Beach in Maine, then moved to Connecticut where she was employed for the City of Hartford Tax Collectors and later worked for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Surviving her are daughter and son-in-law Sharon and Bill Wilcox; three sisters, Dorilda Lagasse, Connie Dionne and Angie Charlton; six grandchildren, Karie, Kristy, Shelly, Jesse, Brett and Jason; 13 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; also German Shepard Ilza and golden retriever Graci.

She was predeceased by her three sons, Richard, Gilman and Carl Johnson.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 2 p.m., at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, with visitation one hour prior to her service. Burial will be held at a later date.

At the family's request, please no flowers; donation may be made to St. Andrew's Church, Norwich Avenue, Colchester, in her memory.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, is in care of arrangements.

## East Hampton

### Dolores Gloria Albrecht

Dolores Gloria (Watson) Albrecht, "Dolly," 76, of East Hampton, wife of William D. Albrecht, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 22, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, on Nov. 26, 1935, to the late John and Gladys (Hoetzi) Watson. Prior to her retirement, she worked for many years as a day care provider and was a member of the East Hampton Lions Club.

She is survived by her brother Rodney Watson of Red Lake, CA; children Russell Bisesi, Denis Davis, Donna Autry, and Karen Larson; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four step-children; seven step-grandchildren; and two step-great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held today, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m., at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, with burial to follow at St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton. Friends may call at the funeral home one hour prior to the service, from 9-10 a.m. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneral.com](http://doolittlefuneral.com).

The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is in charge of the arrangements.

