

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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School officials have had to get creative with scheduling this winter, as some districts have seen nine, and even 10, closings due to snow. Above is Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester amid its own pile of snow.

## School Calendars Collapse Under Snow

by Katy Nally

The term "snow day" usually elicits joy from most students, but with area schools tacking on six and sometimes seven extra school days in June, even kids may be getting sick of their days off.

Of the six *Rivereast* towns, Portland and RHAM kids have had the most days off this winter, at 10. The other five districts have had six or seven snow days, and in Hebron, teachers missed a professional development day due to the weather.

At this point, local boards of education and superintendents are discussing how to make up the missed days, and watching to see if the State Department of Education decides to change the Connecticut Mastery Test dates. All students take the writing prompt portion of the CMTs March 8, but schools determine when to administer the rest of the test from March 2 through 29.

The three Portland elementary schools have had eight snow days, and high school and middle school students had an extra two this week, on Monday and Tuesday, because of concerns about the stability of the building's roof.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the Board of Edu-

cation voted to eliminate the district's February vacation, which included Friday, Feb. 18, and Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 21 and 22. They also decided to reduce the school calendar from 181 days to the state-mandated minimum of 180.

After these changes, students at the town's three elementary schools will finish school on June 16, and high and middle school students will finish on June 20. If there are more snow days, the district will go into June, until the 22nd, and then they will start taking days out of April vacation.

"I don't want to mess up April if we don't have to," Portland school board member Mary Anne Rode said Tuesday, adding that having students go from February through June without a vacation would be difficult for them.

In Colchester and East Hampton, the school calendar dictates it will first make up snow days in June, and then go in to April vacation. But Colchester Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle proposed using a staff development day, March 30, as a shortened school day for students that would count as one make-up day.

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## 'I Honestly Thought It Was Over'

by Claire Michalewicz

Over a week after he was burned in a propane explosion, Portland Volunteer Fire Department Lieutenant Todd Ghent said he's "definitely getting better."

"There's no place like home," Ghent said from his house on Wednesday. Since being released from the hospital last week, he said, he's seen an outpouring of support that has helped with his recovery.

Ghent was one of two firefighters injured in the explosion at 194-196 Summer St. on Jan. 29. He sustained burns to his face, head and neck.

Firefighters responded to the scene for a propane leak, after a contractor removing snow with a backhoe hit the valve of an underground tank. A few minutes after firefighters arrived at the scene, an unknown source ignited the gas and caused the explosion that destroyed half of the duplex.

Ghent and another firefighter, Tim Goff, were monitoring propane levels alongside the house when the gas ignited. Goff had already started moving to safety, and sustained minor burns to his wrists. Ghent, though, was caught in the resulting fireball, which knocked his helmet partially off his head.

When the explosion occurred, Ghent said, "I honestly thought it was over."

At high temperatures, propane acts like liq-

uid, and Ghent said he was engulfed in the pool of fire. He tried to get up twice, but was knocked back down, he said.

"You know how people say you can see your life pass before you?" he said. "It's true. It only took about 10 seconds."

Ghent had managed to hold his breath to avoid inhalation burns, but he said he knew his face was badly burnt. He said he thought that if he failed to get up a third time, he might "breathe in and end it."

Then, he said, he thought of something that made him try again and make it to safety. Ghent said he saw his wife's, daughter's and mother's faces, and that sight enabled him to crawl into a snow bank to protect himself.

After realizing he had survived, Ghent said, his next thought was, "Oh my God, this is going to be a long road from here."

Ghent was transported to Hartford Hospital, and immediately airlifted to the Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital. He was released last Monday to continue recovering at home.

Ghent said his doctor wouldn't give him a timeframe for his recovery, because every burn patient heals differently. He said he hopes he can return to his job at the construction supplier Tilcon within a few months.

Ghent's wife Renée said her husband is spending a lot of time resting and having bandages changed twice a day. He's heading back

to Bridgeport Hospital today for a follow-up appointment, she said.

"He has had a tremendous amount of support," she said, from friends, family and other firefighters.

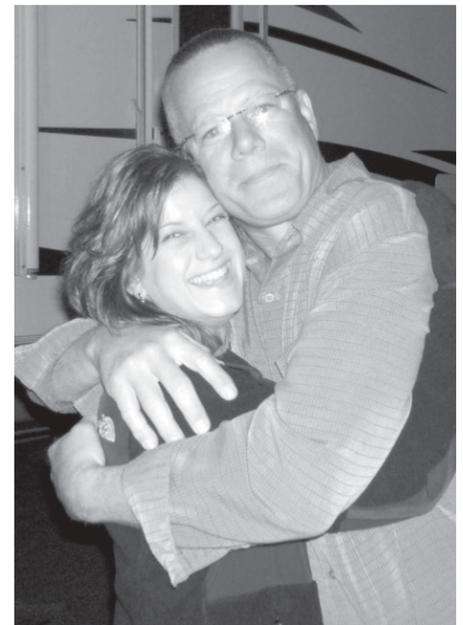
In between resting, Ghent said, he's been interviewed by state fire marshals, insurance companies and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, who are trying to piece together what caused the blast.

This week, Portland Fire Marshal Ray Sajdak said the investigation was ongoing, but he and state fire marshals were unsure if they could ever determine the exact cause of the explosion. Sajdak said the fire was likely ignited by something inside the garage, but because the building is too dangerous to enter, it's nearly impossible to know.

The blast completely destroyed one side of the duplex. The other side is heavily damaged but still standing. Sajdak said an insurance company would be visiting the site to see if the remaining unit could be salvaged. But, he said, he doubted the structure could be used for anything, because the explosion had shaken the entire building off its foundation.

William Pardo, who lived in the unit that was completely destroyed, said this week he did not want to speak about the explosion while the investigation was underway. Phone records indi-

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Portland firefighter Todd Ghent, shown here in a family photo with his wife Renée, was badly burned in a propane explosion Jan. 29. Ghent is now home from the hospital and said he is "definitely getting better."

### Snow Days cont. from Front Page

She sent out a survey to parents and teachers for input.

With Colchester's six snow days, the last school day is currently set for June 21. If there are any more snow days, Loiselle said days would be taken from April vacation, with the exception of Good Friday.

East Hampton elementary schools are in the same boat with their seven snow days, but the last day of school was pushed back from the 14th to the 20th. Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said three remaining snow days would also come from April vacation, and April 15, which was slated as a staff development day, will be a school day. East Hampton high school and middle school students will end on June 17.

In Marlborough, the days are tacked on to the end of the calendar, so now the last day of school has moved from June 15 and is tentatively set for June 23. But, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz pointed out, "It's premature to think we're only going to end up with six snow days."

Sklarz said he planned to meet with the superintendents from Andover and Hebron to make sure the calendars in all three towns aligned; otherwise, he said, "it's a financial burden for the town," because of transportation costs.

Andover and Marlborough began the school year with the same calendar, and fortunately, both elementary schools have had six snow days so far. However, Hebron students were slated to get out on June 14, but that has been pushed back to June 22.

And the RHAM middle and high schools were closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to remove snow from the buildings as a precautionary measure, bringing the snow day count to nine. As of this week, RHAM students will end the year on June 24. The RHAM Board of Education was scheduled to hold a special meeting Thursday, after press time, to discuss the 2010-11 calendar and storm-related issues.

By state law, students cannot be in school past June 30. However, State Rep. Andy Fleischmann, D-West Hartford, recently proposed breaking the 180-day rule, according to published reports.

Besides administrators scrambling to change school schedules, both students and teachers are starting to feel the full weight of so much snow.

"It's extremely disruptive for the teaching and learning process," Golden said. "It's hard to get that momentum and keep it up when you're constantly disrupted."

Sklarz agreed.

"It affects everybody, but especially elementary school children. When their schedules are thrown off, it's very difficult on them," he said.

Fortunately, administrators in the *Rivereast* towns, except Portland, have only had to deal with snow days, and not structural issues. Hebron Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said she was grateful for Town Hall employees who worked to clear the roofs at the two elementary schools.

"There's been a tremendous amount of coordinated effort to make sure the schools are safe," she said.

But with the many days off, coupled with several early dismissals and late openings, Sklarz said instructional time in the classroom has taken a big hit. And, to make matters worse, CMTs are right around the corner.

Cruz said since the only CMT date set is the March 8 writing prompt, Hebron might decide to move other testing toward the end of March, "just to buy ourselves a little more instructional time."

She was not optimistic that the state Department of Education would move the CMT date, noting officials are bound by contracts with the testing company, and schools need data over the summer, before the start of the next school year.

Now teachers are feeling the pinch to prep their students before testing begins.

"I'm sure the teachers are feeling tremendous pressure," Cruz said.

At this point, school staff members are just eager for snow-free skies.

"I'm just really hopeful that spring is coming," Cruz said.

*Reporter Claire Michalewicz contributed to this story.*

### From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

About two weeks ago, when the first roof collapses in the state started occurring, the *Journal Inquirer* had a pretty clever page one headline: "The sky is falling." And in the days that have passed, it pretty much hasn't stopped.

Oh, the snow has stopped, for now anyway, thankfully. There was a little bit of nuisance snow Tuesday morning, but for the most part, the past several days have been delightfully snow-free, with the sun even making appearances. But homes and buildings across the state still have all that snow on their rooftops to contend with – and some haven't been contending well.

Every day brings reports of several more collapses in the area. One of the more prominent collapses came Monday afternoon, when Mototown USA in Windsor – one of the first indoor motocross facilities in the country, and a pretty large building too – collapsed, while workers were on the roof removing snow. (Fortunately, the workers were able to run to the roof of a nearby building when they began hearing creaking beneath them on the Mototown roof.) The business is closed Mondays, so no one was inside and no injuries were reported.

Among the *Rivereast* towns, Portland appears to have been the hardest hit, with three more roofs coming down just this week. Precautionary measures are taking place all over the towns – in Hebron, for example, the RHAM middle and high schools were closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as workers removed snow from rooftops.

While it's been rather amazing seeing all these collapsed buildings across the state, what's even more amazing is there have been few, if any, reported injuries. Hopefully, it will stay that way.

\* \* \*

This story has been reported on elsewhere – I know at least the *Courant* and WTNH Channel 8 covered it – but it's too funny not to repeat. A Farmington man was arrested last Thursday evening after he called 911 and asked the police dispatcher how much trouble he could get in by growing pot.

Seriously.

It seems one Robert Michelson was about to do a little indoor gardening when he apparently became curious as to how criminal his activity was. Instead of phoning a friend or consulting Google, though, Michelson, 21, decided to go straight to the cops. WTNH posted the 911 call on its website. I won't repost the whole thing, but this was perhaps the best part:

*Michelson: I was just growing some marijuana and I was just wondering what, how much trouble you can get in for one plant.*

Dispatcher: You're growing marijuana and you want to know how much...it depends on how big the plant is?

Michelson: It's only a seedling.

Dispatcher: Well, it's possession. You can get pinched for a roach in the car.

Michelson: All right, thanks for the info.

Cops traced Michelson's call back to his Waterville Road home – if you're the type of person who'd call the cops to ask if what you're doing is illegal, I guess it wouldn't

\* \* \*

See you next week.

### Firefighter cont. from Front Page

cated Lauren Docchio lived in the other unit of the duplex; she could not be reached for comment.

Ghent said his recovery hasn't been easy so far, but he has many people helping him.

"It was a tough weekend," he said, explaining that the people around him seemed to notice his improvement more than he did. But he said the positive attitudes of his family and friends were a huge help to him.

"I just gotta feed off that," he said. The support from his family, friends and even strangers, he said, had been "unbelievable."

"I'd like to say thank you to everyone for everything," Ghent said.

## Man Falls Through Skylight

A man fell through a plastic skylight while clearing snow off a roof last Tuesday, Feb. 1, Colchester Police said.

Luis Sarango, 24, of New Haven, was on the roof of a "large metal building" on a residence on Fedus Road when he fell through.

He was transported to Backus Hospital to be "evaluated for his injuries," police said.

## Hebron Police News

1/25: William Wilder, 41, of 466 Hope Valley Rd., was charged with risk of injury to a minor, disorderly conduct, interfering with emergency calls and third-degree assault, State Police said.

2/5: Jordan Russell, 21, of 56 Norwich Ave., Colchester, was arrested after starting a fire in a microwave at the Route 66 Xtra Mart and leaving the scene, State Police said. He was charged with breach of peace, criminal mischief and reckless burning.

2/5: Janice Maloney, 60, of 177 East St., was charged with possession of a controlled substance and sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

## Colchester Police News

1/25: Sean Anderson, 23, of 10 West Rd., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

1/31: Sharon Huffman, 48, of 300 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 13, was charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault, Colchester Police said.

2/1: Toby Biederstadt, 45, of 124 James St., was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and risk of injury to a minor, Colchester Police said.

2/4: Suzanne Thorpe, 35, of 23 Carrier Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to drive at a reasonable distance and making an improper turn, State Police said.

2/4: A 16-year-old male was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

2/7: Thomas Michael Soboleski, 20, of 19 Miller Rd., Apt. R, was charged with interfering with police, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, Colchester Police said.

## Andover Police News

1/26: Billy McNamara, 36, of 43 Times Farm Rd., was charged with third-degree larceny of a motor vehicle, State Police said. On Feb. 1 he was also charged with criminal violation of a protective order and breach of peace, State Police said.

2/3: A residential burglary on Boston Hill Road was reported at 7:31 p.m., State Police said. The case remains under investigation.

# Snow Concerns Close RHAM Schools, Senior Center

by Courtney Parent

Concerns about snow on the rooftop led to the RHAM middle and high schools being closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and also the Russell Mercier Senior Center shutting its doors on Monday.

According to RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, the closings were precautionary measures, and the building had not been compromised by the weight of the snow.

After being closed Monday and Tuesday, an additional Wednesday shuttering became necessary as well, after snowfall on Tuesday delayed snow removal efforts that day. Siminski said Tuesday he was unsure of when the school would be back in session, as the workers had to deploy part of the snow removal crew from the rooftop to prevent the anticipated slick and dangerous walkways caused by the temperature drop.

"Unfortunately with hard freeze coming, we've had to remove shovels from the roof and make sure all the walkways will be clear," Siminski said Tuesday.

After the progress of the work was evaluated Tuesday evening, a decision was made that both the high and middle schools would remain closed on Wednesday.

Both schools are up to 10 snow days, as of Wednesday. According to Siminski, the last day of school is currently set for Friday, June 24. The Board of Education was scheduled to hold a special meeting Thursday, Feb. 10, to discuss the 2010-11 school calendar and storm-related issues. The school board planned to examine their options to either extend the calendar further into June or take days away from April school recess.

Meanwhile, concerns about snow on the roof also led to the Russell Mercier Senior Center being closed. Senior Center Program Coordinator Beth Morrisette said Monday there were cracks found in the columns that support an awning over the entrance to the building and that the concrete had shifted.

Fire Marshal Randy Blais and building inspector Joseph Summers conducted the inspection, finding cracks that had developed at the front of the building. After inspection, Blais and Summers made the decision to shut the building down.

"After checking it, the building official and I thought it was safer to not have it open until an engineer could check it," Blais said.

On Monday afternoon, Summers met an engineer at the senior center to investigate the problem. Summers said the engineer did not find it to be a structural issue with the building itself and deemed it safe. However, the engineer suspected that with all the moisture there might be an issue with the soil moving and pushing the concrete slab up.

According to Blais, snow was removed from the roof of the entry and the Senior Center opened back up on Tuesday. However, individuals are currently being asked to use side entrances, as the front entrance doors are unable to open at this time. They are also reducing the amount of people permitted inside at one time as a safety precaution.

"One door partially opens and then hits the cement. Right now we're unsure if it's a frost heave, snow build-up, a combination or something else," Blais said.

The senior center will remain open at this time. Summers said the next step is to do ex-



**RHAM High School and Middle School fought multiple closures for snow removal this week. The mountain of snow pictured above is just part of what was removed from the roofs.**

ploratory work, which would involve digging up the front entrance to fix the concrete and prevent future problems. However, no work can be completed without prior approval from the insurance company.

"Until we get approval from the insurance company, we can't do any exploratory work to tear up the concrete and find out what is going on underneath," Summers said.



**Show above are the remains of a West Street house that was gated off after the roof collapsed under the pressure of the snow last week.**

## Heavy Snow in Hebron Leads to West Street Roof Collapse

by Courtney Parent

The weight of the snow on the roof of one Hebron home proved to be too heavy as it collapsed last Wednesday, Feb. 2.

The house, located at 471 West St., was a ranch-style dwelling with a lower pitch roof. Fire Chief Fred Speno said the snow built up, overloading the roof, which then failed. According to Speno, the station received multiple calls that day from people who were concerned and wanted their roofs checked.

The West Street house call came in at 12:59 p.m. on Wednesday, Fire Marshal Randy Blais said. Upon arrival, they found the house and garage to have been destroyed by the weight of the snow.

"When we arrived the house had collapsed along with the garage," Blais said. "Everyone was out of the house."

There was approximately two and a half feet of snow built-up prior to the collapse. Accord-

ing to a press release from Blais and Building Official Joe Summers, one cubic foot of snow can weigh anywhere from seven to 30 pounds, depending upon whether it is new, dry snow or old, wet snow.

According to Blais, two people were on the roof, cleaning snow off when it started to give way, but both were able to get off before the collapse. No one was injured.

The house was home to a family of three, Blais said, with Diane Turgeon being listed as the owner. The property is currently fenced off and the family is staying with relatives.

Blais and Summers are advising everyone to exit their homes if they hear any cracking or popping noises or if they see any cracks forming. After exiting, they ask that you call the fire department or building official. If you are unable to reach someone, call 911.

## Marlborough Zoning Hearing Held on Pool Plans

by Katy Nally

Representatives from a pool company that might be coming to Marlborough presented plans to the Zoning Commission last Thursday, Feb. 3, and fielded questions from officials and residents.

As part of the public hearing, Zoning Commission members had several questions for applicant Jim McGill from Cherry Hill Pools regarding buffer zones, the outdoor display area and storing chemicals on the site.

Also, some discrepancies between plans submitted for Cherry Hill Pools were noticed, so the Zoning Commission asked the applicant to have one consistent proposal for the next meeting.

The company, which currently has two locations based in Massachusetts, submitted an application to construct an outdoor display area and another building in the empty lot near the exit ramp of exit 12 off Route 2. The parcel is located at the corner of Portland Road and North Main Street and situated across the street from the Citgo gas station.

According to its website, Cherry Hill Pools sells, installs and services pools in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Based on the minutes from last Thursday's meeting, one resident asked about the buffer between his property and the would-be neighboring Cherry Hill Pools.

Zoning Commission Chair Scott Miller explained typically a "vegetation buffer" is established between a home and a building, and fortunately, the resident and the applicant were able to "engage in a direct discussion" to generate ideas for the buffer.

"Hopefully whatever they agreed to, will show up on the [revised] plans we see," Miller said.

The applicant submitted multiple versions of plans, which Miller suspected was due to

a "lack of coordination" between different engineers. The differences in plans were fairly minor, Miller said.

Town Planner Peter Hughes also mentioned "screening" regarding the proposal, but because of a different neighbor – Route 2.

"That's the first thing you see when you come off the exit ramp, so we have to make sure it's not horrific," Hughes said.

At last Thursday's meeting, the applicant proposed to include about 25 pools in the outdoor display area, which, Hughes said, might be too many. He estimated the area could probably only exhibit about 15 pools.

"We just need to work out the details in the numbers," he said, adding he would have "a better grasp of what's going to fit there" next week when the applicant hands in more plans.

Lastly, there was some discussion on what Cherry Hill Pools planned to do as a business, be it selling, installing or servicing pools.

If the Marlborough site planned to offer pool servicing, it would need to house chemicals like chlorine and "shocker," a chemical used to kill bacteria in pools. Hughes said the applicant wasn't sure if he planned to store chemicals, but Hughes asked him to compose a list of chemicals that might be stored in the future, to be prepared.

There was also a question as to what licenses Cherry Hill Pools would need to install versus service pools in Connecticut. According to the minutes, the applicant said he would get the necessary licenses.

The commission voted to continue the public hearing, which will be held Thursday, March 3. Miller said "it's reasonably likely" the hearing will close at that meeting, which will give the Zoning Commission the opportunity to begin deliberations.

# Marlborough, Andover Resident Troopers Moving On

by Katy Nally

It was a “golden opportunity” two esteemed resident state troopers couldn’t pass up – but the career move will mean they’ll say goodbye to Marlborough and Andover today.

Marlborough Resident State Trooper Mark Packer and Andover Resident State Trooper Kevin Reed are leaving their posts in town to join a five-member mass transit security team.

“It’s a bittersweet moment for both of us,” Packer said Monday.

After just less than seven years in Marlborough, Packer said he would miss being part of the community.

The best part about his time in town was working with, and getting to know residents, he said, emphasizing, “You get to help people.”

For Reed, he’ll leave a position he’s held for the past 12 years, which was the longest duration of the past five Andover resident state troopers.

“This was the best position I’ve had so far,” Reed said. Before coming to Andover, Reed spent 10 years working out of the Troop K barracks, which is based in Colchester.

Like Packer, Reed said the transition would be difficult and the hardest part would be saying goodbye to the close-knit community.

“They treat us like family,” he said. “It’s been absolutely phenomenal.”

“Of course we hate to lose a trooper with his experience and his long standing in town,” Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank said about Reed. “We wish him the best in his new endeavor. . . . It sounds pretty exciting.”

On Monday, Packer and Reed will begin an eight-week training program with explosive canine detection dogs, in preparation for join-

ing the mass transit security team. Packer will be paired with Regis, a Golden Lab, and Reed with Sarge, a Yellow Lab – both donated by the Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

The training session would be the chance for Packer and Reed, as well as their Labrador counterparts, to “learn basically to work with each other,” supervisor for the security team, Sgt. Stephen Ostroski, said. Specifically, the team members and their dogs would establish cues and signs used for detecting explosives.

After training, Ostroski said, troopers would be deployed on a full-time basis to mass transit areas like the railways in New Haven, busses and ferries, to “enhance the visibility of a State Police presence down there.” Team members would be stationed on transportation like trains and busses, as well as on platforms in stations and also be responsible for screening vehicles that utilize ferries.

“They’re going to have their hands full,” Ostroski said.

Ostroski said airports aren’t the only mass transit facilities that should have a strong police presence.

“It’s just a matter of good policing in general to cover other types of mass transit available to the public,” he said. “There’s other forms of mass transit that needed this type of unit to be put in place.”

In the past the State Police has attempted to pull together a similar team, on a part-time scale, Ostroski said, but it didn’t come together.

The five-member team would not be attached to a specific barracks, but it would be a component of the State Police Emergency Services Unit.

Both Packer and Reed said they were excited



Today is the last day for resident state troopers Mark Packer, left, and Kevin Reed who have worked in Marlborough and Andover respectively for a combined total of 19 years. The two will join a five-member mass transit security team.

to begin training Monday. Packer called the mass transit team “a unique opportunity” and Reed agreed, adding, “This unit sounded very interesting.”

“It’s time to do something new,” Reed said.

Troop K is still in the process of finding full-time replacements for Packer and Reed; however interim troopers will provide coverage for the towns until then, which will be about four to six weeks.

## With More Snow Comes More Collapses in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

Several more structures collapsed in Portland over the weekend, which Building Official Lincoln White attributed to the accumulated weight of snow and ice from the storms that have buried the area in recent weeks.

White said all the collapses happened on Saturday and into Sunday morning, after Saturday’s storm.

The first occurred at M. Ferrara and Sons, a tool supplier at 304 Airline Ave. The roof of the building completely collapsed under the weight of the snow, causing the metal walls to buckle outward. The Ferrara building is located directly next door to Midstate Recovery Systems, which collapsed in a snowstorm two weeks ago. Ferrara employees declined to comment on the collapse.

Another collapse happened at the True Vine Church at 398 Main St. White said the roof of the building collapsed into the attic under the weight of the snow. The roof used to be almost flat with a slight peak in the center, White said, but was now “funnel-shaped,” with the roof pushing down into the attic.

White said the church, which had been built as a house in the mid-19th century, would probably sustain further damage from water dripping into the building from the collapsed roof. Representatives from the church could not be reached this week.

Later, White said, a canopy over a fueling bay partially collapsed at Safety Kleen Systems at 56 Brownstone Ave. White said the canopy was rusty, and the snow caused part of it to fall off. He said workers had removed the part of the roof that was hanging, and it should be safe as long as the snow is cleared off it.

“Flat roofs – not good in New England,” White said.

In addition, several private barns throughout town had collapsed over the weekend, on Bartlett Street, West Cotton Hill Road, and Penfield Hill Road, White said. A garage at a house on Route 66 also collapsed, he said.

White said the weight of the snow and ice on the roof caused all the collapses, though some of the buildings had already been in poor condition.

“Each individual structure will have its own issues of age or use that might compromise it,” White said. Snow, he said, is heavy, weighing up to 50 lbs. per cubic foot.

This weekend’s collapses were the latest of several in Portland in recent weeks. Four collapses were reported after the heavy snowfall of Jan. 27 – Midstate Recovery, a vacant former hardware store on Route 66, a porch at a house on Tryon Street, and the showroom at Middlesex Marine. In addition, White said, a barn on Coe Avenue collapsed last month.



The roof and walls of M. Ferrara and Sons, a tool supplier on Airline Avenue, collapsed over the weekend, along with several other buildings in town, after Saturday’s storm.

## Buildings Closed and Roofs Cleared in Colchester

by Katy Nally

With snow piling up on roofs, officials closed several town buildings over the weekend, as a precautionary measure.

Also, St. Andrew Parish was inspected Sunday, but a crack found in the ceiling was determined to be only cosmetic.

All four schools were closed to the public Saturday, Feb. 5, as was Cragin Memorial Library. The schools reopened for students on Monday, but the library remained closed until Wednesday.

Officials said they were concerned about Saturday’s predicted storm potentially adding more weight to roofs, even though the snow and ice loads were still “in range.”

Library Director Kate Byroade said a crew

of about nine people worked from Saturday until Tuesday, clearing snow off Cragin’s roof.

“It’s been a huge, huge process,” she said.

Once fire department trucks equipped with ladders hoisted snow blowers onto the roof, Byroade said crews worked to remove nearly two feet of snow and ice. But the task got a little tricky while removing snow in the center of the structure. Byroade explained the snow in the middle had to be moved twice, as it didn’t clear the roof in the first pass, and then it was shoveled from the sidewalks where it landed.

“I’m so glad they were able to get the work done,” she said.

Now the library’s roof is “almost entirely” cleared, except for a few spots that still have

about an inch of snow.

“Presuming we don’t have another six weeks like the past six weeks we’ve had, we should be good for the rest of the season,” Byroade said. “We’re just glad to be open.”

“I really appreciate the residents’ patience while we make all our public buildings safe for the public,” First Selectman Gregg Schuster said. “Our crews have been working tirelessly over the last three weeks making sure roads are passable, roofs are clear, and buildings are safe. Now we can add the library to that list.”

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Over at St. Andrew’s, Father Michael Giannitelli said a crack in the ceiling was no-

ticed after Mass on Saturday evening around 5 p.m., and officials were called in to take a look.

According to Giannitelli, Building Official Tim York said he could make a better determination about the crack in the daylight, so on Sunday officials came back out to examine the Norwich Avenue church.

Colchester Hayward volunteer firefighters directed traffic as the building was inspected Sunday morning, Giannitelli said, and it was determined “there’s been no damage whatsoever to any of the buildings.”

There was never an evacuation, he noted.

“Everything’s safe and sound,” Giannitelli said.

# Christ Lutheran in Hebron Turns 25

by Courtney Parent

For Christ Lutheran Church, 2011 is a very important year – as the parish is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

The church will hold five celebrations over the course of the year. The first of these took place Jan. 16, with the theme being “In the Beginning.” As one could interpret from the theme, the celebration highlighted the initial formation of the church 25 years earlier.

The celebration was shared with Christ Lutheran’s “mother” congregation, Redeemer Lutheran in Lebanon.

“It was their pastor at the time, Reverend Timothy Knapp, and members who had the vision to plant a Lutheran church in the Hebron-Colchester area,” said Christ Lutheran’s pastor, Rev. Jonathon Liebich.

The church invited Redeemer Lutheran and its current pastor, Rev. Scott Schuett, to join in worship that Sunday. After the service, everyone was invited to a reception at Redeemers’ fellowship hall.

Christ Lutheran’s Director Polly Simon said there was a great turnout at the Jan. 16 celebration, with at least 40-50 more people in attendance than at the usual Sunday service. She noted the presence of several individuals who had been with the church in its earlier years and returned for the anniversary celebration.

“There were some people I knew in the community that I didn’t realize had that connection with the church early on,” Simon said. “It was great to see so many people who were here over the 25 years that came back just for that. It said a lot.”

Simon has been a member of the church for 15 years and has served as director for the past five years. She credits the appeal and success of the church to a welcoming atmosphere.

“I think it’s just the overall family Christian atmosphere,” Simon said. “When I first came I came from another Lutheran church. It was comfortable and it felt like I should be here.”

The church plans to host another four celebrations over the course of the year. The next two have been dated and themed, while the latter two are still to be determined.

The next celebration is set for Sunday, March 6, at 9 a.m. with the theme being “At Hebron EL.” This represents the first eight years of Christ Lutheran’s existence, when services were held in the Hebron Elementary School gymnasium. The church will present a slideshow of photos from those years when church services were held there. The church is planning to hold the service at the school gym. According to Liebich, all the necessary paperwork has been filed and they are awaiting approval from Hebron Elementary. Hebron Elementary School Principal Kevin Hanlon was unavailable for comment.

The third celebration will be held at Christ Lutheran Sunday, May 15, at 9 a.m., with a reception to follow. The theme will be “330 Church Street,” the address of Christ Lutheran. The celebration will “spotlight the building of the church sanctuary, which was done almost entirely by the church membership in 1994,” said Liebich.

Rev. Ralph Sackschewsky, who was pastor at Christ Lutheran for 20 of its 25 years, will



Five celebrations have been planned for 2011 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Christ Lutheran on Church Street. The next one, “At Hebron EL,” is scheduled for March 6 at 9 a.m.

come from Texas for the event

While the last two celebrations are yet to be determined, Liebich said the first will likely be held in August with the second being held in

the fall. The focus of these will be the creation of Christ Lutheran Early Childhood Center (CLECC) and looking forward into the next 25 years of servitude to the Lord.

# Fingers Crossed for Portland Miss USA Contender

by Claire Michalewicz

Regina Turner has a busy few months ahead of her. She’s hosting events around the state and volunteering to provide dental care in Haiti – all while preparing to represent Connecticut in the Miss USA pageant.

Turner, who grew up in Portland, was crowned Miss Connecticut USA in December. She said she entered the pageant because it would open up volunteer opportunities, and enable her to be a role model for younger girls.

“It’s a great opportunity for millions of things,” Turner said. “It’s definitely a life-changing experience.”

For Turner, entering a beauty pageant wasn’t a longtime dream. Miss Connecticut USA was her first pageant, and she decided to enter about four months earlier, when she spoke to a former contestant who encouraged her to sign up. Turner said she trained with her for two weeks, and afterward, assembled her team of managers and stylists, and prepared for December’s pageant, which included swimsuit, gala and interview segments.

Even though she was new to the pageant world, Turner said being crowned Miss Connecticut USA wasn’t a surprise to her. She said she expected to win, because once she dedicates herself to something, she expects to succeed.

“As I got into it, I got very, very into it,” Turner said.

The 21-year-old considers Old Saybrook her hometown, but attended Portland Schools for most of her academic career. She graduated from Portland High School in 2008, and studied dental hygiene at Tunxis Community College in Farmington. She said she plans to transfer to the University of Connecticut in the fall, to start preparing for dental school.

Turner said she wants to be a dentist because she likes to help people. She began working as a dental assistant as a part-time job in high school.

“I got really into it,” Turner said. While patients tend to be upset when they come into the office “because there’s something wrong with

their smile,” she said, they’re happy when they leave.

Turner also works part-time as a model in New York, and said one of her reasons for entering the pageant was that it could help with her modeling career. Turner has been modeling seriously for about a year, mostly doing print work along with some commercials and television shows. Recently, she said, she appeared in an episode of *Gossip Girl*.

But what’s more important than modeling, she said, is that winning the pageant has opened up doors to volunteer opportunities she wouldn’t normally have.

In May, before the Miss USA Pageant airs this summer, she said, she’s traveling to Haiti for two weeks to help provide dental care to victims of last year’s earthquake, and to help out wherever else she might be needed. Turner said she wants to do more volunteer work in the future that involve traveling and helping people in need.

In addition to her trip to Haiti, Turner said, her duties as Miss Connecticut USA include making appearances at a variety of public events. Among them are the Cupid’s Chase 5K race in Hartford next Saturday, Feb. 12, and Oscar Night Hartford on Feb. 27.

One of the best parts of being a beauty queen, Turner said, is that she can set a positive example for younger girls and inspire them to help others.

“I’m just like a role model now,” she said. “Little girls look up to me now.” Immediately after the pageant, she said, groups of girls came up to her and asked to have their photo taken with her.

Turner said she’s looking forward to the Miss USA pageant, though she expects it to be more difficult than Miss Connecticut USA. She said she’s already assembled her team and started training to get in shape and perfect her interview skills.

The pageant consists of the same three portions as the Miss Connecticut USA pageant, but Turner said it will be much more competitive. And if she makes the top five, she said,



Former Portland resident Regina Turner will spend the next few months preparing for the Miss USA pageant, having won the Connecticut competition in December. She’s pictured above receiving the crown from last year’s winner Ashley Bickford.

she’ll have to answer more interview questions – this time in front of a live audience of millions. NBC hasn’t announced the final pageant date yet, but Turner said it has tentatively been scheduled for June 19.

Turner said she’s excited about the pageant, but wouldn’t say if she expects to win.

“It’s going to be 10 times more work,” she said.

# Cracks in Walls Lead to Closing of Portland Schools

by Claire Michalewicz

Students at the Portland high and middle schools had two more unexpected days off, after cracks were discovered in the building last Friday, Feb. 4.

Schools were dismissed early Friday on the advice of Building Official Lincoln White, and remained closed Monday and Tuesday while crews cleaned the roof and engineers inspected the building.

The damage to the building included cracks in sheetrock, flooring and masonry, but two engineers said the cracks were only superficial, and had been caused by the weight of the snow pushing down on the roof. As a precaution, school was closed while the roofs could be cleared, Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen explained.

Doyen said at a special Board of Education meeting Tuesday that the weight of snow on the roof was "tremendous." In most places, the snow was about two feet deep, though the wind had pushed some of the snow into five- or six-foot piles, she said.

"Up to about two feet is safe," Doyen said. "It's fine. But beyond that we need to be con-

cerned."

Doyen said an engineer from Kaestle-Boos engineering visited the site on Monday, and said he didn't think there was any structural damage to the building. But the engineer recommended removing snow that was blocking drains on the roofs, to avoid further damage or leaks, Doyen wrote in a letter to parents on Monday.

On Monday and Tuesday, all three elementary schools remained open, she said, and buses still ran for those students, as well as those that attend Middletown High School or Vinal Technical High School.

In his report about the damage, engineer Charles Brown, from the Old Saybrook engineering firm GNCB, said the cracks did not pose a safety hazard.

In the cafeterias of both the high school and middle school, he said, horizontal cracks had appeared in the sheetrock walls, caused by the weight of the snow pushing the roof downward.

"These cracks are cosmetic and some of the distortion will relieve itself as the snow melts and the roof rebounds back to its original elevation," Brown said.

The middle school kitchen floor had cracked in several places, Brown said, but these were likely caused by low humidity. Some of the cracks had already existed, he said, while others had grown larger.

In addition, Brown said vertical cracks in the masonry walls near door jambs and corners were also caused by low humidity, and could be repaired by installing joints in the concrete blocks and caulking the cracks.

"The above conditions do not affect the building's structure and can be addressed when convenient for the school maintenance staff," he said.

On Tuesday, Doyen said, Brown also reviewed the plans for the town's three other schools with Director of Buildings and Grounds Paul Bengston. She said Brown inspected the three schools and advised that the roofs did not need to be cleared any more.

Brown also visited Brownstone School last Thursday after creaking noises were heard in the ceiling of the gymnasium. He said the noises could have come from the shifting of wooden decking or steel joists under the load of snow, and in the cold conditions. Crews removed snow

from the gymnasium roof on Thursday.

At Tuesday's meeting, Doyen thanked Bengston and Maintenance Director Carl Johnson for their help in making sure the schools were safe.

"I know this process has been stressful for everyone and thank you for all your patience," Doyen wrote in a letter to parents on Tuesday. "We are moving ahead, have averted any crises in the schools, and certainly know more about the structural soundness of our school facilities."

Monday and Tuesday's school closings brought the total number of snow days for high school and middle school students to 10, while the lower grades have missed eight days. The Board of Education voted Tuesday to reduce the length of the school year by one day, and to eliminate the upcoming three-day February vacation. Additional snow days will be added onto June as needed, before they are taken from April vacation. High and middle school students are currently scheduled to finish their year on June 20, while students at the town's three elementary schools will be finished on the 16th.

# Marlborough Residents Evacuated After Propane Leak

by Katy Nally

Residents of a condominium complex were evacuated Sunday morning, Feb. 6, and instructed to walk to a shelter, after a truck punctured a propane tank near the homes and a cloud of gas leaked out.

A front-end loader truck was clearing snow off the partially-submerged 1,000-gallon tank when it sheered a valve off the top.

At 8:40 a.m., Marlborough fire officials were dispatched to the scene at Sachem Village and noticed a "pretty good cloud" of propane seeping from the tank and rolling toward North Main Street, Deputy Fire Chief Bob Danek said.

Marlborough soon requested mutual aid from East Hampton, Colchester and Glastonbury, in the event of a fire, and State Police arrived as well. Officials worked to notify the approximately 35 residents in the complex about the gas leak and instructed them to walk, and leave their cars behind, to the firehouse on West Road.

"If the cloud finds a spark, it could ignite," Danek explained.

Along with avoiding the use of cars, crews asked Connecticut Light & Power to cut electricity to the complex.

"Once we cut power, we were pretty sure it was safe," Danek said.

He estimated about 250-400 gallons of propane had seeped out of the tank, and officials worked for about an hour and a half to two hours to contain the leak.

Besides being flammable, there was also the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning during Sunday's event. When incomplete combustion occurs with propane, it produces water and CO, among other gasses.

"Luckily and unluckily," Danek said, there was only a "very calm wind" Sunday morning, so the propane fog didn't dissipate quickly, but it also didn't spread very far.

Because propane is heavier than air, the cloud began heading toward North Main Street, but, Danek said, crews were already downhill metering the area.

Once the cloud had dissipated, officials checked and metered residents' basements for propane.

The contractor that had been plowing also came and fixed the broken valve.

The scene was cleared after about three hours, Danek said, and North Main Street in between Hodge and Park roads was reopened.



Residents of Sachem Village condominiums were evacuated Sunday morning for a gas leak. Above, Deputy Fire Chief Bob Danek ushers people onto the senior center van to take them to a shelter. Photo by Kathy Hood.

# Marlborough School Board Members Consider Options for Budget

by Katy Nally

Board of Education members received three versions of the 2011-12 school budget – one with a 3.89 percent increase – at last Thursday's meeting.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz and a budget subcommittee worked to create the three options, which include a budget with a 1.29 percent increase, and one that's almost a zero percent increase, at 0.31 percent.

Sklarz explained the proposed budget with the largest increase, at 3.89 percent, is "close to a carryover budget," but it includes essential items that were either cut or frozen in the current year's package. For example, a one-year moratorium was placed on purchasing new books last year, and the Board of Education opted to leave the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Sklarz said the first budget scenario "is what it should, and does, cost to fund education."

While the 3.89 percent option doesn't make as deep cuts to staff as the other two budgets, it still proposes to eliminate 1.4 FTE of faculty – a school psychologist and a special education paraprofessional. Both positions were funded by federal stimulus money.

The second budget option, at a 1.29 percent increase, includes eliminating these same two positions, but also, a non-special education

paraprofessional, a Spanish teacher and 0.5 FTE of a custodian.

The cut to Spanish would eliminate the program, Sklarz said.

"At some point, I think you have to say, 'What can we no longer afford?'" he told the board. "I just think it needs to be put on this list and it can be revisited when the economy is better."

In proposing the cut to Spanish, Sklarz noted that only 50 percent of students elect to study Spanish at the middle school.

With unemployment payout, the actual savings of eliminating a Spanish teacher would be about \$45,600, Sklarz said.

The 0.4 FTE cut from a school psychologist comes with a savings of about \$21,300, but it would require a "reallocation" of responsibilities and staff would only provide mandated services to special needs children, according to Sklarz.

Cutting 1 FTE of a paraprofessional yields about \$11,100 in savings. Currently about half the paras work on a one-on-one basis with students as part of the mandated Individualized Education Program, but the cut would not affect these positions. Instead, the proposed cut would "reduce support to teachers and students," according to Sklarz.

"We need to be more flexible and we need to

think more creatively," he added.

The last budget option, which shows only a 0.31 percent increase, comes with even more cuts to staff. In addition to the previous cuts, it proposes eliminating 0.5 FTE of a reading specialist, 0.5 FTE of a special education teacher and, instead of 0.5 FTE, it cuts 1 full FTE of a custodian.

Eliminating 0.5 FTE of a special education teacher would yield about \$22,800 in savings. If that cut goes through, it would require changes to individualized programs for certain students, Sklarz said.

Cutting 0.5 FTE of a reading specialist saves approximately \$22,800, but that cut could impact the mandated Scientific Research-Based Intervention for students. Sklarz noted Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School has always had "a strong commitment to reading," and, because of these efforts, "we're seeing the fruits of that now."

Lastly, cutting 1 FTE of a custodian saves \$25,400.

The three budget options are all contingent on Marlborough receiving its share of the state's Education Cost Sharing, which is about \$3.12 million. However, Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski pointed out, this money is partly shared with RHAM middle and

high schools.

Sklarz said he hoped Governor Dannel Malloy would keep his campaign-trail promise about a commitment to education.

"I hope he can make it happen," Sklarz said. "We know [ECS funding] is not going to go up, but we don't know if it'll go down – in which case, all bets are off."

Regarding the proposed staff eliminations, Sklarz told the board, "Everything has to be put on the table, at least for discussion."

"Just seeing this is painful and depressing," board member Mimi LaPoint said. But, she added, the board should keep in mind investing in education.

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance," LaPoint said. "I think we all need to think about that."

Now that the board received a proposed 2011-12 budget, Sklarz said over the next two weeks board members would have time to go over it and digest the figures.

On Thursday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m., there will be a public hearing for residents regarding the budget. At 7 p.m., the budget subcommittee will recommend one of the proposed spending plans in the hope that the Board of Education will adopt it.

# New Policy Deals with School Bus Behavior in East Hampton

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Education is taking steps to address student behavior on school busses, reviewing a newly-adopted policy at their meeting on Monday.

The policy committee has already adopted the new regulations to replace the school's previous one, which had not been updated since the 1980s.

The new regulation includes a system of three warnings. After the first warning, the principal will speak to the student and notify the child's parents. The student and the parents will meet with the principal after the second warning, and the student could be denied transportation for a period of time after the third offense. The warning system can be waived if a student's behavior is severe enough.

"We expect children to behave in school and on the bus," Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said. "When they don't behave, there needs to be a process in which there's progressive discipline to deal with those problems."

Though the new policy is in place, the older version still appears in the handbooks that students received at the beginning of the year. Golden said the next step would be to put the new policy in the handbooks.

Golden said she met with all East Hampton's bus drivers last week to address their concerns about disciplinary policies and communication between the drivers and her office.

But bus driver Lori Weech, who had raised the subject of student discipline on buses at a January board meeting, said the meeting hadn't been enough for the drivers, saying Golden didn't answer all their questions.

"We could get some communication going and solve an issue that's been going on for a long time," Weech said.

Golden said she'll meet with Nichols dispatcher Tammy Sherp each week to review any problems the drivers have, and said she'll schedule another meeting with all the drivers in early April. Since the Nichols drivers aren't Board of Education employees, she explained, Sherp is responsible for communicating between the drivers and her office.

In a budget workshop held before the meeting, Golden announced that the 2011-12 school budget proposal is now lower than expected, with an increase of about 3.4 percent rather than 3.80 percent. This was because Anthem, the town's insurance provider, had determined that costs would increase by 9.5 percent. Golden had budgeted for an 11.49 percent increase as she waited for final numbers from Anthem.

"We are diligently negotiating," she said, adding that she hoped the district would be able to further decrease the costs. Golden said employees pay about 16 percent of their health insurance costs, and the school system has to

cover the rest of it.

Director of Business Services Karen Asetta said she had looked at other insurance providers, but most were wary to insure school districts because they have so many types of contracts.

The board is scheduled to continue reviewing their budget at another workshop on Feb. 28, after which they will vote to send a final budget to the Board of Finance.

The school board also addressed the snow days the schools have been accumulating during recent storms. Barring any more snow days, high and middle school students will finish on June 17 and elementary students on June 20.

Memorial and Center elementary schools were both closed last Friday, so inspectors could check the roofs. Golden said she called the architects and engineers to study the middle school gymnasium, which was closed off because of roof concerns.

She said closing the schools was a precautionary measure, because "you do not want to have a roof cave in somewhere and regret it."

Golden said Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb had assembled a team of people to help shovel snow from the roofs. She said the crews cleared off Center's roof first, because the building is so old that the school doesn't have architectural renderings that illustrate how strong the roof

is. They continued clearing the roofs and those of the town's other three schools over the weekend and into Monday and Tuesday. All four schools were open this week.

In addition, Golden said, the high school roof was leaking in several places in the wing of the building built in the 1960s. Funnels had been set up to catch drips, and maintenance crews would repair the leaks when the weather permitted, she said.

Golden said expenses for snow removal had been in the thousands, but she didn't want to estimate the cost until she received bills from the various contractors, engineers and architects who had done work at the school.

The board also reviewed several other proposed policies Monday, including a new state-mandated policy that allows victims of family violence to take leave from work. A second policy addresses changes in the state laws concerning air quality in schools, and a third covers the use of green cleaning products in the schools. Golden said the schools already use environmentally-friendly products, but will update the policy to conform with CABE's suggested standards.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., in the East Hampton High School library, 15 N. Maple St.

# East Hampton Council Talks Snow Removal, Noise Ordinance

by Claire Michalewicz

The recent heavy snowfalls have exhausted the town's snow removal funds, though town officials are waiting to see how far they've gone over budget, Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry told the Town Council at its Tuesday meeting.

"It's gonna be a significant amount of money," Drewry said, explaining that he and Finance Director Jeff Jylkka were trying to freeze the public works department's budget.

Though there have been winters with greater snowfall totals, Drewry said, the town had never seen two 20-inch snowfalls within a few weeks. He said he hoped the state would receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and East Hampton could receive about \$60,000 in reimbursement.

Drewry said he didn't know how far over the snow removal budget the town had gone, but said he hoped to have an estimate at the next meeting. The dollar amount, he said, was in the tens of thousands. Because the public works employees were so busy, Drewry said the town had hired several different contractors to help remove snow from parking lots and roofs, and to remove snow banks from alongside the town's roads. This week, he said, they were still working to remove snow from the community center, and would also clear the roof of Fire Company 2 in Cobalt.

The Board of Education has also gone tens

of thousands of dollars over budget in their efforts to remove snow from roofs and parking lots, as Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden explained Monday.

Drewry said that despite all the snow, none of the buildings had any structural problems and removing the snow was just a precautionary measure. While the roofs of the high school and the library were both leaking, Drewry said, "there are no problems. This is just preventive."

The council also revisited its ongoing debate over whether to institute a townwide noise ordinance. Sergeant Michael Green sent the council a report about state noise laws. Under state law, the report said, voices are exempt from noise ordinances, though unamplified music can be enforced.

"This is all about finding a way to work together," said council member Thom Cordeiro.

Sue Weintraub suggested looking at the town's other regulations to see if any of them could be used to control noise. She also said the local hearing officer who handles parking tickets could hear noise appeals, rather than sending people to court in Middletown.

Barbara Moore, who served as acting chairwoman for the meeting, read a letter from Paul Angelico's lawyer Michael Dowley out loud. Angelico's North Main Street restaurant, Angelico's Lake House, has been the focus

of many of the noise complaints in East Hampton.

In the letter, Dowley outlined some of the measures Angelico had taken to mitigate noise in the neighborhood around his restaurant. Dowley said Angelico had hired bands that don't play loudly, and instructed them to play at lower volumes and place their speakers away from the street or the lake to muffle noise. In addition, he said, Angelico had erected a fence and a row of bushes to deflect sound.

"All of these actions have resulted in better noise control and we will continue to work with the town toward this end," Dowley said.

But some residents said the fence doesn't help. Speaking at the end of the meeting, Phil Wielgosh, who lives near Angelico's, said the fence just redirects the noise at his house.

"The town should stop spending time and money to create liability against it by continuing to pursue the multi-pronged and unauthorized acts against my client's constitutionally protected rights," Dowley wrote.

After the meeting, resident Mary Ann Dostaler accused Moore of showing favoritism to Angelico by reading the entire letter out loud. Angelico was in the audience, and Dostaler said he could have addressed the council on his own behalf. Dostaler said Moore should recuse herself from any votes on the noise ordinance because Moore has publicly stated that she is op-

posed to the regulation.

Also Tuesday, the council agreed to revisit the issue of regionalizing the dog pound at their next meeting. In January, it started to move ahead with plans to move their operations to East Haddam's facility, but decided to wait after the current pound's owner said the town had failed to maintain his facility. Some council members questioned whether it was worth moving to East Haddam for a savings of only a few thousand dollars a year.

On Tuesday, Cordeiro said resident Barbara Suprono had assembled a team of about 15 volunteers who would be willing to help renovate and maintain East Hampton's pound.

The search for a new interim town manager is underway, Drewry said, explaining that he had received eight applications so far. The application deadline for the position is Feb. 28.

The council also voted to add two alternate positions for the Commission on Aging, so it would be easier to the commission to achieve a quorum at a meeting. Drewry announced that there are now four vacancies on that commission, two for alternates and two for regular positions.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m., in the high school library, 15 N. Maple St.

# Surplus Funds from 2009-10 RHAM Budget Going Back to Towns

by Courtney Parent

At a Jan. 24 meeting, the RHAM Board of Education voted to return a surplus from last year's budget to the school system's three member towns.

RHAM's annual audit found and verified a \$28,719 surplus in the 2009-10 budget, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said. The money will now be given back to the contributing towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

Hebron will receive a 51 percent majority of the surplus, or more than \$14,000, according to Siminski. Marlborough and Andover will share the remaining 49 percent. Marlborough First Selectmen Bill Black said the town will be receiving \$8,431.

Siminski said that the surplus is divided

among the towns according to the amounts that each paid in.

"It is returned to member towns equal to the proportion that they pay into the RHAM budget," Siminski said.

Siminski noted the close budgeting with the \$28,719 surplus representing just 0.1 percent of the \$24 million budget for 2009-2010.

Hebron Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said that the surplus the town receives will be added to their fund balance and has no set designation or purpose.

"It will stay in surplus," Therrien said. "The money is not meant to go into anywhere specific."

Black explained in more detail where the money goes and what the process is. He said in

the years when there is a surplus the amount returned back to the towns is based on student population.

"It is based on the percentage of student population under the budget utilized to develop that," Black said.

Due to charter requirements, the surplus returned to the towns must be added to the undesignated fund balance, Black said. After that, he added, the town must go through an appropriation process.

"Since the money is added to the undesignated fund balance we have advised the Board of Finance where we are and at some point, if spring ever arrives and we have a clearer number on what we need, we will work through the appropriation process," Black said.

While the surplus may not have a set designated use at this time, the general consensus seems to be that in the future the money will be put towards this long, wet winter season and all it entails.

Though Siminski is no longer involved in where the money goes or what it will be used for, he offered a guess.

"If I was a betting man I would say [the surplus] would probably be used for snow removal," said Siminski.

Black said that any extra money needed for snow removal would likely come from the undesignated fund balance and verified the towns need for extra snow budget funds.

"Do we have the need for additional dollars due to snow? Absolutely," said Black.

# Marlborough 4-H Looks to Rebuild After Hall Collapses

by Katy Nally

A dining hall that is used to seat up to 266 campers during the summer collapsed last weekend, and was condemned Monday.

First the walls at Baldwin Hall, which is part of the Hartford County 4-H Camp located off South Road, bowed Saturday, and triggered a fire alarm from the structure.

Fire Marshal Joe Asklar explained the back wall had "a huge bulge in it" and eventually the roof caved in early Sunday morning around 8 a.m., which "blew out the walls."

"It's unbelievable the amount of force that came down to pancake the dining hall," spokesperson for Hartford County 4-H Simone Upsey said. "It just flattened."

The 5,200-square-foot roof, Asklar said, was built to withstand about 30 pounds per square foot. And, with the many snowstorms Marlborough has seen, "a tremendous amount of snow" had accumulated on Baldwin Hall.

No one was in the building at the time, and no injuries were reported. The other structures on the property, including the stables, cabins and director's house, were not damaged and snow was cleared from them over the weekend.

Although the former hall has been reduced to a pile of shredded beams surrounded by yellow police tape, Upsey was optimistic the organization would rebuild and reopen – just in time for summer camp.

"We are taking efforts to expedite this in a timely fashion," she said. "We look at it this way – it needs to be done."

The rebuild will be reminiscent of when the camp was originally built in the spring of 1966, in just 90 days. Upsey explained 4-H brought in "a force of people" to carry out the task.

"It was just a magical thing that happened," she said.

The time crunch will still be there for 2011, as "we now have about 120 days," Upsey said. "It will happen."

The organization is in the process of meeting with architects and contractors to begin building, and "demo-ing" could begin next week, Upsey said.

The cost of returning Baldwin Hall to its former glory will be covered through insurance, Upsey said, but an "improvement fund" has been set up so 4-H can "explore building code upgrades and enrichment to Baldwin Hall."

Campers who had enrolled for the 2011 summer were notified of the collapse, Upsey said, after a letter was sent out.

The collapse didn't only affect the 4-H summer camp, but also other organizations that use the facility throughout the year.

Marlborough resident Linda Zimmer said the Girl Scouts were planning to use Baldwin Hall for a camporee in early October, and said she hoped the building would "be back in business"



**Baldwin Hall, a large dining hall that 4-H campers use during the summer, collapsed over the weekend, after the roof caved in from too much snow and ice accumulation. Photo by Katie Tarka.**

by then.

Last year Girl Scouts in Marlborough used the now-collapsed facility for their camporee.

"It was a beautiful building," Zimmer recalled. "It had an incredible kitchen and a huge area for the kids to sit in."

For more information about the 4-H camp,

visit [hartfordcounty4hcamp.org](http://hartfordcounty4hcamp.org).

To donate to the improvement fund, make a check or money order payable to Hartford County 4-H Camp Improvement Fund, and send it to Hartford County 4-H Camp, c/o Chuck Ferguson, 188 Brent Rd., Manchester, CT 06042.

## Andover School Board Discusses Snow

by Courtney Parent

Andover's Board of Education meeting Wednesday, Feb. 9, could be summed up using two key words: snow and days.

Discussion revolved around snow removal efforts, an overwhelming amount of snow days and the 2010-11 academic calendar.

So far this winter, Andover Elementary has had six cancellations, five late openings, one early dismissal and one professional development day canceled due to the snow and inclement weather.

As of Wednesday, the last scheduled day of school was June 23. Per the guideline outlined in the 2010-11 school calendar additional snow days or emergency closings will be added in June. Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia advised the board that if they were to stray from the 2010-11 calendar it would be confusing and problematic for both parents and teachers who may already have plans. Maneggia

also noted that there were still five days left in the month of June that could be used for snow days.

"I hate to incur the wrath of the snow gods, but it is unlikely that we will have five snow days between now and the end of the year," said Maneggia.

If there were an additional five closings, the school would be forced to cut into April vacation. However, there is some flexibility in the schedule if necessary, as Andover Elementary schedules 183 school days, while the state only requires 180 days.

With the overwhelming heaps of snow that have been dumped on the state this winter, school board members also discussed investing in new equipment. Board of Education Chairman Jay Lindy proposed that the school invest in a Bobcat, noting that one of the snow blowers the school has is over 20 years old.

According to Maneggia, prior to the school's snow removal efforts, there were spots on the roof where the drifts reached as high as seven feet. Maneggia and Lindy expressed great thanks to the schools custodians and the public works department for working long hours to get the job done.

"Public Works has gone out of their way to make sure we are kept open here," Lindy said. "When we had five to seven feet of snow after the big storms they were here at night cleaning up."

Even after the roof was cleared there was still plenty of work to be done. The snow previously on the roof needed to be moved from walkways and in front of doorways. According to Maneggia, when the schools equipment was unable to move the snow, the public works department had to come with a pay loader to properly clear the area.

"The sad part about this is, as far as our school equipment is concerned, we have limited equipment," Maneggia said. "This last snowstorm proved the inadequacy of what we have."

While new equipment was discussed among board members, Maneggia said that it is too early in the school year and the budget to determine what type of funds will be available.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, the Board of Education will meet with the Board of Finance to present the 2011-12 proposed budget. The meeting will be held in the Town Office Building at 7 p.m. The school board will then hold a special meeting on Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m., allowing for public discussion of the budget.

The Board of Education's next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m.

## Andover Residents Vote to Continue Tax Abatement, Accept STEAP Grant

by Courtney Parent

At a January town meeting, residents voted to accept a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant, as well as continue tax abatement for the Hop River Homes.

According to Maria Tulman, Hop River Homes has received tax abatement since its inception in 1981. Tax abatement policy requires that it be presented at a town meeting every five years for approval.

Per the tax abatement agreement, the maximum tax can exceed no more than \$12,000. The maximum tax abatement received was \$10,000, until 2007 when it was raised to \$12,000.

Tulman was in attendance at the BOS meeting, very hopeful that the abatement would be approved by voters as it would cause a significant impact on the Hop River Homes residents if it were not.

"If we hadn't gotten tax abatement we would've had to contact HUD [the Department of Housing and Urban Development] and USDA Rural Development and request permission for rent increase," Tulman said.

Hop River serves as home to low-income senior citizens. Rent is solely dependent upon an individual's income. According to Tulman, there are 24 units at the complex, 18 of which

are subsidized by HUD.

First Selectmen Bob Burbank stressed Hop River Homes' need for the abatement, saying that it would be an extra \$12,000 the seniors would have to come up with from somewhere.

Also at the meeting, residents accepted a STEAP grant in the amount of \$200,000. The grant will be used for a recreational area in the town. The tentative location is on Long Hill Road, on property already owned by the town.

In 2008 the town applied for a \$500,000 STEAP grant to put towards a new senior center. In September of 2009, the town received the STEAP grant, but for only half the amount requested. As it was not enough to pay for the new senior center, Burbank asked that the \$250,000 grant be used for a recreational field for the town instead.

Prior to accepting the \$200,000 STEAP grant, the Board of Selectmen was hoping to transfer the \$250,000 STEAP grant funds from a new senior center to a recreational area, specifically soccer and other athletic fields. Now, Burbank said, the town is hoping to utilize both STEAP grants in the creation of a recreational area. The additional funds would allow for sports fields, picnic area, and possibly a town park.

## LifeStar Responds to Route 66 Crash

A Middletown resident was airlifted to the hospital in critical condition after a two-car crash on Route 66, Saturday, Jan. 29, State Police said.

Around 10:15 p.m., Sammer Tallauze, 23, of Middletown, was traveling eastbound on Route 66 near Roberts Road in a 2001 Volkswagen Cabrio and struck a snow bank on the right shoulder. Then Tallauze swerved across the double yellow lines and collided with Rebecca Thomas' 2000 Nissan Altima, State Police said.

Tallauze suffered pelvis, head and facial injuries and was transported via LifeStar to Hartford Hospital "due to the severity of the crash," State Police said.

Thomas, 23, of East Hampton, had neck and back pain and was transported by East Hampton to Hartford Hospital.

The accident remains under investigation, State Police said, and any witnesses are asked to contact Michael Hamel at 860-537-7555, ext. 4027.

## Colchester Resident Airlifted to Hospital After Car Crash

LifeStar transported a Colchester resident after a head-on collision on Chestnut Hill Road on Saturday, Feb. 6, State Police said.

Around 5:54 p.m., Janet Labella, 59, of Colchester, broke bones in her legs and suffered a head contusion after colliding with a car in the eastbound lane, State Police said. She was transported via LifeStar to Hartford

Hospital, and was reportedly in stable condition.

A 17-year-old of East Haddam, was traveling eastbound in a 2000 Dodge Intrepid and also suffered a head contusion. He was transported via Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department to Backus Hospital.

The accident remains under investigation.

## Portland Man Strikes Snow Bank, Flips Truck

by Claire Michalewicz

A pick-up truck flipped over after striking a snow bank on Route 66 during the Tuesday evening rush hour, Portland Police said.

The 18-year-old driver, Charles Dickinson Jr., of 19 Tuccitto Rd., was charged with driving under the influence and traveling too fast for conditions, Officer Daniel Knapp said.

Knapp said the accident occurred around 4:50 p.m., when Dickinson was traveling east in the right lane of Route 66. The front end of his truck struck a snow bank outside the

Sunoco station across from Tri-Town Foods, Knapp said, and the impact caused the truck to rotate clockwise. It then rolled onto its roof and came to rest in the driveway of the gas station, he said.

There were no injuries, Knapp said. Dickinson and his two teenaged passengers "were shaken up over it," Knapp said, though they all refused medical treatment.

Knapp said traffic in the right lane was blocked off for about an hour while police and firefighters cleared the scene.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Patricia Olson

Patricia Olson, 73, beloved wife of Paul R. Olson of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Feb. 3. She was born Sept. 20, 1937, in Hartford, daughter of William and Svea Larson Johnson. She was an EMT for many years for the Inter County Ambulance Association for the Town of Colchester.

Besides her husband Paul of 53 years, she leaves her son, Peter G. and wife Shellene Olson of Hebron; her daughter, Kathleen and husband William Fiondella of Colchester; a brother, William Johnson of Ft. Pierce, FL; a sister, Kathleen Cowart of Dalton, GA; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son, Steven P. Olson.

Visitation was held Monday, Feb. 7, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by her funeral service. Interment will be private.

## Colchester

### Anna Vechinsky

Anna Vechinsky, 98, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Hartford Hospital. She was born April 1, 1912, in Colchester, daughter of Prokop and Anna Pilc Dickey.

Anna was a seamstress and worked for many years for the former Levine & Levine dress factory in Colchester. She was a devoted member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Church of Colchester and was well known for her pierogies.

Surviving are her three nieces, Julia Ruzsala, Paula Jervasi and Ann Joffre; two nephews, Richard Sablitz and Royal Wilbur; several grandnieces and nephews; and a special great-grandniece Tessa Ruzsala.

Visitation was held Monday, Feb. 7, at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church on Linwood Avenue, Colchester, followed by a Mass. Burial will take place in the spring. Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers and at the request of her family, make memorial donations to her church in her memory.

## East Hampton

### Dorothy Rose Sorvillo

Dorothy Rose (Bradley) Sorvillo, 79, of East Hampton, widow of the late George L. Sorvillo Sr., died Wednesday, Feb. 2, at Middlesex Health and Rehab. Born Sept. 5, 1931, in Tekoa, WA, she was the daughter of the late Lonnie and Alice (Friedman) Bradley.

Dorothy moved to East Hampton in 1950 and had worked as a telephone operator for SNET before her retirement. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, a past member of the Moose Club in Marlborough and was very active in the East Hampton Senior Citizens Center.

She is survived by her three sons, John Sorvillo of Middletown, George Sorvillo Jr. and his wife Beverly of Tallahassee, FL, William Sorvillo and his wife Elaine of Middletown; a daughter, Angelle Morton and her husband Robert of Middletown; two brothers, Robert Bradley and his wife Diane of Spokane, WA; four grandsons, William, John and Mark Sorvillo and Thomas Boyce; and two great-granddaughters, Kylie and Hadley.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Gordon and George, and two sisters, Eva and Ella.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, Feb. 7, in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial will take place in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care, c/o Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com). The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

## Colchester

### Isabelle Lovely

Isabelle Lovely, 82, of wife of the late Elwin Lovely of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Feb. 6, with her loving family by her side. She was born May 23, 1928, in Munich, Germany, daughter of Josef and Katherine Payrl Lentner. She was employed for many years as a bus driver for the Nichols Bus Company of East Hampton. She was a loving mother and grandmother. Her family always came first.

Surviving are two sons, Richard D. Lovely of Moodus and Arnold J. Lovely of Agawam, MA; two daughters, Birgitta Marie Cochrane of Coventry and Barbara Ann Bernard of Colchester; 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Charlotte Belle VanCedarfield.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, at 11 a.m. at the First Church of Christ Congregational on Town Street in Moodus. Visitation will be held at the church starting at 10 a.m. Burial will take place at Linwood Cemetery.

At the request of her family, no flowers – donations are to be made to First Church of Christ in her memory.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

## East Hampton

### Richard Joseph Murray

Richard Joseph Murray, 80, of East Hampton and formerly of Verbank, NY, beloved husband of Phyllis A. (Szopa) Murray, died Sunday, Feb. 6, at Middlesex Hospital. Born July 27, 1930, in Manchester, NH, he was the son of the late George E. and Elizabeth (Richards) Murray.

Richard had worked as an engineer at IBM in New York for 30 years. Richard was a loving and caring husband to his wife Phyllis, having recently celebrated their 57th anniversary. He had a strong faith and devotion to God attending daily Mass at St. Patrick Catholic Church in East Hampton. Richard especially enjoyed the gathering of his six girls and their families as well as fishing on Lake Pocotopaug with his grandkids and great grandkids.

Richard had a strong sense of patriotism, having honorably served in the United States Navy from 1948 to 1952. He also served his community as a volunteer fireman in Union Vale, NY, for 30-plus years. More recently, together with his wife, they were local Meals-on-Wheels volunteers. Grampy, as he was lovingly called, was an avid UConn basketball fan, and his hobbies included camping, fishing, ceramics, woodworking, golf and calendar-making.

Besides his loving wife Phyllis, he is survived by his six daughters and their husbands, Carolyn and Carl Provencher of Herndon, VA, Diane and Bruce Despres of Chepachet, RI, Linda and Rick Carrick of Alpharetta, GA, Ellen and Marty Derrig of Stewartville, NJ, Joyce and Alex Lombardi of Marlborough, and Kasha and Mike Morris of East Hampton; 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; brothers Charles and his wife Katie of Manchester, NH, Thomas of Bow, NH, and William and his wife Rena of West Hartford; a sister-in-law, Nancy Sharron of Kingston, NH; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, West High Street, East Hampton. Burial with military honors will take place in St. Patrick Cemetery at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, Feb. 10.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Patrick Church Repair Fund, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

## Amston

### Evelyn Cox Rowley

Evelyn Cox Rowley, 98, of Amston, widow of the late Roger A. Rowley, passed away Monday morning, Feb. 7, at the Glastonbury HCC. Born Jan. 30, 1913, in Boston, MA, she was the daughter of the late Andrew and Eva (Waugh) Cox.

She was a 1931 graduate of the Williams Institute in New London and went on to receive her teacher's certificate from the State Normal School in Willimantic in 1932. Mrs. Rowley received a teacher's contract from the Town of Hebron in 1932. She taught at a one-room school called the Gull School which was located on the corner of Old Colchester and Grayville Roads. The school was moved and is now located on the grounds of the Hebron Town Hall. While living in Amston at a boarding house, she walked each day to and from her teaching duties, sometimes hitching a ride on the local milk delivery truck. She subsequently taught in Manchester from 1934 to 1938.

She and Roger were married on Aug. 13, 1938. While raising her family, Evelyn taught in East Haddam from 1941 to 1942 and in Hebron from 1949 to 1950. In 1956, Evelyn returned to her teaching career in Hebron and continued to teach kindergarten and first grade there until her retirement in 1974. She was highly respected for her teaching accomplishments and enjoyed the affection of her many pupils and friends.

Mrs. Rowley was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Hebron, serving as a deaconess, choir member and serving on various committees.

She is survived by four children and their spouses, A. Craig and Joan Rowley of Stonington, R. Kent and Linda Rowley of Livingston, MT, Sharon and George Morgio of West Haven, A. Kevin Rowley of Colchester; six grandchildren, Lauren Bagdasarian and her husband, John, Andrew Rowley, Bethany Morgio, Glenna Morgio, Lisa Hauk and Tanya Taylor; seven great-grandchildren; her dear friend, Penny Besmond of Hebron; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by two sisters, Inez Cox and Mabel McWhinney.

Friends called Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will be observed at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

Donations in Evelyn's memory may be made to the Gilead Congregational Church.

For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### June B. Parsons

June B. (Flanley) Parsons, 84, formerly of East Hampton, departed this life Monday, Feb. 7. June was born June 17, 1926, in New York City, NY, to the late Bernard and Marion (Crammond) Flanley.

She was the widow of Robert Parsons, who predeceased her in February 1988.

After raising four sons through their teenage years she worked as a secretary in the speech department at Central Connecticut State University. She then pursued her bachelor's degree in education at CCSU, graduating in 1975, and then became a teacher for the City of New Britain in the Young Parents Program. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

After her retirement, she enjoyed traveling to Africa, Alaska and throughout the United States. She enjoyed wintering in Florida and spending summers on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton. Her hobbies included reading, line dancing, clogging and swimming.

She is survived by her four sons and their wives, Robert and Elizabeth Parsons, Jeffrey Parsons, Thomas and Linda Parsons, all of New Britain, and Lawrence and Joan Parsons of East Hampton; five grandchildren Kylie, Sarah, Rachelle, Larry Jr. and Caitlynn Parsons.

Along with both parents and husband, she was predeceased by her granddaughter, Stephanie Parsons; a brother, Charles Flanley; and two sisters, Murielle Brugel and Elizabeth Aufiero.

The family would like to thank the dedicated staff at Newington Health Care and Vitas Hospice Care.

Funeral services will begin today, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m., from New Britain Memorial Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain followed by the funeral liturgy at 10 a.m. in St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1755 Stanley St., with burial to follow in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. Visitation was Thursday, Feb. 10, at the funeral home.

For directions or to express an online condolence, visit [newbritainsagarino.com](http://newbritainsagarino.com).

## Marlborough

### Robert William Fritsch

Robert William Fritsch, 93, of Marlborough, husband of the late Leahbeth (Harvey) Fritsch died Sunday, Jan. 23, at a local convalescent home. Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late Peter L. and Beatrice L. (Hartung) Fritsch and lived in Wethersfield, Florida and Marlborough. Prior to his retirement he was employed as a purchasing agent at Fritsch Machine Co.

He is survived by two sons, Robert W. Fritsch, II and his wife Janie of Dexter, ME and Stephen H. Fritsch and his wife Linda of Darien; his daughter, Lindalee F. Favry and her husband Donald of Marlborough; his grandchildren, Katherine Treat and her husband Michael, Jennifer Fritsch-Wasylikiw and husband Christopher, Michele Lampert and husband Jonathan, Melissa Abbotts and husband Glenn, Leahbeth Hentschel, Jason Fritsch, Shauna Fritsch; and great-grandchildren, Allison Treat, Emily Treat, Caitlyn Lampert, Melinda Lampert, Alexis Abbotts, Jessica Abbotts; two sisters-in-law, Harriet Fritsch and Marjorie "Midge" Harvey; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides his wife, he was predeceased by his two brothers, Richard T. Fritsch and Noel J. Fritsch; two sisters-in-law, Henrietta Fritsch and Marie Fritsch and a brother-in-law, Elton B. Harvey Jr.

A graveside service/celebration of life will be at the convenience of the family. There are no calling hours. Burial will be in Marlboro Cemetery, Marlborough.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Nature Conservancy, 55 High St., Suite 2, Middletown, CT 06457 or the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to his dear friend Jerry Cavanna and Marlborough Healthcare Center, especially Alice Wade and Sue Francks.

The D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, Wethersfield is entrusted with the arrangements. For online expressions of sympathy, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

## East Hampton

### Mildred McMann

Mildred (Anderson) McMann, 92, of East Hampton, died Monday, Jan. 24. She was born in East Haven Nov. 10, 1918, and resided there for most of her life. She was the daughter of the late Josef William and Hannah Elizabeth (Carlson) Anderson.

She was predeceased by her husband, Lawrence Duncan McMann.

She is survived by her daughter Judith Cole and her husband Chester Cole with whom she made her home; her brother Albert Anderson; her grandchildren Kirstin Cole, Sharman Cole, Erik Cole; and she was the great-grandmother of Zachary Cole, Jessica Johnson, Elizabeth Wardell and Addison Cole.

She was also predeceased by her brothers, Uno, Carl, Richard and Robert Anderson, and her sisters, Astrid Wronski, Florence Pond and Alice Kroeber.

She was a life member of Bethesda Lutheran Church in New Haven. Mildred had a truly loving, close family who spent many years vacationing together on Cape Cod and in later years in Florida. She cherished those times and enjoyed remembering the laughter they shared. Mildred drew much strength and joy from her association with Bethesda Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school and vacation Bible school, was a member of Bethesda Women's Group and Church Women United in New Haven. She also had the privilege of chairing the World Services projects for Gift of the Heart Kits for 30 years. Millie was one of 93 seniors who graduated from the first high school built in East Haven in 1937.

She leaves many nieces, nephews and friends whom she loved very dearly. Millie was loved by everyone who knew her. She had a kind and gentle spirit. She had a close relationship with two nieces, Donna Beausoleil and Janice Deconnick, who were a big part of her life in later years. She led a very simple life that revolved around her loving family and friends and her church. Her family is very grateful for the loving care she received at Middlesex Hospital and then at Marlborough Health Care.

A celebration of Millie's life will be held at Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant, located at 81 North Main St. in East Hampton on Saturday, Feb. 12, from noon to 4 p.m. Family and friends are invited to join her family. Her family is greatly comforted by Jesus' words at John 5:28, 29 where he promises a resurrection to the earth (Psalm 37:29). Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

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



## Portland

### Winifred M. Buckley

Winifred M. Buckley, 89, of Jobs Pond Road, Portland, died Sunday, Feb. 6, at Wadsworth Glen in Middletown. Born in Flushing, NY, on Nov. 24, 1921, a daughter of the late Herbert and Mary Griffin Buckley, she had lived in New York before moving to Portland several years ago.

She had attended Queens College, in New York, and had been employed as a chemist and assistant perfumist and personnel director for IFF in Manhattan. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Winnie is survived by her brother-in-law, Lloyd Erskin of Portland; her nieces Winifred “Wendy” Waterbury of Higganum, Laura McElearney of Chicago, IL, Alice Ridge of Bloomington, IN, Diane Tateishi of Kissimee, FL; her nephews, Lloyd Erskin III of Kearney, MO, Christopher Buckley of Plymouth, NH, Kevin and Brendan Buckley, both of New Hampshire, and many grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great grand-nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister, Eileen Erskin and her brother, Joseph Buckley.

Funeral services will be held at a later date and will be private. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

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

## Portland

### Charles David Anderson Jr.

Charles David Anderson Jr., 49, of Providence, RI, formerly of Portland, died unexpectedly in his home Saturday, Jan. 29. Charlie was born Oct. 27, 1961, in Middletown, the sixth child in the family of Charles (Bud) and Lucille Anderson.

A longtime resident of Portland, Charlie made his home in Providence, RI, but traveled extensively and resided at times in London, Costa Rica, Newburyport and Rehoboth, MA, Montauk and Brooklyn, NY, and Chaplin. But it was his life growing up on the family farm on Strongs Avenue that remained his bedrock. Over the course of his life’s journey, Charlie deeply touched the lives of those around him and left a piece of himself in everyone’s heart. Charlie graduated from Portland High School where he was a noteworthy basketball player for all four years. He was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church.

Charlie studied at Southampton College in Long Island, NY, and completed his bachelor’s degree at Richmond College in London, England. Upon returning to the states he worked on Wall Street as a bonds broker for Prudential Bache. Charlie was currently working for a garden center in Massachusetts. Charlie will be remembered as a beloved son, brother, nephew, uncle, godfather and dear friend to many as he was a very kind, thoughtful and gentle soul.

Charlie’s passions were spending time with his family, gardening, cooking, reading, listening to music, traveling, photography and volunteering countless hours to many worthwhile causes. He loved sports and encouraged all those close to him to try a sport as it was an important part of his life. He supported the underdog. Charlie was a passionate advocate of the preservation of farmland in the Connecticut River Valley because of his love for his family farm.

Preceded in death by his father, Charles David Sr., and aunt, Louise Anderson, he is survived by his mother, Lucille Anderson of Portland; his brother, John Anderson and wife Heidi of Madison, WI; his sister, Catherine Mullen of Portland; his sister, Nancy Anderson and husband Radford Rigsby of Rehoboth MA; his brother, Jeffrey Anderson and wife Lettie of Durham, NC; his brother, Daniel Anderson and wife Debra of North Franklin; his sister, Carol Castelli and husband Steven of Portland; his aunt and uncle, Margaret and Richard Kirsche of Portland; and his uncle, Edward Goodrich of Portland ME. Charlie was blessed with the admiration and love of eleven nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his four-legged companion, Lady.

“It’s another good-bye to another good friend. But after all that’s said and done – got to move while it’s still fun. I wanna walk before they make me run,” Jagger – Richards.

There will be no calling hours and services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Farmland Trust, 77 Buckingham St., Hartford, CT 06106.

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

## Colchester

### Charles Franklin Hawkins

Charles Franklin Hawkins, 95, of Colchester, passed away Monday, Feb. 7, at Apple Rehab Center in Colchester. Charles was born Jan. 28, 1916, in Berlin, NH, to the late Charles and Rose (Wilkinson) Hawkins.

On April 3, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served as a drill sergeant and educator until the war ended in 1945. He married the love of his life, Virginia D. Ide, on Aug. 5, 1942, whom he remained married to for 68 years.

Charlie was a self-employed salvage dealer who enjoyed the challenge of finding and restoring precious metals. He collected books on American history and could often be found reading in his den. At one time, he also kept an extensive collection of antique fire trucks. An avid music lover, Charles’ greatest passion was singing and listening to the songs of the big bands. His favorites were Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and Count Basie.

In 1989, he authored a book about his childhood in the north woods of New Hampshire titled *Places By The River*. Along with his children, the book was one of his proudest lifetime achievements. A lifelong sports fan, he would often tell the story of how he once pitched to Ted Williams during an Army baseball game. He never missed a chance to watch the Red Sox and cherished their 2004 and 2007 World Series championships. Charles also treasured spending time at his lake house in Meredith, New Hampshire, where he, his wife and their entire family spent many beautiful summers.

He was predeceased by his brothers, George, Gordon and Howard; his sisters, Annie and Dorothy; and his daughters, Linda Scott and Nancy Landry.

Charles is survived by his wife, Virginia D. Hawkins of Colchester; a brother in-law, Walter Ide and his wife Christine of Manchester; a sister-in law, Lucille Erickson and her husband Ken of Columbia; his grandchildren, Karen Scott of East Haddam, Kimberly Kittredge of Mansfield, Carolyn Kurth of Colchester, Nancy Bryer of Colchester, Jason Hawkins of Manchester, Thomas Cerreto of Montana, Matthew Kozaczka of Enfield; his great-grandchildren, Brenton and Shelly Kurth of Colchester, Timothy Scott of Old Saybrook, Robert Blinn of Manchester and Zachary Kay of Colchester. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

His funeral service will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, at 11 a.m., at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., (Route 195), Willimantic. Due to winter conditions at the New Willimantic Cemetery, interment will be private. Friends and relatives may call on the family today, Feb. 11, between 5-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society , 825 Brook Street, I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

For an online memorial guestbook and directions to the funeral home, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).