



RIVEREAST

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A Donate Life flag was raised at Colchester Town Hall this week to promote organ donating. The initiative was led by resident Peter Kupczak, pictured center, whose 24-year-old daughter donated organs to four people. Also pictured are Facilities Director Greg Plunkett, left, and First Selectman Gregg Schuster.

## 'Donate Life' Flag Flies in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Two short words – donate life – sum up Peter Kupczak's mission for the past eight years.

And now, with the help of town officials, Peter's mantra is flying high above Colchester Town Hall this week and the next, as part of the Flags Across America campaign and to recognize National Donate Life Month.

But those two words mean much more to Peter than promoting organ donating; they are a tribute to his daughter Jessica who died in 2002.

Jessica suffered a massive asthma attack on Nov. 17, 2002, and was declared brain dead just six days later. But, her passing gave hope to four individuals.

Peter explained Jessica battled asthma her entire life and had been hospitalized several times due to her disease. On Nov. 17, Peter said Jessica had an asthma attack around 2 p.m., which caused a cardiac arrest. He estimated it took emergency medical personnel between just four and nine minutes to arrive at her small New York City apartment, but, "even at four minutes, you're severely brain damaged."

While Jessica remained on life support at Mount Sinai, Peter said hospital staff did everything they could to bring her back, but after her brain stem herniated, Peter said that was the end.

"There was absolutely no hope," he said this week.

At the time, Peter said he knew very little about organ donating, and expected to hold his 24-year-old daughter as she took her last breath. Instead, while on life support, doctors were able

to remove her heart, pancreas, kidneys and liver.

"That's the only good thing that comes out of this," Peter said. "This changes people's lives so dramatically."

With her donation of life, two men and two women were able to carry out their lives as husbands and mothers.

"Parents can see their children graduate from high school, and fathers can walk their daughters down the aisle," Peter said.

Jessica had moved to New York City with dreams of dancing on Broadway. After graduating from Killingly High School in 1996, she received a scholarship to study dance at Adelphi University.

"She knew that's where she needed to be," Peter said.

Although her dreams were cut short, Jessica's decision to donate life meant four others could continue to live out theirs. It was just a few months prior to her death that Jessica decided to register as an organ donor in New York.

Since her death, Peter has devoted himself to promoting awareness about organ and tissue donation.

"She's a true hero," Peter said. "I'm just honoring her each and every day."

The latest endeavor will honor Jessica with a Donate Life flag at Town Hall.

"I think the flag promotes a worthy cause and I hope everyone will consider being an organ donor," First Selectman Gregg Schuster said this week.

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## Reimondo Meets with NAACP Members

by Joshua Anusewicz

On Wednesday, East Hampton Police Chief Matt Reimondo met with members of the Connecticut chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in New Haven to discuss offensive e-mails sent from Reimondo that surfaced last month.

Reimondo met with Connecticut NAACP President Scot Esdaile, Middlesex Chapter President Rosa Browne and the group's lawyer, Michael Jefferson. Reimondo said in a press release issued Wednesday that he requested the meeting "to bring everyone together as a learning opportunity for [him] both personally and professionally."

The e-mails in question were forwarded by Reimondo to town employees in March 2010. They included a picture of the rapper Coolio with the caption, "Take a look at the 30-pointer my neighbor shot that he caught running across his backyard." The term "30-pointer" was a reference to a deer's antlers. Another e-mail featured a picture of President Barack Obama as a witch doctor, with the caption "Obama Care."

Reimondo had apparently received the forwards at his home e-mail address, and then forwarded them to his office e-mail before send-

ing them, without comment, to the other town staff.

Hard copies of the e-mails were delivered anonymously to Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry's office in March of this year. Drewry gave Reimondo a letter of reprimand but no further punishment has been issued.

"At the meeting," Reimondo said in the press release, "I again shared my apologies regarding the e-mails and took responsibility for my actions."

The press release also stated that the entire police department "has participated in a Cultural Diversity Education Seminar designed to broaden views and prospective on matters associated with diversity," which was presented by Michael Burkhart, a diversity consultant at Elsie Y. Cross Associates in Philadelphia, PA.

When contacted Wednesday, Reimondo said he wouldn't issue any further comment beyond the press release.

Esdaile said Wednesday that Reimondo was "very apologetic" and that it "took a lot to arrange a face-to-face meeting," which Esdaile said he appreciated. He said he was also happy to hear that training had taken place, but wondered if the training would be enough.

"At the end of the day, he has to show some accountability for his actions," Esdaile said, adding that a written reprimand would not suffice. "He is a powerful figure in East Hampton and it's totally unacceptable for a person of his position to act this way."

Esdaile was also concerned that this was a "calculated" action, with Reimondo sending these e-mails from his home computer to his work computer, then to two town employees. He said that the computers "are most likely paid for by the taxpayers, and he has a responsibility to [the taxpayers]."

According to Esdaile, the focus of the NAACP's investigation is on the tax dollars East Hampton receives at the state and federal level, both of which have "zero-tolerance policies" for such actions. Esdaile said he is hoping to arrange a meeting with Congressman Joe Courtney to discuss the situation.

Town Council member Susan Weintraub said Wednesday the council had no hand in Reimondo arranging the meeting, but said that "he did the right thing by initiating further dialogue about the diversity." Other members of the council did not return calls for comment as of press time.



East Hampton Police Chief Matt Reimondo met this week with members of the state chapter of the NAACP. He is shown here addressing the media on an unrelated matter last year.



A Donate Life flag is flying at Town Hall to promote organ donating. Pictured from left are Peter Kupczak, his wife Frances, First Selectman Gregg Schuster and Caitlyn Bernabucci from LifeChoice Donor Services.

#### Flag cont. from Front Page

Peter said it's his hope the white flag will "trigger something" and motivate people to register as organ donors, or it'll spark a conversation and "maybe they'll tell a friend."

"I'm just hoping that somebody will think about it," Peter said.

More than 110,000 Americans were waiting for an organ transplant, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, and on average, 18 people die each day because not enough organs are available for transplant.

Only 1 percent of registered donors are eligible to give organs, Peter said, as the guidelines on donating organs are very stringent and the donor must be declared brain dead. With more people registered as donors, the chances to save a life are greater, he said.

Approximately 40 percent of drivers in Connecticut are registered organ donors, he said.

Along with Colchester, about 50 cities and towns across the state are participating in Flags Across America this month, Caitlyn Bernabucci from LifeChoice Donor Services said. Along with town halls, hospitals, transplant centers, motor vehicle departments and other buildings will fly the Donate Life flag.

The initiative began nationwide in 2009 in an attempt to promote organ and tissue dona-



Jessica Marie Kupczak

tion, she said. For more information visit [ctorganandtissuedonation.org](http://ctorganandtissuedonation.org).

To register to be an organ donor, visit [donatelifenewengland.org](http://donatelifenewengland.org).

## East Hampton Town Council Names New Interim Town Manager

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Town Council has announced that retired Southington Town Manager John Weichsel has been chosen as East Hampton's newest interim town manager.

After a closed-door executive session on Wednesday, the council voted 5-1, with Susan Weintraub opposed and John Tuttle absent, to elect Weichsel to replace Bon Drewry, the current interim town manager.

Weichsel, 78, retired as Southington's town manager earlier this year after serving in that position for 44 years. He was one of 36 applicants for the East Hampton position, which was whittled down to five in March. Each of the five candidates was interviewed by the council members, who chose Weichsel for his credentials and experience.

"He has wonderful experience that we can certainly benefit from," council member Barbara Moore said Thursday, adding that "he is up-to-date on the state budget" and is "very knowledgeable" on being a town manager.

Weichsel's salary is still being negotiated, and no start date has been announced. Moore said she was unsure if he will be present at the Tuesday, April 26, Town Council meeting.

Weintraub, the lone dissenting voter, agreed that Weichsel was "very professional and has a lot of experience," but said Thursday that he was not the original choice the council had discussed at an April 12 executive session.

Weintraub said the original choice, whom she said she could not identify due to the candidate's current employment, could not start until July, but Weintraub said she felt this was "not a problem" and the candidate was "worth the wait."

She said that although the other council members chose Weichsel and that he "wasn't her first choice," she hopes that he can bring the "leadership that the town needs."

"I look forward to working with him in the future," Weintraub said. "I hope he is able to manage the town objectively and is able to do what is best for the people of East Hampton."

Weichsel will be the third person to fill the town manager position in the past year. Drewry has served as interim town manager since last September, after Jeffery O'Keefe resigned amid controversy stemming from sexual harassment allegations and his layoff of Police Chief Matt Reimondo.

O'Keefe was accused of sexual harassment by three female town employees last April, but was never charged with any wrongdoing. Shortly after the allegations were investigated, O'Keefe eliminated Reimondo's position, citing budgetary reasons, but many residents felt it was in retaliation for Reimondo pursuing the harassment allegations.

O'Keefe resigned under mounting pressure from residents to do so, and Reimondo was reinstated after a town referendum in November.

From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

We in America take a lot of heat – okay, it's deserved heat – for our incredibly fatty fast-food creations. But Japan, it seems, is doing a pretty nice job of playing catch-up.

I read this week that Japanese Burger Kings are about to unroll the "Meat Monster." What's in it? Two hamburger patties, a grilled chicken breast, two slices of cheese, three strips of bacon, and lettuce, tomato and onion.

Okay, now that you've had time to process that, here come the nutrition facts: 1,160 calories, 69 grams of fat – 24 of them the artery-clogging saturated fat grams – 240 milligrams of cholesterol and 2,290 milligrams of sodium.

Hey, at least BK is using a *grilled* chicken breast, right?

And that's not all. Like I said, Japan is quietly making it clear it can make nutritionists and dieticians cry just as much as we can. A website I found listed 45 items found on various McDonald's menus worldwide – but not at any American Mickey D's. Many of the items came from McDonald's in Japan.

These include a German Sausage Chicken sandwich (which consists of a fried chicken patty, slice of grilled pork sausage, cheese, sauerkraut and mustard) and a bacon and potato pie (a deep-fried pie filled with mashed potatoes, bacon and cheese).

While I know they'd be bad for me, those actually sound pretty tasty. Not so much the Ebi Filet-O (a fried shrimp patty, Thousand Island dressing and lettuce; I love shrimp, but in fried patty form? That seems kinda gross) or the Cheese Katsu Burger (fried pork filled with cheese, served with a tontaksu sauce; the idea of fried pork filled with cheese is rather...revolting).

Much like the Cheese Katsu Burger, reading about the Cheese Fondue Chicken did little more than gross me out – which is good, because I could see this sandwich striking me down in the parking lot on the way back to my car. It's a chicken breast dipped in cheese sauce, sitting on top of bacon, more cheese and lettuce.

But the most eye-popping item on the list is the Mega Tomago: a double Big Mac, and also includes bacon and an egg patty.

Sorta makes the KFC Double Down seem fairly wimpy, doesn't it?

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Easter is Sunday, so it made the report that made the rounds of the news world Monday particularly timely – turns out Jesus' Last Supper may not have occurred on a Thursday but, rather, the day before.

In his new book *The Mystery of the Last Supper*, Colin Humphreys, a materials-science professor at Cambridge University, makes a case for the Last Supper actually occurring on Wednesday evening. He analyzed a variety of religious calendars to reach

his point. I have to admit, if the Last Supper occurred on a Wednesday, the timeline of the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion would make more sense.

Think about it: As it stands now, Jesus goes from eating with his apostles to being captured, tried and nailed to a cross all in the span of about 18 hours. That's an awful lot of activity to pack into a short period. It also requires Jesus' trial to have taken place in the middle of the night, which is contrary to Jewish jurisprudence.

Having the Last Supper occur on a Wednesday seems to make more sense. Of course, it would also go against the centuries we've had of Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday, services. But, even if it does become accepted that the Last Supper were on a Wednesday, I suspect we'd still continue to celebrate it on a Thursday. For starters, I'm not exactly sure what we'd do with that day between the Last Supper and Good Friday.

One thing Humphreys does use his new findings to push for, though, is a set date for Easter. According to his determination that Good Friday was on April 3, then Easter should be on April 5. I just don't see Easter ever being celebrated on any day but a Sunday. For starters, the days leading up to Easter have significance. If Easter were on April 5 every year, just as Christmas is on Dec. 25 every year, then what do you do if April 5 is, say, a Tuesday? That would put the Good Friday events on a Sunday. Do you go to normal Sunday church in the morning and then come back a few hours later for Good Friday services? I can't quite picture that.

Also, there's been much moaning over the years about the "commercialization" of Christmas (moaning that I think is unwarranted; I've opined on this in the past, and since this isn't exactly the season for such opining, I suggest going to the archives at [riverastnews.net](http://riverastnews.net) and looking at some of my columns from Christmas seasons of the past couple of years), and I suppose you could argue that by keeping Easter on a Sunday – a day many people associate with church anyway – it cuts down on the risk of the day becoming too commercialized.

But also, even moreso than the Holy Thursday/Holy Wednesday thing, there's just way too much history of Easter being celebrated on Sunday. Now, I wouldn't mind there being a set *weekend* for Easter, like there's a set day – but not date – for Thanksgiving. It'd preferably be around mid-April too. I've never been a fan of Easter in March Going to a Sunrise Service (not that I've ever been to one, of course; just a wee bit too early for me) with snow still on the ground just doesn't seem right.

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See you next week.

## Dead Body Found in Andover by Fisherman

by Courtney Parent

On Saturday, April 16, the opening day of fishing season, State Police Troop K received a 911 call from a fisherman who reported discovering what appeared to be human remains in the woods off Route 6 and Lake Road.

Upon responding to the scene, troopers confirmed that the remains were that of a male. According to Lt. J. Paul Vance the body had been there for an "extended period of time" as it exhibited some decomposition.

On Monday, April 18 the Office of the Chief State's Medical Examiner positively identified the deceased as Victor Ilarraza, 31, of Willimantic. The death was ruled accidental with the cause of death being hypothermia.

According to the Willimantic Police Department, a missing persons report was filed for Ilarraza on Monday, Feb. 14.

Ilarraza, born Sept. 7, 1979, had an extensive criminal history dating back to possession of narcotics charges in 2001, sale of hallucinogen/narcotics in 2004, first-degree escape in 2005 and illegal sexual contact with a minor in 2008.

According to the state judicial website, Ilarraza was arrested most recently on Feb. 3, 2010, for interfering with an officer and resisting arrest. On May 5, he was sentenced to six months in jail for the Class A misdemeanor, according to the site.

# Ukrainian Rotarians Visit Colchester

by Katy Nally

Two Rotary Clubs – separated by the Atlantic Ocean – were united this week, when an exchange group from the Ukraine came to Colchester.

Mykola Kovalchuk, the founding member of the Užgorod Skala Rotary Club in Ukraine, along with five others plus an interpreter, came to the US to study its infrastructure and government. Several members of the group stayed with Colchester Rotarians, as the Open World Program was administered by Rotary International.

The Ukrainians had a packed schedule this week that included visits to the capitol to meet State Representative Linda Orange, Colchester Town Hall to meet First Selectman Gregg Schuster, and local landmarks like Harry's and Mohegan Sun.

On Sunday, the visitors were welcomed at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church and introduced by their facilitator Olena Tretyak.

As interpreted through Tretyak, Kovalchuk told Colchester Rotarians and church parishioners he is the director of a cable TV station in the western region of Ukraine and he also serves as the governor's advisor in Ternopil.

"If you want to be the Colchester mayor or the president of the United States, I can help you and we will win together," Kovalchuk said, getting a laugh from fellow Rotarians and parishioners.

Kovalchuk said he embarked on the exchange program to learn more about election and campaign strategies. Currently, he said, Ukraine's infrastructure and practices are "rather old," so he would like to study American methods and

implement them later on.

Ultimately, Kovalchuk said, any change would have to start with citizens' way of thinking. He explained, for the first time in many years, Ukraine has a generation that has never known the USSR – a population he's hopeful will promote change within the country. Kovalchuk, 34, was born in the USSR and his father was in the military.

In 1991 Ukraine became an independent nation after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, but, its sovereignty was followed by a recession.

Now, with Ukraine's government in its initial stages, Kovalchuk said learning about successful state and municipal governments would be essential to nurture his country's growth.

Along with Kovalchuk was Tetyana Myaskovska, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for mayor of her hometown in Ukraine and now works as a businesswoman printing newspapers.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to learn from you and make [Ukraine's government] more democratic," she told the group gathered at St. Mary's.

As a sponsor of the orphanage "New Family," Myaskovska said she's interested in learning how non-profits interact with governments.

Similarly, Bohdan Kyniv, a deputy for the Zakarpattya Region legislature, said he came to the US to learn how to coordinate social services with municipal government. In addition, Kyniv said, he has experience in implementing hydro-electric projects in communities similar to Colchester and asked why the town doesn't use hydro-electric power.



**Mykola Kovalchuk, the founding member of the Užgorod Skala Rotary Club in Ukraine, visited Colchester this week as part of an exchange program. Above, he gives Rotary District 7980 Governor Julie Reppenhagen a present from his hometown.**

Also part of the exchange were Andriy Ryba, a director of a credit union, Hanna Sochka, a cashier and deputy for her village's council, and Tretyak, a law student.

Ryba said he was interested in learning more about the municipal budget process, and, lucky

for him, the group was scheduled to attend a Colchester Board of Finance meeting Wednesday.

Like Myaskovska, Ryba also said he wanted to learn more about social services and how they interact with non-profits.



**Ukrainians in an exchange program, local Rotarians and parishioners from St. Mary's met at the church Sunday for a welcome brunch.**

To get a feel for public administration, the Ukrainians followed Rotary Club President Linda Hodge to class this week to meet with University of Connecticut professors in West Hartford. Hodge, who is pursuing a master's in public administration, organized a meeting with professors who research issues like financial management, homeland security and human resources.

After a few days in town – the group arrived last Friday, April 15 – Tretyak said Sunday everyone had been very "open" and welcoming.

"Linda is our angel," Kovalchuk said about his hostess, Hodge.

The group enjoyed a taste of home at the Ukrainian church on Sunday where a brunch buffet was served. Bob Hodge explained the visitors dined at Family Pizza the night before and were somewhat overwhelmed with the English menu. But, this prompted a trip to the casino to eat dinner at a buffet – where the Ukrainians could see their food before they ordered – and play a little roulette.

Myaskovska was the lucky winner of the group, taking home about \$60.

The Ukrainians leave tomorrow, but today their schedule calls for a visit to Salem Town Hall and a traditional fish fry in Colchester.

## Water Association Continuing with Takeover Plans in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

As Birchwood Water Association moves ahead with its takeover, residents on Roberts Road and Sherwood Lane are hoping the outcome will eventually spell a decrease in their fees.

The association decided last week to continue plans for a takeover, which involves the Department of Public Health and Department of Utility Control assigning a water company to acquire Birchwood Water. In this case, that company would likely be Connecticut Water, which has a franchise in the area.

According to Maureen Westbrook, vice president of customer and regulatory affairs at Connecticut Water, "we're the only ones that have talked with [Birchwood] so far."

Through the takeover process, Westbrook said the Department of Public Health would make sure the water system is in working order before Birchwood is acquired, and the Department of Utility Control would determine how to fund bringing the system up to code, if needed, and later set the rates for customers.

If a takeover is finalized, Connecticut Water will acquire Birchwood Water Association at no cost.

Last fall, Connecticut Water offered to purchase Birchwood Water Association for \$93,000, but backed out of the deal after certain conditions were not met, Westbrook said.

One condition was that Birchwood Water Association perform a leak detection survey, Westbrook said, to determine if the water demands in the area "were real" or, instead, was "water being wasted." However, she said, the survey had not been carried out.

Birchwood Water Association President Alan Laliberte said there had been a verbal agreement to carry out a leak detection survey, and then a written agreement was drafted to protect Birchwood from a potential loss. He said the written draft held Connecticut Water accountable for the cost of the survey if it were to back out of the sale.

"It was our way of protecting ourselves in case of something like this," Laliberte said.

But, Laliberte said, Connecticut Water wouldn't sign the written agreement.

Also, according to Westbrook, Birchwood

Water had "outdated electrical services," which, "we would not feel comfortable operating a system with."

Laliberte said Connecticut Light & Power okayed Birchwood's electrical system, which he said is "an older setup commonly used for well houses."

He added Connecticut Water has been Birchwood's "licensed operator for more than a decade," and has "designed and run" the system.

Laliberte said it was his "feeling" that Connecticut Water had reneged on the sale because "they know they're going to end up with it through the state process."

"It's a really, really good deal for them, even at \$90,000," Laliberte added. "But, they want it for nothing."

Laliberte said he planned to submit an application for the takeover Thursday.

Spokesman for the Department of Utility Control Phil Dukes said a takeover process, on average, takes between three and six months.

At its meeting April 13, the Birchwood Water Association agreed to continue with plans for a takeover – as opposed to a receivership – after taking an informal survey from water users.

According to Dukes, there is not much difference between a receivership versus a takeover, as the outcome is the same and "they both come under the same provisions." He said the two would also take about the same time to be finalized.

The difference, he said, is in a receivership, the water company to be acquired is essentially bankrupt, whereas, "a takeover could be mutually agreed upon."

"There's much more of a meeting of the minds in a takeover," Dukes said, adding, a takeover can be forced as well.

Dukes would not comment on the specific takeover of Birchwood on Wednesday, because, he said, an application had not been filed.

Once it is submitted, Dukes said all paperwork is tracked through a docket number and posted to the Department of Utility Control website, [ct.gov/dpuc](http://ct.gov/dpuc).

# Public Hearing Monday on \$21.13 Million Marlborough Budget

by Katy Nally

A public hearing will be held Monday, April 25, on a proposed \$21.13 million budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The proposed spending plan represents a 1.19 percent increase over the current year's \$20.88 million budget. It also calls for a 2.35 percent tax increase, putting the mill rate at 27.20.

As far as expenditures, both the local board of education and Marlborough's levy for RHAM are up slightly, at 0.88 and 1.16 percent, respectively. Town operations and debt actually decreased, at 0.02 percent and 0.49 percent.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski said the 2011-12 budget was up against a revenue shortfall this year.

The line item "cash available for appropriation" took a hit, decreasing about 37.27 percent over the current year, from \$569,000 to \$357,000.

Traditionally the town keeps 7.5 percent of its overall budget in an undesignated fund balance to ensure "favorable interest rates when it borrows." But on April 7, the Board of Finance voted 4-2 (Lauren Cragg and Beth Petroni were against) to decrease the fund balance to 7.4 percent for the upcoming budget.

For the 2011-12 budget, that 7.4 percent comes to about \$1.56 million, which is subtracted from the current fund balance (as of June 30, 2010) of \$1.92 million, leaving the "cash available for appropriation" at \$356,723. If it were still at 7.5 percent, the fund balance would be about \$1.58 million.

The board came to this decision because lowering the undesignated fund balance ultimately decreases the overall tax hike.

In addition to cash available, local and state revenue, including funds for education, showed a decrease. Local revenue decreased by about \$25,000 or 7.83 percent, state revenue dropped about 7.43 percent, and state revenue for education dipped slightly, at a quarter of a percentage point.

The Board of Finance made few changes to the town operations budget, because, Gaudinski said, "we concentrated mostly on revenue this year."

However the town operations budget does call for a \$118,000 increase in capital non-recurring (CNR) items, which is currently at \$0 for this fiscal year.

The \$118,000 covers \$15,000 to purchase a Ford F-350 to replace an aging 1962 Dodge

power wagon as the fire department's forestry vehicle, \$63,000 to replace the Public Works Department roof and \$40,000, which is one-fifth of the cost of revaluation for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Although CNR shows an increase for the upcoming budget year, Gaudinski said the \$118,000 are offset by the slight decrease in the town's overall debt.

"There really wasn't an increase," she said.

Since debt came down about a half a percent, the town will save an estimated \$120,000, she said.

Selectmen proposed two bonding projects for the 2011-12 budget, \$400,000 for public works vehicles and \$1.6 million for road reconstruction, both of which the Board of Finance unanimously approved April 7.

"Road repair and bonding for the vehicles — we really need to have those taken care of," Gaudinski said.

The long-term debt interest includes a \$29,600 line item for the 2011-12 budget, which, Gaudinski said, covers a six-month interest payment for the public works vehicles. The following year, the budget will include funds for interest as well as principal payments

for the full year, she said.

There is also an increase in snow removal materials, going from \$130,000 to \$145,000. Gaudinski noted this increase will most likely be offset when the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides relief for the Jan. 12 snowstorm. Marlborough expects to receive \$30,000 worth of assistance, but Gaudinski did not know when the town would actually see a reimbursement.

Selectmen originally proposed to increase contingency from \$20,000 to \$40,000, but the Board of Finance changed it back to \$20,000 at its April 7 meeting.

Unlike town operations, the Board of Finance made no changes to the local education budget, which came in at \$6.97 million.

"With teacher concessions they were able to work on saving programs and positions," Gaudinski said. "Hopefully the public will support it."

The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

The full budget has been posted to the town's homepage, [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net).



Above are plans for the renovation of the Richmond Memorial Library that were approved by the Library Board this week. The expansion project will make the building compliant with American Disabilities Act guidelines.

## Marlborough Selectmen Hire New Staff, Receive Library Update

by Katy Nally

Along with voting to hire two new employees, the Board of Selectmen Tuesday was updated on the library renovation and a tax relief ordinance, and also discussed an old bill for mold abatement at the school.

The board unanimously voted to hire two part-time employees who will act as seasonal Parks and Recreation directors during the summer. The applicants were recommended by a search committee headed by First Selectman Bill Black and Parks and Recreation Commission Chairwoman Barbara Lazzari.

Black said the search committee looked at 14 applicants for three positions, two of which were filled Tuesday pending successful background checks. He said the third position, a part-time administrative assistant, will be filled in the next few weeks.

"I was surprised at the number of candidates we got and their qualifications," Black said. "Really the town will benefit from their expertise."

In January, the board voted to break up the Parks and Rec. director position into three jobs. Over the past 14 years, the town has gone through seven full-time directors.

The two new hires will begin this month, Black said, as Blish Park and its lifeguards "have to be ready by Memorial Day."

Both selectmen Joe La Bella and Riva Clark agreed the two applicants seemed highly-qualified.

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Black also informed selectmen the Library Board had recommended plans for the renovation

of Richmond Memorial Library.

As opposed to those seen at a public hearing last month, the recommended plans do not show a "silo" shaped structure to enclose the stairway.

"They squared up the rooflines so they blend better," Black said. "It shouldn't look like an addition."

The Zoning Commission will give its final review of the proposed plans, at its May meeting, Black said.

The bulk of the renovations will be covered through the Small Cities Program, which is part of the Community Development Block Grant. The town has applied for the maximum of \$750,000 to make Richmond Memorial Library compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

ADA changes would include a handicapped-accessible elevator and staircase on the right side of the building, handicapped-accessible restrooms on the second floor, widened doorways, staff kitchen and workstations and a second egress with a ramp on the Main Street side.

Streetscape changes, and construction of sidewalks leading to the library, would be covered under a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant.

Black estimated the entire renovation would cost about \$830,000. Changes not addressed through STEAP or the Small Cities Grant could be funded through additional grants, fundraising or taxes, Black said.

"When we get to the end, there'll be a gap we'll have to close, and we'll have to cross that

bridge when we get to it," he said.

"I don't see it as being significant," Black said about the "gap."

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As discussed at the last selectmen meeting, Black read aloud answers he received from town counsel regarding a proposed senior tax relief ordinance.

According to Black, the town's attorney said he wasn't aware of other towns using a real estate tax exemption to provide tax relief for seniors. Instead, he said using an abatement is more common.

However, Black said each time the town writes a check for an abatement, it costs \$25 because of staff time and paperwork.

Although the exemption would be "new ground," he said it would still be "doable."

To institute a senior tax relief ordinance, according to Connecticut General Statute 12-129n, a town's "legislative body" votes on the proposal "on recommendation of its Board of Finance." Selectmen had some discussion as to what would happen if the finance board were presented with an ordinance, but "sits on it," La Bella said, essentially refusing to act.

On the other hand, if the Board of Finance does issue a recommendation, Clark noted, the ordinance will not necessarily have to accommodate it.

The Board of Finance has asked to meet with selectmen to discuss the senior tax relief ordinance. Black said, because the budget is currently the "No. 1 priority," that meeting will probably not happen until June.

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Lastly, Black informed the board two contractors had called the town asking to be paid for work that was done at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

First, he said, was a bill for \$500 to pump the school's septic system; the second was a \$3,200 bill to abate mold found in the community room.

In November, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to make an emergency appropriation of \$3,200 from the town's undesignated fund balance after hearing from education officials the Board of Education had no money in its budget to abate mold.

The mold was treated over Thanksgiving break.

Black said he was surprised both bills had not been paid for by the Board of Education.

"This is getting to the point of being absurd," La Bella said.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski said the abatement request came before her board, which recommended the \$3,200 be funded through the revolving account set up for community room users. Currently, she said, the account has \$9,000.

She also said she and education officials have requested to meet with selectmen to discuss how the school's maintenance should be funded, but nothing has been set up.

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The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be Tuesday, May 3, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

# Selectmen: Marlborough WPCA on its Own for Legal Fees

by Katy Nally

“It took him four pages to say ‘No,’” Water Pollution Control Authority Chairman Jack Murray said about his denied request to the selectmen.

The WPCA had asked the town to help decrease its Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget, which has grown by about \$100,000 in one year. Specifically, it requested assistance with funding three items: legal fees that have increased from \$20,000 to \$80,000, dumping bi-oxide at three sites around town to control odor and hiring a part-time administrative assistant.

In his reply to Murray, First Selectman Bill Black said the town would not fund legal fees, and outlined costs for the other two items.

Regarding legal fees, Black cited Connecticut General Statute 7-249, which states “the [WPCA] may levy benefit assessments upon the lands and buildings in the municipality...” Even though the town is named in two of the seven lawsuits appealing the benefit assessment, Black said since the WPCA is charged with levying these assessments “the town itself is not a proper party to the appeals...” and should be removed from the suits through a “summary judgment.”

Also, he said, “O&M fees must reflect all expenses, including legal fees, associated with the operation of the sewer system.”

At a meeting last Thursday, April 14, three WPCA members, Brad Korh, Bill LaPoint and Bill Lardi, said they couldn’t approve an O&M

budget that fully funded these legal costs.

“I don’t want to do that unless the town is helping me out,” LaPoint said.

These members’ decision was met by applause by the few residents who attended last week’s meeting.

Murray said it might be wise for the WPCA to table any action on its O&M budget so it can discuss legal fees with its attorney.

“We may be putting the cart before the horse,” Murray said.

Once approved, the WPCA’s 2011-12 budget will take effect July 1, Town Planner Peter Hughes said.

The board agreed to schedule an executive session with its lawyer for April 21, to discuss legal costs and strategies.

Murray sent a response to selectmen on Monday, reiterating his stance on legal fees.

“The daunting weight of our estimated legal defense costs cannot be placed only on the shoulders of the existing 225 sewer uses; the town surrounding them has to have a rightful share of the cost,” Murray wrote.

“Again, I do not understand what they’re thinking,” selectwoman Riva Clark said about Murray’s letter at a board meeting Tuesday. “The town *does* pay a share because it is a sewer district member.”

Clark went on to say taxpayers are also paying back the yearly debt payment to the state to fund part of the project.

Also, she mentioned the WPCA is at just five

members, and has not filled any of its three slots for alternates.

“We need to work on filling that board and find people who are concerned about this,” she said.

Regarding the part-time administrator, in his letter, Black said he’d like to free up Hughes, who has devoted a lot of his time to helping the WPCA.

Lardi said the WPCA should tie up all loose ends with sewer contractors and construction before it hands over Hughes’ responsibilities.

In considering the WPCA as a separate entity from the town, which would be fully-funded and responsible for covering its own costs, Lardi questioned why the O&M budget has \$0 for liability insurance. According to Hughes, the WPCA would be covered under municipality liability insurance.

Also, Lardi asked why the Board of Selectmen voted to change the WPCA’s original proposal for a Phase II last summer.

“If they think we’re our own entity, then why are they modifying our own proposal?” Lardi asked.

The original referendum question posed by the WPCA last July asked for \$1.95 million to complete sewers along Lake Terramuggus. However, by the time the question came before the Board of Finance in September, it asked for \$2.90 million and included sewers along the lake, in addition to bringing a sewer line up to the Marlborough Commons.

Discussing a possible 2011 referendum question was listed on last Thursday’s meeting agenda. Several members said they would like to know the Board of Selectmen’s intentions about sewerage the Marlborough Commons and the proposed business park, before formulating a possible 2011 referendum.

“We worry that future sewer expansion referenda will not be greeted warmly when voters reflect on [selectmen’s] hasty retreat when faced with the need to support the district’s legal costs,” Murray wrote in his letter to selectmen.

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In his town staff report, Hughes told the WPCA 30 properties – out of the total 224 – have yet to hookup to the sewer system, however the Marlborough Clinic and the Marlborough Tavern Plaza have filed for hookup permits. The clinic would add 13.9 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) to the system, and the plaza, 46 EDUs.

Also, Hughes presented an outline of the “credit” Marlborough receives from East Hampton, which is about \$213,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. He said the credit would last for a minimum of four more years, up to seven.

“You will get a better handle on this when everybody hooks up and gets the flows going,” Hughes said.

The next regularly scheduled WPCA meeting will be Thursday, May 12, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

## Commission Approves Plans for Pool Company in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

The Zoning Commission approved plans to construct a building and an outdoor display for a pool company at its April 7 meeting.

The company, Cherry Hill Pool, would build on the corner of Portland Road and North Main Street.

The public hearing for the application opened Jan. 6 and closed April 7. Throughout the four meetings in which plans were discussed, only two residents asked questions regarding the application, according to minutes.

At the Feb. 3 meeting resident Bruce Tolhurst inquired about what type of buffer would be established between his lot and the proposed pool company, as well as what lighting would be used. Contacted this week, Tolhurst said he was satisfied with explanations he received from the applicant and the review from the Zoning Commission.

“I thought they’d be reasonable neighbors to have,” Tolhurst said.

Though his lot is currently empty, Tolhurst – who currently lives on Virginia Rail Drive – said he plans to construct a house there once the economy improves.

According to Tolhurst, there will be a buffer of pine trees between his property and Cherry Hill Pool. In purchasing a lot next to a commercially-zoned parcel, Tolhurst said he’s always understood his neighbor would end up being a business.

“I understand the right for people in businesses to build there,” he said, adding, “this type of business is the best one for me to have as a neighbor.”

A pool company, he said, will have “reasonable” hours, it won’t bring in too much traffic and won’t have heavy commercial activity.

However, the lot is one of the first things drivers see when they arrive in Marlborough via exit 12 off Route 2. Zoning Commission Chairman Scott Miller said the commission took this into consideration during its discussions.

The plans cover two lots that are zoned differently. One is currently a grassy field zoned for commercial use, and the other has a small house that is zoned as industrial.

Miller said a sticking point for the commission was to ensure the field would be used for the display area, as opposed to a warehouse. The grassy lot is across from the off-ramp and caddy corner to a commuter parking lot.

The building proposed to be constructed, he said, will likely store some commercial vehicles.

According to its website, Cherry Hill Pool sells, installs and services pools in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire. Miller said the company would run its operation out of the new building.

Although he said he wasn’t sure when construction might begin, Miller said “the applicant seemed pretty eager to get started.”

Reached this week, Jim McGill from Cherry Hill Pool, said he would not comment for a story until plans to purchase the property are finalized.

“If it does get built as they planned it, I think it’ll be a great asset for the town,” Miller said.



The Zoning Commission approved Cherry Hill Pool’s application to construct a display area and building at the site shown above, at the corner of Portland Road and South Main Street.

### Portland Police News

4/14: Melissa Colon, of 50 Chatham Court, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

4/15: John Tosta, of 115 Front St., Middletown, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

4/16: A 14-year-old male was arrested for third-degree assault and referred to juvenile court, police said.

### East Hampton Police News

4/2: Pamela A. Eza, 46, of 4 Danforth Ln., Rocky Hill, was arrested for DUI, traveling unreasonably fast and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

4/6: A 17-year-old of East Hampton was involved in a one-car accident in the area of 77 Smith St., police said. The 17-year-old was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

4/7: Jillian R. Spitsbergen, 26, of 56 Russell St., Middletown, was arrested for failure to drive right, traveling unreasonably fast and DUI, police said.

4/7: Michael Lynch, 33, of East Hampton and Kenneth Bastura, 62, of Colchester, were involved in a two-car accident at the intersection of Route 16 and Hog Hill Road, police said. Lynch was issued a written warning for failure to obey a stop sign.

4/8: Heather Elise Boucher, 22, of 93 Main St., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

4/8: Donald W. Hanna, 46, of 11 Starr Pl., was arrested for DUI, failure to carry insurance and failure to drive right, police said.

4/9: Wesley D. Zaino, 22, of 54 East Ramsdale St., New Haven, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

4/9: Jayson H. Merritt, 52, of 41 East High St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and violating a protective order, police said.

4/10: Zachary Lavigne, 20, of 20 Flannery Row, was arrested for possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

4/11: Jayson Merritt, 52, of 41 East High St., was arrested for third-degree stalking and violating a protective order, police said.

# Meet the Andover Board of Education Candidates

by Courtney Parent

Get your markets ready and make sure to stay inside the bubble; it's election time.

With elections less than two weeks away, on Monday, May 2, it's time to get familiar with your candidates for the Andover and RHAM Boards of Education.

In this year's election there are four candidates running for the local Board of Education and an additional three running for the Andover portion of the RHAM school board.

Running for another term on the local Board of Education is well-known and longtime resident and candidate Jay Linddy. Linddy, who is also on the Board of Selectmen, currently serves as chairman of the Board of Education. Linddy said he has been on the school board for approximately 20 years. When asked what he hoped to achieve if elected to the Board of Education again, he answered simply, "We achieved it."

After a short pause, Linddy continued on to say, "But we want to continue to make sure that our kids are getting the education the highest that we can provide."

Linddy credited much of the town's success with its education system to having great administrators and great parents that help by spending time educating their children in the home setting as well.

"It's very important that any board of education also be very sensitive to taxpayers' needs," said Linddy. "In the last seven years we really haven't gone up on the budget at all and we

also haven't cut any services or the quality of education because of the great administration and faculty."

Next up is candidate, Kimberly Hawes, who has lived in town since 1992. She is currently serving on the town's Recreation Commission, and as a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Andover Volunteer Fire Department. Hawes has served one term on the Board of Education.

Candidate Sharyn Keeney is also looking for the town's continued support, to retain her current spot on the local Board of Education. Keeney was unavailable for comment.

Moving on to the newcomer of the bunch, Cathy Danielczuk has been an Andover resident for 22 years. Danielczuk said she was asked to run by the Andover Democratic Town Committee as she has had a background in the education field, working as a special education teacher in the Hartford School District. Danielczuk is active within the community being involved with the Congregational Church, Cub Scouts and the PTA.

Next up, running for a spot on the RHAM Board of Education is Don Keener. Last Friday, April 15, Keener spoke to a group at the senior center explaining why he wanted to be elected. Describing himself as "one of the newcomers," Keener is far from a "newcomer" to the town, being a 23-year resident and having two sons graduate from RHAM. Keener is currently serving as chairman of the Andover

Democratic Town Committee.

Keener commended the RHAM school system for preparing students for college, however, he stressed the need to instill the basics of math, reading and writing in those students entering directly into the job market. Along those lines, Keener explained that he currently runs the apprenticeship program at Pratt & Whitney, working closely with community colleges creating training programs for young adults.

Keener asked people to vote for him because he wants to help prepare students for their "college and non-college pursuits" and "he'd appreciate winning once." (This is Keener's second time running for the Board of Education.)

Also speaking at last Friday's gathering and running for a spot on the RHAM school board is current treasurer, Danny Holtsclaw. Holtsclaw said he has been a resident of Andover since 1996. During his speech he emphasized his dedication to the town and to the RHAM school system, explaining how he has been working to increase communication, by bringing RHAM meetings to Andover. He also said he has been working to achieve financial accountability.

"I promise to continue to do a good job and keep dialogue with the town," said Holtsclaw. He went on to promise to do what is best "financially" and "academically" if elected.

Kenneth Lee, who is also currently serving on the RHAM board, is looking for the town's

continued support in the upcoming election. Lee was unavailable for comment.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Wally Barton pointed to the multiple incumbents in both elections when being asked if anyone stood out as frontrunners. For the Andover Board of Education, Linddy, Hawes and Keeney are incumbents and on the RHAM side of things, Holtsclaw and Lee. Barton noted the great job they had done in the financial aspect.

"They have worked tirelessly with the superintendents to keep taxes stable," Barton said of the current members of the Andover Board of Ed. "It's the same with the regional board; they worked with [a] payment schedule to RHAM."

Barton noted that RHAM wanted a larger portion than the town could afford in July and members of the RHAM Board of Ed worked to get those payments down.

Barton went on to explain that while Marlborough and Hebron get tax returns back bi-annually, Andover files quarterly and as a result gets smaller sums at one time.

Residents will be able to vote for two candidates for the Andover Board of Education and two candidates for the RHAM Board of Education.

Town elections will be held on Monday, May 2, in the Community Room of the Town Hall, 17 School Rd., from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## An Afternoon of Politics and Pie in Andover

by Courtney Parent

Sixteen candidates plus seniors attended a meet-and-greet last Friday, April 15. The afternoon began with a turkey and pie, then moved to short speeches from the candidates and finished with a raffle.

Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi welcomed a crowd of more than 30 to the senior center. Palazzi proceeded to clarify anticipated confusion over the ballots. She said residents can vote for any two of the four candidates running for Board of Selectmen, regardless of their party.

Palazzi went on to note there was no favoritism to a specific party in regards to placement on the ballots and that Democrats were listed first because the current governor is a Democrat.

After Palazzi, moderator Dianne Grenier took the floor, telling candidates to limit their speeches to three minutes.

Candidates chose numbers at random after arriving to determine the order of speeches. It was Democrat Joan Foran, a candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals who chose lucky number one. However, Foran was a bit less lucky, as she had laryngitis and required the assistance of "stand-in" Pam Quinn. Quinn read off Foran's short, yet amusing note, as Foran acted out the speech that said "I don't have a voice" (grabbing her throat), "please vote for me anyway" (clasping her hands together).

The second speech was given by Republican Michael Palazzi, running for a spot on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Palazzi began by saying that he has been an Andover resident for the past 24 years. He said this position would be a "nice fit" as he is currently chair of the Conservation Committee and has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for three years.

Next up was a candidate for the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Zoning Board of Appeals, Republican Wally Barton Jr. An Andover resident since 1960, Barton explained that he was an active firefighter in town for 31 years, has served on the Board of Fire Commissioners for 20 years and is currently serving as chair.

Moving on to the Zoning Board of Appeals was current chairwoman, Republican Evelyn

Russell. Russell noted her dedication to the board, serving as a member since 1989. Russell said she would appreciate the town's continued support and explained the significance of her job.

"Our job is to decide what is best for the town," Russell said, "we do what we feel is best."

Russell went on to give her support to Michael Palazzi, whom she "hates to lose, but there isn't a better person for the job," backing him in his candidacy for the PZC.

Number six was Republican Cathy Desrosiers, running for the Board of Selectmen. Desrosiers referred to herself as being "home-grown," born and raised in Andover. She is currently serving on the Board of Finance of which she has been a member for 10 years and she clerked "forever and a day." While on the Board of Finance, Desrosiers said she aided in giving the town a zero percent increase for three years in a row. As a member of the Library Board, she said she proposed a "better place for the kids," which resulted in a "wonderful children's library." Desrosiers concluded her speech by saying the main reason she wants to be a selectmen is to make a difference.

"I want to be the solution for you," Desrosiers said. "I want to be your voice. I can bring financial skills and I want to be part of the progress in town."

Dave Knowlton took center stage next, seeking a spot as a PZC alternate. Knowlton, who is unaffiliated, grew up in town and moved back five years ago. Knowlton said he "helps out" on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and the Economic Development Commission. Knowlton emphasized the town's need for businesses and said his goal would be to bring in new businesses, as he "would rather see businesses pay taxes than individuals."

Number eight on the list was another candidate for the Board of Selectmen, Democrat Elaine Buchardt, who has served as a selectman for the past five years. She has lived in town for 23 years with her husband, Don Keener. Buchardt pointed to her commitment to the town, being involved with numerous com-

mittees including, but not limited to, the Commission on Aging, the Economic Development Commission, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and the Route 6 Economic Development Council. Buchardt said she has enjoyed working on all of these.

"This year is tricky as there are six people running for five positions," Buchardt said. "I'm just asking if you could just fill in the little bubble next to my name so I can keep doing it."

Next up was a candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals, Republican Bob Russell, who opened by saying he has been in town for the past 50 years. Russell has served on the PZC for over 20 years, originally joining back in the 60s. In his speech, Russell focused on the town's need for volunteers and the time commitment he would be able to make.

"The time involved with all these issues is tremendous," Russell said. "The only thing I have going for me is I am semi-retired, and I have the time, and I enjoy it."

Rounding out the top 10 was Republican Georgette Conrad, also running for the Board of Assessment Appeals. Conrad opened by saying, "you all know me around here as a big mouth." After the laughter quieted, Conrad noted there are three candidates to fill three spots, so they "only need one vote each." Conrad said she was on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and has volunteered around town.

"I like doing that, it's better than housework," Conrad said of volunteering, "don't come to my house though."

Vying for a spot on the Board of Finance was Democrat Marie Burbank. As a result of seeing the board's "most experienced members" leave, Burbank said she felt she could be of assistance. Burbank noted her experience in town government, serving as town clerk, on the Board of Selectmen for two years and as justice of the peace.

Next to speak was democrat Julia Haverl who is running for first selectman against incum-

bent Republican Bob Burbank. Haverl and Burbank each addressed the crowd; however, the two will be profiled in a separate story in next week's *Rivereast*.

Appearing with Burbank on the Republican ticket is Dave Gostanian, who is running for a position on the Board of Finance. Gostanian has lived in town since 1994, joining the fire department shortly after in 1995. Gostanian told the crowd he also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 10 years.

"I liked the town," Gostanian said, "I liked the rural aspect and just fell in love with it. I believe in giving back."

Closing out the day was Democratic candidate for Board of Selectmen Linda Knowlton. Knowlton referred to herself as a "city girl," Hartford born and raised, moving to her husband's hometown of Andover five years ago. Knowlton has served on the Board of Selectmen for the past year and also served on the Economic Development Commission, becoming chairwoman after about two years, she said. Knowlton acknowledged that she was the "new kid on the block" and that there was a learning curve involved, but said what she had to offer was a fresh set of eyes.

The speeches were followed by a raffle, with the top prize of strawberries (to be grown by the winner) donated by Linda Knowlton and flowers grown and donated by Julia Haverl. Also, there was a 50/50 raffle, with half of the proceeds (\$26) going to the senior luncheon.

Two RHAM Board of Education candidates, Danny Holtsclaw and Don Keener, gave speeches last Friday as well; their experience and reasons for running can be found on page 19.

Not all candidates running for spots on town boards and commission spoke at the meet-and-greet. A full story about all candidates will appear in next week's issue.

Town elections will be held on Monday, May 2 in the Community Room of the Town Hall, 17 School Rd., from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

# Chic-N-Scoop is Chicken Lickin' Good in Andover

by Courtney Parent

With Easter just around the corner and warm weather on the rise, many may be eager to indulge in all the beauties of the summer season: short-sleeves, barbecues, and beaches to name a few.

Well get ready Andover, because it's almost peak season for another summer favorite – a scrumptious snack for all ages – ice cream.

And residents will be able to enjoy plenty of it, especially once Chic-N-Scoop opens for business. Owners Dave and Linda Knowlton are embracing the sweet, delicious, dairy treat, and will feature 19 different flavors of Gifford's Premium ice cream in their Chic-N-Scoop mobile trailer.

However, both Dave and Linda knew that more often than not people would not come out simply for dessert. That's why they'll offer more than just ice cream and a friendly face. The menu will also include items such as fried chicken, corn dogs, French fries, sweet potato fries, onion rings and more.

"Basically we were looking to have items or products for sale that nobody else in town has," Dave said. "We'd heard that people thought having an ice cream shop would be a good idea."

The decision of obtaining a mobile trailer was based on the freedom of being able to operate from different locations and not being strictly tied to one spot.

"Technically, it's a mobile food cart," Linda said. "We were thinking of doing fairs, so if we do a fair on the weekend we can just bring it to the fair and bring it back."

According to Dave, the idea for the Chic-N-Scoop came about a year ago, and at the end of

last year, the pair began taking action to turn the idea into a reality. During December and January, Dave said they began filling out the paperwork, crossing the T's and dotting the I's and began searching for a location.

The majority of the time Chic-N-Scoop will reside at the corner of Route 6 and Route 316, next to Carriage Barn Realty.

In keeping with Andover's small-town vibe, Dave and Linda noted Chic-N-Scoop is a family-owned and operated business.

While both Dave and Linda are somewhat "busy bodies" (Dave owns Top Shop LLC in the Andover Plaza and Linda serves as the regional vice president for Church Insurance Agency Corporation), it is Linda's three daughters, Christina, Aubrey and Danis Gionfriddo who will be working Chic-N-Scoop most days. The hours of operation will be 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

People will drive up, get out of their cars, place their order and enjoy their food. Customers can eat in their vehicles, take it on the road or possibly enjoy some outdoor seating under the warming rays of the sun. (Dave and Linda are still discussing the possibility of outdoor seating.)

Chic-N-Scoop is anticipated to open within the next couple of weeks, the duo said. Once it is open there will be a contest to win a free ice cream cone of any flavor by guessing what flavor "Chicken Lickin'" is.

Now if you're thinking guessing games and ice cream flavors named "Chicken Lickin'" are just for kids, don't kid yourself. Ice cream is not just for children, it's for all ages and so is the enjoyment that comes from eating it.



The Chic-N-Scoop trailer will soon be open for business, serving up ice cream and fried chicken. Pictured with the mobile food cart is owner Dave Knowlton.

In the words of writer Jim Fiebig, no matter how old you get and how mature you think you are "age does not diminish the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice cream fall from the cone."

Lucky for Andover, Dave and Linda will have plenty of it in stock in case that (knock on wood) ever happens.

For more information visit [chicnscoop.com](http://chicnscoop.com) or find the business on Facebook.

# East Hampton YPCCA Going Over the Rainbow with Latest Play

by Joshua Anusewicz

There may not be a yellow brick road in East Hampton, but in May, it's going to get a little easier to go off and see the wizard.

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) in East Hampton is putting on its annual fundraiser show on May 5-8, a production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The show is to benefit the Mike and Adina Mansfield Memorial Scholarship, which is given to a graduating East Hampton High School student planning to pursue a degree in theater or education.

This year's show will feature a cast of over 90 actors and crew, said Director Jennifer Friday, ranging in age "from 5 to 50." The group includes residents of East Hampton, Portland, Colchester and other area towns.

Friday said the decision to do *The Wizard of Oz* was an easy one.

"So many people have a fondness for this show," Friday said. "We expect some great crowds." Last year, the YPCCA performed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a lesser-known musical, and *High School Musical* in 2009, which Friday said was a "huge hit."

All proceeds from the shows go to the scholarship fund, named after the founder of the YPCCA, Mike Mansfield, and his wife Adina. Mike Mansfield, a sixth-grade teacher at the time, founded the group in 1982 after the school districts in the area began eliminating local theater programs. Shortly after, a summer camp was formed and the YPCCA has been going strong ever since.

After Mike Mansfield's passing in 1989, the group began performing musicals during the school year and has now evolved into the scholarship fund in his and his wife's name.

Friday, who was in the group's first production at age 12, is joined by Rachel Mansfield, the group's usual director, who is the daughter of Mike and Adina. The two decided to switch roles for the production "just for fun," Friday said. Mansfield will take the role as choreographer. Both women also praised the work of Kendra Dickinson, who works with the youngest members as the junior director.

The show will consist of mostly youths, including 60 munchkins, who are as young as 5 years old. Along with the usual characters, you can expect to see flying monkeys, good and bad witches and even a little dog too: a local dog named Madison.

"They say never work with kids or animals," Mansfield laughed. "And we have both."

Friday praised the kids for their hard work, saying they "keep you young and always bring up such good ideas." She made special mention of the East Hampton students, who have been putting in extra hours despite having their school vacation canceled.

Both women noted that parents have also been a big help to production, donating time, costumes, and money for advertisements in the program. Mansfield said it's "certainly a community effort," and that everyone "chips in."

The show will take place at the East Hampton High School auditorium at 7 p.m. on May



Theater-goers can join YPCCA cast members as they set off to see the wizard on May 5-7, as part of their latest production, *The Wizard of Oz*. Pictured from left are Keith Cummings, who will play the Tin Man, Taylor Casey, who will play Dorothy, and Kevin Paley, who will play the Cowardly Lion.

5-7 and at 2 p.m. on May 8. The tickets will be \$10 and available at the door.

According to Friday, last year's show raised roughly \$2,500 for the scholarship and she hopes that the big-name show will help get that

number even higher.

*The Wizard of Oz* "is such a spectacle," Friday said. "Everyone loves it and we hope they all come out."

## Colchester Police News

4/11: At around 2:09 p.m., Colchester Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress on Farmwood Drive. The suspect had fled the scene when officers arrived, but it was determined the suspect had broken in through the garage door, police said. Nothing was stolen. The suspect was described as a white male wearing jeans, work boots and a black hoodie. Anyone with more information about the case is asked to contact Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

4/13: A 17-year-old male was charged with sixth-degree larceny after allegedly shoplifting from Rite Aid on Broadway, State Police said.

4/15: Racine Reberio, 27, of 11 Grandview Dr., Enfield, was charged with reckless driving and DUI, State Police said.

4/17: Meredith Geer, 29, of 513 Seer Spring St., Naugatuck, was charged with DUI, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to maintain lane and driving without insurance, Colchester Police said.

## Andover Police News

4/12: Matthew Fitzpatrick, 18, of 20 Wheeling Rd., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

4/12: A 16-year-old male was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

4/12: A 17-year-old male was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of liquor by a minor, State Police said.

4/13: Eric Kellenberger, 34, of 65 Parker Bridge Rd., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

## Weapons and Drugs Lead to Three Arrests

Last Thursday, April 14, at 9:27 a.m., three juveniles were arrested for a drug violation and for having weapons on school grounds at RHAM Middle School.

Trooper David LaBoy of Troop K responded to the middle school after receiving a complaint of a student with a knife on school grounds.

All three juveniles were released to their parents' custody with court dates scheduled for Thursday, April 28, at Juvenile Matters in Willimantic.

LaBoy said he was unable to comment on juvenile issues, and RHAM Middle School Principal Michael Seroussi was unavailable for comment.

# Portland Selectmen Raise Water and Sewer Rates

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland residents will see a rate increase on water and sewer usage starting in July, after the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a 3 percent increase at a meeting Wednesday.

The 3 percent increase will be used to offset a rate increase from the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), which manages the town's water and sewer systems. The MDC raised its rates 11 percent from last year, according to board member Carl Chudzik.

The current rate for water usage is \$3.55 per 100 cubic feet, and will go up to \$3.66 per 100 cubic feet. The rate for sewer usage will go from \$4.54 per 100 cubic feet to \$4.68 per 100 cubic feet.

According to Director of Public Works Richard Kelsey, it's not uncommon for the MDC to raise rates each year, but that an 11 percent increase is "unusually high." He also said that

the MDC increase is not just for the town of Portland, but "for all MDC customers."

As stated in the Portland Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen can establish periodical "water rates for the use of water and the charges for sewer service." First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield stated that the Board has actually planned to raise rates by 3 percent each year over five years, with this being the second year of that plan. Bransfield said that revenues from water and sewer usage are down and have not fully covered expenses, which include wages for employees and maintenance.

Bransfield said that the water is brought into Portland from Glastonbury by the MDC, which Portland currently has a long-term contract for. She also added the amount that each person pays will be based on usage, as it currently is.

Chudzik added that the increase was needed

to "catch up" with the expenses the town pays, considering the unpredictability of water and sewer usage.

According to the town charter, the proposed rate increase must be discussed at a public hearing to give residents the opportunity to be heard regarding the increase. The hearing will be held Wednesday, May 4, at 7 p.m., prior to the regular Board of Selectmen meeting at the Portland Public Library.

\* \* \*

After several adjustments were made, the Board of Selectmen also voted to propose an ordinance that will require a "street closure permit" if for any reason a street is closed or traffic is affected by road work. The ordinance would also require private contractors or businesses that apply for a permit to hire a police officer to help direct traffic.

All applications for a permit will be reviewed by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and the Portland Police Department. The ordinance also states that the permit holder will have to provide insurance and may have to submit a bond to hold them liable for any incidents that may occur during the road closure. Any violation of the ordinance will result in a \$90 fine.

Bransfield said that passing this ordinance is "very important," as the repairs on the Arrigoni Bridge will begin this summer. Two of the roads that will be most affected by this construction, Route 17A (Main Street) and Route 66 (Marlborough Street), are included in the ordinance.

This ordinance will also be brought to the Wednesday, May 4, public hearing for residents to discuss the proposal and possibly adopt it.

## East Hampton Town Council Cuts More Than \$300,000 From Budget

By Joshua Anusewicz

The Town Council came to a quick and unanimous decision to propose \$321,798 in cuts to the proposed 2011-12 town budget at its special meeting last Thursday, setting up a town vote on Tuesday, May 3.

The cuts bring the proposed budget to \$37.86 million, with spending reduced by \$136,000 from the 2010-11 fiscal year. According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the mill rate will increase by 0.76 of a mill, to 25.74, but roughly 60 percent of residents will not see an increase in their taxes.

Engel said that most of the cuts were discussed at a meeting last week that also involved Town Council member Barbara Moore, Interim Town Manager Robert Drewry, and Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka.

A large chunk of the cuts came rather fortuitously, with the renewal rate for town employee health insurance being \$100,000 lower than projected. According to Vice Chairman John Tuttle, \$50,000 of that savings will go into the town's contingency fund, which will cover possible fuel price fluctuations for the town and

Board of Education.

Tuttle admitted that the renewal couldn't have come at a better time.

"It doesn't always happen right before the budget process and most years, you just have to forge ahead not knowing," Tuttle said this week. "Sometimes, it can come back to bite you and other times it can work in your favor."

Two town employees will also be eliminated to provide more cuts: a town planner position at the building department, cutting \$71,050, and a consultant position at the Economic Development Commission (EDC), which will save \$25,000. An additional \$30,000 will be saved through the animal control consolidation with East Haddam.

Along with adding money to the contingency fund, \$15,000 was also added to the police department budget to help pay for overtime. According to Engel, this is from the restructuring of the police department last summer, when the department lost two officers and the remaining officers had to make up the extra time.

The overall cuts for town operations will to-

tal \$175,198, almost \$72,000 more than the Board of Finance originally recommended cutting. The council members were in agreement that the figure represents something that will help the people of the town in an uncertain time.

"This is a very prudent budget," councilman Thom Cordeiro said. "This is a good number, and one that let's us move forward."

Cordeiro also restated the importance of "how we spend people's money," particularly without knowing the amount of state aid the town will receive.

"We can't bank on anything," Cordeiro said. Moore reiterated the importance of being able to cut the \$100,000, saying that it allowed the council to reach a "great compromise."

The council members also agreed to accept the Board of Finance's recommended cuts to the Board of Education, totaling \$146,600. The school board had originally proposed a \$26.61 million budget in February, a 2.82 percent increase from 2010-11, but Drewry proposed \$150,000 in reductions last month.

According to Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden, Drewry's proposed cuts were balanced out by the health insurance renewal. She also said that additional proposed cuts by the Board of Finance will "be a lot," and is unsure of where the reductions will come from.

"Those decisions will most likely have to be made after the town referendum," Golden said. "And if the referendum doesn't pass, we might need more."

Although some members of the Board of Finance had originally pushed for a zero percent tax increase, Engel said that roughly \$750,000 would have to be cut to reach that figure, which would do more harm than good.

"It would probably decimate both sides," Engel said frankly. She agreed with the other council members, saying that it was "a responsible, well-thought-out budget."

Before the town referendum, a town meeting will be held for residents to speak about the budget on Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

## Two Arrested for November East Hampton Robbery

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police have arrested two men allegedly involved in a robbery that occurred on Nov. 26 of last year.

Lee O. Gray, 20, of Enfield, and Mentor Berisha, 19, of Meriden, were both charged with first-degree robbery, second-degree assault, fifth-degree larceny, and conspiracy to commit those crimes, police said. Police arrested Gray on March 21 and arrested Berisha on April 5.

The charges stem from an incident involving the assault and robbery of a man Gray and Berisha had arranged to buy marijuana from, the East Hampton Police report stated.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, a third party arranged for the two men to buy marijuana at an apartment building on 82 Main St. When the two men arrived, they assaulted the other man, stealing a half-ounce of marijuana, his wallet and his cell phone, Kelly said.

Kelly said that "neither side has been telling the complete truth," with the man selling the marijuana saying that he was buying the marijuana and was never in possession of the drugs.

The two suspects were arrested by Portland Police on Nov. 26, 2010, after receiving information from East Hampton Police about

suspects' vehicle that had fled the scene. Portland Police charged the men with multiple drug-related offenses at that time, the police report said.

Officer Matthew Hanlon, Sgt. Jared Boynton and Sgt. Michael Green of the East Hampton Police Department investigated the robbery, which resulted in these charges. Kelly said that several people involved were interviewed and a surveillance tape from the apartment building was obtained to help charge the suspects.

The police report said more arrests are likely as a result of this investigation, but Kelly said Wednesday none have been made yet.

Gray could not post \$75,000 bail and is scheduled to appear in Middlesex Superior Court on Monday, May 2. Berisha has not posted \$25,000 bail and has pled 'not guilty' to all of the charges. He is scheduled to appear in court on Thursday, May 5.

According to court records, Berisha has been arrested three times in the past 6 months on charges that include possession and sale of narcotics, first-degree robbery, carrying a dangerous weapon and first-degree criminal mischief. None of these arrests were made in East Hampton.

## Andover Resident Convicted in Fatal 2008 Hit-and-Run

by Courtney Parent

Andover truck driver Mark S. Williams was convicted last week of a 2008 hit-and-run that killed an East Hartford motorcyclist.

Williams, 52, of 14 Hickory Hill Dr., was found guilty April 12 of evading responsibility in the hit-and-run death of 40-year-old Brian S. Bertocki of East Hartford. The verdict came following a jury trial at Manchester Superior Court.

According to a February 2009 *Rivereast* article, East Hartford police reports said the accident occurred shortly after midnight on June 4, 2008, at the intersection of Roberts and Hillside streets. Bertocki was pronounced dead on the scene due to head injuries sustained when Williams tractor trailer hit the motorcycle carrying Bertocki and passenger, Kathleen Bevilacqua.

Williams was initially interviewed by police on July 1, 2008, less than one month after the crash. Police said Williams told them he was driving from East Hartford to Waterbury on the night of the accident. According to the article, Williams told police he heard a loud bang when making the turn onto Roberts Street and

thought something was hung up between his truck and trailer. Upon looking in his rearview mirror and seeing nothing, Williams continued driving, police said. Williams later stopped in the area of Margarita's Restaurant in East Hartford to examine the underneath of his vehicle, but saw nothing and continued on, according to police.

Seven months after the crash, on Jan. 29, 2009, Williams turned himself in to police and was charged with negligent homicide, evasion of responsibility in operation of a motor vehicle, reckless driving and failing to stop at a stop sign, police said.

According to the article, toxicology reports showed that Bertocki had a small amount of cocaine in his system at the time of the accident, as well as a blood alcohol content of .08. East Hartford Police spokesman Officer Hugo Benettieri told the *Rivereast* in February 2009 it was unclear if the substances had a factor in the accident.

Sentencing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, at 10 a.m. at Manchester Superior Court.

## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### Aurelle Deschaine

Aurelle Joseph "Al" Deschaine, 89, of East Hampton, husband of the late Elizabeth Deschaine, died Wednesday, April 13 at his home. Born April 18, 1921 in Soldier Pond, ME, he was the son of the late Dennis and Emelia (Bosse) Deschaine.

Al and his wife had lived in East Hampton for the past 61 years. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and had worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 17 years. Al had also maintained the Lakeview Cemetery and St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton for many years.

He is survived by his loving daughters, Polly Kolodziej and her husband John of Alexandria, NH, Cheryl Szarkowicz and her husband Joe of Brooklyn, CT, and Sharon Brown and her husband Michael of Middletown; his loving son, Robert Deschaine of East Hampton; seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Al will also be missed by many friends and neighbors in East Hampton.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated on Wednesday, April 20 in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed with military honors in St. Patrick Cemetery.

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

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

### Colchester

#### Aaron M. Turner Jr.

Aaron M. Turner Jr., 82, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 14, with his beloved wife Odessa (Bray) Turner by his side. Born July 13, 1928 in Eastman, GA, he was the son of the late Aaron and Cora (Walker) Turner Sr.



He attended Morehouse College in Georgia and studied alongside the late Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. He was a proud Army veteran of the Korean War.

In May of 1953, he and Odessa were married in Colchester, where they raised their family. Aaron was a professional driver for the former Schuster's Express in Colchester for 42 years before his retirement.

He was a longtime member (and past president) of the Colchester Lions Club, the Baptist congregation of the Colchester Federated Church, where he was recently named Deacon Emeritus. He was a member of the Democratic Town Committee and the Connecticut State Police Auxiliary for over 20 years, and served as a Colchester Constable for many years.

In addition to his loving wife of 58 years, he is survived by four daughters, Marilynn of Colchester, Charlotte of Colchester, Denise of Danvers, MA, and Joyce of Stonington; one granddaughter, Odessa Turner Blanker of Stonington; his sister, Margaret Davis of Eastman, GA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Sunday, April 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services were held Monday, April 18, at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St. (on the green). Committal with full military honors followed in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Colchester Federated Church or the Colchester Lions Club, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

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

### Colchester

#### Rudolf H. Doden

Rudolf H. Doden, 66, of Colchester, beloved husband of Joanne (Tosov) Doden, passed away Sunday, April 17. Born Nov. 26, 1944, in Moordorf, Germany, he was the son of the late Dodo and Johanna (Jurgens) Doden.

Rudy was a hardworking and devoted husband to his wife of 30 years; "Papa" to his four children, Anita Doden Lettieri and Rudolf, Rachel and Veronica Doden, all of Colchester; doting "Opa" to Mitchell Lettieri; and cherished friend to many.

Friends called Wednesday, April 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that evening. Burial private.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Ctr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

### Colchester

#### Pamela Leigh Vecchiarino

Pamela Leigh (Pekoske) Vecchiarino, 46, of Glastonbury, beloved wife of Joseph Vecchiarino, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side Saturday, April 16, at Hartford Hospital, after a brief illness. She was born March 8, 1965, in Meriden, a daughter of Edward F. and Constance (Fleming) Pekoske of Bonita Springs, FL. She was formerly of Colchester, and had been a resident of Glastonbury for over nine years.



Pamela was a graduate of Bacon Academy, Colchester, Class of 1983, and received her BS in Nursing from Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, Class of 1987. She later earned her MSN in Nursing from the University of Hartford in 1999. She began her nursing career at Hartford Hospital in 1986, as an intern, becoming a staff nurse and moving through the ranks to her current position of nurse director of medicine, oncology and IV therapy. She was a champion of patient safety, a strong proponent of multidisciplinary collaboration and a skillful teacher.

She was active in community and professional organizations such as the American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the American Nurses Association and the Connecticut Nurses Association. In 2009, she received the prestigious Doris M. Armstrong Leadership in Nursing Award. Pam was also the president-elect of the Organization of Nurse Executives in Connecticut.

Pam was a proud mother who volunteered at her daughter's school and dance recitals, even dancing a mother-daughter dance at the recital. Pam enjoyed entertaining as she and Joe always opened their doors to all their friends, daughter's friends, and family members. They were always hosting parties, Pizza Fridays, and always had room for more, as there was no crowd too big for Pam. Pam loved attending Broadway productions at the Bushnell Memorial Auditorium in Hartford, going to the beach and pool and being a warm weather gentle woman.

Known for having a passion for life and her beautiful brown eyes, Pam shared the gift of sight as a registered donor to two individuals in need. Pam will be remembered by all for being a brilliant nurse and wonderful human being, whose beautiful smile, laughter and kindness brightened the lives of all who came in touch with her.

Besides her devoted husband, Joe, of 15 years, and her parents, Pam is survived by her adored daughter, Gemma Leigh Vecchiarino at home in Glastonbury; her brother and sister-in-law, Erik F. and Patricia Pekoske and their children, Daniel and Haley, all of Colchester; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, John B. "John the Tailor" and Mary C. (Pirruccio) Vecchiarino of Wethersfield; two brothers-in-law, Claudio Vecchiarino and his wife, Amy, and their three children, Ariana, Ciara, and Giovanni all of Hebron, John B. Vecchiarino, Jr. and his companion, Lori Breychak, of Glastonbury; her longtime best friend forever, Jacqueline McQuay and her two sons, Jordan and Tyler Rosenlicht, all of Glastonbury; many aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends and co-workers.

Funeral services were Wednesday, April 20, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Paul's Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury. Pam's family received relatives and friends on Tuesday, April 19, at the D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford.

Memorial contributions in Pam's memory may be made to the Gemma Leigh Vecchiarino Scholarship Fund, c/o Jacqueline McQuay, 53 Minnechaug Dr., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Pam's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the entire staff at Hartford Hospital for their wonderful support, love, special care and compassion given to Pam and her entire family these past few months.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

### Marlborough

#### Charles G. Phippen

Charles G. "Bud" Phippen of Alstead, NH, and South Yarmouth, MA, formerly of Marlborough, went home to be with the Lord Sunday, April 17, at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, NH. Bud was born in 1931 in Boston, MA, of William G. and Katherine (Murphy) Phippen.

He was raised in Winchester, MA and graduated from Winchester High School. He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY, on March 4, 1953, and on March 7, 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Cynthia May Morse. Bud served two years in the United States Navy as a lieutenant junior grade. He was a professional engineer. He was employed at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford as a mechanical engineer in the materials development lab.

The family lived in Marlborough nine years and Wethersfield for 29 years. He retired in '91 and moved to Alstead, NH. His passion was serving the Lord. He was an active member of Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church for more than 30 years, and more recently at Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Windsor, VT. He was very dedicated and served the church in many positions. Bud loved the ocean, Cape Cod, spending time with his family, and helping out on his son's dairy farm.

Mr. Phippen leaves behind his loving wife of 58 years, Cynthia Phippen of Alstead; a son, David (Chuck) Phippen and his wife Diane of Hoosick Falls, NY, and their 11 children, Sean, Scott, Seth, Shayla, Sharon, Stephen, Simon, Samuel, Synthia, Silas, Sarah & Ben Green; four daughters: Cathryn Thompson and her husband Paul of Sergeant Bluff, IA, and their three children: Rachel Knight and her husband Nathan, Chad Thompson and his wife Emily, Stephen Thompson and his wife Kristi; Cynthia McNaughton and her husband Brian of Cromwell and their two children: Heather McNaughton and BJ McNaughton; Cheryl Saaman and her husband, the Rev. Glenn Saaman of Newport, VT, and their six children: Daniel, Lydia, Paul, Abraham, Bethany, and Rebecca Laber and her husband Ryan; Cristyn Franson and her husband Paul of Lebanon and their two children: Levi Franson and Shane Franson; and four great-grandchildren; two brothers: Dr. William G. Phippen and his wife Doris and George Robert Phippen and his wife Mary, both of New London, NH, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his brother Richard S. Phippen.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. today, April 22, at the Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, 511 Maple St., Wethersfield, CT 06109-3730. A private family inurnment will be held at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent, in Mr. Charles "Bud" Phippen's name, to the Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church, Missions Fund.

The Fletcher Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 33 Marlboro St, Keene, NH 03431, is in charge of the arrangements.

### Colchester

#### Heidi Elaine Tripp

Heidi Elaine (Palmer) Tripp, 35, of Lebanon, formerly of Colchester, passed away on Tuesday morning at the Tufts Medical Center in Boston after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Hartford Jan. 18, 1976, she was the daughter of Dennis and Brenda (Thibodeau) Palmer of Colchester.

Heidi was a 1994 graduate of Bacon Academy and she also attended UConn. She wed Clyde R. Tripp III (Chuck) on Oct. 13, 2006, in Bolton. He survives her.

She was a member of the Federated Church in Colchester. Heidi loved reading and shopping. She was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and the UConn Huskies basketball. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family for her loving devotion and dedication shown to each of them.

In addition to her beloved husband and parents, survivors include her precious children, Ryleigh May and Brendan Fenway Tripp. She also leaves two brothers, Dennis Jr. and wife Kelly Palmer of Westchester, Bryant Avery Palmer of Colchester; maternal grandfather, Adrian Thibodeau of Jackman, ME; her best and lifelong friend, Cheryl Anderson of Colchester and numerous extended family and friends.

She was recently predeceased by her grandmother, Joyce Bennett Thibodeau.

Friends may call Monday, April 25, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 10 a.m., directly at the Federated Church, Main Street, Colchester. Burial will follow in Linwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Heidi Tripp Children's Education Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, 219 South Main St., Colchester, CT 06415

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

### Colchester

#### Margaret Grace Poole

Margaret Grace Poole, 85, of Colchester, peacefully passed into the hands of God on Wednesday morning, April, 20, at the Chestelm Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Moodus, with her family by her side.



Born in Tiverton, RI, on Sept. 29, 1925, she was a daughter of the late Frank and Grace (Charette) Sisson. She wed Clyde L. Poole on June 10, 1946. He predeceased her on Dec. 31, 2003.

Margaret retired several years ago after having worked as a nurse aid throughout her career at the former Colchester Convalescent Home. She was a talented lady and she loved life. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family for her loving devotion to them. She will be sadly missed.

She is survived by four children and their spouses, Richard and Linda Poole of Middletown, Scott and Janice Poole of Norwich, Timothy Poole and Susan Ferling of N. Franklin, Susan and Tim Northcutt of Williamsburg, VA; two sisters, Lorraine Warren of Florida, Dorothy Sullivan of Fall River, MA; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a son, Mark Poole, and a grandson, Dana Michael Poole.

Friends may call on Saturday, April 23, from 2-3 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Chestelm Recreation Department, 534 Town St., Moodus, CT 06469

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

## *East Hampton*

### Audrey Doyle Barnard

Audrey Doyle Barnard, 65, of 31 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, formerly of Guilford, passed away at her home Tuesday, April 19, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. She was the loving wife of John L. Barnard of East Hampton. She was born May 5, 1945, in New Haven, daughter of the late Walter Nelson and LaVernia Gillette Doyle.



Audrey was mother of Amy Bayse and her husband Joseph of North Carolina and Emily Kelly and her husband Eric of Marlborough. She was the sister of Nelson Doyle of Clinton and Roger Doyle of Guilford. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Connor and Megan Bayse and Sean and Colleen Kelly, along with her beloved dog, Maddie.

Audrey cherished every moment she spent with her family and grandchildren. She retired from Pratt & Whitney where she worked as an occupational registered nurse. She loved traveling to Ireland, listening to Irish music and loved to shop.

Audrey's daughters would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to those family and friends who went above and beyond to support and help care for their mother including her healthcare companions, Dr. Richard Shumway and his staff at the St Francis Cancer Center, and Masonic care.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. George Church, 33 Whitfield St, Guilford, on Tuesday, April 26, at 10 a.m. Burial will follow Mass in Alder Brook Cemetery, Boston Street, Guilford. Family and friends may call from 5-8 p.m. Monday, April 25, at the Guilford Funeral Home, 115 Church St., Guilford.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to remember Audrey with a memorial gift are asked to make contributions to The Sturge-Weber Foundation, PO Box 418, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970-5482.

For more information or to send an online condolence for the family, visit [GuilfordFuneralHome.com](http://GuilfordFuneralHome.com).

## *Portland*

### Robert A. Baines Jr.

Robert A. (Bobby) Baines, Jr., 59, husband of Sandra Strickland Baines, of Cox Road, Portland, peacefully left our world on his journey forward Tuesday, April 19. He was born June 22, 1951, to Robert A. Baines Sr. and the late Margaret Hale Baines.

Bob graduated number one from Vinal Tech's Class of 1969 before working for Stanley, Ron and David Bish and Al Raczka at Raczka Electric. He gained his knowledge and experience as a licensed electrician from these men. Later, Bob ventured out on his own as BA-CON Electric where he became respected in his field, not only as an electrician, but also as an honest, caring, friendly man.

We especially thank all of the members who have helped Bobby through his illnesses. Bob was a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department for over 40 years and had served as captain of Company No. 3. He was one of the founders of the Portland Cellar Savers Museum, where he devoted so much time to the success of the museum, to his antique fire trucks, to the annual Portland lighted truck Christmas parade, and to plant sales. Giving rides on his antique fire trucks at the Portland Brownstone Festival and at Christmas in July at his home away from home, Countryside Campground in Voluntown, became only one of his ways of giving back to his community.

Bobby was a collector of many things including Gravely tractors and Matchbox toys. He and his dear friends in the Cellar Savers were instrumental in gathering and sending fire equipment to the rural town of Holladay, TN, and in restoring several of Portland Fire Department's antique trucks along with transporting Santa Claus around Portland on Christmas Eve. Through it all, Bobby met hundreds of people who instantly became friends and will miss him so much.

Bob leaves behind his loving wife and best friend Sandy and his dog and constant companion Abby, along with his dad, Robert (Chick) Baines, Sr.; his sister, Peggy Tierney and her husband Tom; father-in-law, Melvin Strickland (wife Judy, late wife Betty); along with brother-in-law, David and Robert (wife Susan) Strickland; sisters-in-law, Carol Winn (husband John) and Sue (husband Rick) Orgalzek; niece, Megan Winn; nephew, Michael and Patrick Tierney, Kevin and Kyle Winn, Nicholas, Christopher, and Cole Orgalzek, Robert and Stephen Strickland; and new baby grandnephew, Wyatt Patrick Winn.

Funeral services will be held today, April 22, at the First Congregational Church of Portland at 10 a.m. Rev. Jane Hawken will officiate. Burial will follow in Center Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Bobby's memory may be sent to The Cellar Savers, 634 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland. For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).