

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**I Scream, You Scream...Marlborough Junior Girl Scout Troop 65037 recently went on a trip to University of Connecticut in Storrs. After visiting the horticultural department, the girls had ice cream at the UConn Dairy Bar.**

## Paper Ballots Defeat Marlborough Budget

by Katy Nally

A one-vote margin, two chances to 'yea' or 'nay,' and at least three stumped town officials pretty much sums up how Marlborough voters turned down a \$21.13 million budget Monday.

The proposed spending package would have increased taxes by 2.35 percent.

Following Monday's defeat, the Board of Finance met Wednesday and voted unanimously to increase the town operations budget by \$42,400 to address legal fees for the Water Pollution Control Authority, bringing the overall total to \$21.17 million.

Voting at Monday's town meeting, done via a show of hands, initially appeared to go smoothly, until registrars announced the overall vote of 81-80, in favor of the budget. After that, the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School cafeteria erupted into upheaval, as residents claiming to be well-versed in Robert's Rules of Order demanded a re-vote, while others applauded the passing of the budget.

After a few failed motions made by residents, including asking to verify the residency of every attendee, taking a recount and closing the door to the cafeteria, Peter Wursthorn's motion to use paper ballots was approved.

With that, the two registrars passed out 167 pink ballots, which, when counted, defeated the budget by 15 votes. Interestingly enough, through paper ballots, six more votes were

counted than when residents were asked to vote by raising their hands.

At 167 votes, the turnout was 4.08 percent of registered voters.

As the meeting got underway, it felt like taxpayers wouldn't even get their chance to vote on the budget proposal, as discussion about the spending package carried on for more than half an hour. Board of Education Vice Chairwoman Ruth Kelly actually made a motion to close debate and initiate the vote.

Most of Monday's discussion focused on increased fees for residents within the sewer district.

The WPCA adopted a draft Operations and Maintenance budget May 4, which increases the charge per Equivalent Dwelling Unit from \$375 to \$562. This is in addition to the yearly benefit assessment of \$603 per EDU.

The letter sent out to residents in 2002 said the benefit assessment would be \$572 per year per EDU and the yearly O&M cost would be \$275. These costs, plus \$77 for repaying debt via taxes, totaled \$924 for the "average household inside the sewer district."

The proposed 2011-12 O&M budget, after applying about \$150,000 worth of credit from the town of East Hampton, shows just about a 50 percent increase over the current year, coming in at \$252,324. The line item that showed

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## New Track Re-Dedicated to Longtime Coach

by Katy Nally

Legendary Bacon Academy track coach Jack Long was recognized Tuesday with a re-dedication ceremony, followed by a "jog for Jack."

The track, which is already named in his honor, was re-dedicated to Long during the meet versus Killingly High School. A reconstruction project that brought the track to its current glory wrapped up last year.

"As soon as we started the discussion [to renovate the track] there was a groundswell of support, and I attribute that to you" Colchester Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said. "You're a legend in this town."

Not only did Long work to promote indoor track, he also advocated girls' track.

He's credited with starting all four track teams: boys' and girls' track and boys' and girls' cross country. Long coached track from 1963-96 and cross country from 1967-95.

In just eight years, he earned three state titles, current coach Steve Browning told Tuesday's audience. Long had three Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Girls' Championship wins in 1997, 1978 and 1984.

Browning, who's coached for 20 years, marveled at this achievement, because it meant Long "turned over his rooster at least twice" and still came out on top three times.

Shortly after he began at Bacon, in the late

'60s and early '70s, Long was also a "leading proponent of girls' track," Browning said.

In addition to these three CIAC championships, Long finished his career with 784 wins and four invitational championships.

And his coaching skills did not go unnoticed.

He was the Connecticut High School Coaches' Association Coach of the Year twice, in 1988 and 1992, and went on to win the national award in 1992. In 1996 he was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches' Association Hall of Fame as well.

His decades of involvement in Colchester athletics was "a huge part" of why the community supported the three-year track reconstruction project, Goldstein said.

In late 2008, town officials were briefed on the state of the old track, which was worn down and potentially dangerous. That track had been built in 1993 and was only expected to last 10 years. Some patchwork and renovations were done in 2005 and 2006 to maintain the old track, but officials looked for a more long-term solution.

In 2009, a Bacon Academy Track Advisory Committee was set up to look into a possible reconstruction project.

Then, in May of that year, voters approved a referendum question that allowed selectmen to

See Bacon Track Page 2



**Former Bacon Academy coach Jack Long looks out at the new track that was re-dedicated in his honor Tuesday at a meet versus Killingly. Long coached cross country and track from 1963-1996, taking home three championship wins.**



**A packed Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School cafeteria defeated Marlborough's proposed \$21.13 million budget Monday after two rounds of votes. Photo by Jane Boston.**

#### **Paper Ballots cont. from Front Page**

the greatest increase, by far, is "professional services," which includes legal costs. That item has increased by 600 percent, going from \$12,500 in the 2010-11 budget to the proposed \$87,500.

The WPCA's legal costs increased after it became the defendant in seven lawsuits filed last year to appeal the benefit assessment, alleging the \$603 per year was "unreasonable."

First Selectman Bill Black opened Monday's meeting by stating he and his board had heard objections to the increased O&M fees, specifically the legal costs, from both residents and members of the WPCA.

"We're going to go back and look at that and see if there's a solution we can reasonably do," Black told those in attendance. He added, however, "We as a board need to represent the entire town," noting there are 6,300 Marlborough residents and about 200 to 300 living within the sewer district.

According to Black, when the project was first passed in 2002, residents outside the sewer district were only supposed to pay 30 percent of the costs, but now that number is 53 percent.

The Board of Finance arrived at the \$42,400 to help with legal fees by taking 53 percent of the approximately \$80,000 line item, finance board chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski said.

"We look at it as an appropriation to protect the town's investment," she said.

The new figure will be offset by about \$35,000 that is expected from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Jan. 12 snowstorm and about \$10,000 in savings from updated health insurance figures. The tax increase of the new \$21.17 million budget will remain at 2.35 percent.

During Monday's meeting, Black had said about \$140,000 in additional savings was found through new insurance figures and money from the state for property tax relief.

When asked directly if this \$140,000 "surplus" would be used to offset the approximately \$80,000 in legal costs for the WPCA, Black said, "I can't answer you 'yes' or 'no.'"

"What we need to do is go back to town

counsel and make sure we're on sound footing," he said.

Gaudinski said the new \$42,400 that was added back in Wednesday would be monitored by Black, as are all other line items in the town operations budget.

Prior to Monday's vote, resident Vic Battaglioli said the solution was simple – use the \$140,000 to offset the WPCA's legal costs.

"If you don't do that, you run the risk of blowing the whole budget," he said. "It seems to me, solve the problem in a minute."

Still, Black replied, "We need to make sure we're on solid ground if in fact we can fund that."

While the second vote ultimately defeated the budget, the process was somewhat confusing, as motions were made that tested officials' knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order. Resident Robert Wargo asked for a point of order for a re-vote, citing Robert's Rules.

Section 7.4 of the town charter dictates "all business" at town meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules.

The website [robertsrules.org](http://robertsrules.org) states, in Article IV, Division of the Assembly, anyone can make a motion for a recount of a voice vote or a show of hands if they doubt the tally. The motion does not require a second, according to the website, and can be made even after the original outcome was announced, as long as another motion hadn't been made in the meantime.

While residents reacted to the 81-80 split, Black told those against the outcome, "We had a vote – a show of hands – the budget was passed."

After Wargo's point of order, however, the two registrars, the town clerk and the Board of Selectmen assembled and after some discussion, went ahead with the re-vote via paper ballots.

In the end, the tally of 76 for and 91 against was met by applause.

The next town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, at 7 p.m. at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

#### **Bacon Track cont. from Front Page**

authorize no more than \$680,000 to begin renovations. The tally was split nearly 60-40, with 1,234 votes, or about 58 percent, for and 884 votes against.

This cost figure was in addition to \$46,000 that was already spent by the Board of Education for design, surveys and going to bid.

In March of last year, Empire Paving was awarded the reconstruction contract, and the new track was in place for Bacon's June graduation that year. By the following fall, track meets were also held.

While the new facility is in place, Goldstein said there are still "punch-list items" to be taken care of, and the project hasn't been closed out financially. So far, the total cost has been about \$665,000.

It all seemed to be worth it Tuesday.

Long wore a perpetual smile as he watched Bacon athletes delight in the new red track. He and his family had made the trip from Florida, his current home.

After 17 years, one relic from the old track endures, but needs a facelift. As part of the ceremony, Browning said the school is collecting donations to spruce up the sign in front of the track that reads, "John D. 'Jack' Long Track and Field Complex."

"It's kind of a little worn," Browning said.

The re-dedication closed with an ultimate tribute to Long – a victory lap, for students, parents and town officials.

"Please take a jog for Jack," Browning announced.

### *From the Editor's Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Some of you may recall a story former reporter Claire Michalewicz wrote in early January about Portland resident Conor Timmis, who was in the middle of producing *Finnigan's War*, a documentary dealing with the Korean War.

Conor had an interesting angle to take on the subject; while most war documentaries featured, as he put it, "eight old white guys talking," *Finnigan's War* was going to deal with veterans from a variety of backgrounds, people whose achievements were largely ignored at the time, Conor said, due to prejudice. For example, one of the people he interviewed for the movie was Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, the first Chinese-American officer in the Marine Corps, who, during his service in Korea, led a one-man raid on Chinese troops, and also led 500 troops through a blizzard.

Well, Conor sent us an e-mail last week, and it sounds like production is going well. In fact, the previous week, Mark Hamill (a.k.a. Luke Skywalker from the *Star Wars* films) narrated a portion of the documentary out in Santa Monica, CA. A behind-the-scenes movie of Hamill doing the recording is available on YouTube; go to [youtube.com/watch?v=asZr-IULdqE&](http://youtube.com/watch?v=asZr-IULdqE&).

That's pretty cool. It's always nice to hear about a local guy doing well, and it sounds like Conor is doing quite well indeed.

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After the Osama bin Laden killing last week, there was quite the debate over whether photos of his battered, bloodied body should be released. Ultimately, President Obama decided against it, and I agree with him; why tempt further violence by showing members of Al-Qaeda graphic photos of their leader's bloody corpse? Really, what good could come of that? But there were many people who felt the photos should be released; not so much because they themselves needed proof bin Laden was dead, but because it would satisfy the right-wing conspiracy theorists who would otherwise think the whole thing was a hoax and bin Laden is still alive and kicking.

Here's the thing: to the vast majority of the conspiracy theorists, I don't think a photo would have mattered anyway. After all, there are plenty of photos of the moon landing; it doesn't stop people from thinking the whole thing was cooked up in an old abandoned warehouse. When somebody's got a good conspiracy theory going, they don't let a silly thing like evidence get in their way.

And, unfortunately, proof of this came just this week, when the results of a survey conducted by Democratic polling firm Public Policy Polling were released. According to

the survey, 34 percent of Republicans polled said they still do not believe Obama was born in the United States. And another 18 percent said they are "not sure." So that's 52 percent that remain unconvinced the president was born in the U.S., despite the White House releasing the long-form version of his birth certificate making it clear that yes, indeed, he was born in Hawaii.

For the birthers, Obama just can't win. And neither can the truth.

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In closing, I have some personnel news to pass on: this is reporter/assistant editor Katy Nally's final issue of the *Rivereast*, as she is moving on.

In the nearly two years she has been with the *Rivereast*, Katy has proven to be a tremendous asset. For starters, she is a great reporter. She has covered her two towns, Colchester and Marlborough, very well, tackling what could be some complex issues – take the ongoing sewer saga in Marlborough, for instance – in a simple, straightforward manner. Her stories were always well-researched and well-crafted, resulting in articles that were informative and also easy to read and understand (and edit).

And I could tell Katy's reporting was very much appreciated by the towns; during her time here, I've received many, many compliments about her work from various Colchester and Marlborough residents.

But Katy's contributions didn't end there. She was also a tremendous help around the office – so much so that last year I promoted her to the newly-created position of assistant editor. In addition to her reporting work, Katy also helped me out with formatting – or "news-ing up," as I call it – some of the many announcements, press releases, letters to the editor, etc., that I get sent to me each week. She also began editing some of her fellow reporters' stories each week, and Katy did well on this front, too. There's more to editing a reporter's article than just scanning it for typos and misplaced capitalization, of course, and Katy never hesitated to ask the other reporters questions that needed to be asked, or to clarify facts that needed to be clarified.

But, as the saying goes, all good things must come to an end, and so Katy's time with the *Rivereast* draws to a close this week. I'm sure she'll do well no matter where life takes her; she's got too good of a head on her shoulders not to. I'm also just as sure residents in her two towns will miss her; I know all of us at the *Rivereast* will.

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See you next week.

# Soon-to-be-Bride in Hebron Holds Selfless Shower

by Courtney Parent

Some view giving as donating a dollar to the Jimmy Fund while checking out at Stop and Shop, while others see it as volunteering to coach a Little League baseball team.

Katie Palmer, however, showed family and friends a new approach to the charitable concept.

Katie took the word “giving” to a new level when she requested that her bridal shower guests bring gifts for children at the Hartford Children’s Hospital rather than for her and her fiancé Gregory Schmidt.

“My fiancé and I are pretty independent and are both gainfully employed,” Katie said. “We live together, and have a fully furnished home. My family wanted to have a bridal shower and get everybody together, but we don’t need anything.”

Katie, who grew up in Hebron, held her bridal shower at her childhood home. She and her fiancé now live in Abbeville, LA.

Katie is finishing up a pre-med degree at Louisiana State University and plans to attend vet school upon graduating, while Schmidt practices veterinary medicine.

“We just wanted to do something for people who couldn’t provide for themselves,” Katie said.

Proud mother, Dorry Palmer, said her daughter’s bridal shower idea was definitely unexpected, but proved to be a wonderful day for everyone who took part.

“It was just amazing,” Dorry said. “I loved it and everybody who came said it was the best shower they’d ever been to.”

Despite a wonderful outcome, according to Katie the idea was not exactly “well-received” at first mention. Katie said many family members and friends protested at first since it was not a “conventional” wedding shower.

According to Dorry, one of the biggest initial opposers to the alternative shower was Katie’s aunt Dorothy Quirk who thought the idea was ridiculous, as the purpose of a wedding shower is ideally to give gifts to the soon-to-be bride and groom.

However, eventually the idea was adopted and everyone who attended the party, even Aunt Dorothy, adhered to the main rule: bringing Easter basket stuffers for children of the hospital rather than gifts for Katie and Greg. Accord-

ing to Dorry, once Dorothy made her first trip out to buy the Easter gifts, she embraced the idea and made two follow-up trips to buy more for the children since it was for such a good cause.

According to Katie, the choice of what organization to give back to was a no-brainer. When Katie was in first grade, she was diagnosed with Lyme disease and spent most of the year in and out of the Hartford Children’s Hospital (referred to as Newington Children’s Hospital at the time.)

“They did a lot for me,” Katie said. “I can’t remember a lot about being sick, but always remember being happy to go there. They gave me toys and stickers and candy and it was never a scary place. I’m happy to return the favor there.”

According to Dorry, this was not her daughter’s first act of generosity toward the children’s hospital.

“She’s done things like future problem solvers, church school and always did projects for the hospital,” Dorry said. “For Halloween she bought 100 pumpkins at Ted’s, for something like 10 cents a piece, and decorated them all with her friends and brought them to the hospital.”

According to Dorry, Katie’s generosity must have been contagious among her family and friends as the amount donated exceeded all original expectations. Prior to the bridal shower, Dorry had informed the hospital that they would be preparing approximately 25 Easter baskets for the children. However, by the time the shower was over there were 52 baskets full, plus additional items.

“The only reason that we didn’t have more was that we had used every [bucket] and every basket in the house too,” Dorry said. “There was an extra two laundry baskets full of stuff.”

The Easter baskets were actually pail and shovel sets, with each pail lined with tissue paper and filled with goodies. Items included in the baskets varied from Barbie’s and stuffed animals, to books and puzzles, to bracelets and tiaras, to bubbles and more.

“I was very impressed by the way my friends and family pulled together,” Katie said. “They were all against it at first because it was unconventional, but then they got very into it.”

On Saturday, April 23, the day before Eas-



**Katie Palmer, pictured left, opted for an alternative wedding shower last month. Instead of conventional gifts, she asked her guests to donate the Easter baskets shown here to kids at the Hartford Children’s Hospital.**

ter, Katie along with her sister Jessica, nephew Ryan, and cousin Carli made their way to the hospital to deliver the baskets. Everyone at the hospital was “very gracious” and appreciative of the gifts, Katie said.

“It was amazing,” Dorry said. “The baskets came out so beautiful and it was very, very nice. I’m glad I got to be the one to throw it. ...It’s like it was all my idea.”

While shower-goers may have embraced an alternative gift approach, guests at Katie and

Greg’s wedding will be in store for more unconventional adventures as a strictly vegan menu has been prepared.

However, Dorry said there will be no “surprises” in the menu as she wants guests to know what they are eating with items such as vegetarian lasagna, stir-fry and potato bars. She also added, even as a “meat eater” she is “very excited” about the menu.

The wedding is set to take place on Saturday, July 30 at the Inn at Mystic in Mystic.

# Phase Two for Peters House Goes to Bid in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

After years of plotting and planning, the Peters House has finally gone to bid for the second phase of the project. The bid opening, which will utilize a \$200,000 STEAP grant, took place on Thursday, April 28.

The Peters House, along with the 122 surrounding acres was purchased by the town in August of 2004. The house, which is located at 150 East St., is believed to be the residence of Cesar and Louis Peters, two slaves who were captured and then rescued by Hebron residents in the 18th century.

Town Planner Mike O’Leary said the town has received a number of bids for the second phase of the project, which are currently being reviewed by architect Denis Rioux from BL Companies based in Meriden. O’Leary said a bidder would tentatively be chosen sometime over the next few weeks and then the project could move forward.

According to O’Leary, Phase Two will focus primarily on the exterior of the building. Rotten wood and trim will be removed and replaced, all of the windows will be replaced, and there will be a partial roof replacement.

“We are basically securing the outside to stop anymore deterioration,” O’Leary said. “Then we will have to turn our attention to the inside.”

O’Leary added that some of the STEAP grant would be put toward electrical work, which would need to be completed prior to insulating the walls.

Phase One of the project included the utilization of a 1772 Foundation grant in the amount of \$35,000. According to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, Phase One focused strictly on

the “ell” back portion of the building. The goal of this initial phase was stabilization.

According to Historical Society President Donna McCalla, the 1772 Foundation portion of the work is almost complete and anticipates the work to be done by the end of the week.

“We got off to a glorious start until January hit,” McCalla said, “then with the house being opened up to remove the staircase, snow drifted in, the ground froze, we couldn’t pour the concrete and got delayed over a month.”

According to McCalla, at this time, the concrete has been poured. McCalla also said that the floor beams were in “incredible shape” despite being exposed to the elements, noting a five-inch gap of air and dirt underneath.

“It’s amazing that over 200 years those boards were almost in perfect condition,” McCalla said. “It’s pretty cool.”

Turning to the flooring, McCalla said contractor Bill Meyers, based in Moodus, has worked to salvage any shred of the original flooring.

Other remaining work includes interior restoration, a new interior stairway, a new accessible toilet facility, making the structure compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, energy conservation and a structural evaluation.

At this time, O’Leary said there is no type of definitive timeline or number of phases outlined in the project as funding is a defining factor. He also said that after Phase Two is complete there will be mostly interior work remaining, which could be completed through the assistance of volunteers.

“We are also going to look for volunteers,”



**Contractor Bill Meyers stands inside the Peters House, which will see a total renovation once a bid for Phase Two of the project is secured.**

O’Leary said, “and that’s something we really need to get the word out about and see if the town is willing to help us.”

O’Leary went on to add that if the town was able to get volunteer assistance for the interior it would likely speed up the overall process.

While O’Leary admits that the project is still

a “work in progress” McCalla said everyone is “looking forward to keeping the ball rolling.”

Therrien said the town is glad to be “moving ahead” with the second phase of the project to start seeing some “real improvements” to the house.

# Merchant's Row Trees Likely to Go in Colchester

by Katy Nally

As part of constructing the new streetscape downtown, six of the seven Tila American Linden trees that line Merchant's Row will probably be replaced.

Town Planner Adam Turner gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen last Thursday, May 5, explaining the reasoning behind uprooting the 15-year-old trees.

"They're planted in such a way that conflicts with the sidewalks," Turner said.

The 30-foot trees have begun to grow into the power lines and their roots are raising the sidewalks, creating six-inch gaps in some places. The tree roots also have the potential to impact underground utilities, Turner said.

Town staff has patched some of these areas, but parts of the sidewalks could still be hazardous.

"We have an [Americans with Disabilities Act] responsibility for this area," Turner noted.

"We don't see any way around [replacing the trees]," Public Works Director James Paggioli said.

But downtown will only be tree-less temporarily. As part of the \$285,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that Colchester received last September, new, similar trees that provide the same shade, will replace the American Lindens, though the species of tree wasn't discussed last Thursday.

The problem with the current trees is their planting boxes, which are too small and shallow and don't allow room for the roots. Turner pointed out that, with the lack of room, the trees' roots "have nowhere to grow but up." Also, soil underneath paved areas is typically too com-

pacted for tree roots to expand.

In his presentation, Turner proposed using new planting boxes. In addition to being larger, the new boxes would contain "structured soil," which allows for more room for roots to expand. Structured soil has layers of stone, hydrogel and clay.

With the larger planting boxes, the roots would not interfere with the sidewalks, Paggioli said.

Turner and Paggioli stressed the need to incorporate these boxes so, down the road, staff will not have to patch segments of the sidewalks.

"We don't want to come back in three years and patch it," Paggioli said. "It's an ongoing basis if you don't have the right box."

Turner said he was trying to be proactive and transparent about plans to replace the trees.

"I know those trees are part of the town's character," he told selectmen. "When people see those trees go down, those phones will start ringing."

But that won't be until some time next year, Turner said. The town plans to go to bid for the streetscape project at the end of May.

In addition to replacing the trees, installing solar-powered light posts and reconstructing sidewalks along Lebanon Avenue and South Main Street were also proposed.

The \$285,000 STEAP grant also includes creating a formalized entrance to the Air Line Trail.

A total of \$20 million from STEAP was authorized last year for 115 towns, covering 134 projects across the state. The grants were approved in August 2010.



Six of the seven American Linden trees that line Merchant's Row will probably be replaced when streetscape renovations begin. The trees' roots have raised the sidewalks in some areas, like this one near the Vintage Diner.

Although Colchester originally applied for \$320,000 from STEAP, officials said they were happy to receive the \$285,000.

The Office of Policy and Management administers STEAP grants and allocates money to Connecticut towns that have populations of less than 30,000. The funds can only be used

for capital projects, which includes those associated with economic development, recreation, solid waste disposal, social services and housing.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be Thursday, May 19, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

# Colchester Budget Passes By Small Margin and With Low Turnout

by Katy Nally

The pretty tame budget season came to a rather anti-climactic end Tuesday, as just 17.5 percent of Colchester voters approved a \$50.501 million spending package for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

The tally for passing the town operations budget of \$13.68 million came to 851 for and 828 against – a margin of just 23 votes.

The education budget, at \$36.82 million, passed by one more vote, at 852 for and 827 against, netting a margin of 25.

In total, residents will see a 3.11 percent tax increase.

"That's what the taxpayers want, so here we go," Board of Finance Chairman Bruce Hayn said after the votes came in Tuesday night.

Town officials seemed disappointed in the low voter turnout, which, Hayn said, is typically between 23 and 28 percent.

"The only way we'll know what every taxpayer wants is if everyone comes out," he said.

The two public hearings on the budget last month were sparsely attended by residents; just one showed up at the first hearing and two on the second. Instead, it was mostly town officials who sat mum in the audience.

Asked if the low voter turnout meant residents were satisfied with the budget, Hayn said, "I don't know what that means. I wish I did."

"I wish, overall, the turnout was a little higher," First Selectman Gregg Shuster said. "But this is a statewide thing."

The other thing that surprised officials was the slim margin that passed both budgets.

"Obviously I wish it was by a larger margin, but that's democracy," Schuster said.

"I expected it to be close, but not that close," Hayn added.

Three voters who were polled Tuesday said their decision to approve the budgets was to

retain resources for the town's schools and Colchester's kids.

"I want my kids to have an education in the future," Darshan Kasagara said. "We've been struggling with that in this town for a few years."

Pete Bates said he voted 'yes,' hoping it would "keep class size down."

Shelly Flynn, coordinator for Collaborative for Colchester's Children, also approved the two budgets because "the kids deserve it."

"That's what it costs to run the town," Flynn added.

However, resident Victor Horvitz felt otherwise.

"Can we hold the line just one time?" he said, explaining his 'no' vote. "This is the biggest recession since Herbert Hoover; hello?"

The town and education budget combined, at \$50.501 million, show a 1.94 percent increase over the current year's budget of \$49.54 million (which doesn't include \$1.93 million that was funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, bringing this year's total down to \$47.62 million).

Changes in the newly-approved spending plan include \$400,000 for road improvements, funding an 11th police officer for the Colchester force, who would start on Jan. 1 next year, hiring a part-time social services coordinator, restructuring the Parks and Recreation Department to bring in a recreation manager instead of a director and bringing the materials budget for the library up about \$10,000, restoring it to its 2008-09 level.

The town also signed a five-year lease for equipment like pickup trucks and tractors.

The town operations budget does not eliminate any staff; however, the town voted in January to join the Chatham Health District start-



Perhaps the "vote yes" signs worked, as Colchester voters approved their \$50.501 million budget Tuesday through a referendum.

ing with the next fiscal year, so Colchester's health director and the sanitarian will now work for the health district. On the flip side, the education budget will cut the equivalent of 9.5 full-time school employees.

Cuts include 1 FTE from kindergarten, as well as 1 FTE from both grade five and science at Bacon Academy, 2 FTE from grade four, 0.5 FTE from music at WJMS and Bacon, and 0.5 FTE from WJMS computer class. Also, 2 FTE of paraprofessionals at the middle school and 1 FTE of a paraprofessional from Bacon, and 0.5

FTE of an office professional at Bacon, were proposed to be eliminated.

Almost \$200,000 will be spent on capital projects, which includes an overhaul of William J. Johnston Middle School, fixing dozens of items from rotting door frames, to a cracked urinal to a leaking boiler to radiator valves that are perpetually stuck open.

The line item will also cover smaller improvements at Bacon Academy.

The new budget will take effect at the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

# Dance Studio Celebrates Silver Anniversary in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Doreen's Dance Center's annual recital will showcase more than talented youths next Saturday; it will commemorate the 25 years Doreen Freeman and her staff have been in Colchester.

The silver anniversary show will open with a special surprise planned for Freeman, which, she said, her students are "keeping under wraps." Also, there will be a slideshow presentation chronicling different dancers as they grew up through the studio, as well as highlights from memorable performances over the 25 years.

The recital will close out with two numbers – a finale tap production that Freeman choreographed and then a grand finale that includes all the dancers.

"Tap is my forte, so I decided to close the show with a big Broadway-style tap number," Freeman said.

At next Saturday's event, Freeman will also continue her yearly tradition of giving out two scholarships.

The dance school spirit award recognizes a student who "exemplifies all that a dancer should be," Freeman said, listing attributes like a commitment to the craft, good study habits, regular attendance and working well with other dancers and staff. That recipient will have his or her tuition waived for a quarter of the year.

"It's a nice honor," she said.

The second scholarship is in memory of Freeman's father and recognizes a graduating high school senior "who's been an important part of the studio," she said. That scholarship awards \$500.

"We send them off to school with a little help," Freeman said.

Looking back on her 19 years at the Middletown Road studio, Freeman admitted "once in a while it takes me off guard, to think how far we've come with it."

Before she found her professional niche in

teaching dance, Freeman worked as a legal secretary, which she said she enjoyed, but added, "I didn't like being tied down to a desk at all."

Dance, she said, "was just a little side thing."

But her passion took a turn down the career path after some encouragement from her own dance teacher. Freeman soon began giving dance lessons in the basement of the East Haddam library, and, after gaining a following, her studio eventually found its home in Colchester.

And not only has her business grown throughout the years – her current studio has expanded three times – but the students who have gone through the ranks at Doreen's Dance Center have come pretty far as well.

Reminiscing last week, Freeman mentioned two students she mentored who are now members of professional dance companies.

One of her male students, whom she first met while choreographing East Haddam's community theater production, now professionally dances with a small company in Taiwan, and has also performed on cruise ships.

"I saw a spark in him and I encouraged him to keep studying," she said.

Freeman also mentioned a Colchester girl who now works for a modern dance company in New York.

But other all-star students who learned to dance at Doreen's have kept the talent local. Freeman said two of her former students now work as fulltime teachers and also pursued advanced degrees in dance.

And it's a good thing they stuck around. Freeman pointed out, what sets her studio apart from others is the quality of instruction.

"All of our teachers are more mature adults with more experience in teaching," she said. "Everyone is well-versed in everything."

While the staff at Doreen's have a well-rounded knowledge of dance, Freeman said



A cabaret recital will commemorate Doreen's Dance Center's 25th anniversary next Saturday at RHAM High School in Hebron.

each teacher also has a specialty. For Freeman, that would be tap, which she has studied at master classes and workshops in New York and Boston.

And sharing her skills and knowledge has made the past 25 years worthwhile for Freeman.

"I feel very honored that I can pass on the gift that I was given," she said.

There will be two opportunities to see the show on Saturday, May 21, at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron: the matinee at 11

a.m., followed by the evening performance at 5 p.m.

Tickets for both shows will be sold tomorrow, Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Doreen's Dance Center, located at 711 Middletown Rd. They will also be sold May 16, 17 and 20, from 5-7 p.m., at RHAM High School, and at the door before both performances on May 21.

For more information, visit [doreensdancecenter.net](http://doreensdancecenter.net) or call 860-267-7756.

# Two Colchester Students Named Poetry Contest Finalists

by Katy Nally

The audience might have chuckled at Siarna Kinney's dark imagery in her poem "Tee-Hee," but her style delighted the judges at an April 29 reading.

"I think I scared them a little," Siarna said with a small laugh.

Her poem depicted a self-destructive woman who stuck her hand in the garbage disposal and willingly pulled out her teeth.

Siarna's imagination won over the judges. In fact, she, along with another Bacon Academy student, Laura Salvatore, were among the five finalists at this year's Fresh Voices Poetry Competition. A third Bacon student, Cooper Johnson, also made it to the semi-finals.

Eighty burgeoning poets from across the state entered the competition, which required a five-page manuscript of poems from each contestant. After reviewing each entry, a panel of judges selected 15 semi-finalists, including the three from Bacon.

These students were invited to a reading at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington on April 29. Siarna's dark and descriptive selections earned her a winning seat, and now she and Laura will open for National Slam Poetry Champion Patricia Smith at the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival on July 20. The two girls will read their poems in front of about 10,000

people.

"Two of our kids made it," English teacher John Stanizzi said, beaming.

Stanizzi teaches the poetry class and has worked with Siarna – a junior – since she was in eighth grade.

"She's maybe the most original voice I've ever heard in a kid her age," Stanizzi said. "In a Siarna poem, I see things I've never seen before."

"I like people to see things they don't want to see," Siarna added with a sly smile. "By nature I'm a dark writer."

This is her second year in Stanizzi's poetry class, and admits, it took a while for her to develop as a writer.

"Oh my God, I was terrible," Siarna said candidly.

"I agree, she's grown. A lot," Stanizzi added. So do many of the students who come to his class, he said.

Stanizzi said some kids might expect to be coddled when they enter his Rastafarian-themed room to write poetry and listen to jazz, but, he warned, "I really don't pull any punches with them."

"This is a class where kids develop as writers," he said. "We spend a lot of time learning to see and hear what makes good writing."

The class focuses on the history of poetry

and jazz, and students study past poets.

And, if their writing isn't up to par, Stanizzi, a published poet himself, will let them know.

"Sometimes students think if they've written it, it must be good," he said.

Siarna was quick to point out, though, "there's praise if we do something right."

"[The class] has become very important to me," she said. "I've just learned so much from Stanizzi and the people around me."

Now that she's a finalist, Siarna said it's going to be "torture" waiting for July 20 to roll around. At the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, Stanizzi said Siarna and Laura will get to "rub elbows" with notable poets like Smith, who has been a featured poet on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam* and a four-time winner of the National Poetry Slam.

The whole experience, Siarna said, has been "overwhelming."

"It's very humbling," she added.

Siarna will probably read a poem from the manuscript she submitted at the beginning of the contest, which, just thinking about, makes her nervous.

"She's already ready," Stanizzi said confidently. "She's a great reader."

Siarna and Laura will read at The Sunken Garden Poetry Festival on Wednesday, July 20,



Bacon Academy students Siarna Kinney and Laura Salvatore were two of the four finalists in a poetry reading on April 29. Siarna is pictured at right with her poetry teacher John Stanizzi.

at the Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Rd., Farmington. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. The festival itself runs from June 8 through Aug. 3.

For more information, visit [hillstead.org](http://hillstead.org).



After 45 years, Andover community theatre returned with a vengeance last weekend and was very well-received by audiences. Pictured at left are General Jean Rochambeau, an inebriated Tobias Linddy and George Washington talking over drinks and chicken at the Andover Tavern. At right are Joel White drinking a beer with Barmaid Betty at one table, and Linddy and Captain Simon Smith at the other.

## Andover Play Quenched Thirst for Theatre, Hunger for Humor

by Courtney Parent

Last weekend proved to be monumental for the small town of Andover, as the 45-year hiatus of community theatre was brought to an end with the production of *The Legend of Captain Simon Smith*.

The play truly lived up to all the hype of its long-anticipated arrival, seeing a full-house on both Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7. The mood was set just right, with more than 25 tables lining the floor of the gymnasium, each with numerous tea light candles placed atop. As there were no empty floor seats, many patrons resorted to higher ground, finding refuge on the bleachers in the back of the auditorium.

Producer Jay Linddy was pleasantly surprised with the turnout, noting that after such a long absence, the community was more than ready for a theatre production.

"It was standing room only," Linddy said. "It was just unbelievable the reception we received. After the 45 years without a play in town they were so hungry for a play."

Linddy went on to say that after the initial performance on Friday night, word-of-mouth around town only increased that hunger.

"Saturday night people were so energetic," he said, "people were looking for tickets all day Saturday because people called them after Friday and told them about it."

Once everyone was seated on Friday, writer and director James Baran made his way to center stage, accompanied by his son Avery. Baran welcomed everyone to the production, giving a nice promotional pitch to the Saving Performing Arts by Reaching Kids (SPARK) program.

The SPARK program was designed by Steve Kaminski, who contributed to the play's musical composition and sound effects. The program focuses on developing the creative process and encourages children to take risks in a safe environment.

Even young Avery endorsed the program, uttering the quiet words "I loved it" after his father asked him what he thought of SPARK after participating in it last year.

As soon as Baran and Avery exited the stage, narration came over the speaker system accompanied by musical tones. Linddy and Baran ensured the audience was immediately engulfed in the production with an interactive opening scene.

The scene involved a woman running in front of the stage, yelling "he's dead, he's dead, Simon Smith is dead" and grabbing play-goers by the hand to ask for their assistance.

While the production was based on a true storyline and real characters, it was humor, more than history that exploded from every scene. This playful nature of the play was portrayed through amusing gestures, one-liners, and infamous, yet unexpected musical selections, including music from the "Twilight Zone," "Mission Impossible," and more.

The attire selected for each cast member however, was strikingly serious and time-period appropriate for 1778. The majority of the male clothing appeared to be made of wool or heavy cloth, with long-tail jackets, short-synched pants and knee high socks, topped with cuffs, collars and gold buttons. Meanwhile, much of the female cast sported outfits consisting of long flowing skirts and blouses topped with corset-style vests with lace and ruffles.

While there were numerous members of the cast and crew, the majority of the play revolved around two characters: the fumbling drunk Tobias Linddy, played by Jay Linddy, and of course the namesake of the play, the rather foolish Captain Simon Smith, played by James Baran.

Linddy was portrayed as a perverted drunk who could not get enough balance to stand to make a toast at the Andover Tavern, where the play took place. He also made passes at famous women such as Martha Washington and even made passes at men. However, it would only be fair to note that though Linddy did ask Smith for a "little kissy poo," Smith was disguised as a woman at the time. Meanwhile, Smith played

a foolish soldier, eager to prove himself by going on a secret mission, serving as a spy upon the request of George Washington.

The auditorium heard a nonstop roar of laughter throughout the production. Jokes about the poor condition of the town roads, an offering of Jell-O shots and Linddy being referred to as a "ladies man," (according to the women of the town hall), proved to be especially well-received by the audience.

While many of the laughs can be credited to the dynamic duo of Linddy and Smith, that does not mean other characters were completely lacking in the witty one-liner department. Specifically, one of the more humorous lines in the play came from the tavern owner's wife, Margaret White, played by Barb Schreier. The line was spoken to General Jean Rochambeau in regards to recruiting her husband, giving Rochambeau fair warning that her husband had a "little rifle" that is known to "misfire."

While the comedy element was the most overwhelming, there was some seriousness to the play, including Thomas Jefferson, played by Jeff Beadle, who paced the floor of the tavern as he pondered, ultimately trying to write the Declaration of Independence. Then there was Betsy Ross who tried to design the American flag.

But once again, the facts of history were eclipsed as the inebriated Linddy proclaimed "I've got your liberty," going on to recite the Declaration of Independence. Later on, Ross presented a flag with pink hearts to George Washington. While, Jefferson was pleased, Washington sent Ross back to the drawing board instructing her to include the colors red, white and blue, with stars and stripes.

While *The Legend of Captain Simon Smith* may not have been the most precise historical recreation, it definitely was met by the town with open arms – and open mouths with all the cackling.

Well-known "Andoverite" Dianne Grenier

who attended Friday night's showing said the play exceeded her expectations.

"Oh what a hoot," she said. "It was just fun, a nice, fun evening out."

Grenier added that while the play was "quite comical," her "professional" opinion (she works as an usher and a tour guide for the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts) was that it was not Broadway-bound.

"I get to see a lot of Broadway shows so in my professional opinion it isn't headed for Broadway," Grenier said, "but it was great local theatre and I'm looking forward to more plays coming here."

Once out of character, Linddy said the general consensus of the audience was similar to Grenier's initial reaction to the play that it was both amusing and enjoyable for all who attended.

"People just thought all the actors, actresses and kids all did a great job," he said. "Everybody just had compliments and even Tobias, that was me playing a drunk, got a standing ovation, so it was nice. It was quite an evening."

Linddy continued on to send compliments to Baran and to say that everyone who participated is excited to take part in the next production.

"It really makes you feel good," Linddy said. "We had a great director, Jim Baran, he's my best friend and he played a great part in it. We had a family of three from [New York City] who played spies and they were very happy and want to come for the next one. Everybody wants back in and that's nice."

According to Linddy the next play will tentatively be set for sometime in the fall. Ideally, he would like to do one play a year to keep theatre alive in town.

For anyone who missed the production, the RHAM Video Production Department filmed Saturday night's performance, just in case you want to watch it over, "Andover, Andover again."

# East Hampton Board of Education Budget Cut by \$100,000

by Joshua Anusewicz

After an hour of deliberation during Monday's special meeting, the Board of Finance recommended \$100,000 be cut from the Board of Education budget before the town's second budget referendum.

The cut was then unanimously approved by the Town Council at its regular meeting on Tuesday.

The reduction is in response to last week's referendum failing by just four votes, 585-581. Many residents who have spoken out against the budget have chided the increase in the education budget, which, despite this week's cut, will still see an increase from the 2010-11 fiscal year.

The original education budget proposed in February was \$26.61 million, which represented a 2.82 percent increase from 2010-11. The Board of Finance cut \$146,000 from that amount in April. This week's additional cut brings the school board's 2011-12 increase down to \$332,695, or 1.29 percent, over the current fiscal year.

During the meeting, the Board of Finance discussed possible cuts to the town operations budget, but decided the education budget was their only option.

"We just can't hit the town services any more," finance board member Patience Ander-

son said. "The Board of Education is still enjoying an increase, and they are the only part of our town that is enjoying an increase."

Anderson said that, prior to the meeting, she scoured the budget to see if cuts could be made anywhere else. She said she looked into cutting \$20,000 from the library budget, which would take away funding for new shelves and furniture. After touring the library with Board of Finance Vice Chairman Tim Csere, Anderson said the \$20,000 "means too much to the library" and, along with the other board members, refused to make the cut.

Csere also questioned whether \$250,000 for sidewalk and road repairs could be removed from the budget and be included in a bonding package to make repairs to a culvert on Pine Brook Road, which is pending approval from the state's Town Aid Road program. Finance Director Jeff Jylkka warned against the idea, stating that "bonding for repairs is not recommended."

Jylkka also added that due to Board of Assessment Appeals from the recent townwide revaluation, \$32,000 in cuts would have to be made to present the same budget that was sent to the first referendum last week. He explained that because of the appeals, the calculated mill rate has gone down from 25.81 to 25.68, a 0.50

percent decrease.

Anderson proposed that \$132,000 in cuts be made to make up for the revenue lost in appeals, but the board eventually decided on recommending \$100,000 in cuts. The board is unable to tell the Board of Education where to make the cuts, but finance board members and residents in attendance at Monday's meeting focused on the administration budget.

"We really need to look at the school administration, because the salaries are out of control," said resident Laurie Wasilewski, who added that she didn't vote because she "didn't feel that residents were being heard."

Resident William Dinunzio also added that "the administration costs should be looked at," but urged caution to making any drastic cuts.

"With a change of the wind, the budget would have passed and there would be no need for cuts," said Dinunzio, who described himself as a "staunch supporter of education."

Board of Finance member George Pfaffenbach expressed similar sentiments, saying that \$100,000 "seemed like too much, but it has to be done."

Town Council member Barbara Moore was on hand at Monday's meeting, and expressed her opinions on the cuts at Tuesday's council meeting, stating her concerns about reducing

the education budget – though she wound up eventually voting for the cut anyway.

"I've looked at the capital budget, I've looked at technology, but it's all too important," Moore said. "Education is such a large investment."

Council member Thom Cordeiro added that it's important to "value teachers over administration," and reminded residents that teachers have given concessions for the last few years.

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden was at the Town Council meeting and said after the meeting she wasn't surprised that more cuts would be coming for the Board of Education.

"I certainly anticipated there would be a reduction," Golden said. "Regardless, in the fall, kids will be in the classrooms and we will be there to teach them."

Golden also said that where the cuts will be made will be decided after the referendum passes and will be decided by the Board of Education. She plans to meet with the Finance Committee on the Board of Education to discuss where cuts could be made.

With the budget adjustments now approved, there will be a town meeting on the spending package Monday, May 23, at Town Hall, followed by a budget referendum Tuesday, May 31, at East Hampton High School.

# East Hampton Council: Noise Tickets Possible Without Ordinance

by Joshua Anusewicz

Though there won't be a townwide noise ordinance for East Hampton, the Town Council clarified police enforcement for noise complaints at its meeting Tuesday.

According to Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila, the East Hampton Police can enforce noise complaints under the Connecticut Penal Code, which states "a person is guilty of creating a public disturbance when, with intent to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, he/she...makes unreasonable noise."

It also states that "creating a public disturbance is an infraction."

This outline was provided for residents who have pushed for a noise ordinance in the town, particularly around the area of Angelico's Lake House Restaurant. In the summer, Angelico's often has live music that residents in the area have deemed loud and inconvenient.

The Town Council has been hesitant to adopt a noise ordinance, fearing that it could result in "spot legislation" directed at Angelico's. The restaurant owner, Paul Angelico, has threatened legal action if a noise ordinance tailored toward

the live music at his restaurant was adopted.

D'Aquila explained that residents found guilty of excessive noise would be subject to fines levied by the state of \$100 or less. The fines would be less than those outlined in the proposed town noise ordinance, which could punish repeat offenders up to \$250.

Council member Sue Weintraub, who drafted the proposed town ordinance, expressed her concern that cases regarding excessive noise would not be seen in court, but rather be thrown out. Weintraub explained that she contacted John Cashman, a state's attorney, who said juries usually "don't waste their time" with noise disturbances and that a town noise ordinance would be more beneficial.

Weintraub made a final push for a noise ordinance in April, but declined to make a motion for adoption after receiving no support from the other council members. The noise ordinance would have closely mirrored the State Department of Environmental Protection's ordinance, and would have allowed the town police to issue "noise tickets" to violators.

As conversation slowly meandered back to-

ward a noise ordinance on Tuesday, council member Thom Cordeiro reminded the council that "the ordinance was not being supported and that no conversation would be had on the ordinance." Weintraub said the conversation would likely resume after the elections in November when there are new council members.

Resident Kyle Dostaler questioned why the council was not listening to residents on the noise ordinance issue, as it could be beneficial for the town.

"You're always asking how it would benefit the town," Dostaler said. "An ordinance would give our police more power to enforce and would bring revenue into the community [through the tickets]."

As of now, the Town Council has not planned to add a proposed noise ordinance to a future agenda.

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At his first Town Council meeting, new Interim Town Manager John Weichsel made a recommendation that the town's attorney D'Aquila be present at all future Town Council meetings.

"I've never been at a council meeting without a legal advisor," said Weichsel, who served as Southington's town manager for the last 44 years. He explained that for a community "that has been involved with a lot of litigation" in the past year, it would "be good to have [D'Aquila] here."

Weichsel also explained that D'Aquila wouldn't "make or recommend policy," but would be actively involved in making sure the council follows town charter guidelines.

Weintraub questioned how much it would cost to have D'Aquila on hand. Weichsel said it would be a relatively small cost and would be "trivial compared to regular legal costs."

Chairwoman Melissa Engel also added it would be more convenient to have legal help there, rather than "having to call after every meeting."

D'Aquila was on hand for Tuesday's meeting and will continue to sit in moving forward.

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The next regularly scheduled Town Council will be Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

# Drum Roll, Please. And the Grant Goes to....

by Courtney Parent

Strong gusts of wind Tuesday morning, May 10, may not have proved to be the best kite-flying weather, but they did prove to be perfect conditions for giving adolescent dreams wings as RHAM High School was awarded a \$7,500 grant from AT&T Connecticut.

The grant is for the RHAM Education Foundation, which is dedicated to the advancement of educational excellence through initiatives that promote innovation, enrichment and lifelong learning. State Representative Pam Sawyer aided the high school in securing the grant.

According to Abby Jewett of AT&T External and Legislative Affairs, the grant is referred to as an "Aspire Grant," which is to be used for eighth grade and above to promote leadership skills, participation in extracurricular activities and to decrease the drop-out rate. Jewett said the funds are spread throughout the state and she was in search of a place in the area. When she turned to Sawyer for suggestions, she was immediately directed to RHAM.

The grant funds are given as part of a program entitled, fittingly, "AT&T Aspire," a \$100 million philanthropic program aimed at strengthening student success and workforce readiness, according to the AT&T website. The four primary elements of the program are giving grants to school districts and nonprofits focused on high school retention, job shadowing for 100,000 students, commissioning research on the issue of high school drop-out and underwriting dropout prevention summits.

"AT&T is a fabulous community partner, instrumental in reaching out and a great friend to small towns," Sawyer said.

At RHAM, the grant funds are being put towards the purchase of percussion instruments

for the schools marching band. The set will include five snare drums, two quint toms, five bass drums and carriers for all 12 instruments. Sawyer noted that the instruments will be utilized right away as the RHAM band covers its three participating towns during the upcoming Memorial Day festivities.

Sawyer pointed to the vital life skills that band participation aids students in developing or enhancing. She continued on to say that most students who participate in band, are also active in other extracurriculars.

"Band teaches teamwork, leadership, cooperation, music skills and coordination," Sawyer said. "Band kids also have a very low drop-out rate and a high number that go on to advanced education. Along with studying and band, many also take part in other clubs or an additional band."

Going with the positive feedback flow, Sawyer had nothing but good things to say about the Aspire Grant program and viewed it as a means to an end that otherwise may not have been reached.

"This is a wonderful private partnership," Sawyer said. "As Dr. Siminski would agree there is just no room in the budgets for this type of addition right now."

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, who was also present for the presentation, agreed, noting that there would likely not be any funds for this type of addition in the near future either.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said most of the equipment the school currently owns was purchased approximately 50 years ago.

"It has been many years since money has been available for instruments," Leslie said.



The RHAM Education Foundation received an "Aspire Grant" from AT&T in the amount of \$7,500. Pictured among RHAM High School percussion band members are, from left, State Representative Pam Sawyer, AT&T Representative Abby Jewett, band instructor Nicholas Kokus, RHAM High School Principal and Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski.

"Most of the band's school-owned instruments were purchased some time in the '60s and many are no longer practical to use."

Leslie added that now, thanks to the help of Sawyer and AT&T, the school will no longer be forced to borrow or rent instruments.

Sawyer also noted that with the music department losing its previous music teacher and now being under the instruction of its new "music maestro" Nicholas Kokus, a new loud drum line would be "very encouraging."

As they gathered in front of the school's main

entrance with the band's percussion members on Tuesday, there was nothing but smiles to be seen on the faces of Sawyer, Jewett, Leslie, Siminski and Kokus. Percussion members were also all smiles as their hair blew in the wind and as they got shifted back and forth positioning for photos.

In a day and age when money is tight and individuals are struggling, a program such as AT&T Aspire and an instance such as this, which was expressed as a win-win by all parties involved, is truly a beautiful thing.

# Low Turnout Passes \$29.816 Million Portland Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

With an anemic voter turnout, the town's \$29.816 million budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year was passed at referendum Monday.

The spending package, which is an increase of \$196,870, or 0.67 percent, from current year spending, was approved by just 39 votes, 374-335. According to the town clerk's office, just 12.1 percent of the town's 5,828 registered voters came out.

The budget includes \$11.720 million for the general government budget and \$18.096 for the Board of Education budget – which is a zero percent increase from the 2010-11 fiscal year. The Board of Selectmen will now hold a special meeting on Wednesday, May 18, to set the mill rate, which is expected to jump 0.35 mills to 28.15. According to Finance Director Tom Robinson, this translates to a 1.25 percent mill rate increase.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she was "disappointed" by the low turnout, but took time to thank those who did vote.

"I'm grateful for all the people that did take the time to come vote," Bransfield said Wednesday. "I'm not surprised [by the low turnout]; I didn't receive many questions on our budget."

Bransfield said that her biggest concern now is the "uncertainty of the state budget," which she said she is "monitoring daily." Portland receives a "good amount" from state grants, Bransfield said, which could have an effect on the new budget.

One of the major points of the budget was a proposed lease agreement of \$895,000 that would be used to replace the roof on the Portland Public Library and purchase several new emergency vehicles, dump trucks, and snow plows for the public works department. During budget deliberations, the Board of Selectmen voted to pay off the lease in five years, which

Robinson said would keep the mill rate low.

Bransfield said Wednesday that there were a few more steps that would be taken before the lease agreement was finalized, but added that the town "will not proceed until the state budget is known."

Two board members, John Anderson and Carl Chudzik, voted against the lease agreement, stating that with the uncertainty of the state budget, it may not be prudent to borrow money.

Chudzik said Wednesday that the town "will have to move forward" with the lease agreement, and also added his disappointment in the low turnout.

"We're talking about a lot of money here," Chudzik said. "If you had a problem, this was your turn to come out and vote."

Chudzik was, however, pleased to see that the vote was closer than it has been in recent years, saying that "it's clear things are tightening up and people are looking to live within their means."

Last year's referendum also passed on its first try, with the current year's \$29.62 million budget passing 426-313, in another low turnout.

Another major point of the budget was the Board of Education's ability to present a zero percent increase, which Bransfield praised as "a fine job of finance management by [Superintendent of Schools] Sally Doyen and the Board of Education."

Doyen said Wednesday that she was "very pleased and relieved" that the budget passed during "a difficult time for everyone." Coming in at a zero percent increase, Doyen said, was due mostly to concessions from teachers and custodians, but added that having an even "bottom line" was a challenge.

"It was a goal that [the Board of Education]



**Only about 12 percent of registered voters came out Monday to vote on the \$29.816 million budget, which was approved with a margin of just 39 votes.**

had this year," Doyen said. "But we still wanted to maintain all of our programs and staff." Doyen said that the budget had to be "rebalanced" so that all of the school programs would not be affected.

Doyen said that the schools gave "a major effort to notify families" of the referendum, but she was "puzzled" by the low turnout. She added that it's been "fairly typical in other communities" this year.

Board of Education secretary MaryAnne Rode said Wednesday that the board's goal was to "continue to offer the same programs," adding that if the referendum failed, she would have opposed any changes to the education budget.

"We remained fiscally responsible," Rode said. "I'm happy that it passed. I think it's going to be good for everyone."

The new budget will go into effect at the start of the next fiscal year on July 1.

# Sister Ida Retires After More Than 40 Years in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

For the last 42 years, members of St. Mary's Church in Portland have grown accustomed to being welcomed into the parish by Sister Mary Ida Dolan. But after decades of service to the parish, the director of religious education has retired.

Sister Ida, as she is commonly known, has been a member of the Sisters of Mercy Community at Mercy High School in Middletown since 1969, which is the same year she became an eighth-grade teacher at the former St. Mary's School in Portland. Reminiscing at her office last week, Dolan admitted that, at first, she needed a good friend's help to find the town.

"I'm thinking, 'Where in God's name is Portland?'" she laughed at her office last week. "But I quickly learned that it's a great town and a wonderful parish."

Just a year after joining St. Mary's School, she became the principal and held the position until the school closed in the 1970s. After the school closed, the parish began a religious education program, which Sister Ida has directed ever since. According to Rev. John Ashe, the pastor at St. Mary's, Dolan has helped the program grow to "over 450 students and 75 volunteer teachers."

"For some of those whom she taught, she is now working with [their] children and even [their] grandchildren," Ashe pointed out during a recent mass that celebrated Sister Ida's commitment to the parish.

Dolan has seen the church go through many changes, including the closing of the church because of structural problems. Shortly after the church opened again, the renovated church burnt down in 1991. The church was once again rebuilt into the one that stands today, and Dolan said it's as strong as ever.

"It's such a loving parish, where everyone

embraces each other," she said.

Many of the memories were brought up at a reception held for Dolan on May 1, which she called an "overwhelming tribute." She added that she was especially touched that "so many people remembered things that I'd forgotten about over the years."

Although she will remember the tributes fondly, Dolan said that she will most remember the volunteers that helped her over the years and the children that she helped bring into the parish.

"The good you see in the young people is amazing," she said. "When given the opportunity, they can learn to be givers and bring good to the community."

But Dolan's work has never been confined to St. Mary's. For many years, she has worked closely with the St. Mary's Ladies Guild, the Mother's Circle and the Portland Food Bank, where she has done anything from paying rents and heating bills to donating food and clothing for the past 20 years.

"If there is a need, she is there," said Ruth Maio, director of the Portland Food Bank and member of St. Mary. "She has always been there for us; she's just a remarkable woman."

Maio added that Dolan has been particularly helpful during Christmas and Easter, where she has donated money and gifts to less-fortunate children. Dolan said she will continue to help the less fortunate in town "as long as God gives me health."

Dolan "will continue to help," Maio said. "I don't think that would ever change." But staying healthy will be her biggest obstacle. Dolan suffers from painful arthritis that requires her to use a cane to walk, slowing down her body but not her mind. People who know her will note her sense of humor and her willingness to work through the pain.



**After 42 years of service to St. Mary's Church, Sister Mary Ida Dolan has decided to retire. Dolan was the director of the religious education program, which she helped grow to more than 450 students.**

"The body is tired and weakening, even though the spirit is willing," Ashe said during the May 1 Mass. "God is inviting her to rest, to pray, to help everyone in a different way."

Dolan has handed the religious education duties over to Roselani Ferguson, who has worked as a volunteer at St. Mary's in the past.

"She will be a great successor and will do just fine," Dolan said.

As she packed up her belongings and cleaned her office one last time, Dolan looked back on her time at St. Mary's, but also looked ahead to what God has in store for her.

"I'm thankful for what I've been given," she said. "But I am also thankful for whatever lies ahead. I hope to enjoy things I like and still be available for people. I love this parish and have loved my work here."

# Police Charge Two Men With Marlborough 7-Eleven Robbery

by Katy Nally

Police arrested two men who allegedly robbed the 7-Eleven on North Main Street last November, along with several other convenience stores in the area.

On April 28, the Eastern District Major Crime Squad arrested David Saucier, 54, whose last known address was 1680 Berlin Tpke., Room 48, Wethersfield, and on May 3, Denny Burns, 36, also of 1680 Berlin Tpke. (room not listed), Wethersfield, State Police said.

Both were charged with first-degree robbery, fifth-degree larceny and carrying a dangerous weapon, police said.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at Manchester Superior Court, Saucier and Burns admitted to robbing the 7-Eleven in Marlborough on Halloween night.

The affidavit says the night clerk remembered two white men entered the convenience store around 3 a.m. on Nov. 1, each wearing a black hoodie, black pants, black sneakers, and black masks that only showed their eyes. As was the case with the majority of the robberies, Saucier carried a machete for the Nov. 1 hold-up, he told police, and Burns had a "shorter blade."

The night clerk said the taller of the two men, who police identified as Burns, said "give me money" several times "in a deep voice that appeared to be forced and not natural." Because it was Halloween, and the two men were dressed in masks, the night clerk said he thought the hold-up was a joke at first.

According to the affidavit, the night clerk laughed, then asked the two men, "Why?" and told them "nice dress."

But, when the taller suspect told him to walk toward the register, the night clerk said he realized it was a legitimate robbery.

Burns told police he filled a plastic bag full of cigarettes during the Marlborough robbery. Saucier said he believed he told the night clerk "it's only money, just the money," the affidavit states.

The night clerk estimated about \$430 worth of merchandise, including 45 packs of Newport cigarettes, were stolen, along with several sleeves of chewing tobacco, each containing five cans, the affidavit states. The 7-Eleven owner told police \$149 was taken from the cash register during the Nov. 1 robbery.

After the two men fled the scene, the night clerk locked the convenience store and called his boss, the affidavit says. Troop K received the 911 call at 3:30 a.m. on Nov. 1.

According to the affidavit, after the Marlborough robbery, similar robberies of 7-Elevens in Windsor Locks, Newington, New Britain and Vernon occurred between Nov. 3 and Nov. 10. In each incident, the suspects were described as carrying knives and stealing cash and Newport cigarettes.

A multi-town police task force was formed and information was gathered that "tentatively identified" Saucier and Burns, according to the affidavit. The two were then placed under surveillance.

On Nov. 12, the two men were followed after leaving the City Side Motel on the Berlin Turnpike, the affidavit says. They entered the 7-Eleven in Coventry wearing black clothing and black masks, and carrying knives. They reportedly stole Newport cigarettes, the affidavit says, and then were apprehended after they exited the store.

Burns escaped on foot, but was later found in Vernon, the affidavit says.

Once in police custody, the two men provided written statements.

Burns said he usually used a T-shirt to cover his face "ninja style" during robberies, because he could take it on and off easily.

Saucier said during most of the robberies, "he would be pretty drunk and high on 'crack,'" the affidavit says. He told police he had found the machete "on the railroad tracks when he was homeless and living in the woods."

Both men admitted to being involved in the 7-Eleven robberies that occurred last November, the affidavit says.

According to the affidavit, both Saucier and Burns have "lengthy criminal records." Saucier's convictions include manslaughter, burglary, possession of narcotics and threatening, among others; Burns' include, but are not limited to, risk of injury to a minor, possession of narcotics, threatening, larceny and interfering with police.

Both men have not been released from police custody and are each held on a \$500,000 bail. Saucier's next court date is listed as May 24, and Burns' is June 2.

## Colchester Police News

5/3: Ryan Derringer, 53, of 438 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 2, was charged with failure to appear, Colchester Police said.

5/3: Tanner Loucks, 20, of 99 Lynn St., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

5/3: Timothy O'Connor, 56, of 82 Longview St., Apt. 29, Waterford, was charged with DUI and failure to drive at a reasonable distance, State Police said.

5/9: Bradford Lepore, 46, whose address was listed only as "Colchester," was involved in a domestic disturbance and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

## Andover Police News

5/3: Christopher Shakir, 23, of 90 Slocum Rd., Hebron, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief and simple trespass, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

4/25: Joseph John Pistilli, 53, of 19 Sunset Dr., was arrested for operating a motor vehicle while using a handheld mobile phone, traveling unreasonably fast, failing to have proof of valid insurance, distracted driving, tampering with evidence, interfering with an officer and illegal storage of narcotics, East Hampton Police said.

4/28: Adrian John Pompei, 22, of 71 Foxridge Dr., Colchester, was arrested for failure to drive right, DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of heroin, police said.

4/29: Franklin Lowe, 68, of Hampton and Lisa Gagnon, 41, of Stafford, were involved in a two-car accident at the intersection of Route

## Marlborough Police News

5/4: Kevin Levesque, 35, of 24 Chapman Rd., East Hampton turned himself in for failure to drive at a reasonable distance, breach of peace and third-degree assault, State Police said.

## Hebron Police News

5/4: Roger Henry Ouellette, 55, of 137 Scott Ave., Watertown, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

5/7: Eric Yopp, 44, of 185 Hope Valley Rd., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

5/2: A 14-year-old male was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief and referred to juvenile court, Portland Police said.

5/4: Ramon Quiles, 28, of 34 Chatham Ct., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

66 and Route 196, police said. Lowe was issued a written warning for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart.

4/29: David J. Sorvillo Jr., 39, of 510 Ochlahatchee Dr., Perry, GA, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of crack cocaine and failure to drive right, police said.

5/1: Colin B. Shirshac, 28, of 81 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested for possession of heroin, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to drive right, failure to carry insurance and failure to renew registration, police said.

## Two Injured in Separate Hebron Car Accidents

Two separate one-car accidents sent two residents to the hospital last week, according to State Police.

The first occurred May 4 around 9 a.m., police said. Jayne Steele-Pantschenko, 39, of Amston, was traveling southbound on Buck Road near Forest View when she veered off the road and struck two trees, according to police.

Steele-Pantschenko sustained "numerous non-life threatening injuries" and was transported to the Marlborough Clinic. Her 2011 Chevy Cruze was totaled, police said.

Three days later, on May 7 around 2:55 a.m., Marissa Olson, 20, of Hebron, suffered a broken rib and cuts to her knee after she rolled her vehicle, police said.

Olson was traveling westbound on Route 94 when she attempted to make a left onto Murphy Road, but was traveling too fast. According to police she then "over corrected" her steering, came back on the road, but then flipped her 2000 Dodge Durango onto its roof.

Olson was transported to the hospital. Her car was totaled, police said.

## Route 2 Accident in Marlborough Sends Three to Clinic

A one-car accident on Route 2 near exit 13 sent three people to the hospital Monday, State Police said.

Can Li, 56, of Norwich was traveling eastbound when he lost control of his 2007 Toyota Camry and drove into the shoulder, police said. He, along with his two passengers,

Xinyan Li, 23, of Norwich, and Nai Zhang, 24, of Brooklyn, NY, were transported to the Marlborough Clinic for an evaluation.

Li's Camry sustained severe front and rear damage, police said. He was issued a written warning for failure to drive in the proper lane.

# Obituaries

## Glastonbury

### Wendell Lester Bishop

Wendell Lester Bishop, 70, of La Quinta, California, formerly of Glastonbury passed away in his home on Tuesday, March 15th.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 21st at the Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lebanon, CT at 11am. Anyone is welcome to attend a luncheon immediately following at the church hall. A private burial will take place after that date at Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield, MA.

## Marlborough

### Ingaborg Horne

Ingaborg (Hempel) Horne, 99, of Marlborough, widow of Ernest Horne, died Sunday, May 8, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born Dec. 21, 1911, in Hamburg, Germany, she had lived in Marlborough since 1944.

She is survived by her two sons and their partners, Robert E. Horne and Leah of Fort Pierce, FL, and Peter W. Horne and Rose of East Hampton; two grandchildren and their spouses, Stephen and Sue Horne of New York and Sandra and Bob Horne Meyer of Maine, and three great-grandchildren, Katherine, Erika and Kai.

There will be no calling hours and funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

## Colchester

### Frances Patricia Stoddard

Frances Patricia (Crook) (Ranheim) Stoddard, "Pat," 76, of Colchester and formerly of East Hartford and Ocala, FL, beloved wife of Erwin, passed away Friday, May 6, surrounded by her loving family, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born May 2, 1935 in Woonsocket, RI, she was a daughter of the late Francis and Ellen (Woods) Crook.

Pat was a communicant of St. Mary Church in East Hartford for many years and had served as cook and housekeeper for St. Mary's rectory for 15 years before her retirement.

She enjoyed her family and supporting their activities. She loved cats, especially her beautiful Siamese, Tiki. Pat shared and passed her love of Great Hammock Beach in Old Saybrook on to her family. In her youth, she competed in Irish step dancing and remained fond of Irish music. Her pastime was crocheting and sewing for her children and grandchildren, frequently donating her creations to hospitals and elderly homes in support of the elderly and babies. She had cared for several foster children as well.

With her husband and best friend, Erwin, she enjoyed back road travel through many towns and states establishing friendships along the way.

In addition to her loving husband of 30 years, she is survived by six daughters, Eileen Morales of Greensboro, NC, Debbie and Paul Mientus of Colchester, Pam (Coleen) Ranheim of Plymouth, MA, Leanne and Joe Cafro of Colchester; Bettyann and Bradley Lemire of Enfield and Tricia and George Scrivener of East Haddam; their father, Donald Ranheim of East Hartford; four step-children, Linda Howell of Zephyr Hills, FL, Valarie and Rick Bidwell of Lehigh Acres, FL, Arthur and Rhonda Stoddard of Zephyr Hills, FL and John and Becky Stoddard of Enfield; 17 grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and seven step-great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Tuesday, May 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The celebration of the funeral liturgy followed at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington 06111.

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

Remember...I love you today...

## East Hampton

### Joanne Lois Salva

Joanne Lois (Bishop) Salva, 84, of Durham, wife of Stanley E. Salva, passed away on Friday, May 6, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in St. Louis, MO, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Grace (Ballantyne) Bishop.

Joanne grew up in New Haven, moving to Durham in 1967. She was a member of United Churches of Durham, was tax collector for the Town of Durham for 19 years, and was an avid antique collector and owned Pony House Antiques in Durham. Joanne loved the Town of Durham and was involved in many town activities.

She also loved to travel, cook, and loved spending summers at Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton.

Besides her husband, Joanne is survived by her four sons, Robert S. Salva and his wife, Kim of Harrisburg, PA, Todd Salva and his wife, Cheryl of Durham, Gary Salva and his wife, Beth of Middlefield and William Salva of Middletown; a step-sister, Christy Hager of St. Charles, MO; five grandchildren, Keri, Craig, Taylor, Connor and Nathan; and four step-grandchildren, Austin, Taylor, Jacob, and Cassandra.

A graveside service was held on May 9 in Mica Hill Cemetery, Mica Hill Road, Durham, followed by a memorial service at United Churches of Durham, 228 Main St., Durham. The Rev. Dr. Elven W. Riggles, Jr. officiated. A reception followed.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Joanne's memory to Weiss Hospice Unit, Middlesex Hospital c/o Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown is handled the arrangements.

## Colchester

### Norman H. Caron

Norman H. Caron, 75, of Colchester and Haines City, FL, beloved husband of Leona, went home to Heaven Sunday, May 8, surrounded by his loving family after a long, courageous battle with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

Born July 7, 1935, in Hyannis, MA, he was a son of the late Norman H. Caron and Lena (Gagner) Gonella and was raised in Sandwich, MA, by his mother and stepfather, the late Amedeo Gonella.

Toward the end of the Korean War, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving with the 380th Field Maintenance Squadron as a jet engine troubleshooter between 1955 and 1959.

On Nov. 17, 1956, he wed the love of his life, the former Leona Burdo, at Holy Angels Church in Altona, NY.

Mr. Caron was a heavy equipment operator in construction for many years with the Local 478 Operating Engineers before his retirement, which he enjoyed between Colchester and Haines City. He was an honorary member of the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., with whom he had been active in years past.

Norm was a communicant of both St. Andrew Parish in Colchester and St. Ann Parish in Haines City.

In addition to his loving wife of 54 years, he is survived by three children: Susan Caron of Colchester, Steven Caron of East Haddam and Nancy and Richard Sherry of Avon; four grandchildren; his stepbrother, John Gonella of Sagamore, MA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Tuesday, May 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral gathered starting Wednesday at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal with full military honors followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of both Chestelm HCC and the Middlesex Hospice for the loving care and compassion shared with them and Norman during his illness.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Ste. 1509, New York, NY 10018, the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter, 279 New Britain Rd., Suite 5, Kensington, CT 06037 or to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## Colchester

### Dorothy Fedus

Dorothy (Gutzmer) Fedus, 89, of Norwich, formerly of Colchester and Manchester, passed away peacefully Tuesday, May 3, at William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich with her family at her side.

Dorothy was born on Sept. 22, 1921 in Willimantic, daughter of the late Richard W. and Aldea (Pimpare) Gutzmer.

She was raised in Willimantic, was a 1940 graduate of Manchester High School and had resided most of her life in Manchester before moving to Norwich in 1989.

Dorothy was employed for many years at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and later became an entrepreneur and part owner of the E.L. Fedus Construction Company in Colchester. She was a former parishioner of St. Bridget Church in Manchester and St. Andrews Church in Colchester.

Dorothy is survived by her son, Edward C. Custer and his wife, Kathleen of Amherst, NH; her daughter, Darlene T. Fedus-Papineau and her husband, Philip Papineau of Norwich; a brother, Walter F. Gutzmer and his wife, Helen of Manchester; her five loving grandchildren, Laura Herman, Ellen Letendre, Chera Melanie Kirker, Roark C. Ryan and Laila Jane Papineau; and four great-grandchildren, Garnet Rose Letendre, Violet Rye Letendre, Glen Williams Gustafson and Christine Dior Gustafson.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was predeceased by her son, Bruce R. Custer and her daughter, Pamela J. Cassarino.

Funeral services and calling hours were held May 9 at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. A Mass of Christian Burial at St. Bridget Church, followed.

Burial will be in St. Bridget Cemetery, 80 Main St., Manchester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Connecticut, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT. 06111.

To sign the online guestbook visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## East Hampton

### Mary Newhall

Mary (Purple) Newhall, 94, of East Hampton passed away on Wednesday, March 2. She was born on July 21, 1916 in Middletown, to the late Eleanor and Arnold Purple.

Mary was a graduate of Middletown High School. She was a long-time resident of both Florida and East Hampton. For the last 25 years of her life, Mary spent winters in Florida and summers at her home on the shore of Lake Pocotopaug.

She was a member of the Congregational Church of East Hampton and a woman who truly lived her life for her family and her church.

She was predeceased by her husband, John Newhall and son, Charles.

Mary leaves a brother, Nelson (Coop) Purple of East Hampton. She is survived by her two step-daughters, Susanne Ray and Martha Moses, both of Florida; as well as seven grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Saturday, May 14 from 10-11 a.m. at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A memorial service will immediately follow, at the Lake View Cemetery, East Hampton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Congregational Church of East Hampton or the charity of your choice.

## Portland

### Roland Bisson

Roland Bisson, 76, beloved husband of Catherine (Warzecha) Bisson, of East Berlin formerly of Portland, died Saturday, May 9 at Hospital of Central Connecticut. He was born in Warwick, RI the son of the late Leo and Lea (Nadeau) Bisson.

A veteran of the Korean War, Roland served with the U.S. Navy. Prior to his retirement he was employed as a foreman for Scott and Daniels Manufacturing in Portland. He was past commander of American Legion Post 105 in Cromwell, past president of the Sideliners in Portland, director of the Portland Ancient Fife and Drum and was a communicant of Saint Paul Church in Kensington.

Besides his wife, Roland is survived by two daughters, Regina Cinque and her husband John of Branford, Suzanne Cramer and her fiancée Lee Smith of Las Vegas, NV; two sons, John-Paul Bisson and his wife Diana of East Berlin, Bruce Roland Bisson and his wife Holly of Durham; two sisters, Rita DeVine of Hope Valley, RI, Lorette Beaudette and her husband Louis of Pawtucket, RI; four grandchildren, Kyle Bisson, Nicholas Cinque, John Cinque, Kristen Cinque; a sister-in-law, Helen Borriello of Killingworth; several nieces and nephews; a grand-dog, Buck, and grand-cats, Ariel and Rockie.

Funeral services were held May 12 at the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. A Funeral Liturgy at St. Paul Church, 485 Alling St., Kensington, followed. Burial with military honors was held at West Cemetery, Cromwell.

Friends called at Biega Funeral Home on May 11.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Joslin Diabetes Center, 100 Grand St., New Britain, CT 06050.

To share memories or express condolences online visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).