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RHAM High School junior Carolyn Friend lies "lifeless" on the pavement following a car crash staged during a mock accident at the school on Wednesday.

Mock Accident Details Driving Dangers

by Courtney Parent

While the warming rays of Wednesday's sunny skies led to many smiling faces, a grim mock accident at RHAM High School did not entice the same reaction.

State police, local fire departments, rescue personnel and the LifeStar medical helicopter made a joint appearance at RHAM on Wednesday morning to enlighten junior and senior students about the dangers of distracted driving.

The accident scenario included six teenagers, two vehicles, ample amounts of alcohol and one cellular phone. In the scenario, a teenage male driving a white van with three passengers crashed into a red car with two female teens. The male and his three friends were on their way to school, he was using his cell phone at the time of the accident and the four had been drinking.

The female passenger of the red car was thrown from the vehicle, lying lifeless with a pool of blood around her body and one shoe across the road. The female driver was trapped inside the now crushed car. Meanwhile, the male driver (who was at fault) and his passengers were all able to exit the vehicle safely. Two female teenagers, also on their way to school, came across the accident and called police.

After the conclusion of a brief "opening scene," step-by-step narration began detailing all of the actions being taken on the accident scene. Police, who were the first to respond, began by checking on the condition of all parties involved. They phoned in further assistance and began interviewing the teenagers.

The Hebron, Marlborough and Andover fire departments arrived on scene next, followed by multiple ambulances. It was a world of commotion as responders tended to injuries, crime and death.

After failing three sobriety tests, the male driver was cuffed and stuffed by police. His three passengers were all placed in neck braces, on stretchers, and taken to the hospital for medical assistance. Meanwhile, firefighters used to the Jaws of Life to safely extract the injured female driver from her vehicle and police drew chalk outlines around the body of one innocent life lost.

Lt. David Thurz, training officer for the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, described the accident scenario as an "eye-opening experience" where students are able to see everything that takes place after an accident. Thurz explained that while many may have driven by accidents before, that is generally after the scene has already been "cleaned up." Thurz explained that this was a unique opportunity for students to see first-hand the step-by-step procedures that are taken and the time it takes to provide assistance after an accident.

For Thurz, Wednesday was his third time participating in the bi-annual mock accident at RHAM. According to Thurz, a different scenario is portrayed during each re-enactment. However, Thurz said they generally revolve around "distracted driving" be it through the use of cell phones or iPods, drinking (which

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O'Keefe's Request for Investigation Rejected

by Joshua Anusewicz

In April, former East Hampton town manager Jeffery O'Keefe asked the state's attorney's office to investigate "corruption and collusion" in the office of Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and other East Hampton town employees.

On Tuesday, O'Keefe received an answer to his request, and it was a resounding 'no.'

O'Keefe's request, sent to State's Attorney Timothy J. Liston, came on the heels of a March decision by Liston's office that no criminal prosecutions would be initiated against O'Keefe regarding allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation against town employees.

However, in a very frank letter sent this week to O'Keefe and copied to Reimondo and Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, Liston told the former town manager that no further investigation would be necessary. The letter was read aloud by Town Council member Sue Weintraub at Tuesday's council meeting.

"You raised these claims of collusion and conspiracy during [State's Attorney] Inspector Mark Miele's investigation," Liston told O'Keefe in the letter. "You knew that Inspector Miele would have to follow up on those claims in order to do a fair and thorough investigation. If the complaints against you were false and/or

the product of collusion, it would have had a significant impact on our investigation."

Last year, three female town employees complained to Reimondo of alleged sexual harassment by O'Keefe. Reimondo forwarded the harassment claims to the town attorney. Shortly thereafter, Reimondo's position was eliminated by O'Keefe, who cited "budgetary reasons" for making the cut. Many residents believed Reimondo's removal was retaliation for his role in forwarding the harassment claims, and a summer of heated town meetings followed, before O'Keefe ultimately resigned. Reimondo was reinstated at a town referendum in November.

In his investigation request to Liston, O'Keefe said that his life has "been ruined unjustly and with maliciousness," adding that he was "coerced into voluntary resignation, my 25-year unscathed reputation in public service ruined in the public eye, my livelihood stripped of me." O'Keefe also said he had considered not sending the request to Liston, but wrote "that 'what is right and just' is the higher moral standard we should all live by."

Liston stated in the letter that all of the claims that O'Keefe stated in his investigation request

had been brought to Miele's attention and were found "to be without merit," adding that "reformulating your claims in a letter released to the media does not change my decision."

Liston also said that O'Keefe saying he was "coerced" into resigning was "a contradiction and a civil matter that you will have to resolve with the Town of East Hampton."

Liston said in the letter that during the investigation of O'Keefe, his office "found no evidence of collusion, corruption, conspiracy, abuse of power, retaliation, fabrication, falsification, unethical or criminal conduct by...Reimondo, Sgt. Garritt Kelly, Weintraub, the three female complainants and/or [Reimondo's] attorney Leon Rosenblatt."

O'Keefe had also alleged in his request that Reimondo had instructed Kelly to request the state investigate O'Keefe on the day Reimondo was laid off, and said it was "one of the most egregious abuses of power" he had ever witnessed. But Liston stated in his response that the "totally unexpected and unprecedented attempt to remove the chief from office required [Reimondo] to turn the matter over to [Liston's] office."

Liston also said that Reimondo's complaints

actually preceded the chief's "furlough" by two months. "They were not made up to be used as a defense to your unforeseeable action against Chief Reimondo," Liston wrote.

The letter also included several comments from Liston on the appropriateness of the request. Liston said that by saying Weintraub "led the public crusade to 'crucify' me" and sending the letter during Passover and Easter week was "grandiose and offensive."

Liston also told O'Keefe that "citing 'the higher moral standard' after Bourbon Street" suggests that he "could benefit from additional sensitivity training."

"Bourbon Street" is a reference to a business conference O'Keefe attended in New Orleans, LA, in 2009. Following the conference, rumors surfaced that various inappropriate activities had taken place during O'Keefe's visit.

O'Keefe said Wednesday that "for a State's Attorney, I felt [Liston's] response was both unprofessional and condescending," adding the "references about religion and Bourbon Street were totally uncalled for."

O'Keefe continued: "I was publicly hung out to dry before any investigation was even con-

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Pictured left, firefighters extract a female driver from her vehicle, after using the Jaws of Life to remove the roof of the car. Meanwhile, police cover the body of the “deceased” with a sheet. At right, an officer tends to two teens who are injured and distraught after the “fatal” wreck.



Mock Accident cont. from Front Page

Thurz said is a “big one”) or something else.

According to Hebron Resident State Trooper Jim Nolting, the main goal is to have a positive impact on the students of RHAM. While this was his first time participating in the bi-annual event, he felt that it really does help make accidents a reality for the students.

“I think for a majority of the kids it does really hit home,” Nolting said, “and they realize it does happen.”

Nolting said planning the mock accident involved coordination with state police; Hebron, Marlborough and Andover fire departments; LifeStar; and a local funeral home. Also involved were RHAM and AHM staff, and RHAM students who aided in the accident scenario.

The participants in the mock accident included six students from the high school, which RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said

are members of the AHM-RHAM Peer Helper Program.

Even the vehicles used in the “accident” can be credited to coordination and cooperation. According to Thurz, the vehicles used in this year’s mock accident came from Northeast Towing and Recovery. Thurz said sometimes the vehicles come from local accidents and sometimes they need to be crunched up to suit the specific scenario. This year, Thurz said the car used actually came from a wreck right in Hebron.

In the conclusion of the mock accident, the four injured teens were taken away by medical personnel, the driver at fault was taken “downtown” and the body of the deceased female was zipped, wrapped, strapped and placed in a hearse.

After the accident scenario wrapped up, students reported to the auditorium to receive a presentation entitled, “The Hard Truth.” The presentation was delivered by Mothers Against

Drunk Driving (MADD) Victim Impact Coordinator, Robin Cullen.

Cullen gave a compelling presentation, which featured intense stories and graphic images. She spoke of real people and real situations – often, situations that could not have been anticipated. One story focused on a girl who was sent to the hospital after she was hurled off her motorcycle by another biker. The other biker had been drinking at the time of the crash and had previously been arrested for driving under the influence. The girl was on her way home to a family barbecue at the time. Cullen told students “she was lying in the road in a river of blood” and her family, who was at home waiting for her, didn’t know anything was wrong.

Cullen displayed graphic bloody images of the girl’s leg, which had been “blown out” during the accident. Immediately following the accident, during a time which she should have

been celebrating with her family, she was undergoing eight hours of surgery. After that, Cullen said that her foot had “started to die” and doctors had to place her in an induced coma. Doctors then proceeded to ask the girl’s mother for permission to amputate her leg, informing the mother that her daughter would die if they did not. She spent over 40 days in the hospital and now after two years of rehabilitation she is finally able to walk.

But Cullen’s presentation was about more than telling horrific stories. As hundreds of RHAM juniors and seniors sat silently in the auditorium seating, Cullen asked them to be a part of something bigger, saying she wanted them to find something they could do to be a “part of the solution.”

“We don’t just want you to graduate,” Cullen said, “but to move on and realize your dreams. We want you to be a part of a community that changes the world.”

Investigation cont. from Front Page

ducted. I even wonder how Ms. Weintraub was given the letter before I or even the whole council received it. The whole matter was a ‘media’ circus used for political gain and I was the ‘antagonist’ for the drama.”

As for what O’Keefe plans to do in response to Liston’s letter, he said that “it appears civil recourse is my only option.”

Engel said Wednesday that she was “surprised by the personal tone of resentment,” but not surprised by Liston’s decision. She also questioned Weintraub’s decision to read it aloud at the meeting.

“Did it have to be read? Absolutely not,” Engel said. “But that’s what Sue does.”

When asked to comment on Liston’s letter, Reimondo said Wednesday that the response “stands for itself,” and that his “focus is on the town’s needs right now and [he] plans to move forward.”

East Hampton Residents OK Money for Pine Brook Road Repairs

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a lightly-attended town meeting at East Hampton High School Monday night, around two dozen residents voted unanimously to authorize \$400,000 for repairs to the bridge on Pine Brook Road, which suffered heavy damage during flooding in March.

According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the town has been “assured by the state that the \$400,000 will be reimbursed through grants.” The funds will be provided through the state’s Town Aid Road program.

Pine Brook Road, which is home to two families, crosses over Pine Brook, which saw a substantial rise in water level in March. Currently, the water flows under the road through a single culvert, which was unable to handle the increased amount of water. The brook rose over the road, washing out a large portion of it and damaging the culvert. The two families were stranded for several days.

Public Works Director Keith Hayden has proposed a plan that would replace the existing culvert with two 30-foot corrugated metal pipes

that are nine feet by 12 feet wide. The road will also be elevated to help combat any possibility of the road washing out again.

The \$400,000 is expected to cover all aspects of the project, including design, construction, materials, engineering, and any consulting fees.

Though the town has yet to receive the money from the state, town meeting moderator Red McKinney stated that “it’s as good as here.” However, McKinney also said the project would not begin until the funds were “absolutely in place.”

At Tuesday’s Town Council meeting, the council approved a bid from Butler Construction Company of Portland, which placed the lowest bid of \$282,000. Hayden said Tuesday that Butler has worked on East Hampton projects before, including earlier repairs done to Pine Brook Road.

Hayden said the contract will be signed by Tuesday, May 31, and he hopes to begin “prep work” in June.

East Hampton Budget Vote Next Week

Residents at Monday’s town meeting also unanimously approved the date for the town budget referendum. The vote will be held Tuesday, May 31, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the high school.

This will be the town’s second 2011-12 budget referendum – the budget failed at a May 3 referendum by just four votes, 585-581.

Since the first referendum failed, the Town Council has approved \$100,000 in additional cuts to the proposed spending plan, which will come from the Board of Education budget.

The education budget proposed in February was \$26.61 million, which represented a 2.82 percent increase from 2010-11. After a \$146,000 cut from the Board of Finance in April and the recent \$100,000 cut, the education budget will only receive a \$332,695, or 1.29 percent, increase over the current fiscal year.

The proposed 2011-12 budget now sits at \$37.76 million, 0.62 percent decrease from 2010-11. The calculated mill rate is 25.68, which is a 0.5 percent decrease from 2011-12.

Energy Presentation Entices Hebron Selectmen

by Courtney Parent

An evening of road discontinuances, land exchanges and proposed ordinances was broken up nicely by an entrancing energy presentation delivered to the Board of Selectmen at its meeting last Thursday, May 19.

Andy Merola, Energy and Program Development Manager for Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) delivered a well-received presentation on CCM's Capital Improvement Energy Program. The program focuses on raising awareness in terms of reducing energy usage, and lowering energy and operating costs.

Merola began his presentation by telling the board that in terms of scope, it does not come down to "if" but "how." Merola emphasized taking funds that would already be used for utility costs and investing in a more energy efficient system that would decrease utility bills.

The importance of supply, demand and conservation was stressed by Merola. In terms of supply, he pointed to reducing the cost of commodities; demand, reducing the use of commodities; and conservation, turning off lights and other electric sources.

The program includes installing energy-efficient facility improvements. Merola explained that there are no upfront costs as the system is paid for out of "guaranteed energy savings" from the town's existing budget.

According to Merola, there are three main aspects to focus on within the program; technical, financial and contractual. The technical side analyzes everything that utilizes energy within

the buildings, including electricity, water, sewer and more. When turning to the financial element Merola said the program attempts to maximize "free" and "low-cost" dollars. Some examples of "free" money that Merola provided were the CT Clean Energy Fund, CT Energy Efficiency Fund, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECB). Merola said combining funds such as these with an operating budget essentially creates a self-funded program.

Lastly, the contractual item centers on factors that are out of one's control, i.e. hotter/colder temperatures, a change in energy prices or a necessary addition/elimination of buildings or equipment.

"Needless to say, anytime you're using less energy you're having a positive impact on the environment," Merola added. "The goal is that the occupants inside the building will be happier and more productive."

The selectmen told Merola the program sounded like something that would be beneficial to the town and that they would be interested in looking further into. RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski, who was also in attendance for the presentation, shared a similar positive sentiment. After the presentation concluded, Siminski asked about putting in a new energy management system at RHAM, as he said the current system is 10 years old.

Merola responded by saying that a new sys-

tem could be placed at RHAM which would include features such as at-home accessibility from a computer or laptop. He noted that this would allow administrators to change the timing of the lights and other energy-burning products, to save on electricity if there were a snow day or similar cancellation.

"It is true that the cheapest energy dollar you can spend is the one that you don't have to use," Merola said.

* * *

Also at the meeting, the selectmen adopted a resolution regarding the "African American Revolutionary War Patriots of Hebron and the Proposed National Liberty Memorial."

Watt said Senator Joseph Lieberman and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate earlier this month to complete the construction of a 100 percent citizen-funded memorial to black veterans of the Revolutionary War, which will be located in Washington, D.C.

From 1775-83, Watt read, an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 black people, including both slaves and free persons, served as soldiers, sailors and patriots in the Revolutionary War. There were also more than 800 black people who resided in over 80 towns and cities and all eight counties in the state who served. Of those 800, Watt said that there were eight African Americans from Hebron who "participated in a struggle for independence."

* * *

Prior to beginning Thursday night's regular meeting, the selectmen held a public hearing on the numbering of buildings in town. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien explained that the purpose of the new number system was to enhance public safety, as she said the town has had a "lot of trouble" finding addresses after receiving emergency calls.

The proposed ordinance states that the purpose of the new building numbering system is to "promote public safety and convenience by providing a rational street numbering system whereby addresses may be identified with the ease and speed which is essential to the quick response of emergency services, including police, fire fighting and medical care."

Hebron Fire Marshal Randy Blais was present, equipped with a model sign that was reflective, with silver numbers on a green background.

Board member Brian O'Connell questioned whether the signs had to be reflective. Blais replied that they did not; they just needed to be visible from the road and adhering to a three-inch minimum size for numbers on a contrasting color.

There was no public comment at the hearing.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m., in the Town Office Building.

Jagger Lane Discontinuance Put on Hold in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

The discontinuance of town roads has been a hot topic in recent months, taking center stage once again at a Board of Selectmen meeting last Thursday, May 19. And as in previous meetings, the most controversial of those roads up for discontinuance was Jagger Lane.

At Thursday's meeting, the public comments section was led by John Hooker, who spoke on behalf of his mother, Martha Hooker, who lives on Jagger Lane. Hooker said that the focus of his concern lies within property accessibility. He added that the access issue could prevent future development of the land, should the landowners desire to do so.

Hooker then asked the selectmen what defines access, following up with an answer to his own question. Hooker said that access "as it is interpreted" is only for abutting property owners for discontinued Jagger Lane to their properties. He questioned whether this prohibited the development of a private road.

Hooker told the board his interpretation of the law was that any abutting property owners could cross his mother's land, could put power lines up, etc., without her consent.

"It doesn't seem right that property owners and taxpayers could have no say over who crosses their land," Hooker said.

Ultimately, Hooker requested that the selectmen remove Jagger Lane from the list of discontinued roads at this time.

"At this point and time I would just request

that Jagger Lane be withheld from the number of roads being discontinued so that we could look at this a little further," he said.

Timothy Mason next addressed the selectmen, noting that he owns property at the end of Jagger Lane, in the cul-de-sac.

In opposition to Hooker, Mason told the selectmen he was in favor of the discontinuance and thought it would be a financially-wise decision.

"I'm actually all for it," Mason said. "I just feel that we should remove it from our tax dollar liability. Let them pay for the access into the property."

"I don't want them to start saying that us as taxpayers have to front the nut," Mason said. "Let them as developers pay for it, it's not us as taxpayers who should accept the burden."

Before letting the selectmen speak, Hooker took the floor once again. This time, referring to paperwork from the Office of Legislative Research, he read a statement that said if people live on a road that is discontinued, "the easement they enjoy is private, not public." Hooker said he took this statement, as well as other information from the Office of Legislative Research, to mean that if Jagger Lane were discontinued, property owners such as his mother could never develop, which he said "severely limits" the use of the property.

When the selectmen finally regained the floor, there seemed to be some split opinions

in regards to pausing the discontinuance of the road in question. While Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said he was sympathetic to the residents and their unanswered questions, board member Brian O'Connell and Vice Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan pointed to liabilities tied to the road, due to such issues as plowing and the potential for accidents.

"This is not a road," Mulligan said. "It hasn't been a road for years, nor has the town put one penny into this road in years, but it is a huge liability to the town."

Town Planner Mike O'Leary also chimed in, referring to the 2003 article from the Office of Legislative Research that Hooker had read.

O'Leary read, "By law a property owner abutting a discontinued road has all rights to which it can be used."

He continued on to say that his understanding of the text was that the property owner would continue to have all rights of access and what would no longer be there is ownership, as the ownership would now be split with abutting properties. Since the parcels could not be given back to the town unless all property owners agreed, O'Leary said the road must be private rather than public.

Natalie Wood, who is a member of the town's Road Committee, was also present at the meeting and attempted to provide some clarity to the accessibility concerns. Wood explained that

when a road is discontinued a permanent easement runs with every property. Wood also said that any person who gains control of the property after the original property owner retains the aforementioned easement as it runs with the land.

From there, Hooker's concern turned to terminology, looking for the definition of a public road versus a private road, as the property owners would have the right to add a private road, but not a public road.

After much back-and-forth discussion, Watt suggested giving Hooker two months to do additional research. As multiple members felt that an additional two months would be unnecessary, O'Leary suggested that Hooker come up with two or three specific questions that they could forward to the town attorney. Board members agreed to hold off on putting Jagger Lane up for discontinuance at town vote at this time.

The roads which are up for continuance and are being sent to the town include West Street and Grayville, Crouch, Papermill, Slocum, Chittenden and Town roads.

The Board of Selectmen has scheduled a town meeting vote regarding the discontinuance of the previously mentioned roads, as well as a swap of land between Hebron and Colchester (see story elsewhere in this issue). The meeting will be held Thursday, June 23, at 7 p.m., in the Douglas Library Community Room.

Fidler Named New Principal of EHHS

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Board of Education has found a new principal for East Hampton High School, and it only took a short drive down Route 66 to find him.

John Fidler, the current principal at East Hampton Middle School, was unanimously appointed the new EHHS principal at the school board's meeting Monday. The decision came just two weeks after the board announced current principal Dr. Linda C. Berry would be departing at the end of the school year. Berry, who has served as principal for the last 16 and a half years, resigned to become the director of curriculum instruction and assessment at Regional School District 13 in Durham this fall.

"I'm excited, a little nervous," Fidler said



John Fidler

Wednesday. Fidler has been the principal of the middle school since 2008, but is no stranger to EHHS. He spent 14 years at the high school as a teacher, coach and athletic director ("not all at the same time," he said), before leaving to become the assistant principal at the middle school in 2004.

Fidler admitted that although "a school is a school," he knows that returning to the high school will pose a challenge.

"I'm certainly going to have to recalibrate myself back to the older students," Fidler said. He added that, as always, the main goal will be to continue "improving instruction" to what he called "a great school with great faculty."

Fidler's first official day in his new position will be July 1. He will be paired with a new assistant principal, Michael Dalton, who will also begin this summer.

Fidler has worked in the East Hampton school system for the last 21 years and has lived in East Hampton for the past 21 years. With a vested interest in the community, he knows

what the residents of the town expect out of the school.

"I hope I can meet everyone's expectations and carry on the great work that [Berry] has done," Fidler said.

Finding a replacement for Fidler was an even shorter trip: just down the hall.

The board also named Nancy Briere the new principal of EHMS. Briere has been served as the school's assistant principal for the last year, but has been in the school district for 25 years as both a teacher and an administrator. She is also a resident of East Hampton.

"We had a tremendous year together," Fidler said of Briere. "She'll be a wonderful principal."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden said Wednesday that Briere has been "enthusiastic" about taking on the new position, adding that "she's so excited."

Golden said Wednesday there was never an application process for the positions, but instead she recommended the idea to the Board of Edu-

cation when it was announced that Berry would be leaving. The board was unanimous in accepting the recommendation.

"We want continuity with the work all of our schools were doing," Golden said. "They are both natural fits and will do an excellent job. I'm very excited and very pleased."

Board of Education member Don Coolican, who is also the chairman of the board's personnel committee, echoed Golden's sentiments on continuity.

"[With the turnover] we needed someone who could step in right away," Coolican said Wednesday. "Both are very familiar with the schools and students, so it looks like a perfect fit. We were lucky to have two veterans who could step right in."

Both Fidler and Briere will finish out this school year and will begin at their new positions on July 1. Golden said that the middle school assistant principal position has been posted this week and the process of hiring a replacement will begin in June.

SEEC Dismisses Complaints Against East Hampton Chatham Party

by Joshua Anusewicz

On May 18, the State Election Enforcement Commission (SEEC) officially dismissed the complaints made by an election moderator against the Chatham Party and the group Take Back Our Town last October.

According to a press release issued by the Chatham Party on Monday, the complaints stemmed from the petition effort that forced a referendum to restore Matt Reimondo as police chief last fall. On Oct. 23, 2010, Ted Hintz, head election moderator for East Hampton, alleged that both groups had violated campaign finance laws by illegally organizing community support for the petition and establishing a political action committee to oppose the referendum.

In filing his complaint with the SEEC, Hintz alleged “that a group of two or more individuals who were circulating pamphlets regarding a petition drive to cause a referendum in the Town of East Hampton failed to register a political committee and follow certain campaign finance rules of reporting and disclosure.”

The petition in question took place after a Sept. 28, 2010, Town Council meeting, where many of the 400 residents in attendance gathered outside the meeting to sign a petition calling for a special meeting where residents could

vote on the ordinance that eliminated the police chief position.

The petition drive was eventually able to collect 1,350 signatures – more than the required 1,161, or 10 percent, of registered voters – and residents voted 3,701-1,616 on Nov. 2 to keep his position in the town’s ordinances.

Hintz’ complaints alleged that Take Back Our Town (TBOT) had failed to “designate a campaign treasurer,” “file a registration statement with the East Hampton Town Clerk,” “file an itemized campaign finance statement,” “provide disclaimers on their pamphlets and website,” and “disclose the proceeds from T-shirt sales.” Hintz also alleged that Kyle Dostaler, the chairman of the Chatham Party, violated state statutes by controlling more than one political party, as the TBOT website was registered in Dostaler’s name.

According to the SEEC ruling, “no funds were raised, and no expenditures were made or incurred in aid or opposition to a referendum question requiring TBOT to comply” with state statutes to form a political committee. The commission also ruled that financial statements, including receipts from the sale of T-shirts, did not have to be disclosed as it was not required

by state statutes.

In the ruling, the SEEC also stated that TBOT did not “promote the success or defeat of a pending referendum,” but rather detailed “attempts to trigger a referendum by petition.” It also cleared Dostaler, stating he “did not (nor was he required to) establish and control TBOT by registering it with the East Hampton Town Clerk.”

The Chatham Party stated in the press release that Hintz’s allegations were based on “erroneous assumptions not supported by the facts or law.” Bill Marshall, a member of TBOT, believes that Hintz incorrectly assumed TBOT and the Chatham Party worked as one.

“While many of the individuals involved in Take Back Our Town are also members of the Chatham Party, the majority of those who participated were not,” Marshall said in the press release. “The complaint filed by Mr. Hintz is simply a political grudge against the independent Chatham Party and an attempt to intimidate those who exercised their basic First Amendment rights to organize and speak out. It is an insult to all of the citizens who participated in the petition drive...as well as the 70 percent of voters who turned out to overturn

[the ordinance].”

The press release identified Hintz as a member of the Republican Town Committee and a certified elections moderator who served as moderator on Nov. 2 of last year. Dostaler expressed concern about Hintz’ impact on this fall’s elections, if he again serves as moderator.

“The Chatham Party is concerned about the influence Mr. Hintz will have if he is allowed to serve as head moderator,” Dostaler said in the press release. “As evidenced by his frivolous complaints, he is biased against the Chatham Party, does not understand campaign finance or election laws, and does not respect the rights of citizens.”

On Tuesday, Hintz said he had “read the release, but don’t want to debate [the Chatham Party] any further,” adding that the Chatham Party had “taken liberties with the truth, as they usually do.”

Hintz said the Chatham Party press release was sent out before he had even read the decision, adding that he would make copies of the SEEC decision and leave them at Town Hall for anyone interested in reading them. He said the commission’s “decision has been made” and that he would not comment further on the decision.

East Hampton Teen Wins Top Prize in Dancing Competition

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton’s Jenna-Lyn Geysen has been dancing since the age of 2, but the 17-year-old still describes herself as “nervous” and “anxious” when she steps out on the stage.

Others might only be able to describe her with one word: talented.

On May 1, Jenna-Lyn won first place at the “Showstopper” Regional Dance Competition in Hartford with her solo performance “I Am,” choreographed by nationally-renowned dancer and choreographer Caine Keenan. The score earned her spot at the “Showstopper” National Finals on July 3 in Myrtle Beach, SC, where she will perform in the opening number.

“The nationals is such a big step, and being in the opening is such an honor” said Jenna-Lyn, who will also be performing a duet in Myrtle Beach titled “Shirk,” which earned her and her partner Rachel Wolfer a first-place finish in Hartford. “It’s great to see the hard work pay off.”

Hard work is an understatement. Jenna-Lyn is a junior at Mercy High School in Middletown, where she also plays field hockey and winter and spring track. She dances four nights a week for four hours at Dance 10 Studios in Wethersfield. During all of this, she is actively looking at colleges in preparation for next year, where she hopes to pursue a career in dance.

Her application will be a hard one to ignore, as she has danced throughout the Northeast, including Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway in New York City. She has performed with the Boston Ballet, the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts in Natick, MA, as a soloist in Connecticut Concert Ballet’s *The Nutcracker*, at Disney World and with the PULSE on Tour, which assists with the choreography on the reality television show *So You Think You Can Dance?*

The performance in the upcoming national competition will also be quite the feather in her cap.

“This is a prestigious competition,” her father Kevin Geysen said. “She’s been dancing for some time, and this will certainly help with advancing her into the professional [dancing] world.”

Jenna-Lyn has been at Dance 10 Studios for seven years and is a member of the competition team and touring company, practicing multiple forms of dance. Mary Ellen Reilly, artistic director at Dance 10 and an East Hampton resident, believes Jenna-Lyn has what it takes to go professional, as Dance 10 has trained several professionals in the past.

“She has a lot of natural talent and is incredibly driven,” Reilly said. “She is a beautiful dancer and a fun person, as well.” Reilly said that her studio has done national competitions before, but this will be the first they will compete at “Showstopper” nationals.

Jenna-Lyn herself has competed at national events in the past and has toured with other national dance companies, her father said, but Jenna-Lyn realizes that the size of this competition will add a “whole new element.” According to the “Showstopper” website, the competition hosts over 100,000 dancers at three different sites around the country every year. Past participants include celebrities like Beyonce Knowles, Britney Spears and LeAnn Rimes.

Though she may not see Grammy Awards and music videos in her future, Jenna-Lyn does hope that dance can bring her to a new level of success. She is currently looking at a few New England colleges, including University of Vermont and University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where she hopes “dance can help carry [her] through.” She hopes to study dance in college, “as well as academics,” and hopes to become a choreographer some day.

She knows that, like now, it’s going to take “hard work.” But if she continues to work the way she has, don’t be surprised she finishes at the top again.



East Hampton resident Jenna-Lyn Geysen won first place at a regional dancing competition earlier this month, and will head to the contest’s national finals in South Carolina in July.

Marlborough Budget Defeated Again

by Courtney Parent

On Wednesday, residents again gathered to vote on the proposed 2011-12 town budget ... and again they defeated the spending proposal, this time by a vote of 117-105.

The \$21.16 million budget represented a \$280,824, or 1.19 percent, increase over current year spending. It also called for a 2.34 percent tax increase.

Wednesday's vote was the second attempt this month to get a budget passed. After residents expressed dissatisfaction associated with Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) fees at the first town meeting on May 9, the Board of Finance was sent back to the drawing board. Over the allotted three-week time period, the board amended the budget, addressing residents WPCA concerns.

Prior to voting, Black informed residents that in the revised budget WPCA legal fees had been increased by \$42,400 to take some of the financial strain off those within the sewer district. Black explained that \$30,000 of this had been anticipated to be covered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid. Black said just this week the town received notice that they would be receiving the FEMA assistance. The remaining \$12,400 he said would be covered by health savings.

"Bottom line is I think the question has been put to rest on where the budget is going," said Black.

After addressing the main change to the budget, Black noted that there were also two resolutions on the ballots that residents would be asked to vote on. The first resolution was in regards to the issuance of a \$1.6 million bond to be used for road improvements. The second resolution was in regards to the issuance of a \$400,000 bond to be used for town vehicle purchases.

Black emphasized the town's need for vehicle upgrades due to the extensive wear and tear the vehicles have endured after being used for nearly two decades.

"Some of the trucks are 15 to 19 years old," said Black. "These are the trucks that clear our roads and some of them have nearly a half a million miles on them. That's tough."

Despite changes made to the controversial WPCA fees, residents once again voted down the budget proposal. After the paper ballots were collected and tallied, Black announced that the budget had failed.

However, there was a slight silver lining as both resolutions passed. Voters approved the

\$1.6 million for road improvements in a count of 145 to 75 and approved the \$400,000 for vehicle purchases with 142 'yea' votes and 78 'nay' votes.

Even though changes were regarding the controversial sewer fees, Black said this second defeat could still be credited to them. He described the current budget dilemma as a "catch 22," with those within the sewer district looking for an increase in the WPCA legal fees line item to take some strain off, while those outside the sewer district may not be willing to pay extra for something that doesn't "benefit them on a day-to-day basis."

Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom concurred with Black, adding that it is difficult to know if the budget failure is a result of those within the sewer district or those outside the sewer.

"I think it is evident that the main issue continues to revolve around the allocation of funds to cover the WPCA's legal costs," Hjulstrom said. "What is less clear is whether the budget's failure resulted from continued concerns by those in the sewer district or by those outside the district who are reluctant to absorb those costs by having funds placed in the town budget."

The May 9 defeat of the original \$21.13 million budget proposal was done via a re-vote. The initial vote proved to be quite controversial after an initial show-of-hands provided an overall 81-80 count, in favor of the budget.

As is expected with such a close vote, while many residents applauded the budget, others demanded another vote, pointing to Robert's Rules of Order.

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

The website 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. According to the website, the motion does not require a second and can be made even after the original outcome was announced, as long as another motion hasn't been made in the meantime.

After much discussion and dispute, a motion to take a re-vote via paper ballots was approved. The paper ballots provided a different outcome however, after 167 ballots were counted (an additional six from the initial show-of-hands vote); the budget was defeated, 91-76.

The majority of the discussion at the May 9 town meeting focused on increased fees for resi-



The paper ballots get counted at Wednesday's town budget meeting. Ultimately, the 'no's had it, as the spending plan was defeated by a 117-105 vote.

dents within the sewer district.

The WPCA adopted a draft Operations and Maintenance budget on May 4, which would have increased the charge per Equivalent Dwelling Unit from \$375 to \$562. This would have been an addition to the yearly benefit assessment of \$603 per EDU.

A letter sent to residents in 2002 stated that 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 shows approximately a 50 percent increase over the current year, coming in at \$252,324. The majority of that increase being credited to legal fees. The professional services line item, containing legal fees, has increased by 600 percent, going from \$12,500 in the 2010-11 budget to the proposed \$87,500.

The dramatic 600 percent increase can be

heavily credited to the seven lawsuits which were filed last year to appeal the WPCA's benefit assessment.

Although the lawsuits were filed in December, Black said the WPCA didn't make a request to the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Finance until mid-to-late March, after the budget was already completed.

Black said Wednesday that, in the past few weeks, those outside the district have spoken with him about the fact that the town was originally told that they would pay 30 percent of the sewer project, while they are currently funding approximately 53 percent.

Following Wednesday's defeat, the Board of Finance will review the budget and prepare for a third town meeting vote. According to Black, the board has until the week of June 6 to either amend the budget or re-submit the same budget. Black said at that time the town will "socialize" the budget to the public and announce the date of the town meeting.

Portland Selectmen to Seek Grant Funds for Quarry Heights

by Joshua Anusewicz

Following a public hearing Wednesday, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a plan to apply for a Community Development Block Grant, which would provide funds for renovations at Quarry Heights, a public housing complex on Main Street.

The grant program allows the town to apply for up to \$700,000 for "Public Housing Modernization." According to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, the town plans to apply for the maximum.

Quarry Heights, which was built in the late 1970s, has been told by the Portland Fire Marshal that its fire alarm system and the railings on their stairs are currently not code-compliant. Deputy Fire Marshal Peter Willse said that the alarm was last updated in the early 1990s and that the current fire alarm system is the biggest issue.

"Right now, some residents might not be able to hear that alarm," Willse said. According to

Jacqueline Frazee, executive director of the Portland Housing Authority, the residents of Quarry Heights are mostly elderly or handicapped individuals.

Willse said that if the town is denied the grant, the Portland Housing Authority would have to come up with the funding or the matter would have to be settled in court. Frazee, who said she was unaware of the possibility of heading to court, is now prepared to "wait and hope for the best."

Frazee said that the cost for a new fire alarm system would be roughly \$171,000, but the Portland Housing Authority only has \$188,000 in their reserves. Frazee also said that Quarry Heights will eventually need the railings replaced, upgrades to handicap units, new kitchen cabinetry, and sidewalk repairs. She said she doesn't expect the entire \$700,000 and that completing the other repairs will depend on the amount of funding they receive.

Quarry Heights is controlled by the Portland Housing Authority, which is a separate entity from the town, and is overseen by Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). Frazee said that the Portland Housing Authority, which also runs Chatham Court as well as other low-income housing in the town, receives "no subsidies" and relies on rent from residents of the complexes for funding.

Several residents of Quarry Heights were on hand, as they were allowed to ask any questions about the grant. Terry Jones of Middletown, who is actually a prospective resident, addressed the selectmen. Jones, who is hearing impaired, lives in a transitional home in Middletown and hopes to move to Quarry Heights, which is close to where her brother lives. She said that an updated alarm system with flashing lights would allow her to move to the housing complex.

"I really want a place of my own," Jones said. "I feel safer in Portland."

Bransfield, as well as board members Mark Finkelstein, Sharon Peters, Carl Chudzick and Kathleen Richards, represented the Board of Selectmen. Bransfield said that attaining the funding for this project is "very important," as it represents "a life safety issue for the resident."

The Portland Housing Authority is paying for the grant writer, as well as an architect, and the application will go out in June. The town expects to be informed about the grant in September or October. The grant writer, Stephen Ball, was at the meeting and stated that the grants have become "really competitive" as funds have been cut back, but that public safety issues usually receive top priority.

"We have a good chance," Ball said.

Canterbury Gets 20 Years in 2005 East Hampton Killing

by Joshua Anusewicz

A man convicted of manslaughter in the 2005 beating death of an East Hampton man has been given a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison at Middlesex Superior Court on Tuesday.

Edgar Canterbury, 42, pled guilty to first-degree manslaughter and tampering with physical evidence on Thursday, March 10. According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police, Canterbury accepted a plea deal that carried a minimum of 17 years and a maximum of 20 years.

Canterbury has been incarcerated since he was first arrested in 2008, and according to the Middlesex Superior Court Criminal Clerk's Office, the two years spent incarcerated will count toward his 20-year sentence. The Connecticut Department of Corrections website shows that Canterbury is currently at Garner Correctional Institution in Newtown. Canterbury entered his guilty plea under

the Alford Doctrine, where the defendant does not admit the act, but recognizes that sufficient evidence exists for a conviction.

Canterbury was arrested in Arizona in October 2008 for the death of Louis D'Antonio, 38, at a campsite in East Hampton in August 2005. Following a jury trial, David Hill, 27, was found guilty last June of manslaughter in connection with D'Antonio's death. He was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

According to interviews with Hill after his arrest, he and Canterbury fatally beat D'Antonio with a piece of steel rebar, fled the scene, and buried the rebar in the woods. Friends of D'Antonio found his skeletal remains in September 2005. According to court documents, a co-worker of D'Antonio told East Hampton Police that Canterbury and D'Antonio had fought during a fishing trip earlier in the summer, and that Canterbury wanted to kill D'Antonio.

Crash Leads to Marlborough Arrest on Drug Charges

A Marlborough man was arrested last week on drug charges following his involvement in a two-car crash on Route 16, State Police said.

According to police, shortly after 7 a.m. on May 20, a Toyota Tacoma being driven by Scott Vashalifski, 27, of 17 Myrna Dr., Marlborough, collided with a Ford Expedition being driven by Chelsea Ferro, 18, of 44 Farmwood Dr., Colchester. Police said the crash occurred at the intersection of Scofield and Route 16.

Ferro was determined to be at fault, police

said, and cited for failure to obey a stop sign. She was not injured in the crash, nor was her 16-year-old passenger, police said.

Vashalifski, however, sustained a broken finger and was taken for treatment to the Marlborough Clinic. During their investigation into the accident, police said, Vashalifski was found to be in possession of marijuana.

Following the treatment of his injuries, Vashalifski was arrested and charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

Colchester Police News

5/18: Michael Larose, 43, of 142 James Rd., Voluntown, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

5/20: At 4:56 p.m., a window at 4 Village Court was reported broken. No entry was made to home and nothing else was damaged, State Police said.

5/22: Michael Leith, 23, of 42 Williams Rd., was charged with DUI and traveling unreasonably fast/fast for conditions, State Police said.

5/24: Jamie Schatz, 22, of 311 Route 6, Andover, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said

Hebron Concession Shed Broken Into

At some point between 6:30 p.m. May 19 and 1:45 p.m. May 20, the concession stand at Veterans Park on Wall Street was broken into, State Police said.

According to police, the window of the structure appears to have been pryed open, but nothing appears to have been taken from inside.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Resident State Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

Hebron Man Injured in Crash

A local man was taken to the hospital following a two-car crash in Marlborough last week, State Police said.

At around 2:45 p.m. May 20, police said, Ron Winter, 63, of 72 West St., was driving south on North Main Street in Marlborough, approaching the intersection with Route 66, when he struck a car being driven by Thomas Rankl, 62, of 155 River Rd., as Rankl was pulling out of a commercial parking lot onto North Main.

Winter was transported to Marlborough Clinic for possible breathing-related injuries, police said. His passenger, Jennifer Winter, 47, was uninjured, as was Rankl, police said.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

East Hampton Police News

5/11: Robert M. Caruso Jr., 44, of 15 Meech Rd., Middletown, and Eric D. King, 44, of 52 Lake Dr., Colchester, were arrested for possession of less than 4 ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

5/13: Melinda Mandell, 19, of 48 South Main St., and a 17-year-old juvenile of Middletown, were issued summons for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

5/14: Deanna Caulfield, 41, of 225 Tartia Rd., was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

5/15: Natalie MacNeil, 21, of 18 Navajo Tr., was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, police said.

5/16: Evan Boyce, 18, of 31 West Point Rd., was arrested for second-degree harassment,

Man Arrested After Colchester One-Car Crash

A one-car crash in the early morning hours of May 23 led to the arrest of a Lebanon man, State Police said.

Shortly after 2 a.m., police responded to a report of a one-car accident off of Route 16. Police responded to the scene to find a Ford F350 turned over on its side. According to police, the driver, Alexander Wesdowski, 21, of 632 Waterman Rd., Lebanon, lost control of his vehicle after passing Ashley Lane, going off the right side of the road and rolling over.

Wesdowski was charged with DWI and failure to drive right, police said. He was released on a \$500 non-surety bond and is due in court June 10.

Hebron Man Crashes into Stone Wall

A local man was sent to the hospital last week after his car went off the road and struck a stone wall, State Police said.

Scott Fitzpatrick, 39, of 232 Main St., was traveling south on Burrows Hill Road, three-tenths of a mile south of Smith Farm Road, in the Amston section of town shortly after 6:30 a.m. May 20, police said, when he went off the road and right shoulder and struck a stone wall. Several stones were dislodged from the wall in the crash, police said.

Fitzpatrick complained of pain in his lower back and was taken to the Middlesex Hospital Walk-In Clinic, police said.

He was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

Portland Police News

5/14: Three 15-year-old juvenile males were arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor, Portland Police said.

5/14: A 14-year-old juvenile male was arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

5/14: A 17-year-old juvenile male was arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

police said.

5/17: Dylan Miller, 19, of 255 Rock Landing Rd., Haddam, was arrested for fifth-degree larceny, police said.

5/17: Wayne Boulier, 30, of 25B Church St., Portland, was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said. Boulier was arrested for violation of a restraining order for a separate incident, police added.

5/17: Edward E Morrill, 41, of 41 East High St., was arrested for third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, interfering with a police officer, violating a protective order and failure to fingerprint, police said. In the same incident, Roseanne M. Brutzman, 44, of the same address, was arrested for disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Norma Arlene Fontanelli

Norma Arlene (Anderson) Fontanelli, 86, of East Hampton, widow of the late Joseph J. Fontanelli, died Monday, May 23, at Water's Edge in Middletown. Born Oct. 16, 1924, in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Mary (Spencer) Anderson.

Norma was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and a graduate of Middletown High School. She was a lifelong member of Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam and was a member of the Martha's Circle. Norma was a devoted and loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and loyal friend. She will be deeply missed by her family and will live in our hearts forever.

She is survived by her son, Anthony Fontanelli of Glastonbury; three daughters, Lynne O'Donnell of East Hampton, Judith Fontanelli of East Hampton and Alice Fancher and her husband Richard of East Haddam; a brother, Harry Anderson of East Hampton; three sisters, Joyce Ottone of Portland, Gail Whitten of East Hampton, Sue Engel of East Hampton; four grandchildren, Dennis, Betsy, Stephen, Bobby; two great-grandchildren, Sara Jean and Piper Jolie; and many nieces, nephews and close friends who will miss her greatly.

She was predeceased by her three brothers, John Anderson, Robert Anderson, Donald Anderson; and two sisters, Mary Goff and Alma O'Brien.

All are welcome to attend funeral services which will be held today, May 27, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home today from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1 Union St., No. 301, Robbinsville, NJ 08691, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Dorothea F. Rumney

Dorothea F. Rumney of Bristol, VA, formerly of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, April 19. Born April 15, 1923, in Limestone, ME, she was the daughter of the late Ernest and Idella Griffith. She was the wife of the late Elmer Rumney.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her son: John Rumney.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda (David) Paine of Bristol, VA; grandson Thomas J. Ladegard of Manchester; granddaughters Kimberly Pixley of Moosup, Teri Wagner of Martinsville, VA; two great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters; and many nieces, nephews and cousins in Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, Montana and Virginia.

A private service will be with family at a later date.

Colchester

Shirley Frances O'Brien

Shirley Frances O'Brien, of Colchester and formerly of North Branford, widow of the late Joseph H. O'Brien, passed away on her 87th birthday, Sunday, May 22, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born in New Haven in 1924, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Dorman) Glenn.

Mrs. O'Brien had lived in Colchester since 1987 and had worked as a librarian aide at Jack Jackter Elementary School for 10 years before her retirement. She enjoyed being active with the Colchester seniors, visiting Mohegan Sun and loved to play cards, board games and crochet. Most importantly, she was a devoted wife, mother, sister and friend and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by two sons, Glenn of Colchester, with whom she made her home and Gary and his wife, Patricia of Feeding Hills, MA; her sister, Margaret Savoia of North Haven; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her loving husband of nearly 30 years, she was also predeceased by a sister, Dorothy Furino.

Friends called Tuesday, May 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Graveside services were observed Wednesday, May 25, at All Saints Cemetery, 700 Middletown Ave., North Haven.

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

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Muriel E. King

Muriel E. (Melaven) King, 83, of Marlborough and formerly of Rocky Hill, passed away Wednesday, May 18, at Marlborough Healthcare Center. She was the beloved wife of 63 years to Frank H. King. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of Howard and Gladys (Shannon) Melaven.

Besides her husband, Muriel leaves behind her daughter; Kathleen Doner and her husband Alfred; a brother, Buddy Melaven and his wife Louise; three sisters, Kathleen Ayers, Evelyn Melaven, Ellen Morgan and her husband John; three grandchildren, Gregory David King, Stacy Ann Doner, Frank Andrew Doner; and one great-grandson, Zachary David King.

She was predeceased by her son, David King, and two sisters, Barbara Krasawa and Verlie Rhodes.

A Memorial service will be held at St. Andrews Church, 331 Orchard Rd., Rocky Hill, today, May 27, at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Marlborough Healthcare Center Recreation Fund, 85 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447, in memory of Muriel E. King.

Portland

John Lennart Johansson

John Lennart Johansson, 81, of Portland, beloved husband of Mary (Govone) Johansson for nearly 60 years, passed away Sunday, May 15, at Apple Rehab in Cromwell. Born in Wilmington, DE, on Aug. 17, 1929, he was the son of the late Rev. John G. Johansson and Anna (Lindgren) Johansson.



He was a graduate of Northport Long Island High School and Long Island Agricultural Institute (now Farmingdale). He was a veteran of the US Air Force with Air Training Command as instructor in airframe repair prior to being sent to Japan and Korea for a year. Upon honorable discharge he was employed by Pratt and Whitney in their Training School then at Kaman Aircraft in Moosup as liaison engineer, then at Allen Manufacturing as a tool designer. He became a builder of residential homes for approximately 20 years. He was commander of VFW Post 1344 in Marlborough from 1979-81. From 1981-84, he was commander of the Marlborough American Legion Post 197 and was the Third District VFW Adjutant for four years.

After living in Marlborough for 50 years, he and his wife moved to Portland in 2002, where he became a member of the First United Methodist Church in Middletown and was active in the church, being chairman of the Church Council; member of the Board of Finance; member and treasurer of the UMM and the Organ Restoration Committee.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Cristal Johansson Brown of Danville, VT, David L. Johansson and his wife, Elizabeth of Hinesburg, VT and Teresa (Johansson) Spooner and her husband, Thomas of East Hampton; two sisters, Edna Stewart and her husband, Howard of Simsbury and Anne Risch and her husband, Leonard of Barnagat, NJ; six grandchildren, Joshua H. Brown and his wife, Elizabeth Dollhopf-Brown, Aaron Winslow Brown, Ph.D. Zachariah Elton Brown, Kristopher A. Johansson and his wife, Sara, Kara E. Johansson and Timothy D. Spooner; a great granddaughter, Margaret Helen (Greta) Brown; and many nieces and nephews.

John delighted in his family, especially during any family gathering, and proudly supported his children and grandchildren in their academic pursuits. He was eagerly looking forward to three family graduations to take place in May.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 28, at 10 a.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 24 Old Church St., Middletown, with the Rev. Stefanie Bennett officiating. Interment will follow in the State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown where full military honors will be accorded.

Friends may call today, May 27, from 5-7 p.m., at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, and in lieu of flowers, may make donations in John's memory to First United Methodist Church Organ Restoration Fund, 24 Old Church Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Marlborough

Nancy Considine

Nancy Considine, 77, formerly of Marlborough, died at home Sunday, May 15, in Hatfield, MA, with her family at her side. She was the daughter of the late Mary Schran and Richard Heigl of Pittsburgh (Ohio Township), PA, and she was married for 35 years to the late James Considine, with whom she shared many adventures.



Nancy will be remembered for the loyalty and encouragement she gave to all who were lucky enough to know her. She enjoyed people and had an unusual gift for showing her concern for others. A familiar sight was Nancy at the door bearing offerings to mark a birthday, a holiday, or simply to show affection. She was the quintessential mother and grandmother, including her friends, neighbors and their children in her maternal embrace. Visitors who surprised her at home, even when she was concentrating on her writing, were always greeted warmly.

Of Nancy's many talents and interests, her greatest passion was the exploration of ideas. She was, by nature, a philosopher, always intrigued by a good question and skeptical of easy answers to life's complexity. She earned a master's degree in philosophy from Trinity College and taught at community colleges in Connecticut, working her love of Woody Allen films into the curriculum whenever she could. She opened a book store in the '70s that often doubled as a literary salon. Later, she sold books online, focusing on philosophy, nature, and her favorite fiction writers.

Nancy first began to explore her writing talent through journalism and public relations work. But it was soon after moving to the Valley in 2004 that she found her true writing voice. She became a vibrant and beloved member of the writing community - one who wrote with the enthusiasm of an adventurer. Those who experienced her work were enriched by her spare prose, witty dialogue and wry characters. From union organizing to depression farming to baseball, Nancy's writing captured every reader.

She also brought to life spectacular gardens wherever she lived, transforming ordinary lawns into wild and abundant celebrations of the natural world. Her awe of nature's own rhythm was such that she often delighted more in unplanned seedlings poking through the soil than anything planted deliberately.

Nancy lent her intelligence and energy to a number of causes throughout her life, most recently walking precincts in Ohio and New Hampshire for Barack Obama and attending the inaugural. A believer in public transportation, she was also involved in recent efforts to restore rail service to the valley. Nancy's enthusiasm for sports began in girlhood when she organized a fan club for Stan Rojek of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Once in New England and married to Jim, she gradually converted to Red Soxism and could be counted on to recruit friends for annual treks to Fenway. She also loved women's basketball, especially her UConn Huskies.

Besides many grieving friends and her much-loved mutt, Peppy, Nancy is survived by sisters Barbara Heigl of Virginia and Beatrice Heigl of Pittsburgh; her stepchildren, Anne Wingard (Chuck) of Holland, MI, Christopher Considine (Colleen Donovan) of Falmouth, ME, Margaret Considine of Westfield, MA, Jane Considine of Portland, ME, and Barbara Considine (Tim Carpenter) of Florence, MA; and grandchildren Matthew Cronin of San Francisco, CA, Kevin Sturtevant of Portland, ME, Clare Considine of Falmouth, ME and Sheila and Julia Carpenter of Florence, MA.

Nancy was buried alongside her husband in Marlborough, their hometown for 20 years.

A memorial service will be held to honor Nancy's life on Sunday, June 5, at 1 p.m., in Hatfield, MA. E-mail bwconsidine@gmail.com for details.

Charles Rankl Graveside Service

A graveside service for former East Hampton resident Charles M. Rankl, 95, who died Jan. 16, at the home of his niece in Woodsville, NH, will be held Sunday, May 28, at 11 a.m., in Marlboro Center Cemetery in Marlborough.

A reception will follow the service from noon-2 p.m. at the J.B. Williams Memorial Park in Glastonbury, where he served as the caretaker/ranger for 38 years. Feel free to bring your favorite covered dish.

Ricker Funeral Home, Woodsville, NH, is in charge of the arrangements.

Portland

Camille R. Cecere

Camille Regina Cecere, 77, of Portland, passed peacefully Friday, May 20 into His loving arms. She left this world with a "family" member of the Middle Haddam staff team by her side. She has resided in a group home with us at the Middle Haddam Group Home since 1989 when she left Mansfield Training School, where she lived for most of her life.



She attended day program at Kuhn Employment Opportunities and then the Arc of Meriden Wallingford in the OOA program before retiring a few years ago. Camille loved to string beads, color, sit in the sun, watch the Animal Planet, visit with friends go to parties or wait for her favorite staff to arrive (Sheila). She was a very grateful person and enjoyed her life to its fullest. She loved her chicken wings and could eat anybody under the table! All who were fortunate to have met her loved her, and she touched the lives of many. She was the sunshine in our days.

Camille was the daughter of the late Theresa Regina Cecere and Marco Cecere of Hartford. She was also predeceased by her aunts, Beatrice and Camille Regina, and uncles Salvatore and Joseph Regina.

Camille is survived by her cousin, Cindi Frey of Ellington. She was Camille's only family that she knew in her later life and Cindi was very close to "her little cousin Camille." Other cousins include Tom Regina and Jill from Washington State.

Camille's guardian and friend, Heidi, was a big part of her life for about 20 years. Heidi was there for birthdays, Christmas and endless meetings over that span of time. She was there with Camille the last days of her life and always showered her with love. Camille also leaves behind a very dedicated staff team at the agency group home she has lived at since she came to us in 1989. More than staff, these ladies surrounded Camille with love and tenderness until the last day of her life. She will forever be our little angel.

A memorial and Celebration of Life service will be held Thursday, June 2, at 11 a.m. at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, followed by a reception at the Middle Haddam Group Home. Burial will take place at the convenience of the family, at Mt Saint Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield, where Camille will be placed in eternal rest next to her mother.

In lieu of flowers friends may make memorial donations to New England Residential Services, Inc., 282 Main St Ext., Sanser Mill 2nd Fl, Middletown, CT 06457, a non-profit agency that has supported Camille for over 20 years.

Arrangements are through our kind friends at Doolittle Funeral Service, especially Heidi. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Hebron

Noreen W. Moberg

Noreen Elizabeth (Warner) Moberg, 68, of Rocky Hill, died Sunday, May 22, at Hartford Hospital, following a lengthy battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Noreen was born May 11, 1943, a daughter of the late William and Doris (Chapman) Warner of Gilead. She grew up in Gilead, and attended Hebron Elementary School and RHAM High School, both in Hebron. She had worked as a secretary for both the RHAM High and Bolton High school systems, and later was employed by the State of Connecticut Public Defender's Office, from which she retired in 2001. Noreen loved people, and leaves behind a multitude of friends that she considered family. She was always available for those who were fortunate enough to be called family or friend.

Surviving her are a sister, Lois Roberts and her husband Larry of Warren, ME; a brother, William Warner II and his wife Amy of Lakewood Ranch, FL; a nephew, Todd Warner of Concord, NC; a nephew, Lance Roberts and his wife Jennifer of Thomaston, ME; a niece, Sheri Palmer and her husband Brian of Andover; a nephew, William Warner III of Sarasota, FL; three great-nephews, Joel, Dylan and Cameron Palmer of Andover; a great-niece, Carli Palmer, also of Andover; and a host of uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Calling hours are today, May 27, from 5-7 p.m., at Brooklawn Funeral Home, 511 Brook St., Rocky Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Noreen's name may be made to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004.

Marlborough

Robert A. Wilcox

Robert A. Wilcox, 58, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, May 23, after a one-and-a-half year battle with cancer. He leaves his beloved and devoted wife of 29 years, Sandra (Giamalis) Wilcox, and his sons Justin Wilcox and Brian Wilcox. Robert was born on Nov. 5, 1952, to the late Philip DeHaven and Frances (Cipriani) Wilcox.



Born in Lawrence, MA, Robert was raised in New Jersey and Norwich, and graduated from the Norwich Free Academy in 1970. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Bridgeport in 1974 and a master's degree in computer science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1991. He was employed for 35 years by the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services in various capacities. He was assistant tax division chief of the Collections and Enforcement Division and subsequently became the acting director of information services. Most recently, his position involved working in the Internal Audit Division performing data mining and financial analysis.

A longtime resident of Marlborough, Robert was also a member of the Town of Marlborough Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission from its inception in January, 2006 until March 2011, including serving as vice chairman.

To his many friends and colleagues, he was known as Bob. Anyone who knew Bob knew that he was extremely intelligent and had a wry sense of humor. He enjoyed music, playing the guitar and going to concerts. He also enjoyed watching baseball and going to Yankee Stadium. He also enjoyed watching the University of Connecticut women's basketball team, watching movies with his family and reading. Bob and Sandi took many trips to Disney when their children were younger and also enjoyed vacationing in Maine every summer.

Along with his loving wife and sons, he leaves his brother Philip David Wilcox and his wife Joan Wilcox of East Bridgewater, MA; his brother-in-law, Stephen Giamalis and his wife Chris Giamalis of Glastonbury; his brother-in-law, John Giamalis and his wife Kelly Giamalis of Farmington; and his nephews, Philip Daniel Wilcox, Steve Fogg, Matthew Giamalis, Greg Giamalis, Nicholas Giamalis, Michael Giamalis and Stevie Giamalis.

Funeral service was held Thursday, May 26, in the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Family and friends called at the funeral home Wednesday, May 25.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the memory of Robert A. Wilcox to the National Brain Tumor Society (braintumor.org) or to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital (harthosp.org/Giving/TributeGifts/default.aspx), specifying that the donation is to be used for brain cancer research.

For online tributes, go to mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton

William Richard Clark

William Richard Clark, 91, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Doris (Scovill) Clark died Saturday, May 21, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born Aug. 27, 1919, in East Hampton, he was the son of the late William H. and Catherine (Wall) Clark.



William was a life-long resident of East Hampton having attended the Center Grammar School and graduated from Middletown High School in 1938. One of the first two young men from East Hampton to be called to serve his country, he was sworn into the U.S. Army on Feb. 17, 1941. He was shipped overseas in 1942, and served in North Africa, Sicily, England, France and Germany until 1945. William was awarded the Purple Heart during the Battle of Remagen Bridge in Germany, and was honorably discharged from the military on Oct. 17, 1945.

William had worked for SNET as a lineman for 36 years, retiring in 1980. He was a member of the NRA, SNET Pioneer Club, and the VFW of East Hampton. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, spending many happy days enjoying these sports in Connecticut, Michigan, Canada and Maine.

Besides his wife Doris, he is survived by his three sons, William H. and Patricia Clark of East Hampton, Thomas C. and Sondra Clark of Saugatuck, MI, and James M. Clark, PhD, of Middletown; a sister, Anna Rita Clark of East Hampton; stepdaughter Elizabeth Rumbolo of California; five stepsons, Joseph Zadroga of Middletown, David Zadroga of Middletown, William Zadroga of Middletown, Eugene and Karla Zadroga of Middletown and Gerald Zadroga of California; six grandchildren, Corinne Clark, W. Ryan Clark, Christopher R. Clark, Toni T. Carter, Tara T. Kimball, John L. Tuckerman; and seven great-grandchildren, Kelly, Jamie, Benjamin, Daniel, Adam, Natalie and John.

A graveside service was held Thursday, May 26, in the chapel at the Connecticut State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown. Interment followed with military honors at the gravesite.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. P.O. Box 144 East Hampton, CT 06424, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

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

Colchester

Wilhelmina Fedus

Wilhelmina Fedus, 94, of Colchester, died peacefully in her sleep Wednesday, May 25, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, after a short illness. She was born Wilhelmina Walther on Aug. 22, 1916 in Manhattan, NY.



Mother's life was a blessing on our lives. If we had gray skies, she was our sun. Her wonderful sense of humor and universal compassion emanated to anyone who had the good fortune to know her.

Mother married our father, Lawrence ("Larry") Fedus in September 1937. She enjoyed a 67th anniversary with Dad before he passed away in January 2005. She was a devoted mother to six children, Lawrence Fedus, Mary Gagnon, Walter Fedus, Virginia Hill, William Fedus and Robert Fedus. She loved her daughters-in-law, Maggie Fedus, Kathy Fedus and Sandra Fedus, her 17 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

With a large family, Mother worked hard all her life but never ceased enjoying it. Her love transcended any hardship.

Mother is pre-deceased by a brother, Charles Walther, a daughter-in-law, Jane Fedus, a son-in-law, Robert Gagnon and three grandchildren, Peter Hill, Leon Hill and Scott Gagnon, all of whom she cherished.

The world was blessed by the presence of Wilhelmina Walther Fedus and we shall miss her terribly. Mother was a seventh-degree Granger with the Colchester Grange and was a member of the Federated Church of Colchester.

Calling hours will be at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester today, May 27, from 4-7 p.m., and from 9:30-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 28. A religious ceremony will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Cobalt

Antoinette C. Hayes

Antoinette C. Hayes, 90, a longtime resident of Wingdale, NY, slipped away from this life at the Cobalt Lodge Nursing Home in Cobalt on Thursday, May 19, 2011 after a long illness. Born June 28, 1920, in Paris, NY, she was the daughter of the late Harvey and Mabel Golden Head.



She grew up and spent her childhood on Paris Hill. She attended Sauquoit Valley Central High School with the class of 1938.

Antoinette enjoyed her life growing up and living in rural New York. An avid outdoors person, she enjoyed long walks in the countryside and gardening, sewing, and reading. She is survived by her twin sister, Helen Purvis, of Fishersville, VA, a son, Thomas and his wife, Marie, of East Hampton; a grandson Brian and his fiancée, Melba, Waters of East Hampton; and a son, Richard, and his wife, Maria, of Oak Ridge, NC.

She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond W. Hayes, two sisters, Alice Head and Alma Smith, and a daughter, Sandra.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff of Middlesex Hospital, Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center, Greystone Retirement Home, Cobalt Lodge Nursing Home, and Middlesex Hospice and Home Care for the wonderful care given to Antoinette during the last year.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, May 24, at the Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, in Dover Plains, NY. Interment will follow at the South Dover Rural Cemetery in Wingdale, NY.

In lieu of flowers, the family would greatly appreciate donations made in Antoinette's name to Hospice and Palliative Care at middlesexhospital.org/support-middlesex-hospital/donate-now.

To send the family an online condolence, visit hufcutfuneralhome.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As Courtney Parent reported in last week's *Rivereast*, just 77 people showed up to vote in Andover's budget referendum last Tuesday. Over a 14-hour period, a mere 77 people – or 3 percent of those registered in town – showed up to vote 'yea' or 'nay' on a proposed \$10.60 million budget.

That's pathetic. Turnout rates are typically fairly low for budget referendums, but the percentages are usually at least in the double digits. To have 3 percent actually bother to cast a ballot is just incredibly weak. This isn't democracy at work; more like democracy at rest.

Some have responded to last week's appallingly low turnout by saying Andover should just do away with the referendum altogether, and just have a town meeting instead, like nearby Marlborough does. I disagree.

I've written against town budget meetings in this space in the past. The concept is woefully outdated. Town budgets are multi-million dollar entities; as many people should be able to vote on them as possible. Forcing the townspeople to come out to a high school auditorium or other such venue at 7:30 on a weeknight is not the best way to engender voter participation. Parents have children who are home, they work at night, or maybe after a long day at the office they don't want to turn right back around and sit in a crowded, sweaty auditorium and raise their hands.

No, a referendum from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. is the way to go. It gives people time to swing by the polling place either on the way to work or on the way home, and it's such a brief process that folks can bring their kids along, and just leave them in the car for the minute or two it takes to cast a ballot.

But Mike, you say. *Referendums cost money*. And yes, this is true. As Registrar of Voters Cathy Palazzi and First Selectman Bob Burbank noted last week, in Andover each referendum costs the town about \$2,500, just in terms of setting up the voting machines, paying poll workers, etc. And that figure looks awfully expensive when hardly anybody shows up to vote.

So here's my idea: why not hold the Andover budget referendum on the same day as the RHAM budget referendum? Hebron does it that way, and it seems to work fine for them. The idea would appear to make sense; the voting machines and poll workers are set up anyway, so why not just tack on an additional budget question? Plus, it may actually increase the turnout for both budget votes; older people without kids in the school system may show up for the RHAM budget vote when they otherwise wouldn't have, and vice versa.

I'm somewhat surprised I haven't heard anyone mention the idea of holding the two referendums on the same day. It just seems like an obvious solution. One thing I have heard suggested, though, is moving the town's

municipal Election Day to November. That actually might help, I think. By the time the Andover budget was voted on last week, residents had already been faced with two referendums earlier in the month – the municipal elections on May 2, and then the RHAM vote on May 3. It could have been a simple case of voter fatigue. Three separate trips to the polls in the span of just over two weeks could seem rather exhausting.

(Personally, I've never understood why Andover's Election Day is on a Monday; if it were on a Tuesday, it too could be synched up with the RHAM budget vote.)

But the main thing I'm advocating here, though, is holding the town budget vote and the RHAM budget vote on the same day. After this year's 3 percent turnout, I think it's clear something needs to be done different – and the antiquated town meeting is not the answer.

* * *

Monday, towns across the country will celebrate Memorial Day. The holiday was created as a way to honor the 620,000 soldiers killed during the Civil War. In his official orders designating the holiday, Maj. Gen. John A. Logan set aside May 30, 1868, as a day to decorate the graves of "comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion ..."

The South wasn't altogether thrilled with the idea of the holiday (I'm guessing Logan's description that I just noted didn't help matters), and I was a little surprised when I read earlier this week that, while the northern states adopted Memorial Day pretty quickly after Logan's 1868 designation, the southern states didn't pick it up until after World War I, when the purpose of the day was expanded to include all wars.

I was also surprised to see many Southern states have a separate Memorial Day, usually called "Confederate Memorial Day," in which they honor Confederate fighters who died during the "War of Northern Aggression" (as it is referred to on occasion in the South).

Most of these states generally hold Confederate Memorial Day at some point in April or early May (although Virginia quizzically holds theirs the last Monday in May, the same day as the real Memorial Day). Texas, meanwhile, holds "Confederate Heroes Day," as they call it, on Jan. 19. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, meanwhile, is celebrated nationwide the third Monday in January – and it's not at all uncommon for the third Monday to fall on the 19th. It last happened in 2009, and is next due to happen in 2015.

Think about it: once every few years, the lives of "Confederate heroes" are celebrated on the same day the greatest civil rights leader in this country's history is honored. That just doesn't seem to mesh, does it?

* * *

See you next week.