



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 36, Number 13

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 1, 2011



Hebron resident Theresa Oei recently traveled to Washington, DC, to attend an awards ceremony, after she was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. The recent East Catholic High School graduate said the event was "really an amazing experience."

Hebron Resident A Presidential Scholar

by Courtney Parent

Hebron resident and new East Catholic High School graduate Theresa Oei recently earned an honor that only few achieve: she was named a 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholar.

Theresa and the other 140 honorees received medals for their achievements at a special ceremony in Washington, DC, late last month.

Theresa said it was a very exciting day when the announcement of the award was made in early June, as the honor was something she was conscious of and greatly desired.

"I had really wanted to go [to the Washington, DC, ceremony] and it was really an amazing experience," she said.

Theresa's mother, Ellen Oei, agreed that the announcement was a very exciting one, not just for Theresa, but for her parents as well.

"Oh gee, we're just really, really thrilled for her," said Oei. "We're just really excited that all the hard work paid off."

In order to be named a Presidential Scholar students must have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship and service to ones school and community.

According to Theresa, the process of Presidential Scholar choice originates from the results of the SATs. From there, Theresa said the top 20 test scores are picked out (Theresa received a perfect 2400), and those top 20 test takers are asked to complete an application. The application includes a copy of the students resume, as well as essays about extracurricular activities and interests.

Theresa's activities lie within the wide world of science. She has been involved with the Connecticut Science Fair for the past six years and

is planning on majoring in biochemistry at Yale University. Last year, she also completed an internship at Yale's medical school through the Department of Public Health.

Accompanying Theresa on her journey to Washington, DC, was the teacher whom she nominated for a Teacher Recognition Award: East Catholic Social Studies Department Chair, Ann Marie Ward.

As part of the Presidential Scholar Program students are asked to nominate a teacher whom they would consider their most inspiring and challenging. Theresa said her decision to choose Ward was an easy one, as she had received two years of education under Ward's instruction. Theresa described Ward as an "interesting and inspiring" teacher with a "vibrant personality."

"It really was her passion for the subjects that she taught that gave me so much appreciation," said Theresa. "She was able to communicate that passion through to her students."

Ward was equally impressed by Theresa, noting a few of her many talents as well as her warm personality.

"Theresa is an amazing young lady," said Ward. "She is as sweet as she is scholarly. She is as interested in people as she is intellectual. She is a world-ranked Irish step dancer, a ballerina, an actress and she sings. She is a gifted student with both feet planted firmly on Earth."

Along with receiving inspiration from Ward, Theresa also pointed to her parents, Ellen and Paul, as major motivators in her educational endeavors. Theresa, who was home-schooled until high school, said it was her parents who first got her involved with the science fair when

See Scholar Page 2

Council Approves Reimondo Settlement

by Joshua Anusewicz

It took a little more than a year, but the saga involving the controversial layoff of East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo may be coming to an end.

Following an executive session on Tuesday night, Town Council members voted unanimously to approve a settlement in the lawsuits Reimondo brought against the town.

The council approved the settlement by a 5-0 vote Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel and Vice Chairman John Tuttle recused themselves from the meeting, as legal counsel advised due to their inclusion in the pending lawsuits. The suits, which included one against the town and four separate complaints investigated by the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), also named former Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe and Sgt. Michael Green of the East Hampton Police.

The discussion of the agreement took place over Monday and Tuesday, as more time was needed for the council members to review the terms. An original executive session was held

on June 14 to address the terms to the council. The agreement had to be approved by June 30, as the terms of the agreement, which were agreed upon on May 31, would have expired after 30 days.

Council member Barbara Moore, who chaired the special meeting, read the motion that stated that "pending the execution of an amended agreement by those parties who have signed it and the withdrawal from the lawsuit of any party that has not signed as of June 28, 2011." Council members, at the advice of town labor attorney Sheldon Myers, declined comment on the settlement.

Leon Rosenblatt, Reimondo's attorney, said Wednesday that he could not release the terms of the settlement, but did say there will be "a monetary aspect." He said that his "expectation" is that all the paperwork will be sorted out and the terms will be announced "at some point" next week.

When asked if "an amended agreement" meant there would be changes to the settlement,

Rosenblatt said that it means a document will be drafted that will be "a final written copy of what's already been agreed to."

Rosenblatt – who gave out an exaggerated shout of joy over the approved settlement – said his client is "very relieved" that the situation is now over.

"He's ready to go on with his life and his job," Rosenblatt said. He added that the year-long saga has been hard on Reimondo and his family, who are "happy to move on."

Reimondo was not present at the meeting, but his wife was in attendance. She became emotional as the votes were announced and was congratulated by many of the residents in attendance.

The saga began last June, when O'Keefe made the decision to eliminate the police chief position, citing "budgetary reasons." Many residents felt that O'Keefe was retaliating against Reimondo, who had forwarded three sexual harassment complaints against O'Keefe to the town attorney. Several contentious town meet-

ings were held throughout the summer, with residents protesting to reinstate Reimondo back into his position.

O'Keefe resigned in October amid mounting pressure from the residents, who voted to reinstate Reimondo at a referendum in November.

In April, the Town Council voted to make a compromise offer to Reimondo to settle the legal claims. The terms of the agreement were hashed out at nine-hour session in Hartford that involved Engel, Tuttle, and Town Manager John Weichsel representing the town.

Before the special meeting, residents used the public comment portion of the Town Council's regular meeting to make a final push for an approval of the settlement.

"This has dragged on far too long," said Mary Ann Dostaler.

"Please bring this to a conclusion now," said Bill Marshall, who added that he believed "the town [would] lose" if the lawsuit went to trial.

Scholar cont. from Front Page

she was in seventh grade and encouraged a hands-on approach to learning.

"I think my parents definitely instilled me with that love for learning and ability to take everything in and explore," said Theresa.

Theresa and Ward were in Washington, DC, from June 18-21. While there, they attended a medallion ceremony with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, received speeches from former alumni as well as representatives from the White House and attended a teacher recognition dinner.

Theresa said the majority of the speeches given were in regards to the ample amount of possible career paths the honorees could choose to pursue. While in D.C. the scholars also completed a service project with the Horton's Kids organization.

According to hortonskids.org, the organization services approximately 163 children in kindergarten through grade 12 from the Wellington

Marlborough WPCA Adopts O&M Budget

by Bailey Seddon

The Water Pollution Control Authority met Monday and approved an operations and maintenance budget fee and schedule for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

However, discussion of the possible sewer expansion was postponed until the next WPCA meeting.

A public hearing preceded the WPCA meeting to discuss the 2011-12 budget. After the hearing was closed, the board went into the meeting and accepted the budget as it had been presented in the hearing. The new operations and maintenance (O&M) budget is \$187,424. This is an adjusted budget; the spending plan was originally \$243,598, but that amount was adjusted after Marlborough helped East Hampton with upgrades to a pump in front of American Distilling, in the form of \$56,174. East Hampton has given Marlborough a credit for this money, meaning they will pay the money back when they can at a later date. This money was taken out of the original \$243,558 budget, bringing it down to \$187,424.

Not everybody was happy with the budget, WPCA Chairman Jack Murray said. He said this was likely due to the increase in equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) fees. The cost per EDU in the 2010-11 budget was \$375; in the 2011-12 budget, it is \$417, an increase of \$42. Murray speculated the EDU fee went up, in part, because of the possibility that the board will have

Park apartment complex in the Anacostia section of Washington DC's Ward 8. The neighborhood is considered to be a "HotSpot" by the Metropolitan Police Department and the children attend some of Washington's lowest-performing schools.

According to Ward, the trip was a humbling experience, spending time with the "cream of the crop" and being honored at a sit-down dinner. Ward referred to it as the "Academy Awards for students and teachers."

After spending time in D.C. with fellow scholars and receiving speeches from multiple panels, Theresa said she came away with a greater appreciation for the importance of education.

"I definitely feel like meeting other scholars showed me the potential of my own peers," Theresa said. "There are just so many wonderful things we can do in the future to change the world and improve the community."

to take legal action with the people refusing to connect to the sewer system.

Final connection notices were mailed out April 13. However, some residents had still not connected to the system so another round of letters were sent out June 14 as an absolute final warning. Residents have until July 1 to connect; if they do not steps will be taken for a forced connection.

* * *

The WPCA was supposed to discuss the possibility of the sewer expansion at Monday's meeting, but Murray said there were not enough people who want the expansion to discuss it at the meeting.

"I got very little support on" the issue of expansion, Murray said. He said there was reluctance on the board for expanding the system for this time. He said this may be due to people being worried about the money that would pay for it, and not having enough due to the bad economy. Murray, however, said he felt that the sooner the board does it the better.

"It is our job as an authority to do what we were charged with doing," Murray said. The sooner it is done, he said, the lower the cost, whereas the longer expansion waits, the more it will add up.

* * *

The next WPCA meeting will be Thursday July 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Sometimes police just go too far.

This was on display when video surfaced of an arrest last month in Rochester, NY. Emily Good, 28, was standing in the front yard of her home, videotaping a traffic stop that was being conducted in front of her house.

Good was just doing what she had a right to do, as in New York it is perfectly legal to video an officer in public view. However, one of the officers, Mario Masic, was clearly annoyed by Good's presence, and asked her and her friend – who was there with her – if they needed something. Good told the officer she was just standing in her yard "recording what you're doing. It's my right."

"Actually, not from the sidewalk," Masic replied. (Wrong. As I said, it's perfectly legal.)

Good reiterated that it was her house. Still, Masic told her, "I don't feel safe with you standing behind me, so I'm going to ask you to go into your house, you understand?" Good, who in the video does not appear to be standing behind Masic, told the officer she was just going to remain on her front lawn, "if you don't mind."

But Masic did mind. He said Good seemed "very anti-police" and told her, "Due to what you said to me before you started taping, I think, uh, you need to go back into your house, guys." Good asked him what she said that offended him, and he didn't have an answer. (Good's friend who was present at the scene later told the *Huffington Post* "none of us was talking to them until they came to us. ... The first contact was definitely on tape.")

Good told Masic, "I'm allowed to stand in my yard," to which he replied, "Go stand in your house." He again told her "we don't feel safe" with her standing there. She stressed that all she had was a camera and said, "I'm clearly wearing nothing; I have no weapons."

But, Masic answered her, "That does not matter. ... You're not listening to our orders right now."

Masic made it clear to Good she was going to end up going to jail if she didn't begin obeying him. After the face-off continued for a few more seconds, it looked as if Good was starting to relent, as she was heard on the video saying, "I'm gonna back up," and from the video it did appear as if she were retreating. But that was apparently too little, too late for Masic, who said, "You know what? You're gonna go to jail. That's just *not* right."

The video continued after Masic slaps the handcuffs on her, and she can be heard crying to onlookers, "I'm observing what they're doing and they're arresting me? I don't know what's going on. I did nothing, I did nothing!"

The whole video is up on YouTube, and I encourage all of you to seek it out; it's a very interesting watch.

Good wound up getting charged with obstructing governmental administration. For doing something that was completely legal.

Good appeared in court this past Monday and, thankfully, the charge was dropped, with the first assistant district attorney saying that, based upon the evidence, her office "could not make out the elements of the crime charged."

It's nice the charge was dropped, but Good never should have been arrested in the first place. She was doing nothing wrong and, after having watched the video multiple times, I did not see any reason for Masic or the other

officers present to feel afraid for their safety. Good may have been a little annoying, and I'm sure Masic would've liked it if she'd done what he asked, but that's no reason to arrest somebody, particularly when no crime had been committed.

In my years working in the newspaper business, I've dealt with police officers on many different occasions. And most of them, I've found, to be pleasant people. You hear about "corrupt cops" drunk on their own authority, but for the most part, what I've found are folks trying to do a good job under what can be very difficult circumstances.

That being said, nobody's perfect. And what Masic was doing looked like a clear abuse of power. There was no reason to haul Good off to jail.

While the charge has been dropped, the mayor of Rochester, the president of its city council and its chief of police issued a joint statement saying an internal investigation is being conducted into just what happened that night.

Good, meanwhile, plans to file a civil suit.

* * *

On Aug. 1, 2009, down in Flushing, NY, the Mets' Angel Pagan hit a grand slam as New York beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 9-6.

Why the old news? Because, believe it or not, that was the last time the Mets had hit a grand slam in a game. Until this past Tuesday night, that is, when Jason Bay popped a bases-loaded home run in the fourth inning of a game against Detroit. Amazingly, that was followed the *very next inning* by another grand slam, this one by Carlos Beltran. (The Mets wound up toppling the Tigers Tuesday, by a score of 14-3.)

Let's put the nearly two-year gap between grand slams in perspective. Since Aug. 1, 2009, the Mets had played 299 games without hitting one. And in those 299 games, they'd come to the plate with the bases loaded 280 times. Two hundred eighty times! And still, no grand slams. The *Wall Street Journal* accurately described it as "an improbable, spectacular drought."

But wait; it gets better. During that drought, the other 29 teams in Major League Baseball had combined to hit 197 grand slams. Of that total, 18 had been grand slams allowed by Mets pitchers; it was a big-league record for most grand slams allowed without hitting one in return.

So, I think even the most ardent Mets fan could be forgiven for not thinking "grand slam" when Bay stepped up to the plate with the bases juiced Tuesday night. I was watching the game live, and I certainly wasn't thinking it. I was just hoping for a big hit, perhaps a double. And I was absolutely floored when Beltran followed it up the next inning with a grandie of his own.

By the way, it was only the second time in Mets history they've hit two grand slams in a game; the first was in 2006, and they were hit by Beltran and Cliff Floyd.

The win pushed the Mets to a game over .500 for the first time since April 6, when they were 3-2. It's been a lot of fun to watch the Mets over these past few weeks, as they've found ways to win despite the big bats of David Wright and Ike Davis on the disabled list. Let's hope the success continues.

* * *

See you next week.

Quarry Heights Fire in Portland Leads to Evacuations at Two Apartments

by Joshua Anusewicz

An electrical fire at the Quarry Heights housing complex Monday night caused two apartments to be evacuated and, as of press time, one of those residents is still displaced.

According to Jackie Frazee, executive director of the Portland Housing Authority (PHA), a resident that lives across the parking lot from the units affected saw smoke coming from the roof of the second-floor unit. The Portland Fire Department responded to the scene and was able to extinguish the fire by around 9 p.m., she said. (Portland Fire Chief Bob Shea did not return calls for this story.)

No residents were injured in the blaze.

Frazee said the fire was caused by a bathroom fan and the fire started in the attic of the building. The second-floor unit was the only unit affected by the fire; Frazee said there is currently a hole in the roof where the fire department put out the blaze. The resident of that unit is temporarily living in another area of Quarry Heights, Frazee said.

The first-floor unit suffered only water damage and the resident was able to return to her residence on Tuesday.

As of Thursday, Frazee said that the total cost of the damage was unknown. She added

that the complex's insurance company would be evaluating the damage this week and the cost would be determined some time next week.

Frazee praised the work of the Portland Fire Department and the local Red Cross, which was there to aid any residents that were affected by the fire.

"It was very organized," Frazee said. "They were really on the ball."

Quarry Heights provides housing for mostly elderly and handicapped individuals and is overseen by the Portland Housing Authority through the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). Just last month, the PHA got permission from the town's Board of Selectmen to apply for a Community Development Block Grant to fund upgrades at Quarry Heights, which would include a new fire alarm system.

The PHA said in May that the Portland Fire Marshal informed them that their current system is not code-compliant. Some residents would be unable to hear the alarm and flashing lights would be added to aid those who are hearing-impaired.

"It certainly compounds our need [for a new system]," Frazee said.

Fireworks Make Rainy Return in Hebron

by Courtney Parent

With a fear that rain would hamper this year's fireworks return, the Hebron Lions made the call early last Saturday morning to postpone that evening's fireworks show to the next night.

However, as fate would have it, Hebron saw clear skies Saturday, while rain hit the fairgrounds – and many fireworks fans – Sunday evening.

While there were multiple moments throughout the evening when residents whipped out their umbrellas and ran for shelter under trees and in the restrooms, they did not prevent the fireworks from being launched.

Despite the wet weather, there was still a good turnout for the show, as many arrived hours prior to the launching, when the sun was still shining brightly.

Last weekend's fireworks show was the first for the Lions in two years. Rainy weather in 2008 and 2009 dampened attendance and the club took "a beating financially," Lions Club President Adam Miclette said last week. As a result, the group decided to forego the show in 2010.

John Johnson Jr., the chairman of the 2009 Fireworks Committee, said that while the turnout for last weekend's show was a "little bit light," it was expected with moving the festivities to the rain date on Sunday. According to Johnson, on Friday evening and Saturday morning the weather forecast showed a "good chance of showers" on Saturday and "beautiful" on Sunday. However, as is somewhat common, the weather forecast proved to be wrong.

While it was somewhat ironic that rain appeared on the rain date, Johnson said it did give the fairgrounds an additional day to dry out, as the land was extremely wet after the excess rain that the state has seen in recent weeks.

Prior to the fireworks – and the rain – enjoyment erupted from children engaging in a variety of activities including inflatable bounce houses, a rock climbing wall, a bull ride and

hay rides.

Meanwhile, other fairgoers arrived early simply to claim their seats (coming fully-equipped with blankets, wagons for the young children, and most with their own collapsible chairs) and enjoy the musical stylings of local band In Deep. However, In Deep's time on the stage got cut short as they were forced to tarp the instruments and speakers once the rain commenced.

Lions Club agricultural society treasurer Marian Severn pointed to the traditional hay rides as a "huge hit" and crowd favorite during Sunday's festivities. While Lions Club member Marty Kellogg was in charge of driving the tractor for the hay rides, Severn said other Lions were also seated on the wagon, ensuring children didn't jump off.

"We had to eventually ask kids to get off the ride because they would've just kept going all night," Severn said, laughing.

After working up an appetite battling the bull or climbing their way to the top of the rock, fireworks fans could feast on a wide assortment of food. A few of the tasty treats included kettle corn, fried dough, ice cream and pizza.

While food and recreation may have been on the minds of many, the youngest generation seemed to be most impressed by the face-painting booth. There was also an elevated interest in the special appearances of Spongebob Squarepants, Spiderman and Scooby Doo, all in the forms of blow-up dolls on sticks.

As the sky darkened and rain drops began falling on Sunday evening, the kids continued to enjoy their evening out past their bedtimes. Those who could not be found in the bounce houses or at any of the other aforementioned locations could be seen gathering on the grass, playing wiffle ball and lighting up the green as they battled with their light-up swords.

Despite the weather, Severn said she thought the event was fantastic. In addition to receiv-



The Hebron fireworks returned last Sunday, and while it rained, the Lions Club seemed pleased with the show. Some of the displays were "really gorgeous," Lion Marian Severn said.

ing "fabulous feedback," Severn noted that some of the fireworks were designed this year, and were unlike anything she'd ever seen before; they were "really gorgeous," she said.

Johnson concurred, stating that the show was excellent and describing the applause from the audience after the grand finale as "absolutely

phenomenal." Johnson also said that upon leaving the fairgrounds, many individuals offered "thank yous" to the Lions members for hosting the fireworks this year.

"I think the community just really missed having them and was really happy to have them come back," said Severn.

Football Association Shines Light on Hebron Field

by Courtney Parent

At a Board of Education meeting last Thursday, June 23, members received a presentation from the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading Association regarding a proposal for new lighting on the football field at Gilead Hill School.

According to Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz, the association approached the board with safety concerns surrounding the current lighting of the field. Two of the main concerns include tipping of the poles that host the lights and insufficient lighting that forces an ample amount of children in a small area on the field, Cruz said.

According to RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading Association member Natalie Wood, the program includes children from ages

six to 13 from four different schools. There are between 200 and 240 children who participate in the leagues, which vary based on age and weight restrictions. In August, the field is used for practice five days a week; however, once school begins practices get cut to three times a week, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Currently, Wood said there are lights spurring onto the field from four poles that are set up along Route 85. The lights are owned by the association, which pays for the electricity bills and turns them on and off strictly for practices.

Wood said the main problem with the current lighting system is that the lights are "inadequate" providing just "small pools of light" which causes everyone to "collapse" into the small areas.

Wood said the association is proposing re-

moving the four lights present and replacing them with four single poles along the snack shack/tree line side. Wood said this would pull the light away from the road so that all of the light could be directed onto the field. The poles would be lower than the tree line, at approximately 40-45 feet high, staggered evenly, with lights placed on them and underground wiring.

Wood said that, as of yet, there is no set price tag for the project, but she said it would be funded entirely by the association.

According to Cruz, the school board considered the proposal and made a motion to accept the application of the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading Association. Cruz said the main aspects of the proposal included: the association having its own electric meter, which

they maintain and pay for; lights seeing limited-use only during practices; and shielding if necessary, to focus the light on the field so that it wouldn't "illuminate the whole sky."

Wood said the association is currently working to schedule a neighborhood meeting for all residents living in the vicinity of the football field so that any questions or concerns can be addressed by an engineer prior to moving forward.

A tentative timeline for the public meeting would be mid-July, Wood said. From there, the next step would be to present the proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Wood is hopeful that the project will begin prior to the beginning of the school year, as then work could only be completed after school hours.

Noise Ordinance Again Pops Up at East Hampton Council Meeting

by Joshua Anusewicz

The proposed townwide noise ordinance was not on the June 14 Town Council meeting agenda, but it worked its way back into the conversation. At Tuesday's meeting, it was on the agenda and now might just be gaining some steam again.

At the last council meeting, town attorney Jean D'Aquila announced that the police department would not have as much enforcement on noise complaints as once thought. D'Aquila spoke with state's attorney John Cashman, who told her that a public disturbance charge, which the Town Council believed could be used on noise complaints, was usually not used for noise infractions, as it is hard to prove "intent and recklessness."

The council has discussed the noise ordinance for several years, but has been hesitant to adopt it in fear of "spot legislation" geared toward live music being played at Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant. The restaurant owner, Paul Angelico, has threatened legal action against the town for any ordinance that seems to be geared to Angelico's.

Most of the complaints and the residents pushing for the ordinance are in the area of the restaurant. Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said at the meeting that in the past month or so,

four noise complaints have been called in for Angelico's. There have also been two noise complaints at Loco Perro Restaurant and several others from residences, the majority of which took place during Memorial Day.

Council member Sue Weintraub, who drafted a proposed ordinance in April, provided the council with an adjusted version of the ordinance that defined appropriate noise levels, exclusions and exemptions, enforcement, and penalties. Weintraub believes the ordinance allows the police department to enforce throughout the town, not just Angelico's.

"This is a townwide tool," Weintraub said. "We need to focus on the quality of life [for the residents]."

Weintraub also said the town would need a new sound level meter, as the town currently has a base model. The model the town would need costs roughly \$2,400, Weintraub said, and the training workshop would cost around \$800. Weintraub added that Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said the police budget would allow for the upgrade.

Council member Thom Cordeiro, who has expressed wavering opinions on the ordinance in the past, said he had spoken to representa-

tives from towns with noise ordinances, like Newtown and Guilford. He said those towns created ordinances for construction projects, not for businesses or residences.

"I think this is a problem specific to our town," Cordeiro added.

Council member Christopher Goff, who has opposed the ordinance, questioned how easy it would be for the police department to enforce the ordinance.

"Do I think we need an ordinance? No," Goff said. "But I would support one if there is proof we can do something about it."

The council agreed to review the changes to the proposed ordinance and continue the conversation on the issue at the next meeting.

At Tuesday's meeting, the council also took time to recognize the high school boys' baseball team, which won the 2011 Class S State Championship and was named the top baseball team in the state by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association.

The team and coaches Scott Wosleger and Greg Johnson were on hand to be honored by the council. Each player and coach received a letter of recognition from the council and was

treated to a standing ovation by those in attendance. Council member Chatham Carillo also presented the coaching staff with letters of recognition from the state's General Assembly, congratulating the team on their accomplishments.

Thom Cordeiro, who played on the EHHS baseball team when he was in high school, reminded the team to cherish all that they have accomplished.

"Twenty years from now, you'll still talk to each other and have memories of what you've done," Cordeiro said. "You will still be state champs, and nobody can take that away from you."

Wosleger thanked the Town Council and the community for the "outpouring of support" during the season and the state tournament. He presented the council with a photo of the team, which Melissa Engel said will be hung on the wall in the Town Hall. The team will also be recognized on a float at the Old Home Days parade and a sign has been placed in front of the Town Hall recognizing their achievement.

The next Town Council meeting will be held Tuesday, July 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

RHAM Students Give Back, One Cabinet at a Time

by Courtney Parent

Some students strive as test-takers, others excel through use of the written word as paper-writers. However, there is another group that is often not mentioned; those who shine at a specific craft. In this particular case, that craft is construction.

Keith Moyer, construction technology teacher at RHAM High School, is in charge of overseeing and instructing students who pursue courses in this craft.

Moyer teaches multiple construction technology courses, varying from introductory classes for beginners to advanced courses preparing students for a future career path. According to Moyer, at the end of each school year, students in his advanced course are asked to complete one major collaborative project. This year that project included the building and installation of cabinets and laminate countertop for the school's Child Development Program.

When Family Consumer Studies teacher Diane Szeber approached the administration with a request for storage cabinets, they directed her to Moyer. After some collaboration on what was needed inside the classroom, Moyer decided that this year, his students' final project would serve his fellow staff member.

Once the final project was decided on, Moyer said it was straight to the workshop for his students with their first task being to design the layout. After the general layout was created, the next step was to compute costs of the project. According to Moyer, the project cost approximately \$1,200, with part of it being funded by a department grant and the additional funds coming from the woodshop budget.

After cost computation was completed, the students went to work, actually building the cabinets and putting them in place. The cabi-

nets' primary use will be to house life-like baby dolls which "cry, wet and do everything else," according to Moyer.

In addition to the cabinets, students also put in a laminate countertop. The countertop was put in place with room for three stools underneath so that students could utilize the "observation window" in the classroom. The window that sees through to the classroom next door is used to observe preschool interaction.

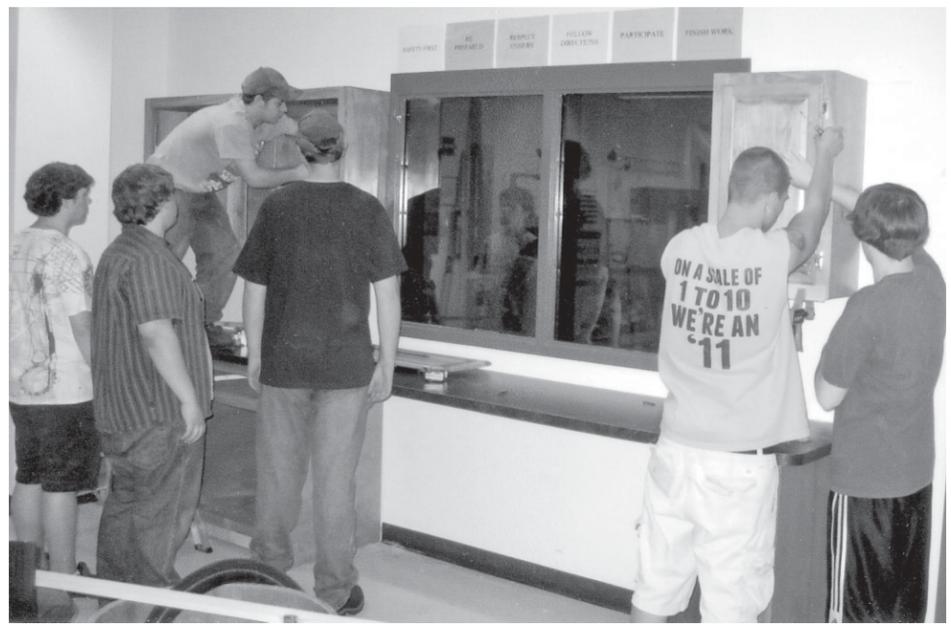
Moyer said this was the first time the students had ever completed a such an in-depth task. Normally, he said, the students complete smaller individual projects rather than a large coordinated one. Examples include a variety of tables, living room cabinets and even a scale-model house.

In creating the scale-model house, Moyer said students must be aware of foundation, roof angles and all other elements necessary to build a house. While he described the task as somewhat "tedious," involving super glue-ing many small pieces of wood together, he said it is still beneficial to students understanding of a larger task.

According to Moyer, his advanced construction course is open to all high school students grades nine through 12. However, he said, the students who take on the course are typically "repeaters," students who already have a wide variety of wood-working courses under their belt.

"The construction [technology students] were all really quick learners and put forth some great effort," Moyer said.

Most of this year's project participants have been with Moyer for two years; all of whom he said he "could recommend without any hesitation." Moyer pointed to their great work ethic,



Students in construction technology teacher Keith Moyer's class recently installed cabinets as part of an end-of-the-year collaborative project. The project benefited RHAM's Child Development Program.

reliability, having their own transportation and just being an "outstanding group."

In previous years, three different storage sheds were built for the school as final projects. Moyer said construction of the sheds included the students framing, putting on asphalt roofs and finally finishing by adding vinyl siding. According to Moyer, the projects covered all aspects of residential carpentry and house wiring.

"The goal here is to get kids experiences that would help them in a trade," said Moyer.

While Moyer said that being able to give back to their school through a final project is truly rewarding for his students, he added the projects are also financially beneficial to RHAM, saving the school system several thousands of dollars by completing the work in-house.

However, while the project is a positive for all those involved, Moyer said what he really "gets a charge out of" is watching his students' confidence grow after each project that is successfully completed.

East Hampton Senior Center Work Underway

by Joshua Anusewicz

Ground has been broken on a large overhaul of the East Hampton Senior Center, which will include a 1,500-square-foot addition and renovation of the existing facility.

According to Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb, excavation is underway for the addition, and renovation will begin later this month. The senior center will close at the end of next week and starting Monday, July 11, all of the center's programs will take place at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St. The project is expected to be completed in October.

The project is beginning after almost a two-year wait; the town received a state Community Block Development Grant in October 2009 for \$750,000. But "issues" with a contractor and architect, Senior Services Coordinator Jo Ann Ewing said, have delayed the project.

Grzyb said Thursday that the project was originally delayed by an approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission, but problems with the original architect set the project back further. Grzyb said the town is currently involved in litigation with the architecture firm and could not comment on what went wrong.

Currently, ME Design of Cheshire and CLA Engineers of Norwich are working on the project.

Ewing said Wednesday the addition will be a "multi-purpose room" that will provide more room for activities for the seniors. She said the center, in its current state, has been cramped and space for activities has begun "overlapping."

The addition will bring the size of the building to about 3,500 square feet, and Ewing said the seniors eagerly anticipate the extra room.

"They are excited for the addition to open,"

said Ewing, who has worked at the center for 12 years. "They see the space issues first-hand, and will be directly impacted by all the new space." Ewing said the center provides services for 50-75 seniors a day.

The project will also cover upgrades to the existing facility, including making the kitchen, medical and exercise areas, and handicapped bathrooms larger. It will also widen hallways and add a receptionist's desk at the entrance.

Through a Brownfields Grant, a new parking lot has also been built adjacent to the Senior Center. The lot, which is almost complete, will provide about 15 more parking spaces for the center, which currently shares its parking lot with the public library.

Local senior Nelson Maurice said Wednesday the addition will be a welcomed sight for those who frequent the center. Maurice was part of a group of interested seniors that visited senior centers in surrounding towns to see what changes should be made to the East Hampton center.

"We were looking at size, staff, and transportation as the most important things," Maurice said. "They all had more."

Maurice said the seniors approached the Town Council to ask what they could do, and when presented with the plan for the grant, Maurice said "let's go for it."

The hope is that with the increased space, the center will continue to be a positive destination for seniors not just from East Hampton, but from the surrounding communities. Maurice said that it's not uncommon for seniors from other senior centers to come to East Hampton.

"It's not always for our programs, but for the homey feel we have," Maurice said. Ewing added that the "strong community feel" has been appealing to the seniors and that provid-



Excavation for the new 1,500-square-foot addition to the East Hampton Senior Center is underway, and renovation of the existing building will start later this month. The entire project is expected to be complete in October.

ing more space should encourage more senior residents to participate in the center activities.

The Congregational Church, which the senior center will call home for the next few months, has "a great big room," Ewing said, which will allow the center to continue many of its popular activities. She added that the room is handicapped-accessible.

"We are not stopping," Ewing said. "We plan

to keep the communication up so seniors are aware that we are still going." Ewing, along with the other volunteers at the center, is currently planning an adjusted activities schedule that will work when the move takes place in just over two weeks.

Once the senior center moves to the Congregational Church on July 11, the new hours will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Arrigoni Bridge Construction Underway in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

The day commuters have been dreading has arrived – construction on the Arrigoni Bridge is underway. On Tuesday, traffic was reduced to a single lane in either direction, with the two lanes going from Middletown to Portland (east-bound) closed for construction.

Barriers and cones have been set up and temporary lines have been painted on the road to direct traffic. According to a press release from the Middletown Police Department, a portable “smart work zone system,” which will provide speed, delay information, and camera views of roads in Portland and Middletown has also been installed.

The project, which is replacing the main span deck and support beams of the bridge, is expected to take about 18 months. Dave Cutler, a supervising engineer for the Department of Transportation, said in April that the bridge was graded a three out of 10 in 2009. The support beams have not been replaced since the bridge was built in 1938.

The road has not been torn up yet, but after the deck is removed, a temporary work platform will be suspended below the bridge for the construction workers. The sidewalks on either side of the bridge will remain open.

The rehabilitation of the bridge will cost roughly \$17 million and will be completely funded by the state. The state is also paying for police presence at both ends of the bridge,

where an office from Middletown and Portland will be stationed to monitor traffic at all times. The officers are expected to be there for the first two weeks of the project, and the DOT will evaluate the situation to see how it will be handled from there.

In another press release from Sgt. Scott Aresco, traffic unit supervisor for the Middletown Police, it states that Middletown Police Department Central Communications will dispatch “both Middletown and Portland officers” to incidents on the bridge. The first officer on the scene will evaluate the incident and advise the dispatcher how the situation will be handled, the release states. The officers located at the ends of the bridge will redirect traffic to aid emergency response.

Middlesex Hospital has also agreed to station an emergency response vehicle on the Portland side of the bridge to allow for quicker response. The vehicle will be stationed on Main Street.

The Portland Police Department has also announced that Silver Street, between Brownstone Avenue and Main Street, will now be a one-way street for westbound traffic. This will remain in effect throughout the bridge project.

The DOT has provided a website, ct.gov/dot/Arrigoni, that has all of the information on the project. The traffic system information can be found at arrigonibridge.com. Any questions and comments can be sent to DOT.Arrigoni@ct.gov.



State Rep. Christie Carpino addresses a group of reporters during a June 27 news conference held on the Portland side of the Arrigoni Bridge. Carpino joined state Sen. Eileen Daily (pictured left) and Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield to discuss concerns from local business owners as well as concerns about public safety, and described procedures put in place by police officers in Middletown and Portland as well as officials at Middlesex Hospital, such as posting an emergency medical technician on the Portland side of the bridge. Also shown is Joe Realejo, who owns the Dunkin’ Donuts on Main Street in Portland, which is just over the bridge when coming from Middletown.

Various Projects Planned for Summer in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

While the Arrigoni Bridge project will get most of the attention in Portland, several other projects will be taking place in town throughout the summer.

Two of the main projects, according to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, are closely related – the town’s two water towers and the water main on High Street.

According to Bransfield, one of the water towers is being refurbished while the other water tower is being completely replaced. Bransfield said that having both water towers fully functioning is “much better for the system,” so if one of the towers isn’t working or needs to be maintained, the other can be used.

The water from the towers is transported under High Street and, according to Bransfield, the pipes that transport the water have been susceptible to “breaking.” She said the pipes were originally made of “asbestos cement,” which was cheaper and quicker when they were installed roughly 50 years ago. She said the new pipes will be made of a “much stronger” material.

She added that some “tweaks” will have to be done to the curbing and paving of High Street, but the project is expected to be completed this fall.

Also on the slate this summer is a new pavilion at Riverfront Park. The town was awarded a \$200,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant from the state this spring to fund the project.

To date, the town has received about \$737,000 in STEAP grants for the park. The money has funded various steps in the park project; the first step took place last year, when Brownstone Avenue was connected to Middlesex Avenue, and Brownstone Avenue was extended to include a new parking lot for

the park. Sidewalks and signs were also installed at the site last year.

Bransfield said that the town is currently “getting a quote” on the construction of the pavilion.

Another ongoing project has been the Main Street Streetscape project, which hopes to spruce up the sidewalks on Main Street. The sidewalk on the west side of Main Street (starting at Dunkin’ Donuts) is currently under construction, as the concrete is being expanded to allow for more walking space. For the past few months, the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street has been under construction.

Bransfield said the basis of the project is not just to allow for more walking space, but to make the downtown area “look better.” She said that benches, new trashcans, and accents like stamped concrete and small solar ground lights will be added. Despite the streetscape project and the bridge project, no businesses are expected to close; in fact, handicapped access to the businesses is expected to improve.

According to Bransfield, the project is being funded by a STEAP grant and a Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) grant, providing the town with a total of \$950,000. Bransfield said that she is not sure if the town will need the entirety of the grant money.

A project in its preliminary stages is the town’s recent purchase of the “Goodrich property,” a 37-acre property located off of Bartlett Street. The town paid \$510,000 for the land and plans to make the area into an athletic facility, which would include soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and a walking trail.

Bransfield said the town is currently looking into a STEAP grant to fund surveying and engineering on the land, and hopes that offer-



While Portland has multiple projects on the horizon, the transformation of Riverfront Park is one that is quickly approaching. Pictured above is the site at the park where a new pavilion is planned to be put in place this summer.

ing more recreational opportunities will appeal to families.

“Like other projects, we hope that ideas like this will make young families want to stay and raise their children here,” Bransfield said.

One project that is currently being stalled is Portland TownPlace, a mixed-use development on the Elmcrest Hospital property on Route 66. The proposed project would provide housing, retail, and office space on the 12-acre property. Bransfield said she is “regularly” speaking with

developers about the project, which has been estimated between \$30 million and \$40 million.

Bransfield said she is consistently looking for ways to improve the town, so don’t be surprised if more projects are on the horizon.

“I’m always looking to maintain and improve the infrastructure, and it’s better to stay ahead of the projects,” Bransfield said. “We are always looking for additional dollars from the government.”

Andover Residents Attend Workshop on the Future of Route 6

by Courtney Parent

With multiple maps lining the tables and markers in hand, Andover residents were provided with a night of exploration for the future of the Route 6 corridor at a transportation study workshop on Wednesday, June 29.

The evening began with a brief introduction of the study as a whole. The purpose of the study – which is being conducted in a joint effort by the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG), the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT), and the Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) – is to address safety issues, access management, and development potential along the Route 6 corridor in the towns of Bolton, Coventry, Andover and Columbia.

The 11-mile corridor being examined runs from Notch Road in Bolton to Route 66 in Columbia. According to the CROG website, crog.org/transportation/current_study/Route6.html, the transportation study will also be evaluating an additional 2-mile stretch of Route 66, between Route 6 and the Willimantic River.

At Wednesday night's workshop, transportation engineer Jeff Parker explained the main concerns with Route 6 as it stands in its current state. He did this by referring to the previous

Route 6 Development Study which was completed earlier this year. The major goals Parker pointed to were improving safety for motorists and pedestrians, improving mobility and accessibility, and preserving the context of the corridor.

In the current transportation study, Parker said the main focus lies within three different "village nodes." Those nodes include the Bolton Crossroads, Lighthouse Corners, and the main topic of the evening, "Historic Andover."

The village node known as Historic Andover begins at Shoddy Mill Road and extends to Hebron Road, upon which the speed limit is 40 miles per hour. The goal would be to further reduce speeds so that walking and biking would become options for residents, Parker said.

Parker also pointed to inserting additional sidewalks, lighting and banners so that the area would be recognized as a "village-type" area in which motorists would know to reduce their speeds.

Other adjustments mentioned included placing a raised island in the center of the road with trees in place, reducing the setbacks of buildings, and narrowing the lanes and shoulders.

After being briefly introduced to what were seen as the main issues to address on Route 6 in Historic Andover, audience members were

broken into three groups to evaluate two different possible "concepts" that could be put in place.

Both "Concept A" and "Concept B" included new development opportunities, roundabouts or new general intersections, a commuter or shared parking lot and a "village street." The main difference between the two concepts lies within the size of the project, as Concept B would be a much larger project, involving moving Route 6 between the town center and Hop River.

While the overall audience reaction was varied, the majority (two of the three groups) showed interest in the larger Concept B. However, the remaining group expressed concern over "cutting off" access to the river by moving Route 6.

Board of Selectmen member Julie Haverl said that residents would "absolutely love" Concept B, pointing to an increase in pedestrian activity, as well as the addition of a town green which she said could "reconnect" and "give life back" to the area of town near the old firehouse.

Zoning Board of Appeals member Michael Palazzi also gave his support for Concept B, expressing his interest in the rotaries, as well as the shifting of Route 6, which would amend traffic problems in entering and exiting some

of the town buildings.

Fire Commissioner Wally Barton pointed to an increase in business and increased opportunities for pedestrians by moving Route 6.

"From a safety viewpoint, Concept B is more safety conscious," said Barton. "Concept A is probably more do-able scale-wise, but Concept B will be more sellable to the people."

However, it was not all applause for Concept B. Planning and Zoning Commission member Leigh Ann Hutchinson questioned whether the maps were truly to scale, saying there might be less room in real life than was displayed on the maps. Hutchinson also said that while the concept was good "in theory," she wondered how many residents would actually take advantage of the pedestrian opportunities being created.

Members of the transportation study assured residents that while the images may not be "exact," they were "very close" to scale, as the concepts were places atop aerial maps.

In moving forward with the study, Parker said the next step will be to hold transportation study workshops in the towns of Bolton, Coventry and Columbia next month. Thereafter, there will be community meetings scheduled for the fall and a final report will be completed during the winter of 2011-12 season.

Marlborough Resident Launches Pet-Sitting Business

by Bailey Seddon

Suzanne Savage describes the service she provides to pet owners who go on vacation a "healthy alternative" to boarding their dog. The difference is, Savage's business, Shake a Leg, has her coming to the owner's home, instead of the dog going to a strange place.

Savage has not always worked with pets. Before her new business, the Marlborough resident had worked as a human resources manager for Home Depot for 13 years before getting laid off.

"It was sort of an awakening," she said.

Not sure what her next move would be, Savage started looking for HR jobs on Monster.com. While waiting to hear back, she took care of her neighbor's dog while they were on vacation, and the idea for a new career was born.

"That was really my big break," Savage said.

She obtained other clients through word of mouth and putting up her dog-sitting resume on Care.com, an online resource for pet sitters, babysitters, nannies and other similar positions. She got a hit from a woman who needed her to come an hour every day to watch her dogs, one a German shepherd and the other a Chow mix. This client helped her with things she had never known about, such as raw food diet, vitamins and naturally taking care of dogs.

"She was wonderful," Savage said. "My clients are such great pet parents...they are just so good with them."

Once she got going Savage decided how she was going to run her business. She provides daily dog walks and puppy care, vacation sitting for pets which include watering flowers or bringing in the mail, if the client is in need of that extra service. Savage also brings supplies that an owner might need such as dog food or treats.

Savage is also often a taxi for dogs. She sometimes picks them up at their home and brings them to the airline trail for walking. Savage can also take pets to the vet or to be groomed, as needed.

"People are so willing to take care of their animals," Savage said. "It's a need that's always there."

It's not just dogs and cats that Savage sits for; she also takes care of other small animals,

such as fish, birds and hamsters. She will come as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 11 p.m. to care for a pet. She does not stay overnight, but makes sure that the pet is out first thing in the morning and once more before bed.

"The environment stays the same," Savage said, this way the only thing the pet should be anxious about is missing their owners. However, this anxiety is greatly reduced by getting to stay in the home they know and love, Savage said. This is especially good for older or really anxious dogs who may not adjust well to leaving the house while their "parents" are away.

A good majority of the pets Savage sees are those whose owners are on vacation, or are not home enough during the day and need their pet walked or fed, or just need someone to play with while they are at work. However, Savage makes herself available to people that might need pet sitting in an emergency.

An example of this would be a recent client whose husband had an emergency operation. She had three small dogs and, thanks to a call to Savage, did not have to worry about them while in the hospital.

"It gave me the chills," Savage said, "I was really able to help her out in a hard time." This is why, she said, "I keep myself very flexible."

When a client is going on vacation, Savage makes sure she knows the pet's schedule, to keep it as close to their everyday routine as possible. She also makes sure she has all the information she needs while pet owners are gone, such as behavioral habits of the pet, emergency contact and vet information.

Usually, when going on vacation, owners choose to have her come three times a day to visit. However, there are many clients who like an additional fourth visit, around 11 p.m. or so, to "tuck in" their pet for the night.

In addition to walks, Savage brings pet "mind games" with her. One such game is a device that has treats hidden in it; the pet then has to figure out how to get the different parts of it open to receive a treat. Another is a ball that rolls around when the pet hits it and every now and then a treat falls out. These games are important to Savage in keeping the pets active and busy.

To become a good pet-sitter, Savage took a



Attention pet owners, resident Suzanne Savage has opened a new business for your "babies." Shake A Leg is now officially open.

ten month obedience instructor course, got her pet-sitter certification, and is red-cross certified in pet first aid. Savage laughed telling of the first-aid certification; when she first got it she thought she would never need it but was proven wrong soon after. On her first visit to a household with an older dog and a newer puppy her first-aid skills were tested.

The older female dog, a German shepherd, got annoyed at the puppy. The puppy had been bothering her so she bit the puppy, taking a little "nip" out of the puppy's ear. Luckily, because of her training, Savage knew what to do. She stopped the bleeding, cleaned the wound and called her client offering to take the pup to the vet.

"I did what I know how to do," Savage said. Luckily the puppy did not need stitches, but the client was relieved that Savage had been there to take care of her pets.

Savage also uses her obedience training to help clients train their dogs to walk correctly. Savage uses a harness that clips on the front of

the dog, the chest, instead of a harness that clips toward the back. This harness makes it so that the dog will be forced to stop pulling, like they still can with a harness that clips in the back and also prevents any harm coming to the dog, as there could be with something like a choke collar.

When a dog is taught with this harness the right way, "it's going to click in his brain," that he needs to walk the right way, Savage said.

The fee for dog vacation sitting is \$38 a day. This includes two 15-minute visits and one 30-minute visit. Dog sitting/walking fees are \$18 for a standard 30-minute walk or play time. This includes giving the pet treats and rubs and doing any little extras around the house, such as taking out the trash, getting the mail or watering the plants. Cat-sitting is a 20 minute visit for \$15 that includes a litter change, food, water and playing.

For more information, visit shakealegpetsitting.com, or call Suzanne at 860-368-9125.

Revolutionary War Reenactors Make Way to Andover

by Courtney Parent

Did you see a group sporting war attire marching through town last week? Were you concerned that a war broke out that you had no knowledge of, or perhaps that members of *The Legend of Captain Simon Smith* had difficulty getting out of their costumes?

Well, rest assured, there were no costume malfunctions nor is there a current war in the town of Andover; the group is part of a 700-mile Revolutionary War march reenactment.

The group of historians, known as "The Marchers," are recreating the 700-mile march of the American and French troops whose involvement in the War for Independence led to the surrender of British troops at Yorktown, VA, on Oct. 19, 1781. The march began in Providence, RI, and is crossing nine states before reaching the final destination of Yorktown.

The march is being done to celebrate the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Trail earning official status as a National Historic Trail in March of 2009.

The march began in Providence on June 18 and according to local resident Dianne Grenier, the group is planning to reach their destination in Yorktown on Oct. 9.

According to Grenier, the group of seven reenactors traveled down Route 6 last Wednesday, entering the rail trail at Lake Road. The marchers stopped to take photographs at Veterans Monument Park and got ice cream from the Chic 'N Scoop. From there, they re-entered the rail trail off Center Street, exiting at Burnap Brook Road and crossing Route 6 to Hutchinson Road; pausing to take additional photographs

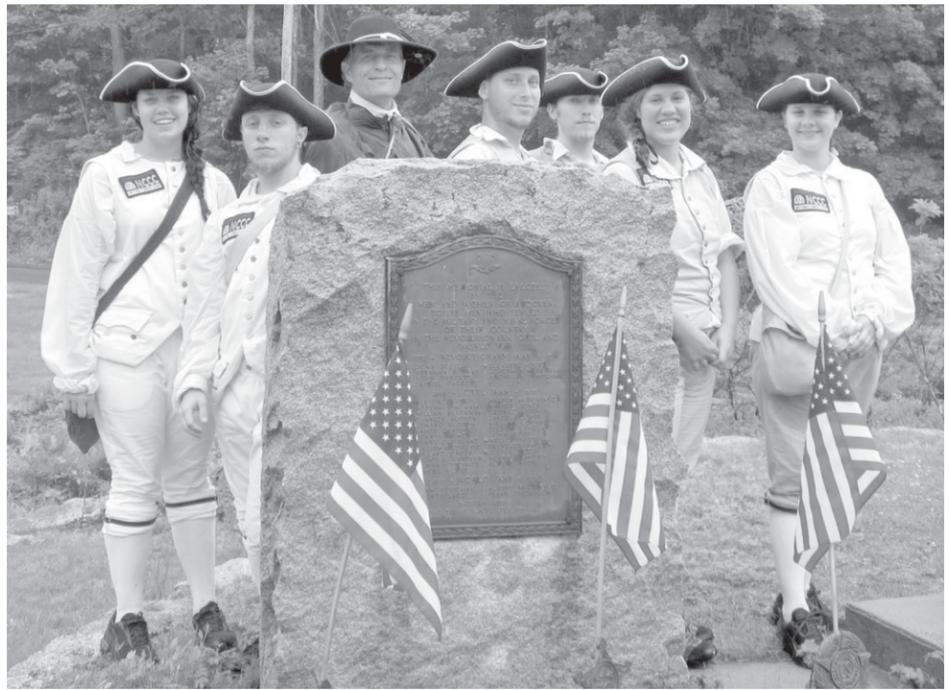
with the two plaques which mark the original route.

The marchers chose to extend their stay, pitching tents on the front lawn of the Town Hall and camping out for the night. Town officials and the Historical Society tended to the marchers' needs, cooking them a homemade meal for dinner and providing shower facilities.

Mirroring the march of 1781, the group will spend an initial three week period making their way through Rhode Island, Connecticut, and next New York. They will camp in a single location in New York for approximately five weeks, just as the French Army and Washington's Continental Army had as they were making decisions of whether to lay siege on New York City or head south to Yorktown. Finally, in mid-August, the group will continue on their way traveling through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland before arriving at their final destination in Yorktown.

The Marchers who made their way through Andover last week include; Operations Manager Dave Fagerberg of Kansas, Team Leader Laura Mack of Vermont, Daniel Clesowich of Connecticut, Ella Chalmers of California, David Pergamit of Oregon, Benton Holmes of Missouri, and Amanda Skalicky of Minnesota.

Those that might have been unfamiliar with the march, the mural found in the lobby of the Town Office Building is of the original march through Andover by General Rochambeau. The mural was created by local artist Gordon MacDonald.



A group of Revolutionary War historians known as "The Marchers" are recreating a 700-mile march from Providence, RI, to Yorktown, VA, to celebrate the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Trail having earned official status as a National Historic Trail. The march recently brought the group to Andover; they are shown here at Veterans Monument Park.

Marlborough School Board Talks Mold Funding

by Bailey Seddon

Mold was the big topic of discussion at the June 23 Board of Education meeting.

The school board stated that the issue is no longer about paying for the mold removal, as it has already been paid for, but which town board should budget for the maintenance at the school. Other items discussed were a change in student drop-offs and a slight increase in school lunch prices.

The mold topic started last November, when there was an issue of mold in the community room in the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. First Selectman Bill Black had requested a transfer from the Board of Finance, from the undesignated fund balance, for \$3,200 to cover the cost of abatement of the mold and a tropical treatment to keep the mold from coming back, which would be about one to three years.

However, the issue of who should have paid for the abatement is still a question. The money was supposed to go into the general fund, but there was some confusion among the different boards as to where that money was when the time to pay came. The Board of Selectmen thought the Board of Education had paid for it, so Black was surprised by an invoice he re-

ceived for the \$3,200 mold abatement. It was later realized that the money had been in the general fund, but BOE members state they were not aware the money was ever there.

This confusion brought up the question of building maintenance and which board was in charge of keeping up with the school when repairs are needed. Part of the problem is that each board feels differently about this issue. The Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski did not agree with Black that it was an immediate issue. The selectmen felt the Board of Education should have to pay, because it is a school issue. However, Board of Education Chairwoman Betty O'Brien felt this would take away any money that should be going toward children's education.

"In the past there was more flexibility in the budget so it was not such a big deal," O'Brien said. "Now is the time; we have to do something" to discuss the issue. When there was more money because of a better economy the issue of who paid for maintenance was not as big of a deal, but now the boards need to get together, O'Brien said.

Board of Education members said at last week's meeting that members have been trying

for over six months to discuss building maintenance with Black. Black, however, has recently said he was busy because of budget issues but would have time this summer to discuss the issue. The Board of Education is hoping to have a meeting this month to settle the issue with Black.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz further emphasized the issue of maintenance with his comments on other areas in the building that need work in the near future. For instance, Sklarz said, the lights in the community room have to be replaced.

"We need to have a maintenance plan," Sklarz said.

Others agreed. "We have to sit down and outline," school board member Carol Shea said.

Another subject of discussion was the student drop-offs at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. Starting with the new school year in the fall, parents have to drop off at the side of the school instead of the front, with the intended result being less congestion when parents and busses are leaving at the same time.

Some of the board members were concerned that parents will get stuck behind the busses

with this new change; however, O'Brien said the reason for the change was that traffic backs up much more when parents come to the front of the building. After dropping their children off at the side, the parents will go through the community room parking lot so as to ease the flow of traffic. This is the same distance for children to walk, it will just ease congestion, O'Brien said.

The board also talked about school lunch prices. The board agreed to increase school lunch prices from \$2.25 to \$2.35, for the 2011-2012 school year. Sklarz and the board discussed the fairness of this raise compared with other school lunches. Some were even surprised that the price was so low. The board said, due to federal mandates, it needs to raise school lunch prices to \$2.50 in three years. Sklarz and the board members agreed to raise the prices slowly by smaller amounts each year, instead of having one big raise three years from now.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Aug. 25 at 7 p.m., in the library/media center at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Colchester Residents OK Ordinances, Proposals at Town Meeting

by Bailey Seddon

Residents packed a Town Hall meeting room Wednesday and approved a host of different ordinances and proposals, but not without some debate.

Among the proposals passed were for the transfer of funds for snow removal, the establishment of an Agricultural Commission and the installation of a rapid access system.

However, it was the ordinance for the installation, maintenance and operation of alarm systems, devices and equipment that generated the most heated discussion among those in attendance. The alarm systems would be required in businesses and residences in the town. With the installation, town residents are required to register their systems in Town Hall; this way, emergency personnel knows where the system is located in their house. If there are up to four instances of false alarms a fine will be given to that resident or business.

Town members liked the idea of a fine for false alarms, but were less than thrilled with the idea of having to register their systems and having it known where in their house it is lo-

cated. One woman said it was like having a sign on her door telling an intruder where her security system box was.

Fire Department Lieutenant Don Lee said it was important for emergency and fire personnel to know where the system is. "Upon arrival we can get to that box... get to the emergency... when we get there we have the ability to figure out what's going on," Lee said.

Another resident pointed out that emergency personnel knowing where the system is does not matter, because upon entering the home the systems controller would tell which area of the house the problem was in.

However, despite the opposition, the vote when it came time to vote, most were in favor of the alarm systems, but this was the only vote which had several residents raising their hands in opposition. However, moderator Brenden Healy made the decision that the motion was carried.

Residents also okayed the transfer of \$233,691 from an assortment of accounts in the

budget to the snow removal accounts. The transfer is to cover the cost of the many snowstorms that took place during the winter.

Colchester was recently awarded \$45,379.10 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for snow removal costs associated with the Jan. 11-12 snowstorm. First Selectman Gregg Schuster said that, while they would have liked to have received more from FEMA, the selectmen were happy to at least get that amount, as, without it, the budget transfer would have been even larger.

The town also approved an ordinance to establish an Agricultural Commission. The point of such a commission is to "promote and preserve farming" in the town. The commission will consist of five regular members and two alternative members. Several members of the town voiced opinions that the commission should have an educational function for the town.

One woman stood up and stated that there is a big difference between the agricultural and

rural parts of the town, and that it is important to know the difference between the two. She voiced her hope that the Agricultural Commission would help define these differences and educate the public about them.

The town also approved the installation of rapid access system. This Knox Security System box will cost around \$380-\$425 to install in each structure, said Lee. The access systems would allow emergency and fire personnel to enter a building promptly if there was an emergency. Fire and emergency personnel would have a key to get into the building if an emergency happened. Only new commercial and industrial or those undergoing construction would be required to have the new "Knox Box."

Other votes of 'yes' by residents were for: a Colchester Tax Incentive Program Application for the Center for Wellness; the establishment of a Building Committee and an ordinance to regulate the installation; and maintenance of fire hydrants around the town.

Obituaries

East Hampton

George Arthur Scott

George Arthur Scott, 87, widower of the late Marguerite (Renzulli) Scott, passed away Sunday, June 26, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born Aug. 26, 1923, in Newberg, NY, he was the son of the late Arthur and Jane (Stratton) Scott.

George had worked as an engineer for Electric Boat in Groton until his retirement. He had lived in Canterbury and Gales Ferry for many years before moving to East Hampton in 1999.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Daniel Harazim of East Hampton, and two grandchildren, Kathleen Harazim and Andrew Harazim.

He was predeceased by his son, George Scott Jr.

Funeral services will be held today, July 1, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Ross Adult Day Care Center, 165 McKinley Ave., Norwich, CT 06360.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Amston

Charles Lawrence Wallace

Charles Lawrence "Chuck" Wallace, 76, of Amston and formerly of Cincinnati, OH, passed away Tuesday, June 21, at the Cambridge Hospital in Massachusetts, with his loving wife by his side. Born in Cincinnati, OH, on Oct. 11, 1934, Chuck was the son of the late Walter L.O. Wallace and Edna Bommerlin Wallace.

Chuck was a proud veteran, having served with the US Army. He was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati where he met his wife, Elaine Maham. While there he was also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. The couple married on Aug. 3, 1957, in Cincinnati, and soon after they moved to Connecticut.

Chuck retired in 1992 after having worked as a metallurgical engineer for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for over 32 years. Chuck was a major with the First Company Governor's Foot Guard and a past commander of the Centennial Legion of Historical Military Commands. He was also a 50-year member of the Melrose Masonic Lodge 576, in Norwood, OH.

He loved his Corvette and fly fishing and historic militia organizations but he will be remembered by his family for the love and devotion he gave generously to them.

In addition to his loving wife of 53 years, survivors include three children and their spouses, Elizabeth and Charles Bohara of Gales Ferry, Jennifer and William Felter of Woodbridge, VA, Charles L. Wallace Jr. and Nana of Burlingame, CA; five grandchildren, Brittany Felter, William D. Felter III, Jeremy Felter, Andrew Bohara, Charles L. Wallace III; and numerous extended family and friends.

Friends attended calling hours Sunday, June 25, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral was held Monday, June 26, directly at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Donations in his memory may be made to Douglas Library, 22 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland Police News

6/23: Joseph Cannata, 26, of 15 Victoria Rd., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, second-degree reckless endangerment and second-degree breach of peace, Portland Police said.

6/23: William Myers, 45, of 64 Great Hill Pond Rd., was charged with criminal violation of protective order, risk of injury to minor, third-degree assault, second-degree threatening, disorderly conduct, third-degree criminal mischief and second-degree failure to appear, police said.

6/23: Marianne Morascini, 46, of 9 Old

Portland

John E. McBrien

John E. McBrien, 88, of Portland, beloved husband of Mary (Murphy) McBrien for 56 years, passed away Sunday, June 26, at Middlesex Hospital, after a short illness. He was the son of the late Robert and Mary (Flynn) McBrien, born March 19, 1923.

He was educated in the Portland school system and had learned cabinet making before being employed at Robert Gair (later known as Stone Container). Inducted at age 19 into the U.S. Army Air Corps, he trained in Florida as a flight engineer, top turret gunner on the B-17. Deployed to England, he flew 13 missions deep into Germany as part of the 388th Bomb Group against major German targets such as Hamburg and Berlin. They were heading for Magdeburg and were shot down over Kassel in May 1944 and taken prisoner. He survived a brutal 30- or 40-day march north to Gdansk, Poland, where he was interned in Stalag IV until May 1945.

After the war, he returned to Robert Gair as a production control supervisor for 40 years. He was a devoted family man and spent time with his nieces and nephews and his sons, wife, and grandchildren. He loved restoring tractors, fixing cars, gardening, and was unflinching in his selflessness, generosity, and commitment to family as well as his sense of fairness. Besides his wife Mary, he is survived by his sons Gary McBrien and Greg McBrien, both of Glastonbury, and Terrance McBrien and his wife Erin of Eastford; his grandchildren John, Katie, Michael, Victoria, and Liam McBrien, and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters Samuel, William, Hannah Josephine, Mary, Robert and Charles.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, July 2, at 10 a.m., at the Church of Saint Mary in Portland. Interment with military honors will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Calling hours will be held today, July 1, from 5:30-8 p.m., in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in John's memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Free-stone Avenue Portland, CT.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Colchester

Catherine M. Palmer

Catherine M. Palmer, 95, wife of the late George Palmer of Colchester, passed away Saturday, June 25, at the Harrington Court Nursing Home. She was born April 1, 1916, in Fort Fairfield, ME, daughter of the late Percy and Dora Jenson Fields. Catherine worked as an assembler for 28 years for Pratt and Whitney Corporation. During her whole life, her loving family and friends came first.

Surviving are her two sons, George and his wife Sharon Palmer of Quaker Hill and Roger Palmer of Colchester; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; also, a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harold and Vera Wing.

She was predeceased by her three sons, Richard, Paul and Thomas Palmer Sr.; her daughter, Sandra Lead; her brother, George Fields; and two grandsons, Gary and Thomas Palmer Jr.

The funeral service was held Thursday, June 30, at the Belmont-Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Visitation was also held Thursday at the funeral home, before the service. Interment will be private.

Portland

Joseph Norman Fiddler

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Joseph Norman Fiddler, 83, on Monday, June 27, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born in Fall River, MA, on Sept. 3, 1927, to the late James and Jane (McCann) Fiddler.

Norm married Mary E. (McMurrer) Fiddler on April 3, 1951, and lived in Tiverton, RI, until they moved to Portland in 1966. He was a proud veteran who served in the U.S. Army during World War II and as a forward observer in Korea. Norm worked as a security guard for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft until his retirement in 1988. He kept active by working at Boba's Stores and Lymana's Golf Course. He enjoyed golf, bowling, baseball and spending time with his family.

Besides his wife Mary, he is survived by his sons, Michael and Karen A. (Len) Fiddler of Middlefield and Edward and Marie A. (Diaz) Fiddler of Scituate, MA, and his daughter Lori and Simon St. Amand of Rockfall; his six grandchildren, Jennifer and Michael Fiddler, Andrew and Matthew Fiddler, and Eric and Meghan St Amand.

He was predeceased by his brothers James and William Fiddler. His family would like to thank Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care staff for the care and compassion shown to them during his stay. It is greatly appreciated.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Thursday, June 30. Funeral services will be held today, July 1, at 10 a.m., from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and at 11 a.m. in the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment, with military honors, will follow in the State veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the Connecticut Chapter of the American Parkinson's Disease Association, CT Chapter/APDA 27, Allendale Dr., North Haven, CT 06473.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Marlborough Police News

6/22: State Police said they are investigating a Honda lawn mover that was stolen from Roberts Road, sometime between 6/17-6/22.

Colchester Police News

6/22: State Police said they are investigating a backhoe that was damaged on Sullivan Road, which was reportedly stolen from Lebanon.

6/23: Colchester Police said they are investigating a robbery that took place at a home on Judd Brook Road, in which several items were stolen. Anyone with information is asked to contact Colchester Police.

6/23: Joshua A. Freitas, 23, of 44 Millington Rd., East Haddam was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

6/24: State Police are investigating the theft of a GPS out of a vehicle on Elm Street, State Police said.

6/25: Joshua Hall, 23, of 29 Stony Brook Rd., East Haddam crashed his vehicle on Dr. Foote Road, and was charged with DUI, improper turn, breach of peace, interfering and evading, State Police said.

6/25: State Police said they are investigating a larceny by fraud that was reported by D.H. Marvin and Son, 359 South Main St. Equipment valued over \$9,000 was stolen from the

East Hampton Police News

6/13: Brian L. Woyнар, 48, of 77 Smith St., was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle without a license, East Hampton Police said.

6/16: Robert M. Sweikert, 43, of 283 Jagger Ln, was arrested for failure to drive right, DUI and failure to display a front market plate, police said.

6/18: Keith Paquin, 38, of 26 Rte. 154, Essex, was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor and possession of narcotics, police said.

6/19: Wesley Zaino, 22, of 41 East High St., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

business, police said.

6/25: Michael Tancredi, 35, of 35 David Rd., was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, non-threatening to family, State Police said.

6/26: Tamara S. Elliott, 43, of 20 West St., Niantic, was charged with DUI, evading and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. Elliott was charged after she struck two mail boxes with her vehicle on Old Hartford Rd., and was found parked on Renee Drive, State Police said.

6/27: Dominick David Johnson, 21, of 199 South Main St., was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said, due to an alleged shoplifting from the Colchester Stop & Shop on March 2.

6/27: State Police are investigating a break-in into a motor vehicle that took place on June 26, in the Airline Trail Park, near the area off of Bull Hill Road.

6/28: Timothy P. McGuire, 23, of 290 Foote Rd., South Glastonbury, was charged with fifth-degree failure to appear, State Police said.