



RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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A Real Crowd-Pleaser... Sunny skies and pleasant temperatures brought scores of people to Hebron last weekend for the town's annual Maple Festival. The town green was particularly bustling, as people gathered to sample ice cream, down some frosty maple milk, munch on fried dough and chili dogs, or just spend time with friends.

Teen Curfew Coming to Colchester?

by Rachel Kelleher
The Colchester Police Commission and town officials are considering enacting a curfew ordinance for minors on municipal property in an attempt to deter vandalism by youths.

A draft ordinance was presented at the Feb. 27 Police Commission meeting, outlining proposed areas, times and dates for the ordinance.

Schuster said it would not be a complete town-wide curfew; instead, it would ban anyone less than 18 years of age from town property during overnight hours.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the plan is only in discussion at this point, and he, Resident State Trooper Supervisor Marc Petruzzi and the town attorney looked over the ordinance March 7 for legal issues and made any necessary changes.

Some of those changes included the times and dates of the curfew and the areas it would be in effect.

The original ordinance draft proposed the curfew be set from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday, from June 1 to Sept. 1.

The Colchester Lions Club first suggested the ordinance late last year, in response to the club's trailer being damaged overnight on the town green last June. Additionally, a trash can was set on fire on the green that same night. After the Lions suggested the curfew, the Police Commission began to craft one. Schuster said the idea was initially to implement the curfew during the summer months, as schools are on vacation and the areas are more susceptible to vandalism.

However, Police Commission Chairman

Robert Parlee said that, while the specific hours are still undecided, the commission is looking to implement the curfew year-round, rather than just the summer months.

The original areas in discussion were the town green, recreation complex on Old Hebron Road and the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen woodlands on McDonald Road. However, now Parlee said the commission is looking to expand the curfew to all town property.

Schuster said it just didn't make any sense to limit the curfew to the summer. "We could have activity on the green any time," he said. "There just may be more in the summer."

Schuster said the town will also contact school administration to try to add school grounds to the areas where the curfew would be in effect, as minors would likely gather there if parks and other town property were off limits.

Police would issue fines to minors in violation of the curfew, or their parents.

Petruzzi said the amount of the fine has not been decided on yet, but the statutory limit for the fine is set at \$250. "It may not be that high, but it definitely would not exceed it," he said.

Schuster said local police would be able to enforce the curfew. Parlee said a five- to six-year plan to add officers to the Colchester Police Department and the ultimate goal of providing 24-hour local police coverage would enable the curfew to be successful.

"You can have a curfew, but if you don't have

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Rescue Group Helping Horses – and Handicapped

by Joshua Anusewicz

When equine veterinarian Stacy Golub rescued a draft horse 10 years ago, she said she "fell in love with the gentle giants." The horses are strong and built to work, but Golub says they usually have "calm, easy-going" personalities, making them hard not to fall for.

After rescuing that horse, Golub got involved in Shire horses – a breed of draft horse. Through her involvement with Shires, her position as a lover and caretaker of horses took a drastic turn. In November 2010, Golub was alerted to a Shire horse that was found in a "kill pen" – a holding area for horses that are on their way to slaughter, where they will be killed and their meat shipped to Europe and Asia.

Something needed to be done. With the help of a group of friends, Golub saved the horse and rehabbed the malnourished and mistreated animal back to health and on its way to a new home.

From there, an idea was born. "It started out wanting to do a few horses," Golub said, "and it turned into, 'let's do more.'"

With that came the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR), a newly-formed nonprofit in Haddam Neck that bails draft horses out of slaughter broker lots, helps place owner-surrenders, and makes trips to auctions to bid against

slaughter buyers. The group, which consists of about two dozen volunteers, is made up of some of the most experienced "horse people" in the area, including veterinarians, trainers, and farriers.

And while it originally was run out of the backyards of its members, the group now sits on a substantial tract of land on Haddam Neck Road, which includes two barns and houses 17 rescued horses. Golub said that the land was owned by a woman in Texas, who just so happened to be looking for a horse in Connecticut and came across the group. The landowner supported the cause and was happy to lease the land out, Golub said.

Since the group has moved into the land, it has become a refuge for horses from across the northeast. Golub said CDHR will get tips on horses that were surrendered or neglected for "various reasons," with the intention of rehabilitating the horse to be adopted. The horses are fed well, cleaned, their hooves maintained and given ample space for activities.

In some cases, however, CDHR will go to auctions and outbid "kill buyers" who are looking to sell the horses for meat to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico. Golub said that last year, in Canada alone, over 100,000 horses were

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Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue in Haddam Neck was recently able to buy Curly, this malnourished male draft horse, for just \$25 from an auction where he was to be sent to slaughter. Now, Curly is receiving the proper treatment and is getting healthier each day.



Volunteers from Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue demonstrate how the electric lift works on a modified wagon that allows handicapped individuals to drive the draft horses. The group is currently raising money to purchase the wagon and add it to its program.

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slaughtered. Even young, healthy, well-trained horses (because they offer more meat) are sold to “kill buyers” because the owners can’t afford to care for them.

“It’s barbaric treatment,” Golub said. “It’s not humane.”

Golub said that when they are sold, they are packed tightly into trailers for a “ride to hell.” There they are subjected to injuries and diseases, which could actually make the meat harmful, she added.

A fair amount of these horses are previously owned by Amish communities in Pennsylvania, who Golub said treat the horses “like tractors.” Because they are built to work, the draft horses are driven extremely hard for years on end, with the minimal amount of attention and care. Golub said that when the horses have outlived their usefulness to the Amish, they will then be sold for meat at the auctions.

Golub said that with the money that is donated, CDHR is able to attend these auctions and purchase horses destined to be killed, and then provide the necessary treatment and proper care to prepare them for adoption. And it’s making a difference; just last year, the group was able to adopt out 12 horses in the matter of a few months.

“When people adopt these horses, it’s saving two lives,” Golub said. “It’s saving that horse, and saving the life of the next horse that takes its spot.”

What’s even more unique about CDHR is that, even on top of helping these animals, the group is looking to extend a helping hand to others. The group, under the guidance of certified driving instructor Dave Bradham, works with the horses to get them driving again, like they are bred to do. An example of the type of work a draft horse does can be seen in most major cities, where the animals can be spotted pulling carriages of tourists. While it might seem like hard work, draft horses can actually pull up to three times its weight, making a wagon full of people a simple task for one of these giants.

Recently, Bradham and CDHR have added an interesting aspect to the driving. The group currently has a wagon on loan that is handicapped-accessible, and Bradham has begun working with wheelchair-bound people - particularly veterans - to teach them to drive the

horses. The wagon features an electric lift that hoists the wheelchair into the wagon, where the individual is seated next to a driver that assists in driving the wagon. This, Bradham said, gives the handicapped individual the opportunity to experience independence and teach them new skills.

“We’re trying to rehab these horses, but we’re also able to help these veterans at the same time,” he said, drawing a comparison between the two. “The horses are dealing with learning all of the things they used to do, just like the veterans. Sometimes, they feel like they’re not useful anymore. You can see the change in their face when they get to work with these horses.”

Bradham added that people of all disabilities, even those with very little control of their own bodies, have been able to drive the horses. Also, the wheelchairs are locked in tightly and the ride is not bumpy at all, making it a safe activity for those involved.

CDHR is currently renting the wagon, but is only \$3,000 short of purchasing the \$14,000 wagon to add it to its program. With that in mind, the group has scheduled its first “Dinner and a Draft” fundraiser, which will include a pasta dinner at the Haddam Neck Fire Station and a carriage ride back to the barn for dessert with the horses.

The dinner will be held Saturday, March 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$8 for children under 12, and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Dinner will include pasta, salad, side dishes and bread.

And because the group is a nonprofit, CDHR runs completely on donations, both large and small. (The group is not an official nonprofit quite yet, and is thus ineligible for grant funding.)

Golub proudly showed off a male draft horse, named Curly, who was recently purchased at an auction for only \$25.

“Anytime people say they can’t donate a lot, I show them this guy,” she said, pointing to a skinny - but growing - horse happily munching on hay. “So any little bit helps.”

To donate to CDHR or to find more information, visit the group’s website at ctdraftrescue.com or search for “Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue” on Facebook. The barn is located on 15 Rock Landing Rd., just off of Haddam Neck Road, in East Hampton.

Teen Curfew cont. from Front Page

the manpower to enforce it, it’s not effective,” he said.

Currently the town has only first- and second-shift local police coverage and a state trooper covering several towns overnight.

Schuster said he hopes the curfew would be put into effect prior to this summer.

A final draft with any changes made to the original ordinance will be presented to the Police Commission at the March 26 meeting.

If approved, the commission would submit the ordinance to the Board of Finance within the next couple of months, Schuster said.

The next step would be to hold a public meeting, where ultimately the decision would go to the town.

Schuster said he has already gotten some feedback on the idea from the community.

“Most think it’s a good thing,” he said.

He said the idea for the curfew was somewhat modeled by other towns in the area that have put curfew ordinances in effect.

Other area towns with curfew ordinances for minors include Glastonbury and Vernon. Vernon’s nighttime youth curfew, which is in effect in the entire town, was put in place to protect the community from juvenile crime, promote responsible parenting and prevent harm to minors, according to a state Office of Legislative Research report.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last weekend, the sun was shining, the temperatures were mild (moreso on Sunday than on Saturday) and, at least in Hebron, the sights of maple-flavored goodies were everywhere to be seen.

Yep, the Maple Fest returned last weekend – and it was great. Traditionally, Maple Fest organizers have said one of the great aspects of the annual mid-March event is it gives people a chance to shake off the cold, snowy feel of the winter that’s enveloped them the past two or three months or so. Well, this year, winter hasn’t really happened, so there perhaps wasn’t the same sense of “cabin fever” as there’s been in the past. But that didn’t stop scores of people from flocking to town for the festival.

(Plus, the lack of snow meant no Maple Fest Mud this time around. As someone who’s gotten his car stuck in the mud at past Maple Fests, I was very appreciative of this.)

I went on Saturday for a few hours, with a couple friends who were visiting from out of state. They each had previously lived in Connecticut, had been to the Maple Fest before, and were anxious to experience the maple-themed wonderment again.

We spent most of our time in the center of town, eating American Legion cheeseburgers (delicious as always) and having frosty maple milk. And I had a grand time catching up with various townspeople I knew from my time not just as editor of the *Rivereast*, but from when I covered the town as a reporter several years ago. Shout-outs to Donna McCalla (who also introduced me to the Steven Everett, the Republican who will be running this fall for the 19th district of the state senate, against Edith Prague), Jeff Watt, Brian Lessard, Catherine Marx, John Gasper and *Courant* reporter Steve Goode. I have great memories of my time covering Hebron, and it was nice to see all of them again.

Then it was onto the Hebron Historical Society’s Quilt Show in the Old Town Hall, where we all enjoyed looking at the beautiful quilts on display. Peter Billard had also set up shop in the Old Town Hall with a display about his Hebron Heritage Photo Project – a real interesting collection he’s building of photographs from the town’s past.

After filling up at the town center, my friends and I headed for Ron Wenzel’s sugar house, where we checked out a two-day old calf (easily the youngest cow I had ever seen) and mosed on up to the sugar shack, where Ron was talking with visitors about how sap gets converted into syrup. Yes, it was a presentation all three of us had heard before, but it was still fun seeing it again, and watching the giant evaporator at work.

On our way back to the car, we indulged our sweet tooth yet again – this time on the fantastic maple pudding cake, baked to perfection every year by the folks at Gilead Congregational Church.

And with that, another Maple Fest was in the books, and my friends and I headed up to visit some friends in Northampton, MA. All three of us had a grand time – and so did our stomachs. I hope many of you got out to the Maple Fest as well; if you didn’t, well, there’s always next year. (And thus the countdown to more maple pudding cake begins....)

* * *

Speaking of the Maple Fest, I got an email this week from Donna McCalla saying that, in front of the Old Town Hall, Historical Society members found a pair of prescription glasses, as well as a Bluetooth. Both items would no doubt be expensive to replace, and the Historical Society is looking for their respective owners.

The items are currently at the town clerk’s office at Hebron Town Hall, 15 Gilead St., where you may pick them up by describing them.

So if you think these items are yours, give Carla or Ann a call, at 860-228-5971, ext. 124.

* * *

Well, Mitt Romney – who looks like he’s going to be the Republican presidential nominee – shot his mouth off again. Just as soon as the snickering over his “some of my best friends are NASCAR owners” statement had died down, I read Tuesday that he recently appeared on an Alabama radio show and, during a discussion about Peyton Manning, just happened to mention that he’s friends with the owners of the New York Jets and the Miami Dolphins.

Hey Mitt, if you want to appeal to the common man, perhaps casually dropping that you’re friends with billionaires is not the best way to go about it. Not that you shouldn’t be friends with them if you want to be but, considering how big a role the economy is likely to play in this year’s election, it might be info you should keep to yourself.

Reading about the quote reminded me of a list of quotes I saw recently entitled, simply, “Who said it: Mitt Romney or Mr. Burns?” It consisted of several quotes, and asked readers to guess whether each was something actually uttered by foot-in-mouth Romney, or a line from *The Simpsons*’ famous mega-billionaire C. Montgomery Burns. If you want to play along, here are the quotes. Guess ‘a’ for Mr. Romney, and ‘b’ for Mr. Burns. (The answers appear below.)

1. “It’s time for another old-fashioned tax revolt.”
2. “I’ve always been a rodent and rabbit hunter. Small varmint, if you will.”
3. “So what shall we do tomorrow? Go grousing?”
4. “I’m not concerned about the very poor.”
5. “Why do I need another penny? I have billions.”
6. “Corporations are people, my friend.”
7. “I like being able to fire people who provide services to me.”
8. “I’m really enjoying this so-called iced cream.”
9. “I tasted a beer and tried a cigarette once, as a wayward teenager, and never did it again.”
10. “I grew up drinking Vernors and watching ballgames at Michigan and Trumbull.”
11. “A blue-collar bar! Let’s go slumming!”
12. “I’m running for office, for Pete’s sake. I can’t have illegals!”
13. “This anonymous clan of slack-jawed troglodytes has cost me the election.”

* * *

And here are the answers: 1:a; 2:a; 3:b; 4:a; 5:b; 6:a; 7:a; 8:b; 9:a; 10:a; 11:b; 12:a; 13:b.

* * *

See you next week.

New Restaurant Offers Variety of Asian Fine Dining Options

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Ichiban means “number one” in Japanese, but the owner of the new Asian bistro on Linwood Avenue is no first-time restaurateur.

Ichiban’s owner, Wen Shi, opened her first restaurant 10 years ago in Ohio. After five years, she sold it and opened a restaurant in Florida. She then moved to California for several years before recently returning to Connecticut, where she originally lived after moving to the United States from China. “So we’ve had a pretty good amount of experience in the restaurant industry,” she said.

Opening Ichiban in January was an opportunity for Shi to run a restaurant with a fine dining atmosphere. She said her previous restaurants also offered high-quality, fresh Chinese, Japanese and Thai dishes, but they were either buffets or customers’ orders were mostly take-out.

It is clear looking across Ichiban’s many tables that Shi expects most of her customers to eat-in. The dining room is large, with plenty of stone, wood and natural fibers and a gleaming mosaic wall with the restaurant’s logo greets guests as soon as they enter.

“Everything is very modern and new,” Shi said.

Shi said the sushi is the most popular food at the restaurant, and offers over 40 different rolls, with anything from kiwi to eel to lobster stuffed inside. The names are just as creative. Guests can try a Hipster roll, a Caterpillar, a Never Try Never or an Ichiban Bomb.

“All of our sushi is very fresh. We order at least three times per week,” Shi said.

Shi said one of the favorite traditional dishes is the crispy duck, marinated with Chinese

spices and roasted. “Also popular are our chicken dishes. We only use white meat chicken, no dark meat,” she said.

Ichiban, along with Shi’s previous restaurants, is family-operated. Shi’s brother, Lihong Shi, is the head chef with 15 years of experience, and has been working in restaurants since he was 20 years old. Her sister-in-law manages the restaurant.

Shi started working at her uncle’s restaurant when he first came to America from China.

“We [didn’t] have much choice,” she said, adding of her time employed in restaurants, “It’s hard work, but we like it.”

Ichiban also has a lengthy bar with large wall-mounted televisions. Although the bar is empty now, the restaurant will get its liquor license April 19, at which point Shi said the restaurant will likely offer happy hour specials. In the meantime, guests can bring their own bottles of wine or beer and the restaurant will provide glasses. Shi said business should pick up once the restaurant can serve liquor, but business has been steady even without it.

“We have been really busy,” Shi said. “Fridays and Saturdays [are] always packed.”

Shi also said customers have given great feedback both in-person and online. “People are writing about us on Facebook and posting photos,” she said.

Shi said some future dishes might reflect some of the Hawaiian culinary influence her family picked up from their years living in California. She said Lokomoko was one of the more popular Hawaiian dishes in California.

“It’s pretty much American meatloaf,” she said.

The California Hawaiian influence is present in one of Ichiban’s sushi rolls, the Hawaiian Dragon: Shrimp tempura and eel are wrapped in the roll and topped with crabmeat and avocado.

Lebanon resident Georgia Gagen, who was visiting Ichiban for the first time Monday, looked over the menu as she waited for her take-



Wen Shi opened Ichiban, an Asian bistro, in January. Business has so far been very strong, she said.

out order. Gagen ordered Thai hot and sour soup, Ichiban shrimp, Thai spring rolls and basil shrimp.

“The basil and shrimp is a new combination,” Gagen said. “It sounds very good.”

Gagen said she was looking forward to try-

ing the food and made the trip to Colchester specifically to go to the restaurant.

“I’ve been dying to get into this place,” she said.

Ichiban, located 179 Lebanon Ave., Unit D, can be reached at 860-537-6888.

Appointments Made to East Hampton Finance Board, Building Committee

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

The Town Council was divided Tuesday on whether to appoint Tom O’Brien to the Board of Finance. The council ultimately voted 4-3 in favor of the appointment – councilors Derek Johnson, Glenn Suprono and Ted Hintz Jr. were opposed – but not without a lengthy discussion.

The need to appoint a new member came after Republican Henry Thorpe resigned from the board recently, due to professional commitments.

At the meeting, through both public remarks and letters to the council, several recommendations were made as to who should fill the seat. The discussion centered on two candidates – O’Brien, who served on the Board of Finance for one term before losing out on reelection in November, and Republican Don Martin, also a former finance board member who was not elected last year.

Prior to the discussion, Matthew Walton, the chairman of the finance board, recommended the council appoint O’Brien. Walton, who is also a Democrat, stated that O’Brien’s ideas were “very well-received” by the board during his term and that the council should consider appointing him.

Councilor Barbara Moore, who is also the chair of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), added that O’Brien received the most votes of any candidate that was not elected in November, and that O’Brien also had the full support of the DTC. (Candidate Laura Taylor Borg, a Democrat, actually had the most votes of anyone who was not elected, but Moore said that Borg was “not interested” in filling the position.)

Fellow Democratic councilor George Pfaffenbach supported O’Brien as well, stating that the board was “right in the middle of the budget process” and that, with his recent experience, O’Brien would be “up to speed” with the rest of the board.

Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub, though, read a memo from Republican Town Committee Chairman George Coshow, which stated that Don Martin should fill the position, contesting that a member of the same party should be used to fill the seat. However, town attorney Jean D’Aquila stated that the council was not required to fill the seat with a member of the same party as Thorpe.

Hintz, a Republican, supported Martin over

O’Brien, noting that O’Brien, despite having served a full term, was never actually elected to the board. Shortly following his loss in the 2009 election, O’Brien was appointed to the board to take the place of Moore, who won election that year to the Town Council. He then ran for the board in 2011, and lost.

Suprono agreed with Martin filling the seat. “If a Republican came out, one should go back in,” he stated. “It’s the right thing to do. It keeps it very clean.”

The council also presented the idea of advertising the open position to those interested in the community to apply. Weintraub stated that this was the council’s strategy in 2010, when Republican William Devine resigned from the council and Democrat Chatham Carillo was tabbed to replace him.

“The council wanted to give residents that didn’t want to campaign for a spot the opportunity,” Weintraub recalled, gaining the agreement of Moore, who also served on the previous council.

This idea, however, didn’t draw the support of the council.

“Some people took the time to campaign and made a commitment to the town,” Hintz said of those candidates that lost out in November. “We should start with that pool.”

“I don’t think it’s appropriate to start the process over again,” Suprono added.

Prior to O’Brien being appointed, Hintz made a motion to appoint Martin, on the idea that a member of the same party should be appointed. That motion was voted down 4-3, with Hintz, Suprono, and Johnson in favor.

Because there are currently no guidelines for appointing members to boards and committees based on their political affiliation, Mary Ann Dostaler, a member of the finance board, recommended that the council look into installing a policy that would either give the highest vote-getter or someone from the same party the chance to be appointed. “Whenever this has happened, this discussion always comes up,” Dostaler said of the appointment process.

O’Brien currently represents East Hampton on the Central Region Tourism Board, a position that the council will now need to appoint an individual to.

After meeting on multiple occasions to get

it done, the council also appointed seven full-time members and two alternates to the newly-formed High School Building Committee, a group that will be asked to guide the town through a possible high school renovation project over the next half-decade.

Per state statute, towns that are planning to renovate a school facility are required to form a building committee to oversee the project. In East Hampton, the high school is currently halfway through a 10-year accreditation process, one that requires substantial renovations be done to the facility to meet the requirements of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

In recent months, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden and the Board of Education, in partnership with the council, have worked to develop the charge for the committee and get the ball rolling on the project. The project has stalled in recent years and is in a position where specific plans must be approved in the coming months to send to the state for available funding.

With that in mind, the council voted unanimously Tuesday to appoint Cynthia Abraham, Stephen Karney, Michael Zimmerman, Michele Barber, Sharon Smith, Roy Gauthier and Tom Cooke to the committee. Residents David Ninesling and Tom Seydewitz were appointed as alternates.

Abraham is a strategic planner, interior designer and project manager who has had two children go through East Hampton schools. She has 25 years of experience in the architectural and construction industry specializing in planning, design, and management for corporate and education clients.

Karney is a former construction manager for a school building committee in Westerly, RI. He has 37 years of experience in the construction industry and has extensive experience in school construction.

Zimmerman is a program industrial operations manager who has worked for Pratt & Whitney since 1998. He holds degrees in engineering and management and has held operational roles dealing with hardware manufacturing, procurement and engine delivery to customers. He has three children currently in East Hampton schools.

Barber is a professor of biology and is cur-

rently the chair of the science department at Norwalk Community College. She has previously served on a building committee and was involved in planning and construction of a \$25 million Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified (LEED) Science and Wellness building at the college.

Smith is currently the business manager and chief financial officer for Glastonbury Public Schools. She is responsible for the system’s operations and support services including financial planning, budgeting, accounting, grant applications, and student health services. She has served on steering committees for four school construction projects.

Gauthier is a licensed electrical contractor with residential, commercial and industrial experience. He has owned his own small business for 40 years, working closely with architects, engineers and building officials on both private and public projects.

Cooke is a residential and commercial contractor, as well as a small-business owner as a licensed builder. He currently has four children in East Hampton schools.

Seydewitz is a retired chief fiscal officer at Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington, and was formerly the chairman of the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Building Project. He served from 1991-97 as an appointed member of the committee to renovate all four East Hampton schools.

Ninesling has worked as a facilities engineer, a project engineer and a production engineer, with additional experience in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and network/IT areas. He is currently responsible for operations and maintenance of an 8.5-megawatt cogeneration plant at Hartford Hospital. He has two children in East Hampton schools.

“This was an incredible group of candidates,” Weintraub said of all the residents who applied. “With all of these individuals on the committee, this couldn’t be going any better.”

Weintraub said that the committee is expected to meet for the first time next week, but a date and location have yet to be announced.

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.

State Rep. Carpino Will Seek Second Term

by Joshua Anusewicz

Referring to her current first term as state representative as a “great success,” Christie Carpino (R-Cromwell) confirmed this week that she would be seeking a second term as representative of the 32nd General Assembly District this November.

“There’s a lot of unfinished business,” Carpino said Monday.

Carpino won the seat, which represents Portland, Cromwell and a section of Middletown, in 2010, after defeating incumbent Democrat James O’Rourke. Prior to serving at the state level, Carpino, an attorney, served on Cromwell’s Board of Assessment Appeals, was the vice chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the vice chair of the Republican Town Committee.

Since being elected, Carpino has been one of the most visible individuals in the area, reaching out to local businesses, schools, programs and residents to help out any way she can.

“I make myself very accessible, and attend multiple events,” Carpino said, and added that many of those same individuals she’s been involved with asked her to run again.

At the state level, Carpino said she has worked well with the public officials of all three towns in the district and has advocated for the needs of the communities. One of the biggest

priorities during her first term, Carpino said, was the revamping of the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown, which suffered a catastrophic explosion in 2010. Since then, Carpino said new safety regulations and restrictions have been put in place at the plant, and she has continually met with factory workers and residents to keep them informed about ongoing work at the plant and to hear their concerns.

Another large project in the district has been the Arrigoni Bridge reconstruction, which Carpino happily announced was “on time” for completion this fall. The construction, which began last summer, involves restoring the deck across the span of the bridge, which was in dire need of replacement. The \$16.94 million fully-state-funded project, which is roughly halfway finished, has rerouted traffic patterns in both Portland and Middletown and has drawn the ire of some residents who travel over the bridge everyday.

“I know it’s an inconvenience,” Carpino said, “but I continue to work closely with the people involved. We are trying to be proactive to keep things running smoothly, and I believe we’ve made great progress.”

Carpino has also been an advocate for education, serving as a member of the legislature’s Education Committee. She was on the forefront

of the state’s new bullying initiatives that have been implemented in schools across Connecticut, and has also been heavily-involved with the local Special Olympics group, recently serving on the committee for the Penguin Plunge fundraiser in Middletown.

Being involved is just part of the job, however. Not only is it in her nature to be a part of something, but Carpino said that she will always see it through.

“If I get involved in an issue,” Carpino said, “I follow that issue. I want to get to the heart of the matter.”

If reelected, Carpino plans to stick closely with the matters she is working on currently. But as for her biggest concern, Carpino said hers falls right in line with most of the residents – the economy.

“We still spend more than we make,” Carpino said of the state. “The largest tax increase in our history was passed, and we’re still running at a deficit. We can’t be doing that as a state, we must get that under control. I think the people of this district understand that.”

For now, Carpino said she has yet to shift into campaign mode, stating that her “focus is on the district and the work I was elected to do.” She admitted she had heard that several candidates had showed interest in the position,



Christie Carpino

but did not comment on the possible candidates.

Last week, Portland Board of Education Chairman Christopher Phelps, a Democrat, announced that he would be running for the seat in November. No other candidates have officially filed to run as of this week.

Vehicle Crashes into Ambulance on Arrigoni in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

The eastbound lane of the Arrigoni Bridge was closed for about 20 minutes on Monday after a vehicle rear-ended an ambulance, Sgt. Scott Cunningham said.

At around 2 p.m., a Hunter’s Ambulance traveling in the eastbound lane of the bridge (toward Portland) “slowed for traffic” when it was struck from behind by a 2000 Toyota Rav4, Cunningham said. The operator of the Toyota, Kari Stula, 47, of Lebanon, stated that she was “traversing the bridge behind the ambulance when she momentarily took her eyes off the road and struck [the ambulance’s] back end.”

Cunningham stated that the ambulance sustained damage only to its rear end, while the Toyota sustained “moderate front-end damage” that resulted in fluid loss. No injuries were reported, he added.

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department and the Middlesex Construction Company - which is performing the construction on the bridge - assisted in cleanup and removal of the vehicle until the towing company arrived, Cunningham said.

Cunningham said Stula was charged with following too close.

Arrest Made in 2011 Copper Wire Thefts in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

An East Hampton man who was arrested in August for stealing copper ground wire from utility poles was arrested again last Friday for his involvement in two similar crimes from last year.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, Troy McIntosh, 28, was charged Friday, March 9, with two counts of first-degree criminal mischief, two counts of second-degree reckless endangerment and a count each of fourth-degree larceny, fifth-degree larceny and conspiracy. He was arraigned at Middletown Superior Court on the same day and was released on \$10,000 bond.

McIntosh was previously arrested in the early morning hours of Aug. 9, 2011, along with another man – Michael Poe, also of East Hampton – after East Hampton Police found the two men attempting to dig up copper ground wire in the area of North Main Street and Clark Hill Road. Both men were charged with third-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny, second-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree reck-

less endangerment. (Poe has pled not guilty in this incident.)

Kelly said Monday that this arrest of McIntosh stems from two other wire thefts that occurred last year, in the areas of Flanders and Wopowog roads. He also added that Poe had been arrested in February for these two incidents and, according to the state’s judicial website, has pled not guilty to all counts.

McIntosh is scheduled to appear in court to enter his plea for all three cases on Friday, March 23, at 10 a.m. at Middletown Superior Court. Poe is scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, April 4, at 10 a.m. for his involvement in the incidents; Poe will also be appearing in court that day for other theft-related charges and driving infractions stemming from separate incidents.



Troy McIntosh

East Hampton Man Charged with Firing Gun After Domestic Dispute

by Joshua Anusewicz

An East Hampton man was arrested last Thursday, March 8, after a domestic dispute resulted in the man firing a shotgun within his home, Sgt. Michael Green stated in a release.

According to Green, Kevin Supinski, 33, of 5 Abbey Rd., was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, unlawful discharge of a firearm, criminal possession of a firearm, risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct. The state’s judicial website states that Supinski was arraigned at Middletown Superior Court on Friday, March 9, and was released from custody on \$10,000 bond.

The incident occurred just after 9 p.m. last Thursday, Green stated, when the police received a phone call from Supinski’s wife, Nicole, claiming that a domestic dispute had broken out between the two. The release stated that Supinski had gone into the basement of the home, while his wife locked herself in an upstairs bedroom with her two children, ages 2 and 8 months.

While police were en route to the residence, his wife reported that she heard a gunshot downstairs, Green stated. Upon arrival, Green and Officers John Wilson and Adam Brault forced entry into the home and took Supinski into custody at gunpoint; when apprehended,

Green stated that Supinski was unarmed and “was trying to get into the locked bedroom.”

Upon further investigation, Green stated that Supinski had “intentionally fired one round with a 16-gauge shotgun” into the concrete wall of the basement. The shotgun, as well as several other firearms, were seized from the home, he added.

Green said Wednesday that Supinski was believed to be “blowing off steam” by shooting the firearm and that it was not directed at any particular target. Green added that Supinski was charged with criminal possession of a firearm because Supinski is considered a convicted felon; in 1997, Supinski was charged with DUI and second-degree assault with a deadly weapon stemming from a motor vehicle accident in East Hampton, Green said.

Supinski is scheduled to enter his plea on Friday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at Middletown Superior Court.



Kevin Supinski

Radon Tests Show Andover School is in the Clear

by Geeta Schrayter

The results of recent radon testing at Andover Elementary School were discussed at Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Education.

Radon testing is required every five years. Since the results of the last testing, which was conducted on the entire building "were below triggering level," Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia explained only 10 percent of the building had to be tested this time.

The rooms tested needed to be on the ground level of the building. Maneggia stated the music room, library, a kindergarten classroom and a grade two and a grade six classroom were all tested. The rooms were chosen at random.

In a letter from Environmental Transactions, Inc., the company which performed the tests, it was stated "all rooms tested were done under closed conditions, with all windows shut and the HVAC system running under normal school use conditions in accordance with EPA and CT State guidelines."

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas and "the product of the uranium decay chain," the state Department of Public Health explains on its website. It's odorless, colorless and tasteless, "can move through voids in rocks and soils," and enter buildings through various ways such as cracks, openings in the foundation and well water.

Long-term exposure to high levels of radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer. But at Andover Elementary, "we were below the level of concern as far as EPA health, so we do not have to take any action at all," said Maneggia.

The letter supported his statement.

"The results are below the EPA action level

of 4.0 pCi/L," it read.

On Thursday, Board of education Chairman Jay added, "'We've never had a problem with radon but because of the statute we are very cautious."

"We're good for another five years," Maneggia said.

* * *

Also at the meeting, Maneggia explained there have been issues with some piping in the school.

"We are very proactive in terms of maintenance repairs and taking care of things as they occur," he said, but added he was "a little bit concerned" because there's been some "reoccurring problems and we don't seem to really have an answer for why."

Maneggia went on to say there have been a series of problems with the fittings for the metal piping on the heating system – they continue to rust and leak. He said the problem will occur, be fixed, and then happen again "a week later, a month later, three months later – another location has the same problem."

He said it costs a few hundred dollars to fix each time.

"I'm raising this concern of mine to the board because one of the things that I'm kind of determined to find out is 'why do we have these reoccurring problems?'" he stated, adding he was in the process of investigating the issue.

In a memo distributed to board members before the meeting, Maneggia wrote "all the incidents are associated with the minerals contained within the well water. The water is not harmful to people but corrodes the pipes until they eventually leak. Presently, our service con-

tractor is investigating the problem and will recommend a solution."

At the meeting, Maneggia added, "The problems, very frankly, are occurring with the new boilers and I just don't understand it.

"I don't have the answers," he continued, "but when I do, they'll be shared."

* * *

Maneggia also expressed concern over the changes to education legislation that have been proposed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy.

Various aspects and their possible implications for Andover Public Schools were discussed, including the changes to early childhood education, changes for the lowest-achieving schools, and public school choice.

Maneggia explained one of the suggestions Malloy has made in regards to early childhood education "is that you don't necessarily need certified teachers in the early childhood program to expand it in a cost effective manner."

But, Maneggia said, "as far as I'm concerned, if you're going to have a program like that you need certified, qualified people."

In regards to the lowest-achieving schools, Maneggia stated funding for additional support for these schools may end up coming from smaller towns and mean less Education Cost Sharing (ECS) money.

"There's no question bigger cities need some help to close the achievement gap," said Maneggia, adding, "as a superintendent I acknowledge that and support the need for doing something about it, but not at the expense of the smaller towns."

Maneggia also mentioned school choice. One of the proposed changes is the establish-

ment of "a \$1,000-per-resident student local contribution for state charters," a summary of the bill stated.

Maneggia explained it's likely "the way they're going to do that is if Andover has a student in a charter school, [the Board of Education] is going to have to donate \$1,000."

He continued "if the state is going to increase the contribution to charter schools so be it – but not at the expense of the small towns."

In summary, Maneggia expressed concern for the changes, and asked the board for permission to write to state Rep. Pamela Sawyer, expressing his and the board's concerns.

"From my perspective," he said, "I have some concerns. Very honestly, what I would like to be able to do, with the board's endorsement, is send a letter to our representative expressing the concerns of the board, if you're in agreement."

All of the board members were in agreement, and a motion was made directing the superintendent to write a letter to the legislators about the pending legislation. The motion carried unanimously.

* * *

Also at the meeting, a motion was made not to renew the contract for one of the school's current kindergarten teachers. The motion was a result of the board's previous decision to reduce the number of kindergarten sessions due to declining enrollment.

"We don't like to be put in this position," said Lindy. "But we have responsibilities, and that's how it is," he said, adding the decision was made "with regret."

The motion carried unanimously.

Andover Charter Changes Shot Down

by Geeta Schrayter

More than enough people turned out at Tuesday's referendum on the proposed town charter revisions to meet the minimum percentage required by state statute.

And they overwhelmingly said 'no' to the changes.

In the weeks leading up to Tuesday's referendum, there were numerous concerns not enough people would turn out to reach the 15 percent of voters threshold required by state statute to approve the charter's changes. In Andover, that equated to 327 voters.

But those concerns proved unnecessary as 720 voters made their way to the polls throughout the day.

"We had a great turnout," said Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi. "I'm so proud."

Palazzi said there was such a high turnout election officials ran out of ballots for the voting machine and had to revert to paper.

"When we heard that people were being called and sending out fliers and whatever we were like 'we only ordered 500 [ballots] we better order more,'" she said, adding they ordered 200 more the previous Thursday, but it still wasn't enough after absentee ballots had been sent out and others had been used for tests.

"So we said 'ok, fine, let's get the paper ballots,'" she stated.

Voting official Bob Russell said he was "thrilled" with the turnout.

"As you can see the town's got a real interest – a very pleasant surprise," he said.

Resident Suzanne Donahue said after voting Tuesday, "There's been a lot of letters in the *Rivereast* and a lot of people in the town coming out and talking about [the charter] so I think everybody felt they better do their civic duty."

There were three separate charter-related questions on Tuesday's ballot – and each was shot down. Five hundred forty-six residents voted 'no' on question one, which asked if town elections should be moved from May to November, compared to 171 in favor of the measure.

Resident Kevin Sheehan said he liked having the elections in May.

"I like the idea that our elections are at a time when we can focus on them," he said. "They're not buried in the big general election where you're going to look at all the state stuff and our guys are just tailing down on the bottom."

But Wendy Baver was one of the 171 who voted for moving the elections.

"The only reason for voting 'no' on the changing of the [election] times was there's no economic benefit – but I just think that it would be a convenience benefit," she said, adding "it just seems like there's all these votes – and I know I've missed some" because they're on all different days.

In regards to question two, which asked whether the board of selectmen should have the right to "enact, amend or repeal any ordinance," 685 voted 'no,' compared to just 35 who said 'yes.'

"Once you give away a right, you can never get it back," said resident Donald Dyrton, who came to vote with his wife, Karen. "This whole thing is giving away the whole concept of the government the colonists gave us."

"Our town government said these [boards] were charged with [specific] rights," his wife added. "We don't want to hand [the power] over" to a small group of people, she said.

Another resident who came out to vote felt similarly, saying "they want to give a lot of the power to the selectmen. I would prefer they not give it – more minds are better."

The last question on the ballot, whether additional revisions – such as changing the process for setting the mill rate and incorporating "plainer language" throughout the charter – should be adopted, was also defeated 640-80.

Selectman Jay Lindy was present as the results were read Tuesday night, and said afterwards "the people have spoken and they spoke loud."

First Selectman Bob Burbank shared his thoughts on Wednesday, saying, "I was happy to see such a great turnout. I never anticipated that they would get a turnout to that degree."

He went on to say, "I was really appreciative the people are concerned with what's going on in town."

Marlborough Police News

3/6: Jennifer Hickey, 48, of 32 Saner Rd., was charged with three counts of attempting to commit a crime, sixth-degree larceny, five counts of third-degree burglary and two counts of fifth-degree larceny. In a joint investigation of burglaries at a Marlborough residence over a prolonged period of time, Marlborough Resident State Trooper's office and the Eastern District Major Crimes Unit obtained a search warrant and arrest warrant and seized evidence from the burglaries from Hickey's residence, State

Police said.

3/7: Nicole Barber, 22, of 271 South Main St., was charged with first-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

3/10: Justin Amato, 27, of 84 Ridgewood Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with DUI and reckless driving, State Police said.

3/10: Nathaniel Calixto, 25, of 7 May St., Hartford, was charged with DUI and reckless driving, State Police said.

Andover Police News

3/7: Michael Fortin, 18, of 850 East St., Hebron, was charged with second-degree burglary, breach of peace and attempting to commit a crime after he attempted to burglarize an occupied residence on Boston Hill Road, State Police said. The homeowner was in the house at the time, police said, and notified police of the attempted burglary. Fortin fled the scene to a wooded area in the rear of the home, where he was apprehended.

Fortin was already on parole for a prior burglary and was remanded to the custody of parole, State Police said.

Colchester Family Searching for Son

Last Wednesday, March 7, the Logiudice family, of 773 Norwich Ave., reported to police they had not seen nor heard from their son, Kyle Logiudice, 22, since Jan. 14.

Logiudice is 6'4", 190 pounds with blond hair and blue eyes. He has been in contact with out-of-state family via Facebook.

Anyone who has had contact with Logiudice is asked to contact State Police Troop K at 860-537-7500.

Portland Police News

3/2: Patrick Dill, 21, of 80 Collins Hill Rd., was charged with traveling too fast and evading responsibility, Portland Police said.

Hebron Police News

3/7: Timothy McGuire, 41, of 35 Yorkshire Dr., turned himself in on active arrest warrant for two counts of violation of probation, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

3/8: John Vonutter, 68, of 48 Harbor Rd., was charged with violating a protective order, third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief, State Police said.

3/8: Ronald Madeia, 47, of 7 Tinker Pond Rd., Bolton, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

3/9: Wesley Zaino, 23, of 22 Oak Dr., Marlborough, was charged with sixth-degree larceny for shoplifting at Stop & Shop at 99 Linwood Ave., State Police said.

3/10: Nicholas Romano, 22, of Main St., Willington, was charged with DUI and interfering with police, State Police said.

3/12: Kristopher Kahle, 28, of 37 Davidson Rd., turned himself in on an arrest warrant for three counts of second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

2/25: A 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for second-degree threatening, East Hampton Police said.

Sunny Days for Annual Hebron Maple Fest

by Geeta Schrayter

Blue skies and sunshine greeted crowds at the 22nd annual Hebron Maple Festival this past weekend.

Visitors were able to check out the sugar houses, the quilt show, live animal exhibit, the Farmer's Cow and more, all the while indulging in a variety of treats around the snow-free streets of Hebron – a scene quite different from last year.

"We were blessed with great weather this year – no snow to climb over, so the turnout was fabulous," said state Rep. Pam Sawyer, who was present both days. ("I got to eat pancakes with maple syrup twice!" she added with a laugh. "I win!")

"It was also great to have, once again, the local sugar shacks opening their doors to the public and educating folks on just how sweet it is to make maple syrup," Sawyer said.

Ron Wenzel of Wenzel's Sugar House said he had anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 people come by the sugar house both days, and it was likely there were approximately 10,000 at the festival in general.

Wenzel stated "from the reports that we're getting, everyone was very well-pleased with the event."

"It's phenomenal," he said, adding that while not everyone who shows up has a strong interest in learning about making syrup, "the majority are there to learn how it's done."

Russell Schaller of Woodyacres Sugar House agreed, saying, "it was a good two days and both days a good crowd showed up [at the sugar house]."

He added, "a lot of people just want to learn about maple syrup and that's what we try to teach each year – a lot of them are putting out a couple taps a year and have maple trees on their property, and they just want to try it."

Schaller continued on to praise the entire event, calling it the first event after the winter

"when people can come out and enjoy the good weather – and we just had exceptionally good weather."

"It gets the family out and breaks up the cabin fever," he added.

And amid the learning experiences and the fun, different aspects of the event also provided funds for various causes.

At the pancake breakfast put on by the Hebron Lions Club Sunday, Lion Rich Griswold said there were over 500 attendees – "the best in a few years."

"I believe the net profit will be around \$2,400 and that will be donated to the [Wounded Warrior Project] in the name of Corporal Greg Caron and his two Marine brothers Jonathan and Mike Caron," Griswold said Wednesday.

He went on to mention the RHAM High School Leo Club raised \$300 at the event to be donated to the Greg Caron Family Foundation along with a \$1,000 donation from the Hebron Lions Charities, Inc.

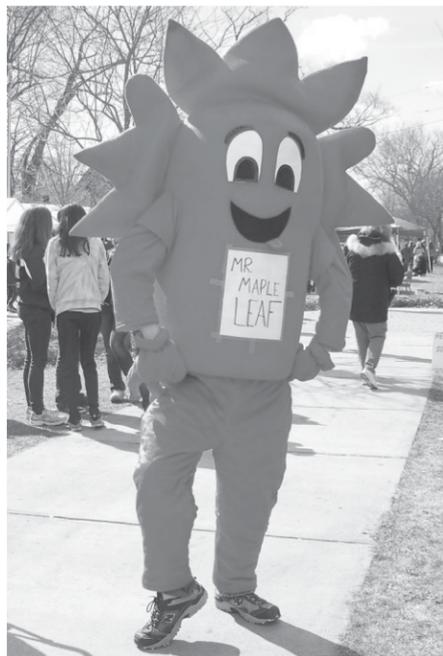
And in another area of town, Hebron Historical Society member Donna McCalla said The Farmer's Cow truck, which was sponsored by the society, handed out free maple ice cream. There was also a donation bucket at the truck, where people could drop in money for Hebron's Open Space Land Acquisition fund.

"People were just very, very generous in terms of donating. I think that's great," she said, adding the donation bucket was always full.

McCalla also said The Farmer's Cow donated seven cases of milk for the icy maple milk offered by the Historical Society. But she said "we still had to buy more milk," since it was enjoyed so much.

Other events sponsored by the Historical Society included a quilt show and the Lebanon Towne Militia.

"We just had a huge, huge attendance" at the quilt show, McCalla said, "and I think a lot of that was because of the person we were honor-



During last weekend's Maple Fest, the event's mascot "Mr. Maple Fest" – a giant maple leaf - worked the crowd filled streets. At the quilt show sponsored by the Hebron Historical Society, attendees such as State Representative Pam Sawyer enjoyed a variety of quilts, including almost 60 made by Hebron resident Marie Smith Billard.

ing: Marie Smith Billard."

Billard was born and raised in Hebron and is well-known for her quilting, explained McCalla, who is the proud owner of two Billard quilts. She said almost 60 of Billard's quilts were gathered for the show.

"The other quilts we had on display, people really seemed to love them. It was a great show – the turnout was fantastic," she said, adding she was pleased with the turnout for the entire Maple Fest.

"Over in the Gull School House [and] by the



Lebanon Towne Militia – it was absolutely mobbed," she said. "We're just really, really pleased at all the people that came out to learn all about our community."

Sawyer agreed.

"It's very inspiring to see a community come together for a common event which brings in local entrepreneurs, hobbyists, civic hubs and local church groups," she said. "It doesn't happen very often in many communities and it's a shining star for Hebron."

Hebron Board Appoints New Asst. Principal, Cuts February Vacation

by Geeta Schrayter

The local Board of Education was divided at its meeting last Thursday, March 8, on whether to appoint a new assistant principal for Hebron Elementary School.

The board voted 3-2 in favor of hiring Eric Brody for the position. Brody has been a math and science specialist at Marlborough Elementary School since 2008.

Brody was one of close to 90 applications of "highly certified and qualified individuals" that were received, Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz stated, despite the fact "we were extremely specific about the parameters the board had set" to reevaluate the position in June 2013 and possibly restructure the administration, she said.

Board members Dominic Marino and Amy Lynch-Gracias voted against the appointment. At previous meetings, both had stated they would rather a new assistant principal not be hired and the position be eliminated to cut costs in light of enrollment projections. (The school's previous assistant principal, Amy Campbell, was promoted to principal of the school in January, when Kevin Hanlon departed.)

"Right out front, I advocate basically not having this position, and it's no disrespect to you because I see you're highly qualified," Marino said to Brody, adding he wanted to make sure Brody was aware the position was for 15 months.

Due to declining enrollment, the board decided to reevaluate the school's administrative structure in June 2013 – meaning the decision could potentially be made to remove the assistant principal position. However, Cruz emphasized that outcome wasn't set in stone.

"What we agreed to is that we would reevaluate the whole, entire administrative structure –

so other things may change," she said, adding "that's why we agreed to an endpoint of June 2013, so we would have the opportunity, along with the board, to come up with a structure that would meet the needs of the district in light of declining enrollment."

She went on to say, "I don't want to make any assumptions to say one of these administrative positions will go – it could be an entirely different conversation and discussion. So I don't want to limit the opportunity [for the board] to be creative and think outside of the box" for solutions, she said.

Brody's official start date is April 23. A full interview with him appears elsewhere in this week's issue.

The board was decidedly more united, though, when it came to the topic of the academic calendar for the 2012-13 year. The board voted unanimously to adopt the calendar, which aligns Hebron public schools with Andover, Marlborough and RHAM.

Action on the calendar was tabled at the previous meeting, after board chair Kathy Shea mentioned she'd like community members to be made aware of the changes and why they were happening before it was approved. Members agreed unanimously.

The biggest change in the adopted calendar is the removal of February vacation, which is instead replaced by a four-day weekend.

Board member William Moorcroft noted it was "a significant change because it's eliminating February break" and member Stephanie Raymond mentioned families who ski or like to visit family in Florida during February may have an issue with the change, but added that, in general, it didn't seem to be an issue.

During public comment, Hebron resident Cheryl Lage spoke in favor of the calendar, saying she liked the idea of the shortened February break, and mentioned the fact students have Christmas vacation, a long four-day weekend in January and usually the addition of some snow days.

"The long weekend in February instead of the full week off in February is a sufficient break for the children," she said.

The start of school is slated for Aug. 27, while the last day is June 10. Make-up days due to school cancellations will begin in June. However, if nine school days have been canceled prior to March 1, make-up days will be taken from April vacation beginning April 15.

Also at the meeting, Campbell discussed recent events that had taken place at Hebron Elementary School. She mentioned that on March 1 librarian Victoria Philips invited 50 students to a pizza party lunch for taking part in The Nutmeg Book Award, which is sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, and encourages children to read a list of ten nominated titles.

Campbell also mentioned a Read Across America celebration was held on March 2 that included guest readers such as Raymond, Eric Parker from WFSB-TV Channel 3 and Father Michael S. Smith from Church of the Holy Family.

Campbell shared that at one point, a student stopped Smith to ask what he was doing at the school.

"I'm here to read," he reportedly said. "I think reading's important."

"I had a blast" reading to the students, Raymond added. "Whoever's in charge next year – make sure you invite me again."

Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi said a reading celebration was kicked off at her school on March 2. She explained students were challenged to read 8,000 books.

"And if they read 8,000 this year, I will ride into the school outside on the back of a Harley," she said, saying they would also have a celebration day, "a very 1950s sock hop-type thing." And if students read closer to 9,000 books, Veronesi said she'd take it one step further.

"In addition to riding on the back of the Harley I'm going to learn to ride a dirt bike," she said, and added, "the kids are reading like crazy already."

Veronesi also provided an update on the trip to China taking place next month. On April 12, 16 people, including three sixth-graders, three fifth-graders, four parents, four teachers and former Board of Education Chairman Mark Allaben will be visiting Beijing, China, and Hebron Public Schools' sister school Zhangqiu Shuangshan Central Primary. During their time there, the students will experience a homestay for a portion of the visit, learn about the sister school and go on excursions to tourist destinations such as the Great Wall. An informational meeting on the trip will be held Tuesday, March 20, at 6 p.m. in the Gilead Hill School library.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Gilead Hill School music room.

Meet Hebron Elementary's New Assistant Principal

by Geeta Schrayter

There were nearly 90 applicants for the position of assistant principal at Hebron Elementary School. But as it turned out, the man for the job was right in the town's backyard.

Eric Brody, who's been a math and science specialist at Marlborough Elementary School since 2008, was appointed by the Hebron Board of Education to be the new assistant principal. The position has been vacant since January, when Amy Campbell was promoted to principal of the school.

Prior to working in Marlborough, Brody oversaw math curriculum and instruction for kindergarten through eighth grade at Willington Public Schools, after moving to the state from Virginia.

Brody went to the school of education at the University of Pittsburgh, where he graduated with a degree in elementary education. He then taught in Fairfax County, VA, for nine years, during which time he started to get involved with its district math department.

"So I started doing a lot of additional work with math curriculum and textbook adoptions, and working with teachers on better math instruction and things of that nature," he said, adding, "it got me really excited about working with teachers and trying to develop just overall better teaching instruction."

Brody then decided to go for his masters, which he earned in instruction and learning from George Mason University.

In 2005, he and his wife "decided for a life change," and moved to Connecticut.

During his time at Marlborough, Brody received his administrative endorsement from Sacred Heart University, and he said within the past year, he realized it was time for another change and began looking for a different position.

"You get to a point every so many years where you're looking for something different," he said. "In my position [at Marlborough] I've had administrative responsibilities but I wasn't a full-blown administrator. So I was ready to

pursue that option. ... Now this affords me the opportunity to work as an administrator and that's very exciting to me."

"I'm absolutely thrilled with what [Brody's] going to bring to Hebron Public Schools," Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said.

"He has made such a substantial mark on the Marlborough public school system," she added, continuing, "I know that he will carry those skills and that level of expertise here to Hebron. His strong background in math and science I think will certainly enhance the experience for our students and for staff."

She went on to say, "his leadership qualities, his energy, his excitement, his love of children, his sense of fun I think will certainly be value added for our district and I'm certainly thrilled."

Brody said he became aware of the opening in Hebron shortly after it was posted. The position was advertised as potentially being for only 13 months, as the Hebron Board of Education plans to evaluate the administrative structure during the 2013-14 budget season, in light of declining enrollment. Eliminating the assistant principal position was discussed as a possible course of action, but Cruz said at the Board of Education meeting on March 8 she didn't want to make assumptions that one of the positions would go, as things could change from now until then.

"It might be the case," she said, "but it's not for certain."

Even so, Brody said he had no qualms about applying.

"I didn't have any hesitations because I knew that this was the avenue I wanted to pursue and I knew that the experience would be beneficial in the long run," he said, adding, "I was very aware of the nature of the job and how long it was going to be, but I also knew that I wanted to take the opportunity and work in Hebron with staff and students."

Transitioning from his current position to that of assistant principal, Brody said he expects his biggest challenge will stem from coming into the school two-thirds of the way in.



Eric Brody

"Trying to come in at this point, getting to know all the students and staff, getting familiar with the routine, different things they have in place like their behavioral system and other things that make school run... I think that's going to be the biggest challenge for me," he said.

As far as differences, Brody stated as an assistant principal he'd have more of a "global" impact.

As a classroom teacher, he explained, "you impact your students directly. Then as a curriculum person you impact students directly but also through your work with teachers. Now, as an administrator, you're looking at the whole school community."

As such, he added, "you're looking at students, other teachers, other administrators, parents and working with the community. ... I kind of see it as you're encompassing the entire community to make learning better for them."

Brody said he's excited to get started. "Right now I'm just looking forward to get-

ting started," he said. "Certainly we have a lot to do in Marlborough to leave things in a good place, but I'm just very excited to start my journey over there."

He added he wants to meet students and parents, and called them "the heart and soul" of the school.

Brody said he's already begun preparing for the job.

"I just went to my very first staff meeting [Tuesday] night. Amy Campbell invited me up so it was my first opportunity to meet staff," said Brody, adding they were all very receptive and made him feel welcome.

He went on to say there would be some other opportunities over the next few weeks where he'd get to meet some of the students and work with teachers.

His main goal once he begins is to have the biggest impact possible.

"That's really what I want to do, and I think the pieces are in place over at Hebron and we're all on the same page in terms of what we want to accommodate, and ultimately it's about what's best for the students," he said, adding, "during my time there that's what I want to do - I just want to make Hebron Elementary the best place for students to learn."

Chili Cook-Off

There will be a Chili Cook-Off Saturday, March 24, from 1-5 p.m., at Twin Lakes Cafe at 544 Church St.

The event is hosted by Lift Every Voice and is being organized by volunteers.

There is no entry fee, but donations are appreciated. Bowls of chili and chili dogs cost \$3.

You can also be a judge for \$5. Judges get a sample of each chili, can vote on them and then get a bowl of their favorite kind.

All proceeds will go to Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary in Bloomfield.

For more information on events or to enter chili in the cook-off, call Yvette Gregoire at 860-228-0722.

Colchester School Board Grapples with Sharp Insurance Spike

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Board of Education, faced with a \$736,904 increase in health insurance costs for the 2012-13 fiscal year, is considering possible reductions to programs - including some sports offerings - at the town's schools.

Health insurance increased from the 2011-12 fiscal year from \$3.93 million to \$4.66 million in the 2012-13 budget, which Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove said is due to skyrocketing claims.

"Colchester is self-insured, and in previous years we've had few claims," she said. "In the last four years it has saved the Board of Education \$5.6 million by being self-insured."

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin said claims in January and February showed an increase.

Board of Education Chairman Ronald Goldstein said the town is given an annual estimate of expected claims and budgeted for 90 percent of that estimate, as it usually does.

In the last several years, health insurance claims have not exceeded the 90 percent the Board of Education has budgeted for. Town Treasurer Gregg LePage said the insurance company typically adds a 10-15 percent "buffer" amount.

This year, claims exceeded Anthem's estimate by approximately \$600,000, leaving the board to make up the costs.

Without fully funding the budget, Goldstein said the board will "enter next year knowing there is a health insurance hole to fill."

"It's in a spot right now where it's not comfortable," Goldstein said. "We are eating into our reserves and we are on a path of claims that is potentially putting the reserve account that we have on our insurance in some jeopardy."

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov said it would cost \$600,000 to fully fund the insurance - and he didn't consider using the town's fund balance a viable option.

"For me, a plan to use a fund balance [to cover insurance increases] is not a plan," he said.

Tarlov said the problem doesn't meet the definition of fund balance, and even if one were used, policy calls for it to be paid back over a relatively short period of time.

"All we would be doing is taking it out and having to stretch the repayment problem," he said.

Loiselle-Goodwin presented a list, organized in four tiers, of additional proposed reductions to allocate funds toward health insurance. The Board of Education voted to approve the first tier of reductions, the board-certified behavioral analyst the district planned to add and special education contracted services, to allocate an additional \$108,673 toward health insurance.

The board left decisions for other reductions up to future meetings. The second proposed reduction tier included new library books, 0.2 French teachers at both William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy, some funds for professional development, substitute teacher coverage for field trips, and the town's school resource officer for a total of \$143,412.

The third tier included eliminating all sports at WJMS, freshman soccer, freshman basketball and indoor track at Bacon Academy, and 0.5 enrichment staff at Jack Jackter Intermediate School (the other 0.5 has already been cut) for a total of \$68,456.

The fourth and final tier of reductions included eliminating a full teacher in both grades two and three and a full physical education teacher at Bacon Academy, for a total of \$145,761. Loiselle-Goodwin said if this tier were approved, Bacon Academy would then need to change the graduation requirement policy to only require students to take two years of physical education, not three.

Additionally, class sizes would increase to 21-22 in grade two and 22-23 in grade three. Class sizes for both grades are currently at 20.

If the board were to approve all the reductions, an additional \$466,302 would be allocated to health insurance. Tarlov said there would be nothing left to cut except personnel and benefits.

With regards to the \$9,700 the Board of Education voted to ask the Board of Finance for, separate from the budget, to reinstate 0.2 math teachers at Bacon Academy, Tarlov said reallocating that money for health insurance would not make much of a dent.

"We're sensitive to the insurance side, but we understand \$9,700 is not going to solve our problem over here but may solve a big problem [in the math program]," Tarlov said.

Board of Education Vice Chairman Donald Kennedy said the proposed cuts are a fallback plan.

"I'm not advocating cutting these things before we present them at public hearing or present them for the public to vote on," he said.

Cosgrove said that in a phone conference with representatives from Anthem and Ovation Tuesday, the town weighed its options.

"They're going to take a look at the claims that we currently have and cost out where those claims are going, because you do know some of those high claimants haven't been high claimants in the past and some of them are new," she said.

Anthem and Ovation will be looking at the likelihood of individual claims going up, Cosgrove said.

Cosgrove said the number of claims has increased. In previous years, only six to eight claims pressed above \$50,000 up to stop-loss (an extra layer of protection that kicks in when claims exceed a certain amount), with only one to three each year actually hitting stop-loss. Now, the town is up to 11 claims over \$50,000, and claims in the \$25,000-50,000 range have increased from approximately 19 claims totaling around \$600,000 in a comparable 12-month

period to 25 claims totaling around \$900,000.

"So we've also asked them to take a look at the claims at that [\$25,000 to \$50,000] level so we know that if a claim is there and it was \$45,000 if that claim is done or is about to join the other 11," Cosgrove said. "We get an idea of where the existing claims are headed."

Cosgrove said Ovation has a new tool, an internal audit function, which can be directed to do a specific audit of the town's claims, and the town will be getting more information on it.

"They make sure that there's nothing in there that has been processed incorrectly because it's coded incorrectly by a doctor or it's something that snuck through that isn't one of our claims," Cosgrove said.

Loiselle-Goodwin said because the internal audit has no cost, it could not hurt. There is also an external audit option but there are fees associated with it.

Goldstein said the town will be looking at long-term solutions over the next several months to avoid this problem.

"We're looking at wellness programs to get our folks more mindful of their health, catch things early and adjust their lifestyles to be more healthy," he said.

Goldstein said the representatives on the call did not suggest the town stray from being self-insured.

"They reiterated that we have saved millions by being self-insured over the last several years and they commented that we have implemented it well," he said. "They were not at all saying that we should move to fully insured, but the down side that is being able to get through the difficult times which is right now."

"I feel strongly that we need to continue with our current program," Goldstein continued. "We have a responsibility to our employees and the community in regards to the health insurance account."

Colchester Finance Board Discusses School Staff Cuts, Class Sizes

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Finance discussed staff cuts and class sizes in the Board of Education budget and proposed money bonds for fire trucks at meetings Monday and Wednesday on the 2012-13 budget.

The Board of Education's \$37.88 million spending plan proposes cutting 12.7 positions from the schools, including 7.7 teacher positions. The eliminated teacher positions would be a combination of attritions due to retirements, teachers hired for one-year contracts and one layoff. The budget also proposes to cut five support staff.

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin said the positions were cut due to declining enrollment in the schools, and would have been cut regardless of the budget.

Loiselle said class sizes will increase at the middle school level due to the reduction of one team in eighth grade, and last year's reduction of one team in seventh grade. Grade eight class sizes will increase from 20 to 23 students and grade seven class sizes will increase from 22 to 24.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov said one of the questions he commonly receives regards the relationship between increasing class size and teacher reductions.

"The public doesn't understand that if you increase class size by 10 percent why you can't cut teachers by 10 percent," he said.

Loiselle said federal and state mandates have increased the number of credits students have to take, and the schools need certified teachers for many areas.

"We've cut one teacher for every 14 students who have left the district," she said. "We're already above the state average [class size] and it would be educationally unsound to increase more."

Colchester Public Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara Gilbert said that, with the 7.7 teacher position cuts, the school almost has cut the equivalent percentage of teacher positions for declining student enrollment, and if there is a further increase in class size and teacher eliminations, there will be too many students in grades kindergarten through five to properly individualize.

"It's no longer the same lesson for the entire classroom," she said. "It's now the same theme but taught at different levels."

Loiselle-Goodwin said the children haven't been separated into different levels at that age, such as honors classes. "The teachers are literally running," she said. "It's organized, but extremely challenging."

Loiselle-Goodwin also said the number of students in advanced placement classes have quadrupled at Bacon Academy without adding to the staff.

Colchester hosted a legislative breakfast in January to discuss how some state and federal mandates are hurting the town, Loiselle said.

Loiselle-Goodwin also presented the facility and technology expenses for the schools in the town budget. A total of \$100,000 would go toward sealing cracks in the parking lots of Bacon Academy and Jack Jackter Intermediate

School (JJES), repairing a retaining wall in the rear of JJIS, purchasing a dry cleaning carpet machine, replacing seven switches for the technology infrastructure at Bacon Academy.

The total would also include \$56,850 for phase one of a wireless network initiative, which provide a "wireless cloud" with high bandwidth services at Bacon Academy. Eventually, the initiative would provide a wireless network for all the school buildings. Loiselle said future phases of the wireless plan will have to wait until after the construction on the proposed William J. Johnston Middle School/Community Center project.

Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Walter Cox and Deputy Chief Don Lee proposed bonding \$1.6 million for three new fire apparatus Feb. 15 to replace old equipment.

Finance board members suggested deferring bonding \$400,000 for a new water supply tanker, but were on the fence over bonding \$650,000 toward a new engine tank. The fire department also proposed bonding \$475,000 to refurbish and re-chassis a rescue module.

Board members agreed the engine tank needs replacement, but asked about less-expensive options.

Lee said the \$650,000 may be a high estimate, and said the fire department could probably get the truck for \$633,000.

Cox and Lee both said they would rather defer the bonding rather than purchase a lesser piece of equipment, as it would be in use for

the next 20 to 25 years.

"We'd be deviating away from what we feel is the best technology," Cox said.

"What we do with this truck is bring forth new technologies to protect and save the people of Colchester and better protect the firefighters and manage the risks associated with us doing our job," Lee said. "The lack of doing that is very shortsighted."

Lee said the new truck would enhance firefighters' safety during fire calls, reducing the heat from 1,100 degrees to 270 degrees in 30 seconds.

"I'm asking a human body to crawl through that and continue to try to search out victims," he said. "I don't know how I can consciously tell my guys we have the technology, but the town chose not to support that technology to give you the best protection."

Other proposed bonding expenditures in the 2012-2013 budget include \$3.27 million for road work and \$825,000 for open spaces.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster explained the budget's allocation of \$10,000 in grant money to Collaborative for Colchester's Children, a group providing services and support to Colchester children under age eight and their families.

Schuster said the town will match every dollar raised by the organization, up to \$10,000, as initiative for them to raise money.

The Board of Finance will hold its next meeting Wednesday, March 21, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Colchester Police Receive Raises

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

As a result of reductions in health insurance and pensions, the police union's new four-year contract will raise employees' pay each year through 2014.

The raise is retroactive to July 1, 2011, and includes a total of four increases to employees' base rate pay through July 1, 2014.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the employees will receive the pay for the 2 percent increase retroactive to last July in one lump sum.

The increases in contract will be implemented on July 1 of each year. This year, base rates will increase by an additional three percent. In 2013 the base rates will increase another three percent and in 2014 another 2.5 percent.

Schuster said average union contract pay increases vary in town, but typically employees see a 2 to 2.5 percent increase per year. Some, such as Public Works, with a 0.33 percent increase for the next three years, were on the lower end. Schuster said few exceeded it.

"It's tough comparing the salary of one group to the salary of another," he said. "They're all contributing different things. The unions are

giving up some things."

Schuster said the police union has eliminated pension plans for new hires and moved to a less expensive health care plan. The reductions offset the costs of the pay raises.

The contract also lists "step increases" for hourly pay raises based on longevity. For police officers, the steps increase each year through the first six years of employment then again after 10 years.

The contract stated "all employees not at the top step of their salary schedule [greater than 10 years of employment] shall advance one step on the salary schedule effective July 1 of each contract year with the first step increase applied retroactive to July 1, 2011."

Police officers hired before Jan. 1 would see the step increase retroactive to July 2011. Employees hired after Jan. 1 will see the step increase this July. The step increase is not applicable to the police sergeant.

Employees would also be evaluated in the first week of May and November of each year by their supervisor. "An overall unsatisfactory service rating in May will deny an employee his/her next annual step increase in July," the

contract stated. "If the unsatisfactory service rating in May is followed by an overall satisfactory service rating in November, the employee will be eligible for his/her annual step increase at that time."

* * *

At a meeting Monday, the Board of Finance also discussed salary changes for town employees in the proposed 2012-13 fiscal year budget.

In a discussion regarding salary increases for town employees Monday, the Board of Finance chose not to add any pay increases for elected officials to the town budget. Elected officials include the first selectman, town clerk, tax collector and town registrars.

Schuster said he, the town clerk, tax collector and treasurer each received a 2.5 percent increase in the 2011-12 fiscal year budget.

Registrars received a 10 percent salary adjustment in last year's budget. "They're really underpaid for the work that they do," Schuster said.

Board of Finance Vice Chairman Robert Esteve said he thought the board should "hold the line at zero" percent raise increases this year.

Schuster said elected officials saw no in-

creases in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years.

"Last year pretty much everyone got a 2.5 percent merit increase, a couple people, maybe two or three, got 3 percent and one individual got 5 percent," he said.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov said the merit pool is a relatively small amount of the overall budget.

"The middle point is 2.75 percent. The upper limit seems a little high in these times," he said.

Board member Thomas Kane said he thought the town should administer pay increases based on merit, to allow for the possibility of rewarding employees who do their job well with pay bonuses.

Kane also said the board should compare employee pay in Colchester to that of similar towns. "I only have data for town clerks in Hebron and Marlborough, both of which are much smaller than us, but if you assess what we're paying compared to other towns it's the same," he said.

Esteve asked the board to develop a more regimented process to discuss salary increases for next year's budget.

Colchester School Board to Let Bacon Students Use Cell Phones

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Education voted to approve a new policy Tuesday, allowing students at Bacon Academy to use electronic communication devices in common areas and for educational purposes in study halls and the library.

The board also voted to approve a new curriculum in Bacon Academy's business department and six field trip requests throughout the district.

The policy applies to portable electronic communication devices including cell phones, smart phones, laptops, e-readers and tablets. The updated policy would allow students to use their gadgets during lunch and between classes in the hallways, lobby and cafeteria. In the library and media center, students can use their electronics, silently, for educational or instructional purposes.

Students must keep their electronic devices off in the classroom with the exception of classroom instructional activities initiated by a teacher. Students at the elementary, intermediate and middle schools must keep all electronic devices off and in lockers during school hours, unless instructed by a teacher for classroom activities.

The policy outlined improper uses of the

technology, including photographing individuals without prior consent, images depicting obscenity or nudity, harassment or bullying, blackmail, threats and intimidation, and any actions prohibited by student handbooks or state or federal law.

The board voted to modify the policy's wording regarding threats, blackmail or intimidation of school staff or students to add "regardless of intent, including but not limited to jokes."

* * *

Also at the meeting, Bacon Academy business teachers Beverlee Johnson and Louise Wessling presented the school's business curriculum for the 2012-13 school year.

Changes included the addition of Microsoft Office I and II courses as well as a creative design using technology course, which will teach web design, desktop publishing and multimedia/emerging technologies. The new courses will be funded by state grants.

The full business program is comprised of 11 courses. Johnson said students who complete the program are able to communicate and use technology effectively, practice teamwork and leadership skills, understand business and economics and are given the opportunity to earn

college credits from Three Rivers Community College while exploring and developing potential career paths.

* * *

The board approved six field trips Tuesday, including one overseas. A group of 18-24 Bacon Academy students was given the approval for a 10-day trip to England and Ireland in April. The trip, organized by teacher Charles Hewes, aims to teach students about geography and western civilizations through activities such as a London scavenger hunt.

Other approved trips included trips to Six Flags New England for Bacon Academy's physics classes and math team as well as another trip to Six Flags for the Class of 2014. Bacon Academy's science elective and biology courses will take a trip to the New England Aquarium in Boston, and Bacon Academy's Middle East studies course will visit several locations throughout the state for a "Middle East extravaganza." William J. Johnston Middle School's grade six students will visit The Museum of Science in Boston.

As a result of a proposed list of possible reductions presented to the board to fund health insurance claims, Board of Education Chair-

man Ronald Goldstein mentioned field trips might be affected if the second of the four reduction tiers was passed. The tier includes eliminating \$10,889 budgeted for substitute teacher coverage for field trips.

Goldstein said although the board approved the field trips, members have the right to revoke and cancel certain trips if substitute teacher coverage was required, regardless of lost costs to parents. The only trip held on a weekend, aside from the 10-day Europe trip, is the Bacon Academy Class of 2014 Six Flags trip.

* * *

The board approved the disposal of 61 computers eight years or older that no longer function.

The board also honored Jack Jackter Intermediate School fifth-graders who participated in a statewide Martin Luther King Jr. poster contest at the University of Connecticut. Winners Xaryia Melendez and Maile Blumberger displayed their prize-winning poster while accepting certificates of achievement from the board.

The Board of Education's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m., at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

Colchester Police Commission Seeking Overnight Trooper

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Colchester Police Commission made a presentation to the Board of Finance Wednesday, asking for a third-shift resident state trooper to cover the town overnight.

Currently, the proposed town operations budget for 2012-13 includes \$85,000 for the addition of the trooper. However, the Board of Finance's desire to have a lower town operations budget increase mixed with residents' opposition means the position might be eliminated.

The current town operations spending package is just over \$10.2 million, approximately a \$175,000 increase from the 2011-12 fiscal year. Eliminating the funding for the trooper would bring the increase from 1.75 percent to around or below 1 percent. First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the Board of Finance was aiming for the town operations budget to come in at no greater than 1 percent.

The town created a survey for residents to weigh-in on proposed expenditures around the time of the budget forum. Schuster said the results from residents who took the survey were overwhelming against adding the third-shift trooper.

"There's not a lot of support out there," he said.

Approximately 50 percent of people who took the survey said there is no need for third-shift coverage, 25 percent said there is need and the remainder said there is a need, but it should not be in the budget this year.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov said the 50/50 results are probably a result of hearsay. "If you've had personal experiences or heard [of the crimes in town], you need it. If not, you don't," he said.

Resident State Trooper Supervisor Marc Petruzzi said there is a clear need for third-shift coverage in town, and the public knows when the officers finish their shifts.

"There are people out there who are waiting for my officers to end their day," he said. (Colchester is never left completely without police coverage, but lacking a local third-shift trooper creates the risk that the nearest police could be several towns away when an incident occurs, as the overnight patrol officer from Troop K covers three towns.)

Petruzzi said recent vandalism, arsons and copper thefts also solidify the need for the additional trooper.

Resident Paul Picard, a member of the Colchester Lions Club, whose trailer was vandalized last summer, spoke in support of third-

shift coverage.

"It's the time where the kids have fun, especially if they know at 12 o'clock nobody's on," he said.

Police Commission member Steve Petty said 2011 statistics showed there were 2,664 calls for assistance in Colchester, 1,403 of those calls occurred between midnight and 4 a.m. and 1,261 between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. "There's a tremendous amount of activity going on in Colchester," he said. "It kind of surprises you when you actually see these numbers."

Petty said the Colchester Police Task Force established a report in 2002 to move the town toward 24-hour coverage.

"Within that report there are recommendations from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association that Colchester was in a position that should be going into 24/7 coverage, and the Law Enforcement Council as well," he said.

In a public budget forum Feb. 6, Schuster told residents the level of activity and the population increases in Colchester warranted the need for an additional officer.

The town would actually require the addition of two officers to provide complete 24-hour coverage, as one third-shift officer would work five days then have three days off. So, the town

would have local 24-hour police coverage for five of every eight days.

Petruzzi said the addition of a local third-shift trooper would not cause the overnight patrol officer from Troop K to provide less coverage to Colchester, but knowing there is a police presence in town would allow that officer to spend more time on Route 2.

Petruzzi said, contractually, two officers must be scheduled per shift, but the additional resident trooper would be scheduled to work alone.

Police Commission Chairman Robert Parlee said the town has a plan, which will take place over the next five to six years, to add officers to the Colchester Police Department. He said the goal is to obtain 24-hour local police coverage every day.

Parlee said even if the Board of Finance does not approve the addition of the third-shift officer, the commission has a plan to add troopers to the Colchester Police Department within the next five to six years to move toward 24-hour coverage.

Board of Finance members opted to postpone any action on the third-shift trooper Wednesday. The board will hold its next meeting Wednesday, March 21, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Colchester

Robert Archer Turner

Robert Archer Turner, 89, of Colchester, entered into eternal life Sunday, March 11. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Dorothy (Kuldell) in 2010. They were married June 7, 1947, in Washington, DC.

Born May 5, 1922, in Baltimore MD, he was the son of Robert B. and Pauline (Ritter) Turner. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Marines, achieving the rank of captain after fighting in three major campaigns in the South Pacific, including the Battle of Guadalcanal.

After receiving a degree in industrial engineering in 1949 from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, he moved to Connecticut where he raised his nine children and managed two printing plants for Amstar Corp in Versailles, CT. While there, he led a capital improvement program that increased manufacturing operations by about 50 percent, creating many new jobs in the Norwich area at a time when many companies were moving south.

Bob was a daily communicant at various Catholic churches, especially Sacred Heart in Taftville, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich, most recently St. Andrew's in Colchester and My Father's House in Moodus. He was an active member of the Legion of Mary since 1970, serving several times as both praesidium and curia presidents. His active work included the visitation of the hospitalized, shut-ins, and nursing homes, and promotion of the family rosary. He spent considerable time encouraging and assisting parish pastors in establishing new Legion of Mary groups.

A cherished father and grandfather, Bob is survived by sons, Robert Turner and wife, Ellen, of Columbia, Richard Turner and wife, Christine, of Brooklyn, John Turner and wife, Carmella, of Hanover, and Michael Turner of Norwich; daughters, Deborah Smith of Coventry, Sr. Margaret Mary (Barbara) of Saginaw, MI, Pauline Lucci Lisbon and Richard Lucci of Baltic, Mary Harrington and husband John of Madison, and Kristine Turner of Colchester; 32 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by a grandson, Elias Turner.

He also leaves his brother, Peter Turner of North Carolina, and two sisters, Cornelia Loftus of North Carolina, and Jeanne Lupton of Virginia, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were Wednesday, March 13, at the Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B St., in Taftville. A Mass celebrating his life was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Norwich on Thursday, March 14. Burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made on the website priestsforlife.org or to Priests for Life, PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Colchester

Richard Stuart Savage

Richard Stuart Savage, 83, of Colchester, beloved husband of Joan, died Wednesday, March 14, at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester. He was born in Three Oaks, MI. He was the last surviving of the nine children of the late Earl and Ruth (Votaw) Savage.

Richard was a graduate of Western Michigan University and had a long career in the Michigan public schools as a math and science teacher, a guidance counselor and a basketball coach. Ballroom dancing and bridge were his favorite activities. Best of all, his grandchildren gave him great pleasure as they grew from babies to teenagers.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by two sons and their spouses, David and Diane of Amston, Robert and Joan of Rockford, MI; four grandchildren, Alex, Jake, Katie and Andrew Savage; and numerous extended family member and friends.

He was predeceased by brothers Earl, Neal, James and David Savage, and sisters Beverly Frick, Jackie Witt, Roberta Burgess and Judy Nelson.

A memorial service will be held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron, today, March 16, at 11 a.m.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences and remembrances, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Obituaries

Colchester

Helen Fedus

Helen Fedus, 91, wife of the late Leo Fedus, formerly of Colchester and Mystic, passed away Friday, March 9, at the Bride Brok Health Care Center in Niantic.

She was born Dec. 7, 1920, in New York City, and was married to Leo Fedus Feb. 6, 1937. Together they formed the successful and well-known construction company of Leo Fedus and Sons of Colchester. Upon retirement, they settled in Cape Coral, FL, for many enjoyable years.

Surviving are her two sons, Theodore and his wife Dolores (Sableski) Fedus and their children Cynthia Hardy, Karen Fiedorowicz and Gregg Fedus; Michael Fedus, his wife Anne (Machowski) Fedus and their children Tamara ward and Tracey McCartney; also, nine loving great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Annie Hardy, Julia and Ryan Ward, Jennifer, Abby and Sophia Fedus, Jack and Katherine McCartney; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her late husband Leo, she was predeceased by a sister, Stella Chapman.

Funeral service was held Monday, March 12, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Burial to follow in New St. Andrew's Cemetery. Visitation was held one hour prior to her service.

Helen's family would like to thank the staffs of Bride Brook and Beacon Hospice for the wonderful care and concern that was given to her.

Colchester

Eugene F. Reynolds

Eugene F. Reynolds, "Bubba," 54, of Colchester and formerly of Glastonbury, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, March 8, at home. Born July 30, 1957 in Hartford, he was a son of the late Eugene Weston and Carol Ann (Kosky) Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds was a foreman for a municipal street sweeping company. Prior to that, he had worked for many years as a mason and brickman.

Bubba was an avid motorcyclist, whose motto was "Life begins when you ride in the wind," he enjoyed NASCAR but most importantly, he will be remembered by his family for the devotion he showed to them and for the friend he was to others.

He is survived by two sons, Jesse and his wife, Christine of Newburgh, NY, and Taylor Reynolds of Colchester; stepchildren, Steven Cabral of Florida and Angela Cabral of West Virginia; six grandchildren, Dominic, David, Vincent, Jessica, Adam and Anna; two sisters, Charlene Boulanger and husband Michel of Tolland and Kathie Harris of Windsor; two brothers, Gregory of Georgia and Harry of Michigan; former mother-in-law, Elizabeth Calano; brother-in-law, Michael Salewych; close friends, Sherri Privitera and Kevin Lohmann of Southington, Charles Horlik of Colchester, Scott Martingano of Scotland, CT, and David Laforestand; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Wednesday, March 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A celebration of life was held Thursday, March 15, at Maple Grove, 100 Franklin St., Vernon. Food was provided. Burial was private.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Irene Wolfensberger

Irene Wolfensberger, 101, of Colchester, passed away Friday, March 8. She was born in Nashua, NH, on Dec. 8, 1910, the daughter of the late Narcisse and Evangeline (Caya) Lawrence.

Irene was united in marriage to the late John "Fritz" Wolfensberger Nov. 22, 1949 in Chicago, IL. He predeceased her April 8, 2010.

Irene was raised in Willimantic and spent many years employed at American Thread and also worked at many restaurants as a waitress. After marrying, she spent over 50 years living in Bozrah with her husband. She enjoyed gardening, yard sales and taking long walks.

She is survived by one sister-in-law, Ruth and Robert Bosworth of Lebanon; one niece, Elaine Criscuolo of Oxford; and three nephews, George Maynard of Westerly, RI, Bob Bosworth of Lebanon and George Hovey of Willimantic.

Irene was predeceased by her sister, Alice Filteau of Willimantic.

The Woyasz & Son Funeral Home is in charge of private arrangements.

Hebron

William H. Porter

William (Bill) H. Porter, 76, of Hebron and Lebanon passed away at home after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born Oct. 8, 1935, in Hebron, he was the son of the late Herbert & Mildred Porter of Hebron.

Bill was a graduate of Windham High School. During his lifetime he worked for the State of Connecticut, Pratt & Whitney, Yankee Milk and for the last 35 years farmed the fields and drove a truck for Williams Farm in Lebanon.

In his spare time he loved to go to tractor shows, yard sales and growing his vegetable garden to share with friends and family. He loved to brag about and share photos and stories about the happenings and accomplishments of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to his good friend Claire Hand of Columbia, he is survived by a sister, Janet Berry and husband Don of Killingworth; four children, Lucinda McCue and husband Bruce of Wethersfield, Clifford Porter and wife Sherri of Colchester, Sue Coston of Walton, NY, Heidi Marvin and husband Tim of Colchester; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren; many extended family members and friends; and his devoted kitty, Frisky.

He is predeceased by his brother Kenneth Porter, niece and nephew Roxanne and Robert Berry and grandson Daniel Richards Jr.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to Shirley, Janet, Kayten and Steve, his devoted caregivers as well as Hospice of S.E. Connecticut for their love and compassionate care of Bill.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Connecticut Community Care Development Office, 43 Enterprise Dr., Bristol, CT 06010, and Lebanon Food Cupboard c/o Social Services, 579 Exeter Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249.

Bill's family received relatives and friends Thursday, March 15, at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home 167 Old Hartford Road Colchester. A celebration of his life was observed that evening. Burial will be private in the New Lebanon Cemetery.

For directions, online condolences or to share a memory, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Edmond Alfred Fontaine

Edmond Alfred Fontaine, 83, of Colchester, beloved husband of Jacqueline (DeConinck) Fontaine, passed away Monday morning, March 12, at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester. Born Jan. 8, 1929, in Jewett City, he was a son of the late Edmond and Caroline (Kusek) Fontaine Sr.

He served proudly with the Army during the Korean War and was a member and past commander of the Norwich VFW Hourigan Post 594. Mr. Fontaine had worked as a route salesman for Consolidated Laundries for many years before his retirement.

In addition to his loving wife of 36 years, he is survived by three children, Lynn Burlotte and her husband Norman of Lisbon, and Glenn and Bruce Fontaine, both of Norwich; a stepdaughter, Laura and her husband Gordon Pendexter of Colchester; several grandchildren; a brother, Edward of Groton; a sister, Shirley Phillips of Crawfordville, FL; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The memorial liturgy will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 17, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal with full military honors will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. There are no calling hours.

Donations in his memory may be made to VITAS Hospice, 628 Hebron Ave., Building 2, Suite 300, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or Colchester Food Bank, payable to Town of Colchester, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Robert Kenneth Roulx

Robert Kenneth Roulx, 28, of Fairfield, formerly of Portland, husband of Ashley (Shum) Roulx, passed away Thursday, March 8. Born April 18, 1983, in Hartford, he was the son of Mary Valencia of Portland and Kenneth R. Roulx Jr.

He was a graduate of Portland High School and was a U.S. Army veteran, having served for six years. He was in the 2-4 of the 10th Mountain Division having served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He received numerous Army commendation medals during his service.

Besides his wife and parents, he leaves a brother, Thomas M. Roulx of Portland; his maternal grandmother, Margaret P.V. Lassen of Cromwell; paternal grandparents, Doris C. and Kenneth R. Roulx Sr of Granby, formerly of Middletown; and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his grandfather, Robert P. Valencia and by an uncle, Thomas M. Valencia.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 14, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 17. Relatives and friends called Tuesday, March 13, at the funeral home, and Wednesday, March 14, before the service.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Rd., Ste. 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

East Hampton

Evelyne Oliveria

Evelyne (Pelletier) Oliveria, 88, of East Hampton, wife of the late Joseph Oliveira, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 8, with her devoted family by her bedside. She was born May 27, 1923, in Fall River, MA, and was the daughter of the late Jean and Evelyne (Dube) Pelletier. She was employed by Pratt & Whitney, retiring many years ago.

Evelyne enjoyed going to the casino, playing the slots, having dinner and going to the shows. She never missed any family gathering or her great-grandchildren's sporting events and school activities. She will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Evelyn Teixeira, of East Hampton, with whom she made her home for the past 19 years, and a son, Clifford Oliveira and wife Betty, of Amsted; grandchildren, Michelle Elliott and husband Doug, of Wethersfield and Melissa Oliveria and husband Alex Pukinskis, of Boulder, CO; great-grandchildren, Danielle and Craig Elliott and Nicholas and Courtney Teixeira, as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son-in-law, Mike Teixeira and a grandson, Michael Teixeira.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, March 17, at 11 a.m., at St. Pius Church, 310 Westfield St., Middletown. There will not be any calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Evelyne's memory may be made to her daughter, Evelyn Teixeira.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel. For online expressions of sympathy, visit desopo.com.

Colchester

Stanley Wierbicki

Stanley Wierbicki, 88, of Colchester and formerly of Hartford, beloved husband of Anna, passed away Tuesday, March 13, at the Windham Community Memorial Hospital in Willimantic.

Born Oct. 10, 1923, in New Britain, he was the last surviving of the children of the late Nikodym and Emilia (Polakowska) Wierbicki.

Mr. Wierbicki served proudly in the Navy during WWII on the USS Texas. He went on to work as a tinsmith for near 50 years before his retirement.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Suzanne Stanton

Suzanne (Warner) Stanton, 44, of East Hampton, peacefully ascended into the arms of her Lord Jesus Christ Monday, March 12, while surrounded by her adoring family and friends.

She was born April 19, 1967, in Hartford, the daughter of Carol Boucher Warner and the late Raymond G.

Warner of South Windsor. An exceptional athlete and student, Suzanne attended Eastern Connecticut State University where, among her other accomplishments, she was a member of two national championship softball teams. As well, Suzanne was a two-time recipient of the Golden Glove Award and was also honored with the Coaches' Award in 1988. She was the essence of a team player, a true warrior; driven yet always selfless, and humble – traits which she carried throughout her life.

After graduating from Eastern in 1990, she began a career working as a business analyst in the insurance industry at Cigna and later at ING Financial Services where she established life-long friendships with cherished co-workers. She met her loving husband Paul of Niantic in 1995 and together they enjoyed many adventures traveling across the United States before marrying and eventually settling in East Hampton to raise their family.

Suzanne was an active parishioner at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, where she was well known for her kind and giving spirit. Always cognizant of the importance of faith formation in young children, she served as a CCD teacher for many years. She also started Little Angels, a daycare program during Sunday Mass, and served as a CYO basketball board member.

A wonderful, devoted mother and wife, Suzanne took great pride in her family and enjoyed the love and laughter she shared with them daily. She was fond of country and Christian music and was a fixture at her children's school and sporting events. Suzanne lived her life as a faithful disciple, radiating the light of Christ wherever she went. She was generous, caring, and gracious throughout her brave journey. She had a very special way of making every person she encountered feel special and enveloped us all with God's unconditional love. Pray, Hope, Don't Worry became her mantra, showing concern for others until the very end. She was truly an inspiration to us all.

Suzanne is survived by her husband and their three young children, Chad, Jodi and Brett, all of East Hampton; her brothers, Raymond Warner and his wife Kim of South Windsor, Stephen Warner and his wife Simone of East Windsor and Michael Warner of South Windsor; and her sisters, Michelle Palmer and her husband Frank of Bristol, Renee Trczinski and her husband Jim of Suffield, Sherri Miarecki and her husband Michael of Enfield and Dianne Grimaldi and her husband Nicholas of South Windsor; as well as many nieces, nephews and other extended family, friends, cherished neighbors and her dog, Sunshine.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, March 17, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, tonight, March 16, from 4-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the Astra Zeneca Hope Lodge in Boston at 125 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130 or at christopher.thomas@cancer.org.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

