

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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And They're Off!... Members of Christ Lutheran Church in Hebron hosted the Connecticut Valley Siberian Husky Sled Dog Club at the Maple Fest last month. The club educated people about the dogs and performed demonstrations of their skills. The church also sold maple cookies and apple cider to support the Youth Group's upcoming trip to the LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX, in the summer of 2013.

Belldown Native Wins NY Emmy

by Joshua Anusewicz

When Mark Sudol graduated from East Hampton High School in 1984 – second in his class, no less – he wasn't quite sure what he wanted to do with his life. He could go into the same profession as his father, a civil engineer at Pratt and Whitney. He thought about being a pharmacist. He also thought about being in television.

"Everyone said, 'if you pursue a job in the media, you won't make much money, you'll have weird hours,'" Sudol said.

But that didn't deter him from pursuing that dream, and it all seems to have worked out just fine. Just recently, Sudol, who is now a sports anchor and reporter for News 12 Connecticut in Norwalk, was awarded with a New York Emmy Award by The New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

"It's really amazing," Sudol said of the distinction, admitting that he "almost didn't know what to do" when the award was announced. "I'm very proud to have reached an accomplishment like this."

It's hard to believe any of this would have happened, considering Sudol originally chose to study engineering at the University of Connecticut.

"I hated it," he said plainly.

At that time, Sudol said his aunt, an employee at the school, suggested he try out work-

ing for the radio station in his sophomore year. "I loved it," he said with a laugh. "I could do anything I wanted." Sudol said he hosted shows about music, news and sports, even getting a shot to travel with the men's basketball team to broadcast its games.

Having sparked his interest in the media once again, Sudol set out to "develop [his] own major," as UConn did not have a true broadcast journalism program at the time. It started with an internship at WFSB-TV Channel 3, which eventually turned into a co-op job as the floor director for newscasts. He also helped out at the radio station WILI in Willimantic, covering Red Sox, Celtics and Hartford Whalers games.

Despite the extra workload, Sudol "had the best grades [he] ever got," he said, laughing.

After graduating from UConn, Sudol got a job as the sports producer at Channel 3, where he began to realize he wanted to be an on-air talent. He took some time off from the media business, and then began sending out reels of his broadcasts to stations throughout the country, hoping that one would bite.

Finally, one did. Location: Kirksville, MO. Don't worry, he hadn't heard of it, either.

But because he wanted to get into the field, he took the job, a part-time position as an anchor on the weekends. Shortly after it moved

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Colchester Professor Wins National Grant

By Katelyn Kelleher

A Colchester resident is looking millions of years into the past to study historic global climate change and its effect on the future.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Connecticut College Charles and Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies Program Director Peter Siver \$379,756 through January 2015 to lead a team of researchers on the project. The group, which includes students from Connecticut College, will analyze fossils in sediment from an ancient lake in the Canadian Northwest Territories in order to reconstruct historical climate conditions.

The sediment was collected from a private company assessing the area's potential for diamond mining.

"When they pulled [the core] up they were just tossing it out originally," Siver said. "[A colleague] observing saw all this stuff come up and said 'wait a minute, that's packed with fossils.'"

Siver determined the nearly 300 meters of drilled cores he acquired dated back 60 million years. The samples are currently under analysis by Siver and his team at Connecticut College.

Siver specializes in limnology, the study of lakes, and is an expert on two groups of micro-

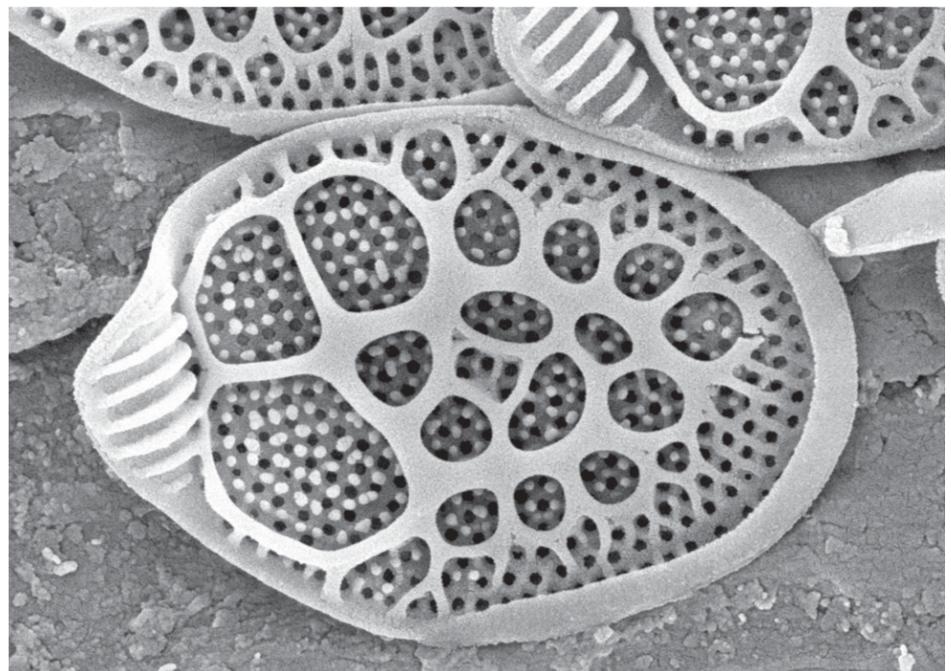
scopic algae, diatoms and chrysophytes, both of which live in fresh water sources. Chrysophytes, as Siver explained, make a cell wall out of silica (glass). "The cell walls are extremely ornate and have spectacular patterns associated with them," he said. "Every species kind of makes a different pattern so when the organism dies, the pieces of glass can accumulate in the bottom of the lake and, if you're lucky, they can last. We have samples from 50 to 65 million years ago and the structures are still there."

By analyzing the evolutionary history of the organisms, Siver can determine changes in the water body, including temperature and acid content change. "We can determine what were the conditions of the lakes just before the Europeans settled and how have we changed the condition of the lake," he said.

Although the NSF awarded the grant for the next three years, Siver estimated the study will take him and his team at least four. The work is time-consuming. Siver examines the sediment in samples of just a centimeter or so at a time.

"In [a 12-hour workday] I might get two samples done," he said, although as he gets further into the project it moves a little faster because he can rule out what he has already identified. "It's tedious, but the other side of it is it's loaded with fossils so you're finding some-

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Connecticut College professor Peter Siver is leading a study on ancient arctic lake fossils and global climate change funded by the National Science Foundation. Climate changes may be patterned by studying fossil samples of chrysophytes, microscopic algae that accumulate in the bottom of fresh water bodies.



Connecticut College professor Peter Siver was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct a study on ancient sediment and climate change patterns.

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thing new all the time.”

The research has already unveiled information that Siver and his team can use to study global climate change. “One of the things we know now is, originally we thought it was a lake and then it got shallower and shallower, but in the beginning stages it wasn’t like that,” he said. “It was a deep crater and it was just a shallow water body in the bottom. Then it filled with water and became shallow again. The question is, why didn’t it fill to begin with?”

Siver had a possible explanation for it. “It was probably a warm area and it probably was internal, in terms of inside the continent, so it was probably drier and it probably resulted in that [shallow] depth of a lake and then as we go forward in time, we go quite a few hundreds of thousands of years, did all of a sudden the climate change where we had significantly more rainfall?”

If a change in the climate turns out to be responsible, Siver said, “that’s going to be kind of interesting. It may be related to a change in the wind pattern, for example.”

Siver studies the fossils to determine the conditions in which they lived. “With certain microfossils (organic remains large enough to be viewed without a microscope), it has to be a certain temperature for them to reproduce,” he said.

He added the research has shown the temperature became much warmer at one point and lasted for many years. “It makes you think about the human race if we last millions of years,” Siver said. “We better be ready for much warmer periods.”

“The lakes we’re looking at and the temperatures we’re estimating so far are very close to what we’re estimating for 100 years from now,”

Siver said.

Siver said the research team has come across a group of sponges in the sediment that are found in much warmer climates today, including one only found in tropical Africa and others that no longer exist. “From a geologic point of view it’s interesting that there are sponges [in the sediment] that are from all around,” he said. “[Sponges from Africa and other tropical climates] are all found in an arctic lake in Canada.”

For now, the main part of the project is keeping inventory of the fossils found.

Siver expects his research will add to the nearly 100 new species he has contributed to science. “It became clear 20 years ago that if I’m going to be able to use these organisms to reconstruct these environmental conditions then I need to have a good handle on what these organisms are,” he said. “I got to a point where I realized these are new.”

Siver recently published his second in a series of four books on his findings, although it took several years longer than he expected as new discoveries and corrections prolonged the writing process.

“To proof the 900-page volume that came took me like a month,” he said. “It’s the little things. We’ll have the index right and then at the end if a reviewer came back and said ‘I want that sentence changed,’ it could be that your entire index is wrong. It’s just harder than you think I guess.”

Siver’s third book will focus on the Arctic Circle and the fourth will focus on the Atlantic coastal plain, the area from New York City to Florida that didn’t get glaciated. He expects to complete the books within the next few years.

Arrigoni Project Moves to Final Stage in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

If you have plans to travel over the Arrigoni Bridge this weekend, prepare for a new traffic pattern, as the final stage of the construction project revamp the bridge began earlier this week.

On Wednesday night, the state Department of Transportation closed the two westbound lanes on the bridge – the lanes that carry traffic from Portland to Middletown – as well as the sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. Traffic has now been shifted to one lane in each direction on the portions of the bridge that have been completed. The two lanes are not separated by a barrier.

Also, for the first time since the bridge project began, the newly-completed sidewalk on the south side of the bridge is now open for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Motorists saw some delays on Wednesday night into Thursday morning, but Lt. Ron

Milardo said Thursday that, with many schools out for spring vacation this week, the traffic “was not extremely heavy.”

“It went pretty smoothly,” Milardo said of the lane shift. “It should take a few days for everyone to get used to it and hopefully by next week, traffic will be moving smoothly.”

The lane shift is the third and final stage of the renovation project, which will repair and replace the entire of span of the bridge. The project, which began last summer, is expected to be complete by November. The \$16.94 million project is totally funded by the state and is being constructed by the Middlesex Corporation of Littleton, MA.

The bridge was built in 1938 and has remained mostly intact since its construction. In 2009, the state’s Department of Transportation rated the bridge a three out of 10.

Belltown Native cont. from Front Page

to full-time – and he was making roughly \$10,000 a year – Sudol moved to Vermont to take a position as a sports reporter, where he was awarded Vermont Sportscaster of the Year in 1998. He then moved on to Plattsburgh, NY, where he was the lead sports anchor for 10 years.

“I always wanted to come back to Connecticut, though,” Sudol said about his long journey. And after a couple of contract hold-ups and some freelance work to bridge the gaps, Sudol started at News 12 Connecticut in February of 2009, covering local and high school sports, which he says is his preference. The station, which is owned by Cablevision, also gets to work closely with MSG Varsity, which covers high schools sports throughout the greater New York City area, giving him more exposure.

That exposure earned him an Emmy nomination last year, before finally winning this year, along with his crew of Matthew Cyr and Dan Wills, in the Sports: Single Story category. The award was for a feature called *Notorious*, a story on one-armed mixed martial arts fighter “Notorious” Nick Newell of Monroe. After graduating from Law High School in Milford, Newell started competing at the amateur level before turning pro, where he has posted an undefeated record.

The word of Sudol’s accomplishment has spread back to his hometown, where many of his family members and friends still live. He said he has received “well-wishes and support” from them through the mail and over the phone or Facebook over the past month, congratulating him on the honor.

The outpouring of support touched Sudol, who looked back fondly on his upbringing in East Hampton.



East Hampton native and News 12 Connecticut sportscaster Mark Sudol recently earned a New York Emmy Award for his feature on a one-armed MMA fighter.

“I knew at an early age how special East Hampton was,” he said. “The people in town were and still are so supportive of everything you do.”

And with that kind of support, the Emmy is just the icing on the cake.



The East Hampton Police are looking for this individual, who is currently a suspect in an attempted theft at Belltown Super Shine carwash. The incident occurred on Sunday, March 25.

Police Seek Suspect in East Hampton Attempted Theft

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police are currently investigating an attempted theft of an automated cashier machine reported at Belltown Super Shine carwash on West High Street (Route 66).

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, the incident occurred just after 9 p.m. on Sunday, March 25. Surveillance footage from the carwash showed a white male wearing a dark-colored hoodie with the hood up, jeans and boots. Kelly said the suspect walked from the south side of the carwash toward the area where the damage occurred.

Police were not able to identify the suspect, Kelly said, because the individual was wearing a surgical mask over his mouth and nose, as well as white socks over his hands. The suspect was also carrying “at least two pry bars” with him at the time, Kelly said.

The suspect was unable to steal the machine or any of the money inside, but still caused approximately \$8,000 in damage.

East Hampton Police have asked anyone with information on this matter to contact Officer David Gionfriddo at 860-267-9922.

Marlborough Finance Board Adopts \$21.58 Million Budget

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Board of Finance voted last Thursday, April 5, to send the 2012-13 fiscal year budget on to a public hearing, after discussing some last minute small changes with the first selectman.

The overall budget of \$21.58 million, a 1.96 percent increase over the 2011-12 budget, passed 4-2.

An additional \$52,197 in reductions, presented at the meeting by First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski, brought the proposed budget down from an overall 2.20 percent increase.

As a result, the mill rate is estimated at 31.08, a 3.88 mill increase, rather than a 3.98 mill increase.

The majority of the reduction is due to the resignation of Assistant Town Clerk Susan Wallen. The full-time position will be reduced to a part-time position up to 24 hours per week at a maximum of \$18 per hour. This brought the town clerk clerical budget from \$46,557 to \$24,093, a reduction of \$22,464.

Funding for the Blish Park pavilion roof was reduced from \$7,500 to \$6,000. Gaudinski said the labor costs were taken out because town employees will be doing the work. The materials will cost \$4,443 and the remainder will cover the sheathing (plywood) costs. Gaudinski said due to water damage and wasps, she doesn't know how much the sheathing will cost. "Un-

til they're up there we don't know what kind of problems we'll run into," she said.

The only increase presented at the meeting was Marlborough's share of the RHAM budget climbing \$11,513 over the \$7.32 million that was initially presented to the finance board March 21. This was due to greater-than-anticipated health insurance costs, Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom said.

Despite the changes bringing the overall budget increase under 2 percent, Board of Finance member Susan Leser said the local education budget is too high – and she would like to see the 3.35 percent increase lowered.

"Why can't they have a 2 percent increase like everybody else?" she asked. "I've talked to many people in town who don't have two incomes or haven't gotten a raise.... I think this is a beautiful school and I think they can do a great job educating with a lower budget."

The Marlborough Elementary School budget stands at \$7.20 million. According to Board of Finance member Douglas Knowlton, it would take an additional \$94,000 in reductions to bring the budget increase to 2 percent.

Board of Finance member Clifford Denniss said he would look at the budget for cuts much harder "if the Board of Education didn't have economically-friendly budgets in the last couple of years."

But Leser said she didn't think the budgets

have been economically-friendly and didn't believe additional cuts would "make a profound difference in the education the students receive at [the] school."

"I think people blow it way out of proportion. I work in a district where cuts have been made and the kids are getting a fine education," Leser said. "Class sizes here are sufficiently low that they could easily be within the state limit. Having 22, even 23 kids in the class is pretty much the norm."

Leser compared Marlborough Elementary School's 3.35 percent increase to RHAM's 1.98 percent.

Board of Finance alternate Lauren Cragg said the two schools can't be compared from a quality standpoint. "People are attracted to this town for this school. Nobody says 'Oh, yay, I'm going to move into the RHAM district,'" she said.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout disputed that claim and said RHAM provides a good education and added the local Board of Education made "sufficient cuts this year" and it would be difficult to make additional reductions because the town has "cut the town operations budget to almost nothing."

Before the board voted to adopt the budget, Hjulstrom made a motion to increase the budget for mulch in the Parks and Recreation operations budget from \$1,200 to \$4,000. At the

Tuesday, April 3 budget meeting, Parks and Recreation Chair Barbara Lazzari said the mulch must be replenished to a height of 12 inches for insurance purposes and will cost \$4,000.

Hjulstrom's motion was not seconded. Assistant Treasurer Hayley Wagner said the funds can be taken out of this year's budget. "We can come up with \$4,000 for mulch this year," she said.

Hjulstrom said it was a "toss-up" whether or not he would vote to adopt the overall budget.

"I have mixed feelings...but I don't have a really hard time going to the public [with this budget]," he said.

Also at the meeting, the board voted in favor of a transfer request of \$45,000 from an undesignated fund balance to establish a future capital expenditure reserve within the capital non-recurring fund. Additionally, the board approved entering a five-year lease-to-purchase agreement starting in 2012-13 for a roll-off truck for the transfer station. The purchase price would not exceed \$185,000.

The Board of Finance will hold a public budget hearing Monday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria.

RHAM \$25.16 Million Budget Presented at Public Hearing

by Geeta Schrayter

At the April 9 public hearing on the proposed 2012-13 RHAM schools budget, there was plenty of room in the high school auditorium for residents to learn about the proposed budget.

However, as Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski summarized the numbers via microphone, his voice was projected to a room of unfilled seats, for only a handful of people attended.

The proposed \$25.16 million budget is a 2.33 percent increase over the current year. Included in the number are various decision packages such as lacrosse at a cost of \$40,550, a groundskeeper for the fields for an additional \$43,152, and a five year lease-to-purchase program for band instruments, costing \$5,000 for the next five years.

Of the few residents that attended, three spoke in favor of the board's decision to add lacrosse and funding for the band instruments.

"I'm here to ask you to support the RHAM music department [and the] five-year lease and replacement program for the musical instruments," said Marlborough resident Joan O'Connell. "As Dr. Siminski said, many are very, very old and they're very expensive to fix. I think the program will be very worthwhile."

O'Connell added she had five children go through the program, and felt it had been "an immeasurable benefit."

Hebron resident and RHAM Education Foundation member Beth Fitzgerald thanked the regional school board for adding lacrosse into the budget proposal, saying she was "grateful for all [the board's] support."

"Thank you, and [my husband and I] will be voting for the budget in May," she said.

Diane Blomquist, treasurer of the parent association Friends of RHAM Lacrosse, also thanked the board, adding the association would "continue to help support with fundraising etc., with lacrosse in the future."

The addition of lacrosse funding came after

the sport was self-funded for the past three years. Including it in the budget was a frequent topic of discussion at school board budget meetings this year – and the board ultimately opted to do so at its March 26 meeting.

Siminski said the largest drivers in the budget were a health insurance increase of 17 percent or \$338,478, heating and fuel oil costs which were capped in at \$3.01 per gallon, and bus fuel, listed at \$3.07 per gallon.

Heating oil was listed in the budget at \$265,329, and transportation was listed as increasing \$121,071 to \$1.23 million. Siminski had previously noted about 29,000 gallons of gas are used for the buses each year.

Significant decreases in the budget included negotiations of the electrical rate, saving about \$68,000.

"We have a fixed rate for four years," Siminski stated.

Additionally, re-negotiation of the 2004 bonds issued to pay for the building brought in around \$150,000 worth of savings, while a decrease in special education tuition resulted in more than \$252,000 savings.

"A major [reduction] was in special education tuition, because fewer [students] are leaving district [and] some are moving out," said Siminski.

It was noted there would also be some significant losses in revenue including the loss of \$326,880 of federal Education Jobs funding.

"If it weren't for the loss of the federal jobs money," said Siminski, "the budget increase would be .512 percent, but 2.33 percent is what it is."

The budget also features lost money due to the technology offset Hebron won't be paying, as it previously decided to no longer use the RHAM network.

"Before they backed out, [Hebron] would have been providing somewhere around \$20,000 - that was our initial request to them," Siminski said Wednesday.

Contracts also had an impact on the budget number. Certified staff took a zero percent increase for the year, while administrators will receive a 1.5 percent increase and the non-certified staff contract is currently in negotiation.

Salaries and benefits constituted about 68 percent of the budget. Siminski noted, while "fuel and utilities and some of the other things we need to be sure the district operates" make up the majority of the remaining budget. The 8.5 percent listed as "other," constitutes "supplies and textbooks, legal services and the annual audit," said Siminski.

The changing common core standards in the state were also discussed, and Siminski stated one of the goals of the budget was to "address all statutory requirements cost effectively" and "begin the process of implementing the common core."

Additional funding was requested for curriculum writing, and Siminski explained 92 percent of Connecticut's math standards match the common core standards, but only 47 percent were an "excellent match."

"The rest will be looked at," said Siminski, referring to 21 percent listed as a "good match," 24 percent that are a "weak match" and the 8 percent with "no match."

It was also explained 80 percent of Connecticut's English language arts standards currently matched the common core standards, but only 27 percent were an "excellent match."

"The rest has to be revised," said Siminski, explaining why a request for additional money was made. The line item is listed in the budget at \$27,248.

Funds for an additional special education teacher were also included, along with money for an architectural study of the school.

Siminski explained another teacher was needed due to an increase in the number of special education students. If a teacher isn't hired, "some [students] have to be placed out of district," which would have an effect on special

education costs, Siminski noted.

Additionally, the school received a federally-funded "random selection on civil rights compliance." As a result, there were numerous changes the school would have to make in order to comply, such as making the highest section of the auditorium handicapped-accessible. The architectural study would examine some of those areas, so the school could "appeal the findings by the state, to take on some of the things the state is addressing and find alternate ways to correct them," said Siminski.

When the public had the opportunity to speak, Marlborough selectman Dick Shea also expressed his thoughts on the budget. He said the Marlborough Board of Finance had passed a budget that included the RHAM portion, and said "their reaction to the budget as presented was quite favorable."

"I can't speak for them of course," he continued, "but I can say – stick to the number that you have, don't rock the boat, and we'll be okay in Marlborough."

And as the public hearing came to a close, a special meeting of the RHAM Board of Education conveyed, where board members did just that.

Chairman Mike Turner asked if members had any questions, comments or changes they'd like to discuss, and upon hearing none, a motion was made for the board to accept the \$25.16 million spending proposal, to be forwarded to a district meeting on May 7, followed by a referendum the following day.

The motion passed nine to one, with Tom Tremont against. Tremont did not return calls for the story as to why he voted 'no.'

With the budget now adopted, the next step is a district meeting, to be held Monday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School chorus room. A referendum on the spending proposal will be held in each of the three RHAM towns Tuesday, May 8.

Colchester Attorney Back in Practice Following Injury

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A local attorney and former probate judge has reopened his practice after taking nearly five years off to recover from an injury.

Kevin Kennedy began his career as a lawyer in 1986 after earning his Juris Doctorate from Western New England University School of Law and opened his practice on Broadway. After an accident that put pressure on his spinal chord and left him “basically paralyzed” on one side, two surgeries and a long recovery forced him to quit taking cases in July 2007.

His first operation was imperative but extremely risky. “I couldn’t find a doctor to do it for the longest time because they had to cut at the base of my brain, so if they slip up I’m dead,” he said.

A neurosurgeon in Hartford who had just moved to the state was willing to do the operation and Kennedy became one of his first patients. “I said ‘Are you dealing with nerves the size of spaghetti?’ He said ‘Yeah, right. Much, much smaller.’” Kennedy said.

Kennedy reopened his practice in March and now works out of his home office at 48 Williams Rd. He said it’s been a slow beginning because not many people know he is back in practice, but is eager to regain his clientele.

Although he was forced to let go of all but one of his eight staff – his paralegal of 21 years, Barbara Parkyn – and had to adjust to a “14-step commute” to the new location of his office, Kennedy’s practice remains the same.

Kennedy, as he always has, offers his legal services any time.

“Accidents don’t happen Monday through Friday, nine to five,” he said. He said he is the only attorney in the area who will take calls on Sunday, holidays and in the middle of the night, which has happened when representing clients arrested for DUI.

Although he’ll take mild criminal cases, personal injury, dog bites, real estate and cases that don’t fit into any category, his focus is probate.

“I really believe you better have [a will] the

day you turn 18,” he said. “If you don’t, the state of Connecticut has given everybody a will and if you don’t like it, that’s how it goes.”

People often think wills, and living wills, are elective, Kennedy said, and will put them off until it’s too late.

Kennedy said wills can be simple, such as a young person entering the military leaving everything to a parent, or extremely complex. With any case, his main objective is to consult with the client to help them make an informed decision regarding their assets.

“The actual typing of the will is not a big deal. It’s just putting the words on paper. It’s the knowledge behind that and the counseling that you give the people who are writing the will,” he said. “It pisses me off to no end to hear [websites like] LegalZoom.com...say they can incorporate your business and do your will for \$15 on the Internet. It’s crazy.”

Kennedy uses his expertise to help clients who are unsure of what their final wishes are to think logically. He has clients fill out a questionnaire to get background information before a meeting so he can “rope them back in” to making a wise decision.

Ultimately it’s the client’s decision. “You are free to [distribute your assets] any way you want, not how society tells you,” Kennedy said. “You don’t have to give it all to your spouse. You can say, ‘No I’m going to give it all to my cat.’”

Kennedy also has a master’s degree in tax law from Boston University and a master’s of business administration degree from the University of Connecticut.

Before practicing law, Kennedy ran a Ford dealership with his brother, which has helped him in his career. He said he has taken many cases where car owners sue over defective vehicles.

“If you’re suing the company, they’ve got armies of lawyers that’ll just wear you out,” he said.

Instead, he goes after the dealer. “It’s negli-



Following a five-year hiatus to recover from an injury, attorney and former probate judge Kevin Kennedy has reopened his practice and is once again taking clients in Colchester.

gence. If they had a duty to do something right and they didn’t live up to their duty of whatever they were going to do and you are damaged because they didn’t do their duty correctly, you have the right to sue.”

Kennedy said the key is to remember it’s compensation, not profit. “People think just

because they got injured they’re entitled to make a lot of money. You don’t get a lot of money when you sue, you get what is reasonable compensation,” he said. “If a dog bites you, come to me and get the compensation you deserve.”

Kennedy’s practice can be reached at 860-537-4641.

Colchester Selectmen Send Budget to Public Hearing

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Selectmen voted to send the 2012-13 fiscal year budget on for the town’s approval at its Thursday, April 5, meeting.

The \$51.17 million overall budget, a \$669,135 or 1.32 percent increase over the 2011-12 budget, will move to a town budget hearing April 25.

The \$37.91 million education budget increased by 2.98 percent, or \$1.09 million, over the current fiscal year, largely attributed to a \$736,000 increase in employee health insurance and the loss of \$550,000 in federal Jobs Bill funds to help retain jobs.

In the \$13.14 million town budget, which decreased by 4.02 percent, or \$529,895, from the current fiscal year, included a \$50,047 increase in road maintenance, allocating \$26,000 for a part-time network technician and an approximately \$250,000 decrease in employee health insurance.

Also at the meeting, the board voted to enter into a contract with Colonna Concrete and Asphalt Paving LLC for the Lebanon Avenue and South Main Street streetscape project. The project will repair existing sidewalks on Lebanon Avenue and South Main Street and install a new stamped concrete sidewalk, solar lighting fixtures and six new concrete pole bases along Lebanon Avenue. A Small Town Eco-

nomics Assistance Program (STEAP) grant will fund the material and labor costs. The construction will begin this spring or summer.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the town has already begun part of the project by building a stone retaining wall on Lebanon Avenue. Schuster said a STEAP grant paid for the materials for the wall but, in order to stretch the grant further, the town’s own staff did the work.

The selectmen re-appointed Brenden Healy, Stan Soby and Gregg LePage to the Police Retirement Board for three-year terms expiring Jan. 31, 2015.

With the exception of Schuster, who recused himself, the selectmen interviewed Steven Schuster, Gregg Schuster’s father, for a three-year term on the Fair Rent Commission and Christopher Bakaj for a three-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The selectmen also accepted a \$4,000 Historic Documents Preservation Program grant to categorize town records. Town Clerk Nancy Bray said the grant will be used to separate townspeople’s birth records from marriage and death records from 1939-46.

Bray said the separation is for security purposes. “We’ve done this twice already,” she said. “The splitting started with 1906 and we’ve already done some of those so we’re continuing with that process.”

The board also voted to fly a Donate Life flag as the Town Hall flagpole’s third flag for the last two weeks of the month, from Monday, April 16 to Friday, April 27, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The POW-MIA flag will need to be taken down for the two weeks in order to hang the Donate Life flag.

The flag first flew outside Colchester Town Hall last April, after Schuster was approached by resident Peter Kupczak about the endeavor, which helps recognize April as National Donate Life Month. Kupczak’s daughter Jessica died in 2002 at the age of 24, following cardiac arrest caused by a massive asthma attack. While on life support, doctors were able to donate her heart, pancreas, kidneys and liver.

The sewer and water 2012-13 fiscal year operating budget was unanimously approved. The \$937,855 water and \$860,423 sewer budget, a total of \$1.79 million, is a zero increase from the current fiscal year. The board also approved nine tax refunds.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

* * *

At a town meeting held immediately before the Board of Selectmen’s meeting, the board

voted to approve Chung Do Kwan LLC owner David Turgeon’s Connecticut Tax Incentive Program application to build a new 7,000-square-foot martial arts academy on a vacant lot near its current facility on Parum Road. The incentive program aims to keep businesses in town.

At a March 15 Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Planner Adam Turner said that because Turgeon has had his business in town for 25 years, the town could defer some of the costs of the new facility. Abating some of Turgeon’s expenses provided incentive to keep him from moving his business to Hebron at a savings of \$1,200 per month for a period of five or six years.

The town will abate a third of that cost for a period of three years, or \$400 monthly. Turner said the town would see \$20,000 or more each year in taxes from the business in its new location so the town would not be losing money through the program.

Turgeon said the builder is ready to go on the project and he just has to go through the closing. “We’re hoping to get it started by the beginning of May,” he said.

He estimated the construction will take four months and hopes to have the new facility open for business by September.



Members of the newly-formed High School Building Committee were shown sights like this one, a rusted sink in the school's chemistry lab, during a tour of school on Wednesday night. The school's science labs are considered the biggest reason for the proposed renovation project, which needs to be completed to meet accreditation requirements. Shown at right is high school principal John Fidler addressing building committee members in one of the labs.

HS Building Committee Gets Down to Business in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

"Isn't this exciting?" Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden said, smiling from ear to ear.

It was hard for her not to smile Wednesday night, as she watched members of the newly-formed High School Building Committee file into the high school library. With the high school's accreditation looming over the district and the project stalling over the past five years, this meeting of the building committee would mark the biggest step so far toward making the proposed renovation of the school a reality. This is something Golden has worked to put into place, and something she hopes is well on its way when she retires this December.

The formation of the building committee is a necessary step in the renovation project, which is being proposed to meet the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation requirements. The school is currently midway through the 10-year accreditation, which showed in 2007 that the school lacked sufficient laboratory space for science classes and updated technology in the classrooms, among other shortfalls.

With that in mind, the Board of Education has set out to get the ball rolling on the renovation,

which has included preliminary design plans for the renovation. For a project of this magnitude, however, the state requires that districts first establish a building committee to oversee the project, which includes hiring architects and project managers, as well as taking input from faculty and administration of the high school.

"You're in the driver's seat," Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub told the committee Wednesday.

At the committee's first meeting Wednesday, the members took the opportunity to introduce themselves and establish the where, what, when, why and how the meetings will transpire. The seven full-time members and two alternates were chosen by the Town Council last month from a list of willing volunteers, and it was easy to see why, as the group has decades of experience in fields like education, construction, and engineering.

The committee first set out to name a chairperson for the committee, settling on Sharon Smith. Smith is currently the business manager and chief financial officer for Glastonbury Public Schools, who has served as a representative on the steering committee of four separate

school construction projects in the town. The committee also chose Michelle Barber as the vice chairman; Barber is the chair of the science department at Norwalk Community College and recently served on the building committee for a \$25 million science and wellness facility at the school.

As the meeting rolled toward the proposed timeline, however, reality set in: the project was a considerable undertaking. "From my experience, this is a very aggressive schedule," Smith said, putting particular emphasis on "very."

Golden agreed, but felt it could be done. The schedule that has been proposed has an architect being hired and education specifics being in place by the end of June, which will then be approved by the building committee, the Board of Education, and the Town Council – in that order – to set a referendum date by the end of August. Golden reiterated the importance of setting a referendum for this November, stating that because this year is a general election, more voters will be coming to the polls and will paint a better picture of the community's opinion on the project.

If approved at a referendum, the committee will then work to get a grant application com-

pleted by the end of June 2013. Golden has said the town will be reimbursed over 60 percent of the total cost of the project by renovating rather than building a completely new school.

At Wednesday's meeting, the committee took its first step toward finding an architect by approving a Request for Quotation (RFQ) that was provided by Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb, who will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee. The RFQ was sent out by Grzyb on Thursday and will be available for bids for roughly 7-10 days. When the bids are available, each committee member will have a chance to review the bids and will choose an architect at its next meeting on Thursday, April 26.

The board agreed Wednesday that, at least until the end of May, it will hold meetings every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. The only exception will be a meeting held on Wednesday, May 16, at the same time and location.

The members of the committee are: Cynthia Abraham, Michelle Barber, Tom Cooke, Roy Gauthier, Stephen Karney, Sharon Smith, Michael Zimmerman, David Ninesling (alternate) and Tom Seydewitz (alternate).

East Hampton Town Manager Search Progressing

by Joshua Anusewicz

Closing in on one year to the day the town hired Interim Town Manager John Weichsel, the council has whittled its search for a permanent town manager down to nine candidates. Chairwoman Sue Weintraub said at a council meeting on Tuesday.

The council, which had received more than 30 applications for the position, began interviewing the nine candidates on Thursday, some in an un-traditional fashion. While six individuals met with the council in person, three of the candidates who would have had to travel a considerable distance were able to speak to the council via webcam. This technology was introduced to the council by Finance Director Jeff Jylkka at a recent meeting and was met with resounding approval.

According to Weintraub, the council expects to narrow the search down to two to three candidates after these interviews, then those candidates will be invited to the town for final, in-person interviews. Each of the candidates is also going through thorough background checks, Weintraub said, conducted by consultant Lorraine Baltimore, whom the town has hired to aid in the search.

The council has reviewed the long list of candidates at a series of meetings in recent weeks, which Councilor Barbara Moore said Wednesday have progressed "very well."

"We're working well together," Moore said

of the council. "We know what we have to look for in a candidate," Moore said that rather than present the council with a list of favorites, the council has gone over each candidate and reached a consensus on who would best serve the town.

From a personal perspective, Moore said she hopes the individual who is chosen will work well within the community and be a good communicator. "Not just communicating with the council, but with employees and residents," she said. "Communication is key."

Because many of the candidates are currently employed, Moore could not reveal details on any of them, but did say that some of them were from the New England area.

The town manager position in East Hampton has been in constant flux since the firing of Alan Bergren in 2007. Following the controversial dismissal, former public works director Robert Drewry filled in before the town hired Jeffery O'Keefe in 2008. O'Keefe resigned in 2010 amid allegations of sexual harassment and retaliation against Police Chief Matthew Reimondo.

Drewry again filled in as town manager until last May, when the town hired Weichsel, who served 44 years as Southington's town manager prior to his service in East Hampton. Controversy arose once again during a medically-related absence by Weichsel last year,

when the council appointed Anne McKinney on an acting interim basis over Jylkka, who Weichsel had recommended. After the majority of the council was turned over in last November's municipal elections, McKinney was promptly replaced by a recovered Weichsel, a move some viewed as suspicious, as McKinney was actively investigating complaints within the police department.

Since the elections, the council has taken an active effort to find a permanent town manager, including holding town forums to discuss which professional and personal qualities the chosen individual should possess.

Moore said that there is currently no set date for a new town manager to be named.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the council delayed discussion on the town budget that was submitted by the Board of Finance last week, as neither Jeff Jylkka nor councilor Derek Johnson were in attendance.

After multiple meetings to deliberate on the budget, the finance board officially approved the budget last Wednesday, after making \$264,500 in cuts. The budget now sits at \$38.820 million.

The council also waited to approve a proposed fund transfer of \$23,000 from the capital reserve fund contingency to the senior center for furniture and room partitions. Councilor

Ted Hintz, Jr. questioned whether there were additional dollars left over from a fund that was earmarked for the recent senior center renovation project that could be used to fund these additions. Hintz stated that the leftover money was being used for legal fees for ongoing litigation concerning the senior center project.

The council also unanimously approved the awarding of the William A. O'Neill Performing Arts Gazebo at Sears Park to Scope Construction Company Inc. of New Britain.

Facilities Manager Frank Grzyb said that the town received four bids for the project, with Scope coming in with the lowest bid at \$162,500. The town received \$200,000 in state grant funding for the project.

The gazebo, which was designed by architect Cheryl Newton of Glastonbury, will be used for live music, theater performances, and various other programs. It will be named after the late Connecticut governor William A. O'Neill, who was a longtime resident of East Hampton. No official date has been set for the commencement of the project, but the gazebo is expected to be completed by this summer.

The next regular Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Hebron Selectmen Schedule Hearing on Waste Ordinance

by Geeta Schrayter

At their meeting April 5, selectmen scheduled a public hearing on an ordinance relating to Hebron's membership in the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA).

Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney explained the town had joined CCSWA because "it was in the best interest [of the town] at the time" and allowed "more bargaining power."

However, he went on to say since the town entered into a contract with Willimantic Waste Paper Company Inc. effective Nov. 15 – a move Finance Director Elaine Griffin said Wednesday should result in savings of over \$38,000 – involvement in CCSWA is no longer needed.

It was explained in a memo from the meeting that the ordinance joining Hebron with CCSWA "to solicit and jointly manage solid waste and recycling services" was adopted on May 20, 2010, and, in light of the new contract with Willimantic Waste, "it is appropriate to repeal the ordinance relating to the Town of Hebron's membership in the CCSWA."

But before a repeal of the ordinance can be approved, a public hearing needs to be held. The selectmen voted unanimously to schedule the hearing for May 3 at 7:15 p.m.

* * *

Also at the April 5 meeting, members discussed an agreement with the state regarding proper storage of equipment and supplies provided by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).

Tierney explained the purpose of the agreement was to establish a working relationship between DESPP and the town regarding the storage. He mentioned the town's supply of 120 emergency cots supplied by the state is currently stored at RHAM High School.

In the agreement, it is noted the town needs to store the cots in an easily accessible location with direct vehicle access, and access to the facility must be granted to DESPP "or its designee at any time" upon notification.

The town is also responsible for ensuring the cots are "in good, usable condition, free of damp or mildew, including providing adequate security, supervision, care, control and maintenance of the storage facility" they're in.

There is also, as selectman Mark Stuart noted, a "lengthy" section regarding liability, which states the town "shall at all times defend, indemnify and save harmless" the state and DESPP "against all claims, damages, losses, litigation, expenses, counsel fees and

compensation arising out of injuries" as a result of using the services "provided under this agreement."

As a result of the clause, Stuart explained "it puts [the liability] back on the municipality again."

Over time, he continued, "the town may want to think about getting their own emergency supplies and having them all under our control."

"If we're going to be liable," he said, "we might as well own them."

The board unanimously approved the letter of agreement.

* * *

A contract was also awarded to Meyers Historic Restoration for the portico alterations and exterior painting to be done on the Horton House in the amount of \$26,000.

In a memo from town planner Mike O'Leary it was explained a Request for Proposals (RFP) to advertise the bid was prepared by BL Company Architects. A pre-bid meeting was also held on site that was "well-attended by contractors."

Eight contractors picked up bid packages, and at the bid opening on March 7, four bids

were received.

O'Leary explained BL Company Architects reviewed the bid proposals for completeness and interviewed the apparent low bidder "to ensure the contractor understood the requirements of the grant and the town."

The low bidder, Myers Restoration, was then recommended by BL.

The board voted unanimously to award the company with the bid.

O'Leary said Wednesday the contract was expected to be signed next week, and the contractor said he could begin in a week or so.

"He will begin with the restoration of the portico," then will be replacing both doors. Afterwards, he'll move on to the exterior painting, said O'Leary, adding the work would probably be completed sometime in May.

"All other work, relatively minor, will be on the interior, and some of that is dependent on the remainder of the CIP funding that is in the proposed budget."

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hebron Town Hall.

Hebron's Holy Family Church Brings Water to Africa

by Geeta Schrayter

These days, it's relatively common for individuals to donate to a cause. But more often than not, the specific use of the donation remains unknown, as the money is added to an organization's general fund.

But that wasn't the case with the \$15,000 donated to charity: water two years ago by parishioners at Church of the Holy Family. And now, the fruits of those donations can be seen, as three wells have been installed in Africa.

During the Lenten season in 2010, the stewardship team at the church decided they wanted to do something that would pull the parish together, explained coordinator Dottie Moon.

"We started talking about it, and we also had someone donate the services of a rock band," she said.

From that, the idea of holding a concert – "Rock for Water" – to help raise money, along with a plan to use the money for the installation of a well in Africa, came forth.

"We just felt kind of a calling to have it be some place in Africa," Moon explained. "We have a Haitian ministry in our church but we wanted to reach out to another part of the world."

The money was raised through several fundraising activities during lent in addition to the concert, with the goal of raising \$5,000 to install a single well. But when all was said and done, enough money was raised for the installation of three.

The three wells were installed last November, and Holy Family parishioners were notified in January. The wells are located in the villages of Katemalinga, Maganga and Pende, and each bears a plaque that reads "Church of

the Holy Family." As a result of the wells, an average of 250 people in each village have access to clean water.

"I was just hopeful that we were going to be able to raise enough money to put in one well," Father Michael Smith said Wednesday. "There was an incredible response. To be able to put in three – it was beyond my expectations."

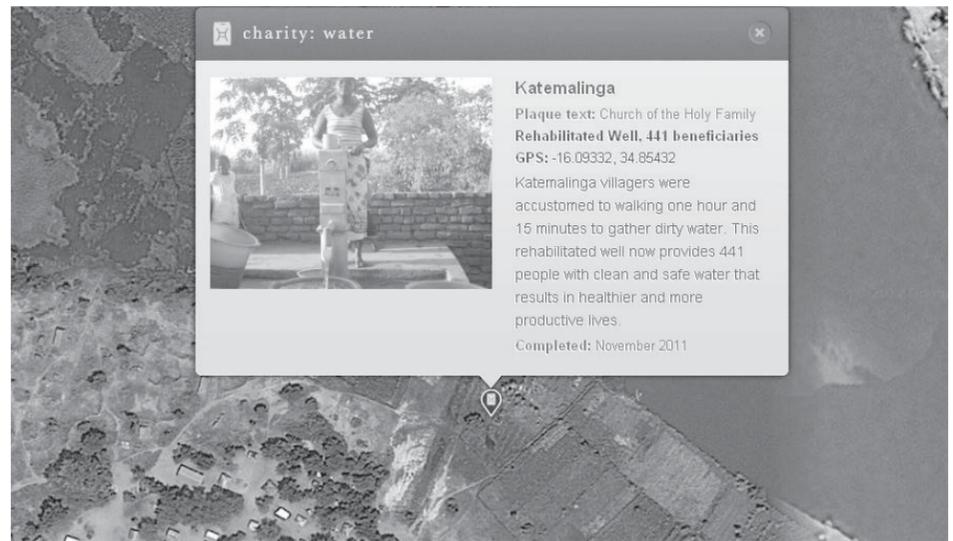
"There were one or two individuals who felt very strongly about [the project] and wanted to remain anonymous" who donated a large amount, said Moon. But she added it was the parish coming together that made the vision possible.

"One of the things written in the entryway is 'what you dream alone remains a dream, but what you dream with others can become a reality' – and this really happened. If one person kept it to themselves – even if it were the one individual who gave the larger amount, it still would have been [enough for only] one well," she said.

The money was presented to charity: water at the end of May 2010. The specific charity was chosen out of more than 40 different organizations considered by the church. Moon explained the reasons for choosing charity: water were that it met the goals of the parish and confirmed all of the proceeds would go towards the construction of the wells.

In addition, the charity would also provide hygiene, sanitation and well maintenance training.

Each day during Lent that year, Moon said, parishioners were made to think about what people in other parts of the world go through to get clean water, "just to give an awareness not only of how blessed we are here but how other



As a result of \$15,000 donated to charity: water by Church of the Holy Family, three wells were recently installed in Africa. A satellite image of the location of one of the wells is shown here, along with a picture of the well itself, as seen on charity: water's website.

people have had to struggle."

On the charity: water website, it's explained 800 million people drink water likely to make them sick, and in Africa, people spend 40 billion hours every year walking for water.

By utilizing GPS coordinates provided by the charity on its website, individuals can use Google maps to see where each well is located – showing exactly where the funds raised by the church have gone.

In Katemalinga, villagers used to travel an hour and 15 minutes to gather dirty water.

"This rehabilitated well now provides 441 people with clean and safe water that results in healthier and more productive lives," the charity website explained.

"We take water for granted so easily," said Smith, "and yet having a well for a village means a source of life on all levels - from food to drinking water to sanitary – it makes [the villagers] rich in the sense that they have another form of liquid gold, if you will. Not oil, but water, that gives them a real chance at life."

East Hampton Police News

4/3: Joseph M. Donohue, 34, of 34 East High St., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

Marlborough Police News

4/3: Richard Walz, 21, of 63 Lafayette Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to properly display license plates, State Police said.

4/4: Josh Newton, 47, of 9 John St., Winsted, turned himself in on active arrest warrant for an interfering with an officer charge from Nov. 26, State Police said.

4/6: Steven Christopher Bertelson, 18, of 122 Cheney Rd., turned himself in on active arrest warrant from third-degree burglary and attempt to commit crime charges from Feb. 18, State Police said.

Portland Police News

3/27: Roland Savoie, 34, of 196 Pine St., Columbia, was charged with third-degree burglary, fourth-degree larceny, first-degree criminal mischief and issuing a false statement, Portland Police said.

4/2: Joseph Piatti, 24, of 46 Champion Hill Rd., East Hampton, was charged with second-degree assault and breach of peace, police said.

4/6: Kevin Philipchik, 18, of 86 Bartlett St., was charged with DUI, police said.

4/9: Kathleen Carta, 52, whose address was listed as unknown, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.

Colchester Police News

4/3: Angela Harrell, 29, of 25 Second St., Norwich, was charged with failure to drive in the proper lane, operating a motor vehicle without a license and evading responsibility, State Police said.

4/4: Jodylynn Dombrowski, 41, of 53 Ruth Rd., New Britain, was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked/refused license and reckless driving, State Police said.

4/4: Adalis Perez, 28, of 18 Reservoir Rd., Newington, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

4/5: An arrest warrant was served for David Madrange, 22, of 86 McCall Rd., for fifth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit fifth-degree larceny charges, stemming from a theft on Jan. 23, State Police said.

Woman Hit By Car Dies From Injuries

by Katelyn Kelleher

A Colchester woman who was hit by a car last month died from her injuries Friday, April 6.

Doula Michaud, 63, died after nearly three weeks in Hartford Hospital. Michaud sustained serious head injuries when she was struck by a vehicle outside her home at 49 Melanie Ln. on March 19.

Police said Michaud was standing at a mailbox outside of her home in the late morning when a Nissan Altima, driven by 56-year-old Eleanor Ball, traveling eastbound on Melanie Lane, struck first the mailbox then Michaud with its front right end.

Michaud was flown by Lifestar helicopter to Hartford Hospital. Ball was not injured.

State Trooper Benjamin Dodge said the incident remains under investigation.

Andover School Board Enters Into Regional Health Contract

by Geeta Schrayter

At its Wednesday meeting, the Andover Board of Education unanimously approved entering into a regional contract with health and benefits consultant Lockton Companies LLC.

Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia said Lockton Companies was selected by the Region Eight Insurance Advisory Committee. The committee, he explained, is made up of representatives from each board of education and board of selectmen in Region Eight as well as a financial representative, with the purpose of meeting on a monthly basis “to take a look at our employee insurance plans in the three towns.”

Region Eight encompasses Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, as well as the RHAM Board of Education.

A summary of some activities the committee has been involved in was provided at the meeting and included saving the region significant amounts of money as a result of working with the region’s insurance broker to reduce the Anthem renewal. In 2008, the renewal was reduced from 19.4 percent to 9.67 percent, saving \$572,409. In 2009, the amount saved was \$352,971, and the following year \$635,266 was saved after the proposed Anthem renewal of 19.2 percent was reduced to 8.57 percent.

Currently, the committee is working to obtain bids for a State of Connecticut self-funded prescription drug pool as well as other options for self-funded insurance, along with negotiating the 2012-13 rates with Anthem.

The committee has worked since the end of 2011 to hire a health and benefits consultant, and is “now at a point in time where we feel that we need to expand the information that we need to have to make a prudent decision for the three towns,” explained Maneggia.

“We advertised for proposals from different insurance brokers to review our insurance plans for employees and make recommendations in ways we can save money for the employees and the town,” he said.

Additionally, the broker would take a look at self-funded insurance versus state insurance

as well as “different collaboratives available to the towns,” Maneggia said.

“As far as the Insurance Advisory Committee is concerned, this is beyond our scope of ability so we need to bring in an expert,” he said.

Of the seven proposals initially received, five firms were interviewed. That number was narrowed to two semi-finalists who were interviewed once more. From there, Lockton Companies was selected for an annual three-year brokerage fee of \$48,000 shared by the three towns.

Maneggia said the services the company would offer were well worth the cost.

“They will not only provide all the services we have now but a great deal more. They will do an insurance analysis for a collaborative... and in addition to that they will be available to us to review different plans and see what might be better,” Maneggia continued. “In other words, it’s a total review, and we expect that we will receive a proposal probably mid-year next year that will guide us in decisions that we will be making for insurance coverage for the 2013-14 school year.”

RHAM Board of Education member Danny Holtsclaw was present at the meeting to discuss the company. He added to Maneggia’s praise, saying “the scope, depth, professionalism, access to markets and [being able to represent] the group to those markets just puts us on a different plane,” he said, adding he felt the company wasn’t just offering “lip service.”

“They will help us – everyone – become smarter in purchasing and structuring insurance going forward,” he added.

“It sounds like you picked the right company,” said board member Kim Hawes.

“There have been a lot of good minds at work so hopefully it’s a good company,” added member Christina Tamburro.

Maneggia also explained in order to get started the decision to work with Lockton needs to be endorsed not just by Andover but by the boards of selectmen and education from each town in Region Eight, as well as the RHAM Board of Education.

The contract wasn’t available at the meeting. While the motion authorized Board of Education Chairmn Jay Linddy to sign for the Andover Board of Education, Maneggia said if the board doesn’t like the contract, “we don’t sign it, but time is of the essence.”

* * *

Also at the meeting, Maneggia brought up various maintenance requests that needed to be made should the board have the funds to do so.

He explained a new law came into effect requiring hard-wired CO2 detectors in boiler rooms or near “anything combustible like a furnace.” The current detectors are plug-in with a battery backup.

“The panel is in the boiler room,” he said, while the furnace is under the gym meaning wires need to be run “all the way to the gym.” Additionally, the panel is outdated and needs to be replaced. The cost of the change is \$4,825.

Additionally, he mentioned the library and two kindergarten rooms need new blinds, for a cost of \$2,200.

Maneggia also mentioned a water treatment needed to be added to the boilers, but the school was awaiting an estimate. He called this particular item “a bone of contention,” and explained there are minerals in the water that eat away at the pipes in the boilers.

“Now, I’m talking about the new boilers we put in,” he said, adding “that piping is only six years old.”

Another option would be to replace the corroding pipes, but he stated that wouldn’t eliminate the problem.

“We’ve got water that’s doing this... we can live with it, but every single year we’re going to have ‘oh this pipe is leaking this year,’ and every time you bring the plumber out it’s \$5,000.”

The next maintenance request was for painting various hall corridors in the school that “have not been painted since renovations.”

Maneggia’s proposition was to see how much money was left to devote to painting towards the end of the year and complete some of the painting this year and some the following year.

He stated a plan should be developed for painting the corridors as well as the classrooms.

“Every year some [classrooms] should be painted,” he said. “Otherwise all of them will need to be [painted] at the same time and we won’t be able to afford it.”

The cost was listed at \$23,000.

The final maintenance request was for cement work on the sidewalk area by the cafeteria for a cost of \$2,300.

“These are things that we would like to be able to do if we have the resources,” said Maneggia, adding “we won’t be able to do all of them,” and explaining he wanted to have a conversation regarding the items because they weren’t included in the budget.

A motion was then made to approve the maintenance requests “providing the funding is there to do so.”

The motion passed unanimously.

* * *

A motion was also made to allow music teacher Sara Cathell-Williams to participate in Donors Choose.

Donors Choose is an online charity that helps teachers receive donations for specific educational materials for their classrooms, explains the Donors Choose website. Teachers post classroom project requests, individuals donate to a project of their choice, and the nonprofit delivers the materials to the class once enough funds have been raised.

“But we need board approval to participate,” said Maneggia.

“I think [taking part] can only help,” stated Hawes.

“Anything to improve the music program – go, go, go,” added Tamburro.

“I know people who have used this program for other things besides music and it’s been very successful,” added member Cathy Danielczuk.

The motion to participate in Donors Choose passed unanimously.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School library.

Obituaries

Colchester

Josephine F. Gallitto

Josephine F. Gallitto, 49, of Colchester and formerly of Hartford, passed away Holy Thursday, April 5, at home.

Born Feb. 25, 1963, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Rosario Gallitto of Colchester and the late Pasqualina (Romano) Gallitto. Ms. Gallitto had worked in food service for local convalescent homes in years past.

In addition to her father, she is survived by two brothers, Bartolo and Frank, both of Colchester; a niece and nephew, Ariella and Bailey; and numerous aunts, uncles and extended family members and friends.

The memorial liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, April 10, directly at the Church of St. Luke, 66 Bolton St., Hartford. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.



Colchester

Doula Michaud

Doula (Fongemie) Michaud, 63, of Colchester, beloved wife of Clifford, passed away Friday morning, April 6, at Hartford Hospital, due to injuries sustained in an accident.

Born Jan. 27, 1949, in Fort Kent, ME, she was the daughter of the late Maurice and Cecile (Guerette) Fongemie. On July 12, 1969, she and Cliff were married in Fort Kent, before moving to Connecticut to raise a family.

Family was at the center of Doula's life, and in addition to her loving husband of 42 years, she is survived by two sons, Craig of Cheshire, CT and Chris and his wife, Jill Delasco of Hopkinton, MA; four grandchildren, Graeson of Cheshire, CT and Colby, Dylan and Avery of Hopkinton, MA; two sisters, Viola Pelletier of Houlton, ME and Leola Dubois and her husband, Jim of Millinocket, ME; a brother, Ellis Fongemie of Anchorage, AK; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a sister, Linda.

Doula earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from ECSU and was a member of the Kappa Mu Epsilon Society. She went on to work as a software engineer for many years before her retirement from Merallis in 2002. In her spare time, she was an avid gardener, skier, golfer, hiker and UConn basketball fan. Her passion in life was her family, and she was a completely devoted wife, mother, grandmother and sister.

Visitation for friends and family was held Tuesday, April 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family asks that you take a moment to celebrate Doula's life by recalling a favorite story from your time with her and sharing it with those you love. Services were private.

Donations in her memory may be made to LUNGstrong, Inc., 2 South Hampton Rd., Amesbury, MA 01913 - a charity close to the family's heart.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com. For floral expressions, please visit colchesterfloristct.com.

Amston

Joseph Ziolk

LTJG Joseph Eugene Ziolk, USN (Ret.), 81, of Amston, widower of the late Althea (Malone) Ziolk, passed away Easter Sunday, April 8, at home.

He was born on July 5, 1930, in Jersey City, NJ. At the age of 16 towards the end of World War II, he enlisted in the Navy where he would serve his career of over 30 years. In his retirement, Joe enjoyed working outdoors around his home and loved the many dogs that he had over the years.

He is survived by two sons and their spouses, Joseph Michael and Deborah of Oakdale and John and Carol Parada-Ziolk of Colchester; a daughter and her husband, Kellie and John Sedgwick of Amston; a stepdaughter and her husband, Priscilla and Carl Whittemore of Cape Cod, MA; several grand and great-grandchildren; a sister, Barbara Wyszowski of New Jersey; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a son, David.

Friends called Wednesday, April 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service with military honors was observed. Burial was private.

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

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Amston

James J. Peretto

James J. Peretto, 89, of Amston, formerly of Newington, beloved husband and best friend to Josephine "Jo" (Yoker) Peretto died Monday, April 9, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Manchester, he was the son of the late Joseph Peretto and Antoinette (Sartor) Tirone.

James retired from Abbott Ball Company after 45 years of service. He was a member of the Newington Knights of Columbus, an honorary third- and fourth-degree Knight and a member of their Senior Group. He was also active with the Boy Scouts, Little League, Indian Guides and was an avid golfer and Red Sox fan.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Barbara A. O'Keefe and her husband Edward of Amston, and James M. Peretto and his wife Rita of Rocky Hill; and his grandchildren Shannon O'Keefe, T.J. O'Keefe, Nicole Peretto, and Michael Peretto and his wife Marisa. He is also survived by his brother-in-law Robert Yoker of Ohio, and sister-in-law Violet Daigle of Bristol, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his beloved grandson Bryan O'Keefe, his sister Charlotte Peretto, and his step-father Frank Tirone.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, April 13, at 11 a.m., at the Church of the Holy Family 185 Church St. Amston. Family and friends called at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, Thursday, April 12. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248, or Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Amston, CT 06231.

For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Helen "Betty" Colgan

Helen Elizabeth "Betty" Colgan (12-23-22 - 4-9-12) had been under care at her sister-in-law's home in Hebron. Significant respite care was given by and supervised by her youngest nephew Michael E. Colgan, graduate nurse. Ms. Colgan passed away peacefully with her family present.

Ms. Colgan is predeceased by her parents, George A. and Margaret T. (Ryan) Colgan, her brother George E. Colgan, and her niece Bonnie L. Colgan.

Ms. Colgan leaves behind her sister-in-law, Jeanne Colgan Esterquest and husband David of Hebron; her nieces, Pamela Masterson, husband Brad, children Brandon and Lyndsey of Ellington; Jacquelyn Aldrich, husband Larry, children Sydney and Connor of Hebron; her nephew, Edward Colgan, wife Jeanne, children Edward Jr., Samuel, Jacob and Mickala of Condon, OR; her niece, Erin Boyle, husband Richard, children Ashley, Killian and Shea of Manchester; her niece, Ryan Beattie, husband Timothy, children Dakota and Chase of North Stonington; her nephew, Michael E. Colgan of Hebron; and her grandniece Carrisa Olmo (daughter of Bonnie) of Anasco, PR.

Betty was fortunate to also to have a loving family of the heart for over two decades who lived in her apartment building: Ganga Shingh, wife Yaminee, children Terry and Jamie of Dorchester, MA.

Ms. Colgan is a 1940 graduate of English High School in Boston and Simmons College, Class of 1944, M.S., library science. She served the Boston Public Library for 44 years as a children's librarian in various branches. Upon her retirement, she continued her evenings of dinner followed by theatre or symphony with former co-workers and some from her long-ago school days - a life well- and fully-lived, leaving friends who take pleasure in their memories.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to VNA Healthcare 103 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105 - attn: Hospice Team.

Visitation will be in the John J. O'Connor & Son Funeral Home, 740 Adams St. (near Gallivan Boulevard), Dorchester, MA, Saturday, April 14, from 1-2 p.m. Funeral services will be in the funeral home at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. For directions and expressions of sympathy, visit oconnorandson.com.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in Betty's name to: VNA Healthcare, Attn: Hospice Team, 103 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06105.



Colchester

Andrew Dudanowicz

Andrew Dudanowicz, 40, died unexpectedly at home Friday, April 6. He was born in New Britain and has lived for the last year in Colchester.

Andy attended local schools, EC Goodwin Technical School and was a graduate of CCSU. He was employed as an engineer with Twin Manufacturing in South Windsor. He loved nature and the outdoors, was an avid skier, enjoyed music and was an avid Yankees and Dallas Cowboys fan, but most of all he loved being with his family and friends.

Andrew was the beloved son of Anthony and Maria (Ostrowski) Dudanowicz of New Britain; a devoted brother to Joanne Dudanowicz; and a loving boyfriend of two years to Tiffany Leidel.

He was predeceased by his brother Robert Dudanowicz. He is also survived by many dear aunts, uncles and cousins and special friends. He will be dearly missed by all of them.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 12, at New Britain Memorial Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain, followed by the funeral liturgy at Sacred Heart Church, 158 Broad St., New Britain. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were held Wednesday, April 11, at the funeral home.

For tributes, online condolences or directions, visit newbritainsagarino.com.

East Hampton

Thomas J. McCabe

Thomas J. McCabe, 55, a longtime resident of East Hampton, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Tuesday, April 10. Tom was a loving father, brother, son, uncle and friend.

The beloved son of William F. and the late Helen Fagan McCabe, he was born in New Britain on Oct. 13, 1956. He was a wonderful father to his four children, Drew, Chase, Craig and Taryn.

Tom graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in science. He received an additional graduate degree from Sacred Heart University. A lifelong athlete, he was a graduate of New Britain High School and a member of the 1972 and 1974 state championship Class LL baseball teams. Besides his four children, Tom is survived by his father, William F. McCabe, sister Sheila and brother-in-law Allen King, all of Kensington, and his brother Patrick and sister-in-law Carol of West Hartford, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his mother Helen and brother William McCabe.

For over 30 years, Tom was a respected teacher, coach and school administrator. For the past four years, he was the athletic director and coordinator of student activities for the Rocky Hill Public School System. Prior to that, he was a teacher in the East Hampton and Glastonbury School systems. During his life as a physical education teacher and coach, Tom touched the lives of thousands of Connecticut students and athletes. He had a passion for working with student athletes and served as a mentor both on and off the field.

Tom's coaching career included head coaching positions in high school boys' baseball and football, and girls' lacrosse and basketball. He coached high school teams in Windsor, New Britain, East Hampton, Glastonbury and Southington. Early in his life Tom coached baseball teams in the New Britain Babe Ruth League and the American Legion league. He relished his years coaching high school football and was a dedicated New England Patriots fan. Tom's dedication to his students and players was only surpassed by his deep love for his four wonderful children. Tom was also proud of his Irish heritage.

Friends and relatives were invited to calling hours Thursday, April 12, at the Farrell Funeral Home, 110 Franklin Sq., New Britain. Tom's friends are invited to go directly to St. Patrick's Church East Hampton today, April 13, for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain.

Tom's family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of the Smilo Cancer Center at Yale New Haven Hospital for their care and support of Tom, the compassionate nurses and staff at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, and the support from his friends and colleagues at Rocky Hill High School.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Thomas J. McCabe Children's Education Fund, c/o Liberty Bank 1169 Farmington Ave., Berlin, CT 06037.

To light a candle or send a condolence, visit farrellfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Paul D. Zodda

Paul D. Zodda, 44, of Hebron, the husband of Christine (Neal) Zodda, died Tuesday, April 3. Born in Manchester, he was the son of Caroline (Ross) Zodda of Manchester and the late John Zodda.

He was a Hartford Police officer for 22 years, having received numerous awards, including the Chief's Medal of Valor, the Police Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and an Exemplary Service Award. An avid car enthusiast, Paul enjoyed drag racing and restoring old Chevys, especially Camaros.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter Mallory R. Zodda of Hebron; his siblings John Zodda and his wife Kathy of San Antonio, TX, Alfred Zodda of Manchester, and Linda Leigh and her husband Louis of Northfield; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, April 10, at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, followed by burial in East Cemetery. Family and friends called at the funeral home Monday, April 9.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Mallory R. Zodda Educational Fund c/o Rockville Bank, 341 Broad St., Manchester, CT 06040.

For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

Middle Haddam

Emily Stephensen Wiard

Emily Stephensen Wiard, 63, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 1, at Port Charlotte Hospice House. Born Sept. 1, 1948, in Manhattan, NY, she was the adopted daughter of beloved parents John and Sigridur (Sue) Wiard.

Emily grew up in Tarrytown, NY, then resided in Middle Haddam and Portland. Emily moved to Florida later in life, where she created a business providing care for elderly clients, making numerous friendships. Emily was a voracious reader who treasured her novels.

Left to cherish the memories are her sister, Sigridur (Gay) Bazar; two nieces, Robin Walleit, husband Craig and daughter Megan; Elizabeth Praskiewicz, husband Tom, son Tommy and daughter Brooke; and very special friend Alice.

A private family service will be held.

Hebron

George Ormond Rose

George Ormond Rose, 81, of Hebron and formerly of Bolton, beloved husband of Barbara (Jones) Rose, passed away Wednesday morning, April 11, at Windham Hospital. Born Feb. 22, 1931 in Manchester, he was a son of the late George and Catherine (Daly) Rose Sr.

He attended Manchester High School and Cheney Tech and was a veritable "jack-of-all-trades" throughout his life. Along with running the family dairy farm in Bolton, he had worked for Pratt & Whitney from 1952 until 1991, as well as for Mercury Tool & Die and was a self-employed plumbing and heating expert.

Mr. Rose was a 60-year member of the Hebron Vol. Fire Dept., a 50-plus year Mason, a former Boy Scoutmaster for 20 years with Troop 28 and enjoyed woodworking in his spare time.

In addition to his loving wife of nearly 60 years, he is survived by a daughter, Sari-lin King and her husband, Tore of Spartanburg, SC; two sons, George and his wife, Beverly of Hebron and Lawrence and his fiancée, Gia of Virginia; eight grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; a brother and sister, Helen Meloche and Richard Rose, both of Bolton; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call starting at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Masonic service will be observed at 1 p.m., followed by burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Hebron Vol. Fire Dept., 44 Main St., Hebron 06248-0911.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Oscar J. Wambolt Jr.

Oscar J. Wambolt Jr., 64, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, April 10, at William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich.

Oscar was a veteran of Vietnam conflict and was a landscaper.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 14, at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. Full military honors will follow.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester are in care of arrangements.