

RIVEREAST

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Scouts Clean Up...Hebron Brownie Girl Scout Troop 65158 cleaned up Veterans Memorial Park April 9 as a service project for their "A World of Girls" Leadership Journey and to make a difference in their community. According to the girls in the troop, it was messy but fun at the same time. The girls collected five bags of garbage and one bag of recycling. The girls particularly noticed a lot of cigarettes and chewing gum on the ground in the park. The third-grade girls in Troop 65158 are, pictured, Liron Golan, Emma Lovejoy, Natalie Baker, Faith Schmeizl, Caitlynn Lessard, Alyssa Ganci and Allison Aston. Not pictured: Alyssa Carusone, Rebecca Carusone, Meghan Fraleigh, Noelle Parker and Kayley Starr.

Colchester Budget
Cut by \$683,000

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Board of Finance sent a new budget with significant reductions back to the Board of Selectmen for approval Wednesday.

The newly-proposed \$50.36 million 2012-13 fiscal year budget is a \$682,946 reduction from the \$51.06 million budget that was defeated by a nearly 2-to-1 ratio in the May 8 referendum.

The new overall number is a 0.32 percent increase over the 2011-12 budget, in contrast to the 1.12 percent increase of the previous proposed budget.

The proposed town budget was reduced by \$332,936 from the previous \$13.15 million, bringing the budget to \$12.81 million, including debt service and capital. The previous proposed town operations budget was a 3.87 percent decrease from the 2011-12 budget and the new number is a 4.20 percent decrease.

The proposed operating budget without debt service or capital is \$10.17 million, a \$36,957 decrease from the 2011-12 \$10.20 million operations budget.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov said the board "looked for ways to more efficiently do what we're doing" with regards to the town operations budget.

A total of \$202,000 in capital items were reduced, including \$100,000 for the town ga-

rage parking lot, \$50,000 for a records management system at the town clerk's office, \$12,000 for a code enforcement sedan and \$40,000 for a senior passenger van, which will be partially funded by grants and matched by the town from a vehicle reserve.

A reduction of \$130,390 in the town budget included \$50,000 for road improvements, which was reduced to the current fiscal year spending level; \$27,736 from human resources from professional services and a contract settlement; a \$10,000 contribution to Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3); \$9,508 by reducing hours at Cragin Memorial Library; and \$27,951 by the elimination of a position in the Planning and Zoning Department.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster explained the economic development coordinator position was eliminated in planning and zoning, therefore the town's partnership with Sector, which deals with leads and generating business, was also eliminated. Schuster said without the economic development coordinator, there won't be anyone to take advantage of the services offered by Sector.

The new town budget includes a \$5,000 increase in unemployment due to personnel changes.

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EHHS Teachers Get 'Tough' For Wounded Vets

by Joshua Anusewicz

The people who organize the Tough Mudder competition bill it as "probably the toughest event on the planet." And the 26 members of the team that traveled from East Hampton to Pocono Manor, PA, last weekend have the bump, bruises, burns and cuts to prove it.

Visual arts teacher Lisa Lupacchino-Gilson has bruises on her arms and legs. Technology education teacher Jim Angelo was burned. English teacher Mark O'Donnell pulled a hamstring.

"But we all finished," said East Hampton High School Assistant Principal Mike Dalton.

It was Dalton who assembled the team; he had missed out on an opportunity to participate last year at Mount Snow in Vermont and was hoping to get a few willing candidates among the high school faculty. It being his first year at the school, he admitted he wasn't planning for a big response.

Twenty-six faculty members (and a few spouses) later, Dalton had his team. "It was amazing," he said of the response.

What they signed up for is a new endurance challenge, a 12-mile course designed by British Special Forces with 24 obstacles, which include mud, hills, rough terrain and icy water. If that weren't enough, competitors have to climb walls, carry logs, run through fire and trudge through electrified water to reach the finish line.

Put it this way: each member of the team has to sign a "Death Waiver" to compete. Seriously.

"It was a physical and emotional challenge," Dalton said. "It's designed to test you in any way possible."

In the time leading up to the event, the team trained together – often with a workout partner – by running the cross-country trail at the high school, climbing ropes, and doing yoga. Not only did this get the team in the physical condition they needed, it showed them that they weren't doing this alone – something that is essential for completing the Tough Mudder.

"You can't do it alone," Dalton said. "You need the encouragement and physical help."

Also encouraging the team was the student body, which got into the team spirit by helping raise funds for the event's charity, The Wounded Warrior Project. The project provides programs and services to those in the Armed Forces who were severely wounded in combat and are transitioning back into civilian life.

The team – which was dubbed The Bad Apples by the students, with the motto "you can't teach tough" – set a goal of raising \$5,000 for Wounded Warrior through friends, family, members of the community, and sponsors. But with the students' help through the Interact Club, an art show bake sale, and a spirit contest between classes, that total has reached over \$7,000 and is still growing.



A group of 26 East Hampton High School faculty members, and a few spouses, proved they were real "tough mudders" at a competition held last weekend in Pennsylvania.

In a final show of school pride, over 200 students showed up before the team left to provide mohawks for some of the male members of the team, which were then dyed blue. (Though no longer blue, the haircuts still re-

main as of this week.)

Now ready for the event, a caravan, which included a few spectators, headed down to Pennsylvania last Saturday, May 12, to see what

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As part of the Tough Mudder challenge, The Bad Apples were forced to trudge through knee-deep mud and water and scramble through a tangling of electrified wires, burning several members of the team.

EHHS Teachers cont. from Front Page

the Tough Mudder had in store. It took over four hours, but each and every member of the team completed the challenge - "not a race, a challenge," Dalton said - through strength, stamina, mental grit, and camaraderie.

"It was emotional when we all finished," said English teacher Danielle King.

"I hugged everyone," history teacher Melissa Reynolds said, "and I'm not much of a hugger."

What made it even more emotional were the veterans and Wounded Warrior members the team got to meet. Not only did the team say they got the chance to meet and thank the veterans, a few even competed in the Tough Mudder. One completed the entire event on crutches, showing every competitor that no matter how difficult the course was, it could be done.

O'Donnell added that the playing of the National Anthem prior to the event was especially moving, given the purpose of the event. "It hit me more deeply than it has in a long time," he recalled.

The entire experience has left quite an impression on The Bad Apples, who looked at it as beneficial for all those involved - the veterans, the faculty and even the students.

"The kids got involved, learned why we all did it, and learned a little about the Wounded Warrior Project," said Angelo. "It was a total community experience."

"The students saw us working together and stepping out our teacher zones," said English teacher Cristin Flannery.

Dalton said he fully expects to participate again next year and beyond, jokingly stating that the team has all "signed five-year contracts." He said that through the event, bonds have been formed amongst the faculty that can't be broken, and that he would never want to compete with a different group.

"It was an amazing experience," he said. "I never could've conceived of something better."

Members of The Bad Apples included: Jim Angelo, Sherry Banack, Michael Dalton, Heather Dalton, Doug Dziekan, Cristin Flannery, Michael Flannery, Jordana Fournier, Michael Gilson, Cheryl Girardi, Andrea Giuliano, Michael Hull, Kristen Keska, Maksymilian Keska, Danielle King, Geoffrey Lucas, Lisa Lupacchino-Gilson, Laura Martin, Joseph Ochterski, Mark O'Donnell, Karen Oliva, Melissa Reynolds, Matt Reynolds, Amy Rollins, Jackie Russell, Shaun Russell and Matthew Warner.

Budget Reduced cont. from Front Page

Officer stipends for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department were reduced by \$3,550. Resident Joyce Main expressed concern over the fire department budget's \$33,534 payroll increase over the 2011-12 budget.

Tarlov explained the town was awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) several years ago. "It was federal money we used to hire officers for the fire department," Tarlov said, "and it was a sliding scale for five years with 20 percent coming off each year and we're losing funding so that increase isn't all salary."

Tarlov said it would cost the town more to lay off the officers. "You can lay off the officers, but you have to pay off all the back federal money if we wanted to cut in that area," he said.

The board voted 4-1 to not reduce the Food Bank and social services coordinator positions' hours at \$5,921. Tarlov voted against putting it back in the budget, instead preferring to split the number.

Main, Youth and Social Services Director Valerie Geato, and several other residents, through letters addressed to the board, asked the board not to make the reduction. Each noted the amount of work Food Bank Coordinator Christine Miskell puts in.

Geato said the department cannot afford to reduce Miskell's hours. "She does so much work that without her wouldn't get done," she said.

Due to cuts from the finance board, the Board of Education budget will be reduced by \$350,000, bringing the proposed budget to \$37.54 million instead of the previous \$37.89 million. The new number is a 1.97 percent increase over the 2011-12 budget, whereas the

previous proposed budget was a 2.84 percent increase.

Though the bottom line is reduced by \$350,000, the Board of Education has determined that \$273,699 of those reductions will be finalized at its May 22 meeting.

A \$79,498 reduction in administrative and support services includes the elimination of one custodial position, 0.5 central office curriculum office professional positions and the central office transportation coordinator. Contractual concessions showed a \$6,500 reduction, with bus contracts still in negotiation.

Participant fees, fundraising and internal resources were reduced by \$99,979 through reductions in professional development, field trips and by increasing Pay-to-Play from \$150 to \$180 per sport, with a \$540 cap per family.

Another \$24,020 in reductions was from known changes to the budget since April in scheduling and teacher assignments.

The supplies budget was reduced by \$63,702. Of the reductions, Tarlov explained the Board of Finance is "juggling all these different interests that our taxpayers have."

"When we first offered the budget for approval, we looked at...trying not to cut current services unless we've heard an overwhelming outcry of 'why do we have that service?'" he said. "We try not to put new initiatives in at this time unless they're mandated or have a long-term value. Some of the items we put in this year have a long-term cost savings to the town or some revenue opportunities down the road off of those things."

The budget was sent to the Board of Selectmen for their approval Thursday, after press time.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It just hasn't been the Boston Red Sox's year. And it's only the middle of May.

The team's horrendous start to the season has been well-documented around these parts (a five-game winning streak - as of Tuesday evening - has improved things somewhat, but their record is still a lackluster 17-19, and the team's in last place in the AL East), and off-the-field issues have dogged them, such as Josh Beckett's turn on the links a mere day after he backed out of a start due to a sore lat.

And now, even the team's ticket office is under scrutiny.

It's no secret Fenway Park is constantly sold out. In fact, the Red Sox love to boast about that - and why not? Not only is night after night of sellouts an indicator of the team's success and popularity, it also allows the team to charge top dollar for its tickets because, hey, if you don't go, someone else will. (And charge top dollar they do; the *Boston Business Journal* reported last month a Red Sox ticket is the most expensive in the big leagues, averaging \$53.38 per non-premium seat. The average ticket price in Major League Baseball as a whole is \$26.92.)

But I saw an interesting headline lately. Perhaps these sellouts aren't really sellouts after all.

The *Boston Globe* ran a front-page story a couple weeks ago about how the sellout streak - which started in 2003 and is the longest such streak in Major League Baseball history - is, as they put it, "a real numbers game." It seems that, each game, the Red Sox hold back hundreds and hundreds of tickets, and instead of selling them, simply give them away, to charities and to people like the families of players and umpires. An average of 800 tickets are given away each game.

While this isn't the dictionary definition of sellout - which is, quite simply, "something, such as a concert or contest, for which all tickets are sold," according to Webster's - the *Globe* reported that the Red Sox simply embrace an alternate definition of the term, one that allows them to declare a game a sellout "even if hundreds of tickets are unsold but others are distributed for free."

The *Globe* crunched the numbers for the May 2 game between the Red Sox and the Athletics and saw that paid attendance was reported as 37,434 - or 61 seats shy of Fenway's capacity. However, once the Red Sox included the distributed tickets, that number grew to 37,819, exceeding the seating capacity by 324, and just like that, the team has another sellout.

The whole thing seems kind of fishy to me. The *Globe* said skeptics refer to what's going on at Fenway as a "distribution streak," and not really a "sellout streak" - and I'd be inclined to agree.

Red Sox Executive Vice President Sam Kennedy, not surprisingly, defended the practice to the *Globe*, saying counting distributed tickets as part of a sellout is "commonly practiced" by other teams in Major League Baseball. He also said the team isn't giving away the tickets just to keep the sellout streak alive; indeed, he said, the team generally gives away far fewer complimentary tickets than other

teams, due to Fenway's small size and a high demand for tickets.

Regardless of whether all this is true, Kennedy and other Boston execs need to look around. The Red Sox are in dire straits, and the last thing they need is another PR fiasco caused by the appearance of them "cooking the books" in order to keep a silly streak alive.

Since last September, the team has been imploding, and - trust me on this one; as a Mets fan I know whereof I speak - there's nothing the sports media likes more than a \$146 million team falling flat on its face. It's cold, but true. This *Globe* story is a perfect example. The sellout streak has been going on since 2003 and, from listening to Kennedy, it sounds like this "giving away tickets counts toward the sellout" loophole is nothing new. So why didn't the *Globe* do their expose in 2008? Or 2010?

Simply put: the Red Sox were winning then, and they aren't now. Issues that would be pretty minor - or would go totally unreported - suddenly take on lives of their own when a team with the fourth-highest payroll in the game is in last place, particularly in a market like Boston.

Which isn't to say the issues surrounding the Red Sox these days are all cases of the media making mountains from molehills. Let me go back to the Beckett incident for a minute. Simply put: what was he thinking? You say you're too sore to pitch. That's fine, that's baseball; it happens. But then, the *very next day*, you're spotted playing a round of golf? And it's not mini golf we're talking here; we're talking big-boy, 18 holes, woods and irons, golf. Talk about having a massive brain fart.

Then, when Beckett does make his next start, he gets shelled, unable to even make it out of the third inning. The boos from the Fenway faithful rain down hard.

After the game, Beckett defended his golf outing, saying, "I spend my off-days the way I want to spend them. My off-day is my off-day." In other words, Beckett completely missed the point.

Nobody's questioning Beckett wanting to enjoy his off day. What they're complaining about is this: here's a guy to whom the Red Sox are paying \$17 million a year, he begged out of a start because he was too injured, and then the next day he feels well enough to go play golf with a teammate. It comes across as a big fat thumbing of the nose to his fans, and to his team. (By the way, did it ever occur to Clay Buchholz - the teammate Beckett had the golf outing with - to say, "Hey, you know Josh, this might not be the best idea?")

In a column about the incident for Yahoo Sports, Jeff Passan wrote Beckett is a "clueless, defiant egomaniac who's poisoning another Red Sox season." Which may be a little too harsh - but Beckett really only has himself to blame. (And yes, I know Beckett had a great outing Tuesday night; but that doesn't excuse his very bad judgment about when to hit the links.)

* * *

See you next week.

EHPD Linking to Businesses with Email Notifications

by Joshua Anusewicz

In an attempt to foster a stronger relationship between the town's business community and law enforcement, members of the East Hampton Police Department will be visiting over 100 businesses in town in the next few months to form a contact list for information and emergencies.

According to Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, the idea was forged by Sgt. Tim Dowty, who recently heard about a similar program while training at the FBI Academy.

The idea, Reimondo said, is to meet with business owners at businesses on main roads throughout the town. Officers will provide direct contacts to the business in the event of an emergency and will also ask business owners to join a contact list with information about the business.

"They will be able to put a name with a face now, so they're not intimidated if a cop shows

up," Reimondo said.

This contact list will also provide "a give and take," Reimondo added. Business owners will be able to inform the police quickly about suspicious activity or ask to perform periodic checks if they feel that their business is in danger. The police will also be able to send out mass emails to business owners about important community information, including counterfeit money or bad checks being passed in the area.

"We can tell them 'be on the lookout, it could happen,'" Reimondo said. "And then they might see something suspicious and tell us so we can get the word out."

Reimondo said there are over 500 businesses in town currently and the police expects to meet with all of them - large and small - over the next year or so.

Manchester Resident Seeks State Senate Seat

by Geeta Schrayter

Manchester Board of Directors member Cheri Pelletier, 45, has announced she'll be running against Democrat Steve Cassano for state senate in the Fourth District.

It will mark Pelletier's third attempt to gain a seat in Hartford, following unsuccessful bids for state senate in 2008 and 2010.

"My first attempt was during Obama's initial run and I was 'Obama-sized' by a 3,000-plus vote loss," running in the 13th District against Jack Thompson, Pelletier said last week. The second time, Pelletier closed the margin to less than 500 votes.

Then, this year, the state senatorial districts were redrawn, and Pelletier found herself in the Fourth District, which includes Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and a portion of Manchester. To run for a seat in the same district as before, Pelletier explained she would have had to move her family to a different part of Manchester prior to May, which she said wasn't realistic, especially since Pelletier considers herself a "WestSider" (living West of Main Street), and gave birth to her son Bryce in January.

And it is her child – and children throughout the state – that she considers a reason for running.

"My son Bryce, like all children born in Connecticut this year, next [year] and probably until we see some real reigning in on spending, entered the world with more than \$40,000 in deficit debt," she said. "I can count on one hand how many of my graduating class still live in Connecticut and virtually every home owning senior here now pays more in annual taxes than the initial mortgage on their homes."

Pelletier said her second reason for running was that Cassano hasn't kept his campaign promises "to curb spending, reform education and provide relief to businesses and taxpayers."

"I want my child and the families in my district and the rest of Connecticut to have the opportunity to live in a state where they can thrive, be educated, find a job, build a life and

retire successfully," she said.

Pelletier, who graduated with an associate's degree in liberal arts/science from Manchester Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and health care administration from La Salle University, cited the economy and jobs, education, and controlling taxation and spending as some of the issues of most importance.

Pelletier said she knew the difficulties of the recent recession, as numerous family members were laid off due to downsizing or companies sending their work overseas. Pelletier herself was laid off as well, from her job as an outreach social worker in Glastonbury.

"I witnessed firsthand the struggles to support a family and a mortgage on unemployment, while worrying about a lack of health insurance coverage and an uncertain future," she said in a recent release.

"My campaign promise is simple," she continued. "'Together, Let's Get Connecticut Working.'"

And that promise, along with her campaign slogan, can be traced back to something Pelletier, who's one of six children, learned as part of a big family.

"The great thing about large families is that we're used to trauma and drama," she laughed. "We get through tough times and good times by supporting each other and working together – a model I would love to bring to the state of Connecticut."

She added she believes in the idea so much, her campaign slogans have always featured the word "together."

This time around, that means "Together for a Better Connecticut."

As a state senator, Pelletier said she'd work cooperatively to stop runaway spending and reform the tax structure to stop driving people and businesses out of the state.

"My focus will be on ways to stimulate our economy, to encourage investment, to aid struggling sectors and to boost job opportunities and

training," she said.

In regards to education, Pelletier said there needs to be partnerships between the government, education and businesses "to turn things around to keep our population here, bridge the achievement gap and ease the burden our businesses face in gaining a competitive edge in today's global economy."

Pelletier said she'd focus on protecting school choice to encourage competition, and advocate a freeze of state college and university tuition so more students would have access to higher education.

As a lifelong Manchester resident, Pelletier has been involved with various town subcommittees including Health, Human and Leisure Services, Blight Property Tax Force, Education Liaison, Planning and Economic Development, Ethics, Building Reuse and Youth Commission Founder. She has served on the Manchester Board of Directors since 2005 and is currently self-employed as a property/business manager.

Pelletier said the fact her public service has taken place during a recession means she's been forced to turn challenges into opportunities while working in a bi-partisan manner to prioritize projects "and partner with municipalities, community organizations and businesses whenever possible to create efficiencies and improve services."

"I'd put my record against Sen. Cassano's any day," she said, also adding she'd earned the respect of many "by simply being prepared, creative and effective in getting the job done."

Pelletier asserted it's the range of experiences she brings to the table that will prove beneficial.

"With my broad range of experience in both business and social needs, especially for children and the elderly, I am confident I can provide the type of leadership and service that the residents of the Fourth Senate District both need, and deserve," she said.

Matthew Galligan, chairman of the Manchester Republican Town Committee, said he en-



Cheri Pelletier

dorses Pelletier as both a friend and a concerned resident of the district.

"Cheri has consistently fought to improve the economy and community in Manchester. She has a proven record of achievement that I know will also benefit the towns of Bolton, Glastonbury and Andover," he said. "Above all, I know that Cheri will serve the people of the Fourth in the state Senate, and not the whim of 'out of touch' politicians and policies."

Pelletier said she is running for office "because I believe our government can do better," and pledged she will "do more to improve accountability, make our district a state leader in economic progress and hold the line on spending and taxation while respecting our quality of life, our environment and the need to preserve vital services and programs."

RHAM Ready for Round Two

by Geeta Schrayter

After school board members made nearly \$100,000 worth of reductions, the proposed RHAM Board of Education budget for the 2011-12 school year will head back to voters in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough next Tuesday, May 22.

A proposed \$25.16 million spending package for the regional school district was shot down at a tri-town referendum May 8, by a combined 1,031-823.

School board members met last Thursday and, as a result, the budget will go to the polls next week \$96,300 slimmer. The board voted unanimously to reduce the proposed spending plan to \$25.06 million, a 1.94 percent increase over the current year. The budget proposal voted on last week called for a 2.33 percent increase.

At last Thursday's meeting, "we took a look at the budget to see what we could cut," Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said Tuesday. "Our goal was to preserve teachers, to preserve programming and opportunities for kids, and so what we did was took a look at some accounts that wouldn't impact those areas."

The decision was made to eliminate funding for an additional groundskeeper, for a savings of \$23,814. Board of Education Chairman Mike Turner noted that while the position was cut, the board left about \$7,152 in there for overtime for existing groundskeeper positions.

"About three years ago we eliminated a cus-

tomian position, so things are a little tough up there, but we'll manage again this year," he said.

Siminski added the money for overtime was needed for maintenance "because of the increased number of sports" utilizing the fields. (The increased number of sports using the fields was the justification for the additional groundskeeper position when it was proposed in March.)

Health insurance and employee benefits were also reduced \$12,186 as a result of the groundskeeper's elimination.

Another \$20,000 reduction was made for legal fees, and Turner explained that was because "we have a pending settlement with one of the unions."

Siminski further added, "we had increased legal fees because at that particular point in time we thought we'd go to arbitration with non-certified employees ... [but] we settled the contract."

Instructional supplies were cut by \$15,000 while meetings and conferences were reduced by \$10,000. Siminski said an attempt would be made to fund some of the meetings and conferences from grants.

The amount for property and casualty insurance was reduced by \$8,000 to \$113,313 "because we expect an \$8,000 dividend from the insurance company that wasn't available when we did the budget," stated Siminski.

Heating and utilities came down \$2,000 each, and Siminski said the board "thought we could take a gamble" because of the mild weather. The reduction brings the heating oil account to \$263,329 and utilities to \$691,229.

Pre-purchasing was also utilized to buy an autoclave, an oven used to bake the specimens created in the biology lab, "so they don't create problems down the road," Siminski said.

Pre-purchasing the oven as opposed to leaving it in the budget "allowed for a reduction of about \$2,800" said Siminski.

Turner said he felt the changes should be enough to warrant the budget's passing next week.

"Usually if you don't do enough you end up going back another time," he said, "but generally, you reduce the budget somewhere around \$100,000 or so [and] you're taking a good step."

Siminski said he feels "there are a lot more things that we could use to help the students become better 21st-century learners – to provide some additional programming to allow them to take more advanced placement courses – but we had to devise a budget that understood the fiscal times," said Siminski, reiterating the fact there was increasing enrollment and the board was dealing with a 17 percent increase in health insurance.

"That's truly a big issue that we're facing," he said, adding the board had been able to cre-

ate savings by refinancing the bonds and entering into a new contract to supply electricity that's going to save "about \$68,000" after the contract takes effect in December.

"So those are the kinds of things that we've done to be sure our request is reasonable," he said. "We've looked at line items, maintenance of equipment – things like that – and reviewed them with the departments. We've gone through all the line items and adjusted them."

When the RHAM budget got shot down last week, also voted down was a question asking for approval to set aside \$500 to start a dedicated capital improvement plan fund. That question has been eliminated from the referendum ballot this time around, though.

Based on the hometowns of the students attending the middle and high schools, Hebron will pay 54.74 percent of the RHAM budget or \$13.72 million (down \$52,715 from what was proposed for the first referendum). Marlborough will pay 29.16 percent, or \$7.31 million (down \$28,081) and Andover will pay 16.10 percent or \$4.03 million (down \$15,504).

Voting on the \$25.06 million budget will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in all three towns. Polling locations are, in Andover, the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.; in Hebron, Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.; and in Marlborough, Marlborough Elementary School, 15 School Dr.

EH Finance Board Cuts Engineer, EDC Consultant Positions

by Joshua Anusewicz

Before Chairman Matthew Walton could even finish declaring the meeting would be moving into a discussion of the 2012-13 town budget, Board of Finance member Patience Anderson was putting a motion on the table that would slash the increases across the entire budget.

And after an hour-long discussion at Tuesday's Board of Finance special meeting, the board ultimately agreed, by a tight 4-3 vote, to reduce the Board of Education budget by \$227,500, the town operations budget by \$70,000, and the capital improvement budget by \$27,500. Finance board members Mary Ann Dostaler, David Monighetti and Walton were opposed to the cut, while Anderson, Ted Turner, Tom O'Brien and Tim Csere were in favor.

The \$325,000 in reductions brought the proposed town budget to \$38.37 million, an increase of \$605,439, or 1.58 percent, from current year spending. The cuts to the proposed increases came on the heels of last week's budget referendum, where the 2012-13 spending package was easily defeated by voters, 1,051-777.

The budget sent to last week's referendum totaled \$38.69 million, a \$930,439, or 2.46 percent, spending increase from the current fiscal year. Of the \$38.69 million, a total of \$26.94 million was allotted for the education budget, a \$726,338, or 2.77 percent, increase from the current year.

If approved, the mill rate would have been 26.28, an increase of 0.6 mills, or a 2.34 percent increase, from the current fiscal year. With

the reductions approved Tuesday night, the mill rate is now calculated to be 25.99, a .31 mill, or 1.21 percent, increase from the current fiscal year.

The largest reduction came – again – from the Board of Education, which has now seen its proposed increase reduced by \$527,500, down to \$498,838. The cut left the proposed school board budget at \$26.71 million, an increase of 1.87 percent from the current year.

The finance board did not discuss the Board of Education reduction, but Joann Barmasse, the vice chairwoman of the school board, spoke prior to the discussion, insisting the board lowered every line item they could and that bringing the proposal down more would effect staffing levels.

"The only place left to go is personnel, and that adds to the unemployment in town," Barmasse said, adding, "we have great teachers and we don't want to lose them."

Despite Barmasse's testimony, however, the finance board focused on Anderson's other proposed reductions, which again targeted the proposed half-year town engineer position. The cutting of the position, which was budgeted at \$44,000, will now save the town roughly \$9,500, as contracted engineering services have been added back into the budget.

Board members weighed the options of keeping the position, which was proposed by former Interim Town Manager John Weichsel to mitigate the cost of engineering services on upcoming town projects. Anderson said her reasoning for cutting the position was that the board was

"taking the decision away from [a newly-hired] town manager" who may oppose the position.

O'Brien said he had been in favor of the half-year position, but the residents he heard from were not in support of it.

"We should wait for a new town manager to come up with the justifiable figures [that there are savings]," O'Brien said.

Walton, who admitted he "didn't expect the reaction" from residents against a town engineer, said that residents he spoke with questioned why the town was hiring at a time when "nobody is hiring."

"I don't see how we can move forward with this position intact," he added.

On the other side, Monighetti said that it "makes no sense" to cut the position, as he stated that the savings from adding the position, in the long run, would trump the \$9,500 savings from this year.

In town operations, the board also cut a \$20,000 economic development consultant position, which Dostaler, a former member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), had championed at past meetings. Dostaler said Tuesday that the town shouldn't delay the position another year, citing Portland as an example where having a consultant has been "tremendously successful."

O'Brien, however, said the town's EDC was not in a place right now where a consultant would help, and said the town should "get our own house in order" before adding the position. O'Brien and Turner also mentioned that

the lack of a town water system would restrict where businesses could be developed.

Dostaler responded that even if the town approved a water system now, the best estimate of its installation was over a decade off. "Are we to say there are no economic development opportunities in town now? I say there are," she said.

The other notable reduction is in the capital plan, where a line item for cruisers and conversion equipment at the police department was cut by \$27,500. The proposal was to purchase two new police cruisers for the department, but now the town will only purchase one.

Walton said he wasn't happy with cutting the capital budget. "Sooner or later, we're going to have to buy it," he said.

Of the reductions approved Tuesday, Anderson stated that 70 percent of the reduction came from the Board of Education, while 30 percent came from the town operations and capital – which is roughly the amount each side accounts for in the overall budget.

Anderson summed up her thoughts on the reductions, as a whole, as "a deferral, a postponement" rather than eternal cuts. "We have the pressure from the public right now," she said. "We have to do something."

Now, the public will head to the ballot boxes again next month to vote on the newest budget figures. The Town Council will hold a town meeting on Tuesday, May 29, to set the referendum date, which is expected to be Tuesday, June 5.

East Hampton Gears Up for Boating Season

by Joshua Anusewicz

Brief glimpses of sunny skies and warm temperatures over the past month have heightened the excitement for those who use East Hampton's jewel - Lake Pocotopaug - as their summer playground. By the end of the month, many residents will be slapping on the sunscreen, pulling on their bathing suits, and gassing up the boat for yet another summer of fun in the sun.

But before all the mariners hitch their boats and drag them down to the water, members of the Parks and Recreation Department and the East Hampton Police are looking to educate residents on boating safety and the rules of the lake.

"We're looking for any way we can improve safety on the water," said Police Chief Matthew Reimondo.

With that in mind, Parks and Recreation has posted signs at the boat launch at Sears Park and other private marinas on the lake. The signs outline the town's boating and navigation ordinance, which was recently reviewed and tweaked by a Navigation Ordinance Task Force in 2010. This task force included Reimondo and Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer.

Plummer said the consensus from the task force was that the ordinance was "pretty solid," but that the issue has been that boaters are not aware of what is actually in the ordinance.

The ordinance includes speed limits, which are 40 miles per hour from 7 a.m. to a half-hour past sunset; all other times are considered "slow-no wake." There is also a steering speed within 200 feet of the shore, which is also "slow-no wake"; Reimondo said not only is this

for the safety of swimmers or kayakers near the shore, but it also prevents the bottom of the lake from being turned up and affecting the health of the lake.

The ordinance also states that no more than two people can be pulled by a boat at one time and no discharge of sewage is allowed in the lake. Also, no power loading vessels are allowed at the boat launches, which means when people back their boats off a trailer into the water, they cannot do so by powering the engine of the boat to get it off the trailer.

Plummer also said residents are asked to clean their boats before transporting them from one body of water to another, as invasive vegetation could be brought into the lake. Failing to follow this rule could result in a \$100 fine, the ordinance states.

With the help of the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the town has also positioned buoys throughout the lake to warn boaters of nearby rocks. Plummer said there are about seven buoys in the lake, but there are often other rocks within a bigger radius of the buoys, so boaters are asked to stay well away from the marked areas.

While many of the residents who use Lake Pocotopaug are experienced boaters and know the rules, Reimondo said that there have been some close calls over the years. And even though safety is a top priority on the lake, both he and Plummer called the lake a "natural resource" for the entire town's enjoyment.

"We just want everyone to observe the laws," Plummer said, "because we want to keep people safe."



Experienced boaters on Lake Pocotopaug are probably familiar with these buoys, which mark areas of the water where rocks lie close to the surface. These buoys will be placed back in the lake in the coming weeks in preparation for Memorial Day, the unofficial kickoff of the town's boating season.

Sears Park passes are available at the Parks and Recreation office, 240 Middletown Ave. Vehicle passes are \$10; boat passes are \$50.

Pass recipients will also be given a brochure, which includes the ordinance outlining the rules and regulations of the lake.

Colchester Scout Working on Building Computer Labs

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A Boy Scout took an ambitious approach to his Eagle Scout project by fundraising and collecting hardware and software for computer labs for developmentally-disabled adults.

Tyler Rubin, from Boy Scout Troop 13 in Colchester, got the idea to set up a computer lab at Network Inc. from his father, Michael Rubin, who serves on the board of directors for the organization, and decided to go through with the project because he enjoys working on computers.

Program Development and Community Engagement Coordinator Kathleen McLean said Network Inc. provides various services to people with developmental disabilities, such as employment support and in-home support programs. "Support can be anything from teaching hygiene skills to medication oversight," she said.

The organization has 13 group homes around the state, but offers a day program called "Opportunity" for developmentally disabled adults in Dayville and at its main office in Andover. The computer labs will be set up at these two locations for the day program clients.

The computer labs will be the first for Net-

work Inc., Rubin said. Network staff members "were saying that it'd be very beneficial," he said.

Network Inc.'s information technology director, Erik Adamcik, said each location currently has a single computer set aside for staff and clients for email and other basic functions, but neither is really adequate for clients to use a diversity of software.

"I would be really happy to see some of the clients able to use the computers and have them set up to really be able to interact them with," he said. "There are a lot of clients we have that really would enjoy the visual and stimulating types of programs or activities. I know there's so much out there for software.

"It would be really nice if there were computers specially set up for our clients," he continues, adding that some of the clients don't have the motor skills or mobility to use normal computers, so special mice and touch-screen monitors could help them "really get more involved and enjoy it a little bit more."

He added Rubin was also looking into the possibility of adding handicapped-accessible

computer desks that a wheelchair could roll under.

Woodstock Academy donated five computers for the project, but some may not work for the computer lab, Adamcik said. "They're running Windows XP, but they have so little RAM and the hard drive space is very small," he said. "I really don't think they would be worth having Tyler put the time and effort into them."

Rubin has continued his fundraising efforts to try to provide computers for the labs. "I think at one point he was hoping for like eight computers," Adamcik said. "I think we could get them maybe four."

Rubin is now working on collecting software for the lab. He collected four programs from family and friends.

Adamcik said early on in the project he "was able to find some free programs for people with special needs and fun activity-type programs."

Drop-off boxes for software designed for ages seven through 12 have been placed in Cragin Memorial Library and the main office at Bacon Academy. Rubin said his goal is to collect a minimum of 10, with hopes of collecting 15-

20 programs by the end of May.

Rubin said he hoped to open the computer lab by next month, but Adamcik said it might take a bit longer to get everything up and running.

Rubin said he and a few of his friends will work to install the software once it's collected and the computers are set up, then teach the software to staff at Network Inc. to use for their program.

McLean commended Rubin for all the work he has done on his own and for taking on such a "significant Eagle Scout project."

Network Inc. received a matching grant last year for their day program to purchase educational tools, including literacy and financial literacy tools, McLean said, and Rubin's project will add to the program.

McLean said the adults at Network Inc. would benefit from many different types of software, used for "teaching, writing emails to relatives and all kinds of educational games."

Adamcik said being able to bring technology in the clients' lives would be "amazing and bring them a lot of joy."

Benefit Dance to Raise Money for Paralyzed Colchester Resident

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Two East Hampton residents are holding a fundraiser dance tomorrow to raise money to help bring a Colchester resident hospitalized in Hawaii back to Connecticut.

Beverly Cochran and Kris Buckland annually organize a benefit dance at their local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, where they are both members. Ordinarily, Cochran said, the two raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, but will vary when they see a need elsewhere.

This year, the fundraiser recipient is Brandon Matthews, who was paralyzed after a fall on a beach in Hawaii Feb. 11, and has remained there for the past three months.

The dance will be held tomorrow in Matthews' and his family's benefit, from 6-10 p.m. at the East Hampton VFW post on North Main Street, across from East Hampton High School.

While playing football on the beach in Waikiki, Matthews dove for the ball, breaking his C-1 vertebrae, paralyzing him instantly, and

rendering him unable to breathe on his own.

Since the accident, Matthews has been hospitalized at The Queens Medical Center in Honolulu. According to a letter written by Matthews' sister, Kelsey Wojcik, requesting donations, "there have been very small movements in his fingers and toes and we are hopeful that in time Brandon will be capable of meaningful movement. However, he is still unable to breathe on his own."

Cochran said the cost of a medical flight to bring Matthews home is approximately \$160,000 and none of it is covered by insurance. The cost is so high because a team of trauma personnel needs to travel with Matthews on the flight.

"He's still in rehab over there," she said. "[The family wants] to get him here and have him go to Gaylord [Specialty Healthcare in Wallingford]."

The money raised from the dance will be donated to Matthews' family to help pay for

medical bills, the cost of bringing him home and other situational expenses.

Cochran said she and Buckland try to help where there is need and when they heard Matthews' story, they thought it was a cause worthy of an event.

"They need the money to try to get him home and if I see where a family needs help with something, I try to put a dance together," Cochran said.

Cochran said there have been pretty high turnouts at some of their past benefit dances and, although she doesn't have an estimate of how many will come this year, she hopes the number will again be high.

Generally, the majority of people going to the dances have been East Hampton residents, Cochran said, but because Matthews is from Colchester, she hopes Colchester residents will come out to support him and his family.

While, as of May 8, Cochran had only sold five tickets to the dance so far, people will pur-

chase tickets at the door, she said.

In addition to having the opportunity to dance for a good cause, attendees will be able to purchase raffle tickets for prizes.

"We have some gift certificates from restaurants, gift cards, bottles of wine and an afghan," Cochran said. All the prizes were donated from local businesses. Additionally, there will be a "50/50" raffle, where the winner will be able to take home half the money collected.

There will be plenty of food at the event as well.

Cochran said many attendees at her previous dances have been fans of The Happy Travelers Orchestra, which is returning to provide music at this year's show. The polka band played in the 1960s and 70s, then reunited after a 25-year hiatus in 2010 for a fundraiser.

Cost to attend the benefit is \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling Cochran at 860-817-4705 or Buckland at 860-874-3644. They will also be sold at the door.

Portland Budget Approved at Referendum

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

A quiet budget season gave way to a quiet budget vote this week, as Portland voters approved the 2012-13 proposed town spending plan by a sizeable margin, 356-204.

Only 9.7 percent of registered voters came to the ballot boxes to approve the \$30.45 million budget, a \$630,794, or 2.12 percent, spending increase from the current fiscal year. Of that total, \$11.99 million will be going to general government and \$18.45 million is earmarked for the Board of Education.

"I'm very pleased" the budget passed, said First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield. "I thank all of the voters who took the time to come out."

With the budget passed and the appeals process from the recent revaluation complete, the Board of Selectmen set the mill rate at 30.73. Due to the revaluation, which saw the town's Grand List drop by roughly 6 percent, the mill rate climbed 2.58 mills, 8.40 percent, from the current fiscal year's figure of 28.15.

Selectman Mark Finkelstein said the mill rate could have been over 36 if the town did not

receive over \$4 million in state funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

"It was a tough budget with the revaluation and all," said selectman Carl Chudzik. "But we did the job we had to do."

As for the budget passing, Bransfield reiterated the point that the budget features "nothing terribly new" from the current fiscal year. She said the considerable margin of victory for the spending package shows that "residents feel [the selectmen] have taken a consistent approach to budgeting" that maintains town services and infrastructure.

The budget for the current fiscal year was approved at referendum last May and totaled \$29.82 million, which included \$11.73 million for the general government budget and \$18.10 million for the Board of Education budget.

Most of the increase in spending for 2012-13 budget can be found in the public safety and public works line items, which includes a brush/leaf bucket for the highway department and a new sport-utility vehicle for the police department. There will also be projects at the senior

center, the high school building and athletic grounds and for the town's computer system that are included in the increase.

The Board of Education budget will also see an increase for the first time since 2010; the \$18.45 million for education is a 1.98 percent increase from the current fiscal year. The majority of the increase is due to a lack of grant money coming into the school system next year, which totaled roughly \$240,000 this year. The school system, however, will be able to maintain the same level of teachers, staff and programs.

At least one voter, resident Deb Calavas, said she voted in favor of the "great budget" because of the success of Portland schools, which received several national distinctions and saw test scores rise over the past year.

"We have to continue to support and take care of our school system," Calavas said.

Bransfield also credited her fellow selectmen and the Board of Education with working together to reach a consensus on the budget figures.

"People appreciate it when they see the whole board working together on the budget," she said. "It's important that all seven of us were able to agree."

Looming over the vote, however, was a small voter turnout, which has become common for Portland budget referendums. At last year's referendum, just over 12 percent of the town's electorate came out to pass the budget by 39 votes, 374-335. The year before, the 2010-11 budget passed with another low turnout, by a 426-313 tally.

Bransfield looked at the low turnout with optimism, though, saying it showed residents "see consistency in the process" of forming the budget. Chudzik, meanwhile, said he wished more residents had turned out for the budget deliberations and the referendum to provide more input to the selectmen.

"If you were spending that much money on a car or a mortgage, you'd be more attentive," Chudzik said.

The new budget will go into effect at the start of the 2012-13 fiscal year on July 1.

Portland Blight Ordinance Approved, Liquor Ordinance Repealed

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

After months of discussion, subcommittee meetings, and two public hearings, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a town blight ordinance at its regular meeting on Wednesday night.

Also, following the state's recent approval of Sunday liquor sales, the selectmen voted to repeal a 30-year-old town ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcohol in town before noon on Sundays.

The blight ordinance, which was drafted as a hybrid of similar ordinances from Bristol and Windsor Locks, has been pored over by the selectmen for the past few months. The process was started by a board subcommittee – consisting of First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and selectmen Fred Knous and Ryan Curley – who brought a drafted ordinance to the board in February.

During repeated discussions, the selectmen have discussed the proposed ordinance at length, with most of the talks focused on the definition of blight and the appeals process for offenders of the ordinance. The selectmen made

considerable changes to the ordinance last month after feedback from the public and the selectmen, including putting the authority of addressing complaints and overseeing appeals in the hands of Lincoln White, the town's building official.

Knous said Wednesday the feedback from the public over recent months has shown that the town needs a blight ordinance, but one that focuses on serious cases of blight.

"The intent is not to come down with the hammer on small cases of blight," Knous said. "We're after the real offenders."

The selectmen will now hold a separate public hearing for a proposed citation hearing ordinance, which would give any property owner who is determined to have blighted property the chance to appeal the ruling. The ordinance, which comes directly from a state statute, cannot be changed and must be adopted as is, determined town attorney Jean D'Aquila and selectman Brian Flood, who is also an attorney.

The board also determined that it would not put the blight ordinance into effect until the citation hearing ordinance has also been approved

by the selectmen.

"We shouldn't have the blight ordinance without the appeals process," said selectman Mark Finkelstein.

Flood recommended that the selectmen approve the ordinance, with "the proviso to push them along together" once the citation hearing ordinance has passed.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 6, at 7:15 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

* * *

The selectmen also voted unanimously to repeal an old town ordinance that will allow for the new state law for Sunday liquor sales to go into effect locally.

According to Bransfield, the town has an ordinance, approved in 1980, that allowed for Sunday liquor sales from noon-11 p.m. At the advice of D'Aquila, the town decided to repeal the ordinance, as the town's law would trump state law, which now allows liquor stores to open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sundays.

Representatives from some of the town's liquor stores were present Wednesday to support

the repeal of the old ordinance. Dennis Tzickas, owner of Portland Liquors for over 25 years, said adopting the new state law would "benefit most of us in the business" and be "more convenient for the consumers," who would find it easier to purchase alcohol on Sunday morning.

Ryan Milardo, owner of Brownstone Bottle Shop, agreed with Tzickas. "We have a lot of boaters and golfers who come in, and they like to start early," Milardo said to a chorus of laughter.

The selectmen all agreed. "This is an easy one," said Knous.

The town will now post the repeal of the ordinance in a local newspaper, with the new state law going into effect 31 days after the legal notice is posted. Until the town ordinance is officially repealed, town liquor stores may be open from noon-5 p.m. on Sundays, if they so choose.

* * *

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. at Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

Marlborough Fifth-Grader Off to International Competition

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A Marlborough Elementary School student will be heading to the international Future Problem Solvers competition in Indiana next month, after winning the individual state competition in February.

Fifth-grader Erin Bowen was the champion of the junior individual division in the Future Problem Solvers State Competition March 30-31 at North Haven High School, in which 22 schools and 250 students participated.

According to Future Problem Solving of CT, Inc. Affiliate Director of Administration Nancy Wogman, approximately 650 students in 32 schools partook in the Future Problem Solvers program, though not all qualified for the state competition.

Another Marlborough student, Julia Amodeo, placed third in the individual competition and Bowen and classmate Ben Smith won a "zippy team competition," where students are randomly selected to form a team.

For her win in a field of 64 individual students, Bowen was invited to attend the International Future Problem Solvers Competition, June 7-10 at the University of Indiana.

Reading specialist Julie Caron said Bowen will be the youngest competitor from Connecticut in the international competition as well as

the only individual problem solver from the state competing. She will have the additional honor of leading the pack during the opening ceremony. "She will be the flag bearer for our state," she said.

This was Bowen's first year in Future Problem Solvers; up until this year – when the program was expanded to include fourth-graders – Future Problem Solvers had only been open to fifth- and sixth-graders, her mother, Lily Bowen said.

"It's always held a great reputation as a really great organization developing skills in children," she said. "We're really pleased she's part of it and the first time out in competition she was able to move up."

Lily Bowen said she will accompany her daughter to Indiana while her husband stays home with their other daughter.

Caron and fellow reading specialist Kristine Friend have been leading the program at Marlborough Elementary School for the past four years, but the program was brought to the school by now-retired staff member Karen Brennan years ago. The international program itself began in 1983.

The students spend time before the competitions preparing. "They do a lot of research on the topic and refine their skills in a six-step pro-

cess," Caron said.

Future Problem Solvers is an enrichment program for grades four through six, Caron said, where students work to solve real world problems. Some topics have included the workplace, where students looked for solutions to work-related stresses, and "all about the workplace and how it's moving to more technology and working from home and that sort of thing," to coral reefs and "how they are endangered and how important they are," to trade barriers, which was the topic at the state competition.

"The kids are given a future scenario on the topic that could take place 20 years in the future and they have to complete a six-step booklet, coming up with challenges related to the scenario, picking an underlying problem, and then they have to come up with 16 solutions," Caron said.

From those 16 solutions, the students develop a ranking system to figure out which solution is the best, Caron said. Then from that solution, she said, "they have to write an action plan, a short essay explaining how they're going to solve this problem specifically."

Individual competitors must write eight challenges with eight solutions and an action plan, Caron said. Each of the solutions must be varied.

While the students know the topic and can research beforehand, Caron said they come to the competition without any notes or guidelines. "You're on a blank slate," she said. "You're just on your own so you have to understand how to use that six-step process really well."

Right now, Bowen is busy preparing for the international competition. The topic for the competition – pharmaceuticals – is a broad one, and Bowen has her work cut out for her.

She said she didn't know much about the topic beforehand and spends her time researching while her classmates are working on other projects. She said she is very excited to compete in Indiana.

Lily Bowen said she has been collecting information for her daughter. "When I see an article come through, I kind of flag them and say 'have you researched anything like this yet?'"

Bowen has sacrificed some of her free time to prepare for the competition.

"She gives up a lot of recess to prepare with the coach and does a lot of independent research," Lily Bowen said. "She has virtually no recess."

Bowen said students at her school are selected each year for Future Problem Solvers, and she said she hopes to participate again next year.

Marlborough Selectmen Award Electrical Bid, Discuss 5K Charity

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

At a meeting Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen awarded an electrical bid for Marlborough Fire Company 2 for its lighting replacement project and discussed a charity 5K race to be held this fall.

The lighting replacement project will be funded by an ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant of \$18,509.81 and will cover the costs of interior lighting. The grant money must be expended by June 30.

Town Planner Peter Hughes recommended the selectmen award the bid for electrical work to One Mechanical Group LLC of Glastonbury. First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said the group was the lowest bidder at \$7,906.80.

"Between that bid and the cost of the equipment, we should be able to get the project for Firehouse 2 interior lighting," she said. "We were trying to see if there'd be enough for exterior lighting but there wasn't enough left over."

Gaudinski said the cost for equipment is \$11,000 and the grant required that the fixtures be American-made.

The selectmen also okayed the plans of Marlborough's Fellowship Community Church to hold a five-kilometer race Oct. 27, subject to any Parks and Recreation concerns. The race's

organizer, Wendy Worley, said it raises money for the Samaritan's Purse Ministry. The church held the same race last year and "earmarked the funds to help rebuild Joplin, MO."

Although Worley does not know what the funds will be designated for yet, she said, "We want to stay domestic."

Worley said last year's race was a success. "We had 90 participants and raised \$1,500 last year," she said.

The course will begin and end at the church, as it did last year, but Worley had the course certified this year so runners can use their times to qualify for other races. She added participants can also walk the race.

Selectman Michael Gut joked around with Dick Shea about the race. "Better start training, Dick," he said.

The selectmen voted for a change at the town's transfer station to charge \$5 for the disposal of porcelain fixtures. The charge will apply to each item. Gaudinski said the town was previously able to dispose of the fixtures at no cost, but now needs to demolish them to get rid of them.

"It costs \$80 per ton to get rid of them," she said, "but since we don't get a large amount we

can just throw them into the demolition."

The selectmen re-appointed Jacobson & Associates Engineering Services as the town's on-call engineer. The selectmen, Hughes and Russ Johnston interviewed four firms last week and "decided on Jacobson Engineering based upon the years of service they've given and the pricing structure," Gaudinski said. "I think it came down to the knowledge of the town and the fee structure and the fit for a small town."

Shea agreed the company is an ideal fit. "They specialize in what we need, whereas the other firms were more diversified," he said.

The selectmen did not put a timeline on the contract, noting there was currently not one before and the town had not gone through a request for quotation for engineering services for nine years.

"I thought since we were all new that we should go through the process and interview and just re-affirm or make the option to change," Gaudinski said.

The selectmen voted to accept the land use fee schedule, effective July 1, proposed by Hughes. The fees had not been adjusted in 12 years.

Among the revisions were reductions in tem-

porary event fees where a public hearing is not required from \$75 to \$40 and where a public hearing is required from \$150 to \$80 as well as an increase in inspection fees from 7 to 10 percent of the total project cost due to changes in the laws regarding inspection.

The selectmen voted to accept a 700-foot extension of Victoria Lane as a town road. Gaudinski said the extension was built a few years ago and was never officially accepted, so the vote was simply a "housekeeping matter."

Resident Joe Asklar was appointed to an alternate position on the Economic Development Commission until January 2013. Asklar has owned Marlborough Plastics since 1979 and several other businesses since. Gaudinski pointed out Marlborough Plastics was awarded a small business grant through the state, so Asklar knows the grant application process.

Gaudinski added there are still openings for one Republican and one Democrat alternate on the commission.

The selectmen also accepted the resignation of part-time transfer station employee Anthony DeCaro, effective May 29.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Tuesday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Marlborough Residents Pass \$21.56 Million Budget

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Marlborough residents passed the recommended 2012-13 fiscal year budget by a 2-1 ratio at the annual town meeting Monday.

The 97 voters at the meeting passed the overall \$21.56 million budget, a 1.83 percent increase over the 2011-12 budget, 66-31.

The budget calls for a mill rate of 31.08, or a 3.88 mill increase, or 14.26 percent, from the current year.

The overall spending included a 3.35 percent increase in the local Board of Education budget of \$7.20 million, and a 1.13 percent increase in the \$4.42 million town operations budget.

The regional Board of Education budget decreased from \$7.33 million to \$7.30 million, First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said. The \$28,081 decrease in Marlborough's portion of the RHAM budget was a result of voters defeating it at the Thursday, May 10, referendum. The new number reflects a 1.59 percent increase rather than the previous 1.98 percent.

The RHAM decrease was also what brought the overall budget increase from 1.96 percent to 1.83 percent.

Also included in the budget was \$2.49 million for town debt and \$20,000 contingency. An additional \$115,839 reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditures included a reserve for the 2015-16 revaluation, North Main Street sidewalk design and engineering, the Blish Park Pavilion roof, thermal imaging cameras for the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and two new mowers and a Ford F-350 for Public Works.

The capital requests totaled \$136,000; however using \$20,160 in capital closeout funds that were not expended to offset costs brought it to the \$115,839 total. Gaudinski said.

Gaudinski said the impact of the 2011 revaluation process was responsible for much of the mill rate increase.

"If we had a flat Grand List with no revaluation we would have had a mill rate of 27.98 which is an increase of 0.78 mills," she said.

A 17 percent increase in health insurance costs for both the schools and the town was the largest increase the town faced with this budget, Gaudinski said.

The Public Works Department budget increased by \$23,244 as a result of increasing costs for gas and diesel, engineering, salt and software, she added.

Two other items passed during the town meeting, including a transfer of \$45,000 from an undesignated fund balance to establish a "future capital expenditure reserve" within the capital non-recurring fund. The residents voted in favor of the transfer 77-20.

Gaudinski explained the money is not an addition to the budget.

"We're not asking that \$45,000 be tacked on to increase the tax revenue, we're using funds that we were expecting to be returned to us and set aside," she said. "It's surplus revenue that would've been refunded to the town after taxes, but what we're asking is that the voters approve that we create this reserve so that we can start setting aside funds to pay directly for items in stead of bonding in the future for other debt."

In line with saving to avoid bonding later, a third item on the budget requested the voters approve the town entering into a five-year lease-to-purchase agreement starting the upcoming fiscal year for a roll-off truck for the transfer station. The truck would not exceed \$185,000. The item passed 66-31.

"By doing these things we feel that we're minimizing our future debt with outright purchases and the lease/purchase plan for a vehicle," Gaudinski said. "We do not feel we want to go out to bond at this time to increase our annual debt payment."

Gaudinski explained that the town will continue to plan for future expenditures. "We'd like to incorporate more things as we go along," she



First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski moderates the annual town meeting, at which voters passed the 2012-13 budget 66-31. Photo by Janie Boston. Computer-altered photo.

said. "The more that we can work on reducing the amount that we bond, the better off we are down the road."

At Tuesday's Board of Selectmen's meeting, Gaudinski said she was pleased with the turnout and the outcome.

"I thought it was well-attended, compared to the public hearing," she said, referring to the April 23 hearing that attracted approximately 10 residents. "Setting aside funds for the future capital was also a 2-1 [voting ratio] and I thought that was positive that people would want to start a program where we pay more and plan a little more extensively rather than bond-

ing at this point."

Selectman Dick Shea said he was expecting far fewer than the 97 people that turned out to vote.

* * *

Though Marlborough's budget is passed, townspeople aren't quite finished with budget season. They will head to the polls next Tuesday, May 22, to vote on the proposed RHAM budget for the 2011-12 year. (A story on that budget appears elsewhere in this issue.) Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School Community Room.

\$10.59 Million Budget Passed by Andover Voters

by **Geeta Schrayter**

Although May 15 was the sort of gray and rainy day people would rather spend indoors, over 200 Andover residents ventured to the polls throughout the day to cast their votes on the proposed \$10.59 million town budget.

The number wasn't huge – especially considering there are 2,108 registered voters in town – but even with the rain causing roadside rivers, it was more than the 77 voters from the previous year. The outcome, though, was the same – the budget was passed.

The budget was approved by a 138-100 vote. It is actually a decrease from the current year's \$10.60 million spending package. However, the mill rate will be going up, from 27.55 in the current year to 30.80, an 11.80 percent increase – the first significant mill rate increase the town has seen since 2006.

Education spending makes up the majority of the budget, with \$4.18 million earmarked for the local Board of Education and \$4.03 million for the town's portion of the yet-to-be-approved RHAM budget. The portion allotted for general government is \$2.35 million.

Outside the polling place at Town Hall Tuesday, resident Jim Roberto said of the spending plan, "I'm for it," and added, "We haven't had tax increases in a few years."

Wayne Thorpe felt similarly, saying, "I think it's about right. It seemed reasonable."

However, for Les Giddings, his vote on the budget was a 'no.'

"Don't spend as much money as you think you can," he said, adding he'd like to see lower education costs at RHAM. "The building out there is way too big for the amount of people in it and the services, in my opinion."

Additionally, he continued, contracts

should be handled differently.

"I think in the future, regarding the contracts and contractual raises, [they] should be tied to the overall economic condition," he said. "Everybody should be in the same boat. If things are good, everybody is good. If things are bad, everybody is bad, whether you've got a contract or not."

He added with a smile, "Other than that, this weekend's going to be sunny."

Lillian Tebbets voted 'yes,' and said with a laugh, "It didn't go up 25 percent so I'm happy."

"I think [the town does] the best they can trying to make everything fair for everybody. You get to a point where [you say to yourself] if it doesn't go up by a huge amount of money you can manage," she continued. "And I work at the school too so it lets me see a little bit more what's actually going on with the money for education- how it's being used."

"I think, as always, [Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia] does a great job with keeping the elementary school budget in line," said another resident, who didn't wish to be named. "He does amazing work with, a lot of pushback, I guess we could say."

On Thursday, First Selectman Bob Burbank said he was glad to see it was approved.

"I think the Board of Finance worked hard to make sure that the increase stayed to a bare minimum," he said. "If they had to come back and cut the budget it would have affected services either at the school or the fire department because we've already had a pretty substantial decrease in town revenues."

"To that regard," he continued, "it's good that it passed and they didn't have to cut services."

Benefit Dinner in Hebron for Franas Family

by **Geeta Schrayter**

On April 25, Hebron resident Stacey Franas lost her husband, and her two young daughters lost their father, when 40-year-old Rich Franas died following injuries sustained in a boating crash four days earlier.

In response, the community next weekend is holding a special event in support of the Franas family, as a small way to help during a time that leaves most feeling completely helpless.

Chris Walz, who's been friends with the family for five years and, with Stacy Franas, is co-leader of Girl Scout Troop 65414, said the decision to hold some kind of event was made almost immediately after the accident.

"Everybody wanted some way to help out," she said, adding, "Everybody's feeling helpless."

Walz said "a lot of people were asking when something would be done for them," so the decision was made to hold a pasta dinner and silent auction to bring the community together and benefit the family.

The event will take place Saturday, May 26, at Christ Lutheran Church in Amston. There will be two sittings, at 5:30 and 7 p.m., where guests will dine on a meal of pasta, salad, bread and butter, desserts, juice and coffee.

A silent auction will also take place, featuring a variety of themed baskets, including a chocolate basket, wine and book basket, garden basket and backyard barbecue baskets, alongside items like a framed print, guitar and gift certificates from area photographers.

"I would expect that there'll probably be about 200 [people] between the two sittings," said Walz. "I'm hoping that we'll make a few thousand dollars."

On Tuesday, Walz said she had sold 50 tickets for the first sitting and about 10 for the second one. In addition to individuals planning to attend the event, Walz said people who can't make the dinner had been sending in donations, all with the hope of letting the Franas family know they're not alone.

"Stacey is doing remarkably well because she's a really strong person," said Walz, who added "she's always been like that," and is being strong for the girls as well.

On Tuesday, Stacey Franas said the community has been a big help throughout the difficult situation.

"The community has been absolutely amazing and we've had so much support – so that's been such a blessing to us," she said.

Franas, who will be present at the benefit, seemed in awe at the fact the community was coming together to put on an event for the family. She was quick to express her gratitude.

"It's an honor that [the community] would even think of something like this for us. It's wonderful," she said, adding, "thank you to everyone - a heartfelt thank you for all of the love and support that's been given to our family. We're so, so appreciative."

Price for the event is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 11 and under, or a family ticket can be purchased for \$25.

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 330 Church Street. For more information on the event, call Walz at 860-228-3698 or Lety Bell at 860-530-1061. Individuals, who can't attend the dinner but would like to send a donation directly can write a check, made payable to the Family of Rich Franas, and send it to 190 Hillcrest Dr., Amston, CT 06231.

Picture-Perfect Day for Andover Bridge Dedication

by Geeta Schrayter

It was a picturesque scene on May 12 as Andover residents and local and state officials gathered for a dedication of the long-awaited covered bridge.

Although the weather has been gray and rainy more often than not over the past couple of weeks, Saturday was bright and sunny. A clear blue sky and newly-sprouted leaves formed the backdrop behind the bridge, which crosses Route 316 near its intersection with Route 6. As various individuals spoke about the 11-year project, a slight breeze blew the large American flag that hung below the bridge back and forth, as walkers, bicyclists and horseback riders crossed above.

"After 11 years, the town dream of having a covered bridge – it has become reality," said selectman Jay Linddy.

"Our first selectman, Robert Burbank, took office five years ago, and there were two items that we were really concerned about," he said. "First of all, we were like \$90,000 in the hole. Second was the bridge – and both of them are done."

He then introduced Burbank, who in turn thanked Linddy for all his hard work putting the program together and working in various other capacities, before introducing and thanking former first selectman Ed Turn. Burbank explained Turn had been in office when the old railroad bridge was removed.

"Can you believe it?" Turn exclaimed as he gestured toward the bridge.

"Today is National Train Day," he continued. "And I think it's appropriate to recall some of the history of this rail bed, which is now the rail trail."

The idea for a rail bed was chartered in 1845, Turn explained. Then, four years later, "probably including two years of construction, the first train came through Andover."

Turn added, "It's unbelievable as one walks the trail and thinks about what was available to engineer that project: tens of thousands of pounds of fill and rock cut with nothing but black powder and stone work that is the most beautiful that can be seen anywhere, I would say, if not in the state than in the country."

Turn continued on to share a realization he'd made that as a student at the University of Connecticut from 1945-49, he'd actually traveled through Andover on many occasions.

At the time, UConn was a "suitcase college," he explained. Turn lived in West Hartford, and on those weekends he went home, he found "to get back from Hartford, taking the train to Willimantic was a better option than trying to hitchhike from Hartford to Storrs. So, as I recall those days, it occurs to me that I made this

crossing many, many times on the train coming through Andover."

And just like the construction and use of the railroad through town are included in the history of Andover, Turn said, "I think today is another milestone which [town historian Scott Yeomans] will be adding to the history of Andover."

Turn added he was pleased everyone had come out to celebrate the day in "that town with the covered bridge."

After Turn, three third-grade students from Andover Elementary School shared some information they learned about town as part of a recent project. Those in attendance were able to see a timeline on Andover's history, and learned tidbits such as the fact that there used to be a creamery in town that produced butter so good it earned a bronze award at The World's Fair in 1893.

"I'm very proud to live in Andover," said third-grader Julia Smith.

Fellow student Edward Chiffer felt similarly, saying, "I like living in Andover because it's the coolest small town in Connecticut."

And while the covered bridge is certainly an added plus to town, for third-grader Emily Metcalf, it's the people that make Andover so great.

"Andover is a lovely place to live because everybody is nice and friendly," she said. "Once you meet everybody you'll find out that it is an awesome place to live."

After Burbank commended the students for their courage in being able to stand in front of a crowd and speak so eloquently, he introduced state Rep. Pam Sawyer, explaining she had been involved with the project from the beginning, was one of the individuals with the vision for the covered bridge and helped the town get money to fund the project.

As Sawyer stood at the podium, she smiled out at the audience and mentioned "the people," just as Metcalf had.

"I think there's another group that we need to look at – and I'm looking at them – and that's the town of Andover that had the faith that the bridge would come," she said. "Of course, you got a little bit older as you waited 11 years, but you had the faith."

Sawyer shared it was a cold November day in 2000 when she got a call from Bill O'Neill, vice chairman of the Connecticut Greenways Council, who asked if she'd meet with him because he had something to show her.

And so, they came to the intersection of routes 6 and 316 and O'Neill explained the vision of the East Coast Greenway: to have 3,000 miles of trails spanning from Maine to Florida. At that particular section however, there was a



The weather was picture-perfect during the May 12 dedication of the long-awaited covered bridge. Numerous local and state officials spoke at the ceremony, including former First Selectman Ed Turn, seen speaking here.

problem.

"We had a high bridge abutment that was historical on one side and we had an embankment on the other side," explained Sawyer. She and O'Neill were able to watch as people had to stop on the west side of the trail, cut their way through the weeds to come down from the trail to the road, cross the guardrail and the dangerous intersection and come back up to the trail on the other side.

O'Neill then explained to her the different things that would be needed to put in a bridge place "and he said we needed someone to shepherd the project through," Sawyer continued. "So I'm still standing there and he whips out this brochure, and says this is his vision – we could do it with a prefab bridge."

"And knowing that he's talking to a female he said 'and you can pick the design!'" she added with a laugh.

"Well, he kind of had me sold at, certainly, the safety issue," Sawyer said. "He had me sold at the [3,000] miles with the missing link. But I gave him a big smile as he pulled out the brochure and I could actually envision what could be here and I said 'Bill, I want a covered bridge.'"

Sawyer added she had to repeat that desire to many people, adamant that a covered bridge would be a signature for the town that would make Andover a unique place along the Greenway.

"Ladies and gentlemen," she said, "you have the only covered bridge along the [3,000] miles."

The length of time, the hard work and "tenacity," as Sawyer called it, that the project took seems worth it now that the bridge is finally in place. O'Neill – who also spoke at Saturday's dedication – even went so far as to call the timeframe "a high point."

"One of the high points of good news is it took 11 years and therefore the bridge will last 11 years more than it would had we put it in on time," he laughed. "So that we have working for us."

Retiring state Department of Transportation (DOT) project manager Rich Zbrozek was also present at the ceremony. Burbank described Zbrozek as instrumental in helping to push the project forward. Burbank explained he "got the information needed to get the bridge back on track again and moving."

"I'm proud to have been a part of this project," said Zbrozek, "and acknowledge this lasting value for generations to come."

On Wednesday, Linddy described the event as "perfect," and said "the speakers were great." He added that after the dedication, there was a mini-cookout, with hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza. Residents, he said, stayed about two hours to socialize after the ceremony.

"It turned out to be everything we thought it would be and more," he said.

Hebron Budget Heading to Referendum \$400,000 Lighter

by Geeta Schrayter

Following last week's sound beating at the polls, the Hebron budget has a new, trimmer figure – and town officials hope the spending plan flies with the voters this time around.

The new proposed 2011-12 budget now sits at \$33.88 million, down from the \$34.28 million figure rejected at a May 8 referendum by a 986-536 vote. The revised spending plan represents a decrease of \$211,888, or .62 percent, from the current year's budget. (The spending proposal shot down last week called for a .57 percent increase.)

The Board of Finance voted 5-1 – with Paula Verrier opposed – last Thursday, May 10, to cut the general government and local Board of Education budget. The board voted unanimously so cut the Capital Improvement Plan budget.

Combined with reductions the RHAM Board of Education made to its budget – an article on that appears elsewhere in this issue – the proposed spending package is now \$408,000 lower than it was for the previous referendum.

Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel explained this week the CIP budget decreased significantly because the proposed changes to the parking lot at Hebron Elementary School were

taken out, which resulted in a \$150,000 reduction.

In addition, he said, several older CIP projects were closed out, bringing the net impact of the CIP fund down.

"It was a \$17,000 increase," Hazel said. "Now it's a \$209,000 decrease from the prior year, primarily from the parking lot, then revenue from the closed-out projects."

Finance Director Elaine Griffin said Wednesday the general fund contribution to CIP was now at \$417,647, which is a \$208,980 reduction.

On the town side, Hazel explained the number is down \$7,000.

"We took \$25,000 out of [the town budget] but added in \$18,000 as a compromise to the parking lot," he said, because the board recognized the area as a traffic situation.

The \$18,000 is for a traffic officer to be on site in the mornings and afternoons.

The \$25,000 in cuts stem from a \$9,510 reduction in employee benefits, an \$11,841 reduction in retiree payout benefits, a \$2,153 reduction in funds for a planning department intern and a \$1,495 reduction to the part time hours for the clerk in the assessor's office.

The town government portion of the budget now comes in at \$6,458,592, down from \$6,465,592.

The finance board agreed to cut \$121,000 from the local Board of Education budget, which brings the figure to \$11.89 million, which Hazel said brings the school board budget "to a net neutral impact year over year."

"So the budget, including funding sources, is essentially flat," he added.

Hazel explained last year, the board had the \$176,000 in Educational Jobs funding netted against its payroll expense. This year, the Ed Jobs funding is gone, but the district received \$96,662 in increased funding from the state.

The school's expenditures "look like they're going up, but they're only going up by the amount [the district] is getting increased funding from the state," so the number is "basically flat," he said.

The Board of Education had to reduce its spending so the number equals the amount of the additional funding.

The school board met earlier this week to grapple with the reductions imposed by the finance board; an article on that meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

With the finance board's cuts and the RHAM board's reductions, the overall budget "is down approximately \$408,000" said Hazel. "We heard it wasn't a year for new initiatives so we stripped those. The budget is about as bare as it gets. Any further and we talk about going into core services."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said Wednesday he feels "all the boards probably went in with the fact that it wasn't going to be one or two little hits – that we actually needed to make big hits."

Watt said he hopes "we not only reduced the amount to what voters are looking for, but also impacted areas they gave us some feedback on" by reducing the CIP budget as well as the amount for the local Board of Education.

The hope is, the amount each of the areas has been impacted, will "hopefully be enough for [taxpayers] to come out and vote, and vote in a way that shows we've been able to listen to what they said and hopefully give them a budget they're looking for," said Watt.

Voting on the proposed \$33.88 million budget for fiscal year 2012-13 will take place Tuesday, May 22 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Heated Budget Discussion at Hebron School Board Meeting

by Geeta Schrayter

Emotions were high at Tuesday's meeting of the local Board of Education, as residents voiced their opinions on the school budget and board members discussed necessary reductions amounting to over \$121,000.

Cuts made by the Board of Finance last week – a related story appears elsewhere in this issue — dropped the school board budget to \$11.89 million from \$12.01 million.

"We're all here for the school system," Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea said as she laid the ground rules for public comment.

The public then had an opportunity to speak, and Tom Bech expressed his support for all-day kindergarten.

"I don't know what's in the plan for the budget as far as what's going to happen," said Bech, "but I'm here to advocate to not cut the full-day kindergarten. It frustrates me reading the *Rivereast* and I see people who comment on the full-day K and people say that it's extended daycare. ... It frustrates me a lot to read that because being an educator myself I know the benefit."

Bech continued on to mention, as board members had at previous meetings, that the new common core state standards were "extremely comprehensive" and the expectations for young students "are getting to be so high."

"Quite frankly, if things like this are cut out of the budget, kids are really going to fall behind," he said.

Resident Carly Topulos echoed Bech's sentiments.

"I would feel very sorry if the [educational] gains that we have made in the last few years" were lost, she said. Eliminating all-day kindergarten would be "a giant step in the wrong direction."

Resident Dave Morrison then shared his opinion on the education budget, saying he felt the board wouldn't need to be making more cuts "if the board had been honest about what needs to be done to support 900 students" from the beginning. He said he felt a majority of the board didn't do its "homework," but rather followed the superintendent and administration's analysis in how the dollars should be spent.

Morrison said he was worried "the only thing [some members] have on their plate to do is what they came to do, never wrapping into the equation the big picture – which is the community" and their needs and opinions.

Morrison also expressed his thoughts on the budget increases, saying "when the budget goes up \$2.3 million over the period that the enrollment drops 318...there's something wrong here. I would say it's misappropriation of funds and my guess is it's not towards the teachers or the teaching of the students. Most of us realize it's administration. That's my point: 318 less, 2.3 million more – there's a big gap. Where did that money go?"

As Morrison ended, he thanked Shea for allowing him to speak longer than the three minutes allotted during public comment.

As she uttered "you're welcome," Morrison was quick to respond, "don't get smart," adding, "I heard the tone of your voice – that's a part of what I'm saying tonight."

Shea told Morrison to "settle down," and informed him he could speak again during public comment at the end of the meeting. She then asked if anyone else wanted to speak for a longer period of time, since Morrison had been able to.

"Yeah, I broke the rules," said Morrison. "Put me in the corner with the dunce cap."

Public comment then continued, and Loretta McDonnell spoke in support of the board for giving its "time and talent."

"I would hope you'd do your best to cut things that don't directly impact student curriculum," she said. "I think that's a primary concern of the parents of the community."

McDonnell said people that are voting 'no' on the budget have already published their intention to do so "before the board even decided what they're going to cut out."

She told board members it doesn't matter what they cut, those against the budget have already decided to vote it down, "and that does not sound like democracy to me."

Marie Egbert spoke next, and said the individuals who are against the budget "don't want progressive cuts for the children."

"But people are saying 'no' because we know what the bottom line is going to be," she said. "So we know how much [the Board of Finance] cut from the budget."

Then, Carol Connolly added her views to the mix, saying she'd be voting "yes" and thank-

ing the board, superintendent and principals for doing such a good job.

"I have trust in you and I know you will make the right decision," she said.

Discussion then moved to the budget, and Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz began by explaining how the finance board reached the \$121,435 amount that needed to be cut.

The board, she said, subtracted the amount of the Education Jobs Funding the board had in the current year's budget, since the \$176,000 was no longer available. Then, she continued, an additional \$96,662 was put back in, due to state funding the district received. The resulting number left the education budget, as Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel said earlier this week, "basically flat."

Cruz noted if the budget was averaged over the past three years, the district had operated a Blue Ribbon school with a -.06 percent appropriation for education.

"I'd like to match that up against any school district in the state," she said. "I'd like to see if the 160 towns that spend more money than us can do it better."

Cruz also mentioned the main goal of the Board of Education was not – as some seemed to think – to save money, but to promote student achievement.

As she continued, Cruz then reminded the board, due to a new state mandate, "it's going to cost us about \$500 per teacher to run a new evaluation program – none of which has been budgeted in this."

Ongoing discussion, she said, will revolve around finding ways to maintain programs but meet statutory obligations.

Cruz also said the board had been responsive to the reduction in enrollment and since the 2008-09 school year, 9.5 teaching positions had been cut as well as a number of others.

Along those lines, the largest recommendation presented to the board was to cut a certified teaching position for \$60,000 savings. The position is currently vacant due to a retiring teacher, meaning the board wouldn't have to go through a termination process and deal with unemployment costs.

Instead of filling the position, which will either be a reading consultant or a special education team member, Cruz said resources will be put in place in the younger grades for early prevention and support in kindergarten, first and second grade, "so kids are reading by third grade."

"My point of view is that we put the resources in early, and my suggestion is that we cut one of those two positions," she said, adding, "it's not that I don't think we don't need that, but I felt it was the wisest thing to do."

Other reductions included \$28,000 from deferring certain maintenance items and \$10,000 from the elimination of the mid-day kindergarten bus runs.

If all-day kindergarten is taken out of the budget, Cruz explained the \$10,000 would have to be put back in order to transport students in the middle of the day.

Another \$5,000 was cut for assistive technology meant to aid the special education department.

The decision was also made to cut "\$10,000 from oil because we're hoping we'll be able to top off the tank" at the end of the year, said Cruz.

Finally, another \$8,435 reduction was made in electricity as a result of the district "saving so much because of the solar panels and other interventions" like refitting the lighting outside Gilead Hill School, Cruz explained.

"We were able to, at the very least, make some hard decisions but decisions I felt, and the team felt, would continue to support student achievement and minimize impact on students," she said.

As discussion was opened up to the board, things got a little heated. Board member Stephanie Raymond referred to Morrison's earlier comments and said, "I take great offense to somebody saying we misappropriate money." She called it "a shocking allegation that's very upsetting."

"I don't spend all the time that I do on the board to be accused of misappropriation of funds," she said.

Raymond then focused on the budget, and while she admitted what Cruz had presented "is very upsetting," she said she was also concerned because of what McDonnell had said about the budget being voted down regardless.

"That's not what we should be teaching kids about politics," she said. "The people that suffer are the people that are the most vulnerable:

the children."

"I really support all-day [kindergarten] but I'm finding it really hard to support when people don't come out and support it too. But Ellie," she continued, "I think this is very reasonable. But I do think that no matter what people do, they're going to vote it down because they only want [a zero percent increase], so I don't know what else to say."

Member Tina Marie-Blinn then shared her thoughts, and while she said she wasn't in favor of full-day kindergarten when it was proposed two years ago, she now knows it's necessary taking into account the common core standards, the number of children and hours necessary to learn.

"There's not enough time" to learn in half-day kindergarten, she said, adding previous generations made it without all-day kindergarten because things were different then.

"I told my husband, our generation – we're going to be fine," she said. "You're going to retire in 15-20 years." But the children, she added, are going to be competing against the world.

"How do you arm them if you don't give them the resources?" Raymond asked rhetorically. "I'm not an expert, but I think I'm intelligent enough to look what's coming down the pike. My kids aren't going to benefit. They didn't have all-day [kindergarten] but I can't be selfish. Education is very important."

Board member Maryanne Leichter said she also supported expanding all-day kindergarten, calling the initiative "imperative."

Leichter added she was worried the budget process was becoming a political football. She said she feels residents like Egbert and McDonnell "are very organized and if you tell me it's going to go down in a 'no,' all I can do is beg the parents of the children in this town – my children have been through and out – support your school, child, town, CIP; support it all because it's what makes Hebron a great place."

Board member Dominic Marino, however, had a decidedly different tone than his fellow members. He said it's "not the case" that individuals who were against the budget were against education.

"The case is how you spend your money," he said. "Mindful consumption, mindful spending – that's the task at hand. ... I think that's what the voters are saying we don't like."

Marino said the school board has gone after "teachers in the trenches," which isn't what voters want to see. "We don't want to go after these people that take kids to the lab [and] give them extra help," he said. "They don't want those touched, but it's how we spend our money."

Marino also said he feels the majority of the board doesn't listen when someone disagrees.

"As soon as someone else disagrees – this board just doesn't want to hear what it doesn't want to hear," he said.

"Don't tell me we don't agree with education just because we don't agree with [the board]," he said. "We care about education; we don't agree with where you're going. ... Everybody in town will know someone that is forced out of Hebron within the next year. The people who are allocating this budget – you don't live here."

There were things that would be nice to have, but "not when the money is going the other way," Marino added. "It's hard to squeeze a dime out of a nickel."

Amy Lynch-Gracias said everyone on the board cares about education.

"I think we're very proud of the achievements we made and want to keep that going," she said. "No one wants to see the quality of education going down the tubes."

But, she continued, she had some concerns with the way things were going in town, and "the only way we can see to help is to have that robust dialogue."

She said that while she didn't want to see any of the students "cut short" in their educa-

tion, she was concerned reducing teachers was "the fastest way to cut our budget."

"I honestly think we have to hang on to these teachers," she said. "I think we need to try to find a way of following some of the examples of some of the larger communities to see what we can live without" but do whatever can be done "to keep some of those teachers who are going to have the highest impact."

Shea then shared her thoughts on the subject, and said while she also opposed all-day kindergarten during the previous attempt to expand it for the 2010-11 year, she felt the landscape had since changed.

"This time I supported it because we skimmed it down as much as possible," she said, noting new classrooms wouldn't need to be outfitted, a bus was able to be eliminated since there would no longer be mid-day runs, and there was no talk about cutting programs like band, music and Spanish.

The board then moved to approve Cruz's list of recommended cuts, and the motion passed five-to-one with Marino against.

During a public comment session at the end of the meeting, a number of residents again voiced their views.

McDonnell once again thanked the board for their thoughtful deliberation, and on the point of stipends for cell phones and travel given to the administration, which had been mentioned previously as a point of contention among some, McDonnell stated "those are contractual," so nothing could be changed.

It had also been mentioned by Marino earlier in the meeting that the recent trip to China cost the district unnecessary money, but McDonnell countered that "as far as I know, the trip was funded by the Connecticut Department of Education." She added the only way that changes is through different politicians in Hartford.

Resident Harvey Desruisseaux said that if the budget is once again defeated "it's going to be because of administrative costs."

He then addressed McDonnell and said, "thank you for your comment about voting no again." He then confirmed there was in fact a group set on voting down the budget and said "and I'm a part of it."

Desruisseaux added the group consists of young people, older residents, Republicans, Democrats and Independents and "that's what's important. We're representing the people in town."

He also addressed Shea and said he was disappointed with her "lack of leadership and professionalism" and suggested she take a course in management – "anger management to be specific."

At that, McDonnell could be heard saying Desruisseaux was "way out of line."

After spending the evening witnessing the interactions between those present, RHAM High School senior Brendan Hall, who records the Board of Education meetings, saw it fit to speak.

"Just because I work for the board does not mean I'm affiliated with them, but I've watched the board a long time," he said. "As a student, I think it's disrespectful from all sides – there's been bickering, [jabbing] at times... you all have ideas, some have facts, some have more of a moral compass. ... [But] it's ridiculous to think you have any idea what's best for children. If you think you should be deciding what's best for children then you should not be acting like children."

Hall's comments were followed by applause from some of the very adults he was chiding.

And still, even with the raised emotions and the opinions that continued to be voiced, the decision on where to cut the \$121,435 necessary from the budget was made. Now, the hope is the change will be enough for the budget to pass at the referendum on May 22.

Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Donations Sought for Book Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library of Hebron are accepting donations of used books in good condition for its next book sale, which will be held Saturday, June 9, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Community Room at the library, 22 Main St.

Cookbooks, fiction, westerns, sci-fi, mysteries, romances, non-fiction and children's books are requested. CDs and DVDs are also needed. The Friends asks people do not donate encyclopedias, magazines, *Reader's Digest* con-

ditioned books or books in poor condition (mildewed, moldy or torn).

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new material for the library, museum passes, technology equipment, as well as pay for children's and adult programs. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the donation box to the right of the main (parking lot) entrance. For assistance with large donations, call the library ahead of time.

For more information, call 860-228-9312.

Maintenance Worker Dies at Portland Golf Course

by Joshua Anusewicz

An employee of Portland Golf Course on Bartlett Street died last week from injuries sustained in a freak accident at the course.

Police were dispatched to the course last Thursday, May 10, at roughly 8:30 a.m. after a call that a maintenance worker had been trapped under a piece of equipment, a Cushman Turf-Truckster, vehicle used to spray crabgrass control chemicals, police said.

With the help of other employees and golfers, responders were able to free Andrew Sloan, 61, of Colchester, who was treated for serious injuries at the scene by Portland firefighters, Hunter's Ambulance, and Middlesex Hospital paramedics. Sloan was transported to Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, then to Hartford Hospital soon after.

Sloan died from the injuries on Saturday, May 12, according to an obituary that appears on page 13.

According to Lt. Ron Milardo, a cause of death has not been determined, but authorities are considering whether Sloan suffered a heart attack prior to the accident. Milardo said the truck had been driven up onto an embankment, where it tipped over on its side and onto Sloan.

Sloan, who was described as a "skilled amateur craftsman," was employed at Portland Golf Course for over 30 years.

Representatives from Portland Golf Course were not available for comment this week. According to Portland Police, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is currently investigating the incident.

Marlborough Man Leads Police on Chase

by Katelyn Kelleher

A local resident faces several charges after leading police on a chase from Salem to Marlborough Saturday.

State Police said James Floran, 25, of 180 Jones Hollow Rd., fled a motor vehicle stop on New London Road in Salem and a pursuit ensued.

Police said they apprehended Floran in Marlborough at 6:45 p.m.

Floran was charged with engaging in a police pursuit, disregarding signs/markings in a no passing zone, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked/refused license and reckless driving greater than 85 miles per hour, State Police said.

Floran's court date is set for June 5, State Police said.

Portland Police News

5/9: Raymond Stebbins, 21, of 205 Isinglass Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, Portland Police said.

5/9: Matthew Poulin, 25, of 48 Champion Hill Rd., East Hampton, was charged with driving with suspended license and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

5/10: Amy Pease, 34, of 11 Ridge Rd., was charged with failure to respond, police said.

5/11: Larry Floyd, 30, of 54 Marlborough St., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

5/11: Jacob Khybery, 25, of 4 Wilkes Rd., East Hampton, was charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny, police said.

Andover Police News

5/12: Aatreyee Eitland, 45, of 33 Cider Mill Rd., was charged with DUI and traveling unreasonably fast for conditions, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

5/2: John A. Cosgrove, 27, of 85 North Main St., was arrested for driving under the influence and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

5/3: Melysa D'Amato, 40, of 332 Mile Ln., Middletown, was arrested for violating a protective order, disorderly conduct, risk of injury to a minor, possession of a narcotic and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

5/5: John Russell Forbes IV, 25, who police had no certain address for, but who they said lives in East Hampton, was arrested for violating a restraining order, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, police said.

5/5: Michael Paul Affinito, 20, of 30 Barbara Ave., East Hampton, was arrested for failure to drive right, DUI, possession of less than

four ounces of marijuana and illegal storage of narcotics, police said.

5/6: Keith Hajek, 37, of 11 Livemore Trail, Killingworth, was arrested for criminal impersonation and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said. Hajek was also arrested for violation of probation, stemming from a separate incident, police added.

5/6: Alissa Hinxman, 19, of 9 Coughlin Rd., Cobalt, was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident in the area of North Main Street and Clark Hill Road, police said. Hinxman was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, according to police.

5/8: Cody Okarmus, 22, who police had no certain address for, was arrested for failure to respond to a violation, police said.

Colchester Police News

5/8: Karina Francis, 28, of 2A Westchester Hill, turned herself in on sixth-degree larceny and third-degree forgery charges, State Police said.

5/9: Matthew Barrett, 29, of 51 Sachus St., Apt. 6, Norwich, was charged with DUI, possession of narcotics and possession of narcotics out of the original container, State Police said.

5/9: Jared Clark, 33, of 38 Knoll Rd., Moodus, was charged with second-degree threatening, violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

5/9: Elizabeth Watson, 24, of 333 Windham Ave., turned herself in on a breach of peace charge, State Police said.

5/9: Brittany Mae Wood, 21, of 99 Lindsey

Rd., Lebanon, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and use of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

5/10: Brandon Plemons, 41, of 65 Pine Row, Uncasville, was charged with possession of heroin, State Police said.

5/11: Harold Rockefeller, 51, of 441 County Route 6, Germantown, NY, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

5/11: Frank Haage, 62, of 9 Cold Spring Rd., East Haddam, was charged with DUI, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and making an improper turn, State Police said.

5/14: Amber Cromeenes, 29, of 25 Victoria Dr., was arrested on an outstanding warrant stemming from a March 31 sixth-degree larceny charge, State Police said.

Colchester

Ida Gloria Bedard

Ida Gloria (Fredette) Bedard, 84, of Oakland, ME, and formerly of Colchester and New Britain, and Lac Megantic, P.Q., Canada, widow of the late Roland C. Bedard, entered eternal rest Tuesday, May 15, surrounded by her loving family. Born April 8, 1928 in Lac Megantic, she was a daughter of



the late Samuel and Victoria (Lessard) Fredette.

On April 12, 1945, she and Roland were married in Lac Megantic and shared 58 years of marriage before he predeceased her on Nov. 5, 2003.

They started their family in Lac Megantic and, in 1953, with four young children, moved to Oakland, ME. In 1965, they then moved to Connecticut to pursue career opportunities and in 1983, returned to Oakland to enjoy their retirement.

Mrs. Bedard had worked for various companies throughout the years, but her greatest joy and dedication was found in caring for her family, to whom she was ever devoted. In her spare time, Ida would knit and crochet baby hats and booties for the needy. She was also a talented seamstress, creating baby quilts for the Little Wanderers. The wonderful memories of her lovely gardens, beautiful smile, witty sense of humor and absolute love for her family will endure forever.

Mrs. Bedard was a communicant of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Oakland, ME.

She is survived by four children and their spouses, Roger and Carmen Bedard of Sidney, ME, Gaetane and Roger Ouellette of Florida, Claire and Mitchell Ziolkowski and Theresa and John Mohrlein, Jr., all of Connecticut; her daughter-in-law, Claudette Bedard of Connecticut; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and several beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by a son, Gaetan; a grandson, Denis; two brothers; and two sisters.

Funeral services will be observed in Waterville, ME.

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

Obituaries

Colchester

Danielle Raymond

Danielle (Simchik) Raymond, 32, of Colchester and formerly of Daytona Beach, FL, beloved wife of Michael and devoted mother of Anthony, passed away unexpectedly Monday, May 7, at home. Born Aug. 23, 1979, in Daytona Beach, she was the daughter of James Simchik of South Daytona and Lucille Cook of Lakeland, FL.



Danielle was a wonderful mother, wife and friend to all. She was an advocate for pitbulls and had a great passion for all animals and the outdoors.

In addition to her parents, husband and son, she is survived by her brother, Nicholas Simchik of Florida, along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and closest friend, Melissa Dumas of Norwich.

A celebration of her life will be held today, May 18, from 4-8 p.m., at a family residence, 48 Lincoln St., Cromwell.

Donations in her memory may be made to the family to aid in her son Anthony's affliction with autism and mailed to 159 Park Avenue, Colchester 06415.

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

Portland

Carmelina Cardini

Carmelina "Carmie" (Sienna) Cardini, 82 of Meriden, formerly of Portland, wife of the late James Cardini, passed away Thursday, May 10. She was born in Portland on July 16, 1929, a daughter of the late Sebastiano and Angelina (Magnano) Sienna, and has resided in Meriden for the past 40 years.



She is survived by two daughters, Judy Mora and her husband, John, of Cape Cod, MA, and Cheryl Cardini of Meriden; her loving grandchildren, Carrie and Shelly Mora, and great-grandchildren, Allison, Nichole and Jacob Mora and Kayla Gullo; her sisters, Lucy and husband, Leon Cardini of Arizona, Rose and husband, Ray Czaja of Rockfall and Joanne Dontigny of Florida; and many caring nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Mary Marino, Angelina Molesky, Ida Sienna and Josephine St. Pierre and by her brothers, Frank and Sebastian Sienna Jr.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 15, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Tuesday morning before the service at the funeral home.

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

Colchester

Andrew Bulkeley Sloan

Surrounded by his family, Andrew B. Sloan of Colchester died May 12 of his injuries after an accident at his workplace on May 10.

He is survived by his daughter, Emily Sloan Stigers; her husband, Jori Stigers; Emily's sister, Sarah Joseph; his brother, Mark Sloan and sister-in-law Christina Sloan; and his sister, Susan Holtz and her husband Fred Holtz.

Andy was employed for over 30 years as a greenskeeper at Portland Golf Course. He was a skilled amateur craftsman in a variety of mediums. As a well-known gemstone facetter he especially liked native Connecticut stones such as tourmaline and beryl, and he created a unique cut called "Rocket 88."

No visitation or services are planned, but donations in his name may be made to any charity.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Adolph F. Kvietkauskas

Adolph F. Kvietkauskas, 95, of Portland, passed away Friday, May 11, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the loving husband of Anne (Guckian) Kvietkauskas to whom he had been married for 62 years. He was the son of the late Adolph and Julia (Stankevich) Kvietkauskas.



Al was born May 5, 1917, in Windsor and lived in Portland for most of his life, and spent some of his formative years in Lithuania. He enjoyed every aspect of aviation, including having served in the Air National Guard after being discharged from the Marine Corps. He served as a glider pilot with a rank of flight officer. He held several flight ratings, including commercial pilot, military glider and helicopter. After retiring from Pratt and Whitney after 36 years, he continued on with his own business which he started years earlier.

Al lived in the house he built himself in 1954. He enjoyed travel and traveled extensively, visiting the Far East, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand and all over Europe. He also volunteered for the New England Air Museum for over 10 years and he was a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his sons, Robert and his wife Teresa of Carlisle, MA, Dennis and his wife Laura of Hebron and Gary and his wife, Francine of Portland; daughter, Julie Ahearn and her husband, Brian of Killingworth; a sister, Victoria Kverega of Quincy, MA; seven grandchildren, John and Michael Ahearn, Peter Kvietkauskas, Callie and Scott Yorker, and Annie and John Pauler; and five great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by a brother, Benjamin, and a sister, Anne Daniels.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 16, with a Mass at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends called Wednesday morning at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St Middletown, CT 06457, or to the Church of St. Mary 51 Freestone Ave Portland, CT 06480.

His family greatly appreciates all the kindness shown by hospice, therefore enabling him to celebrate his 95th birthday at home.

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

East Hampton

Jean E. Valli

Jean E. (French) Valli, 79, of East Hampton, widow of the late George W. Valli, passed away suddenly Monday, May 14. Born June 19, 1932 she was the daughter of the late Clinton and Vera (Register) French.

She grew up in Glastonbury and was a long-time resident of East Hampton. She was a well-known school bus driver in East Hampton for Nichols Bus Company. She enjoyed tag sales, duckpin and 10-pin bowling, most recently with the ladies' league on Tuesday nights.

She is survived by her brother, Craig French and his wife Jean of Bloomfield; her daughter, Vicki Valli of East Hampton and her sons Dirk Snyder and his wife Sandy of East Hartford, Robert Valli of East Hampton, Steven Valli of East Hampton; grandchildren Jessica Snyder, Alicia Valli, Eric Valli and his wife Shannon; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son, Greg Snyder, and grandson, Christopher Snyder.

Funeral services will be held today, May 18, at 10 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home Thursday evening, May 17.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Gerald D. Hicks

Gerald D. Hicks, 88, of Portland, beloved husband of Marguerite (Krewer) Hicks for over 63 years, died comfortably Sunday, May 13, at the Portland Care and Rehabilitation, with loving members of his family at his side.

Born April 13, 1924, in Flushing, NY, the son of James W. and Katherine (Mahony) Hicks, Pop had a full and distinguished life. While he was a student at Grove City College in 1943, World War II was at its height. In an act of patriotism, Jerry left college to join the USMC to help defend our country. Staff Sgt. Hicks was deployed to the Pacific Theater of Operation where he distinguished himself as a combat marine tail gunner, navigator and radar technician in the Bismarck Archipelago Operations and the Consolidation of the Northern Solomon Islands. He was awarded multiple medals for bravery under enemy fire.

After World War II, Pop completed his college degree at the University of Miami and had a long and industrious career as a senior agent with the Allstate Insurance Company. Pop leaves a litany of loving family members who will forever miss him.

Besides his wife, he leaves a sister, Mrs. Joan Kelly of Webster, NY; a brother, Mr. James Hicks of Englishtown, NJ. Pop will forever be missed by his four loving children and their spouses, Mr. and Mrs. John Hope of White Stone, VA, Dr. and Mrs. Francis Cleary of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. John Janicek and Gerald D. Hicks Jr., both of St. James, NY; 12 loving grandchildren, Ms. Stacy Hope, Ms. Colleen Shanahan, Mr. and Mrs. John Savage, Mr. and Mrs. John Hope Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Jason Kiefer, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cleary, Mr. Brian Cleary, Ms. Kelly Cleary, Mr. Aaron Janicek, Mr. Nathan Janicek, Ms. Lauren Hicks, Ms. Kehley Hicks; as well as 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, May 16, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday before the service at the funeral home. Burial will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 1163, Glastonbury, CT 06033. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Pop will always remain the patriarch of our family whom we have looked up to for guidance through all of our lives.

Colchester

Shirley Markham

Shirley (Anderson) Markham, 90, born Dec. 9, 1921, passed away Wednesday, May 16, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown.

She was predeceased by her son, Robert Markham, and daughter, Carolyn Champagne and survived by her two sons, Richard Markham of Portland, ME and John Markham and his wife, Wally of Colchester; a son-in-law, Brett Champagne of Groton; a grandson, Jared Markham, his wife, Sarabeth and their two children, Oliver and Ellery, all of Manchester; granddaughter, Jodi Clark, husband, David and their two children, David Jr. and Brandon, all of Hudson, FL.

Shirley worked for 30-plus years at Harrington Court Convalescent Home in Colchester as a nurse's aide and was a strong advocate for proper care of the elderly. She enjoyed cooking, playing dominos and collecting all types of household items. Shirley was an avid animal lover and adored her cat "Spookers" and will be missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118.

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

Hebron

John Baron

John Baron, 92, of Hebron, peacefully left this life Saturday, May 12. He was predeceased by his wife Irene (Varga) Baron.

Born on Burnt Hill in Hebron, John Baron was a lifelong resident of Hebron, a master machinist and practitioner of other trades and skills, a tireless supporter of the underdog and committed to responsible government.

He leaves behind his son, John D. Baron and his wife Donna, and grandsons Jonathan and Benjamin, all residing in Hebron. Burial service was Wednesday, May 16, at the Wall Street Cemetery (New Hebron Cemetery) in Hebron. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hebron Interfaith Human Services, 20 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, CT 06248.

Arrangements are through Potter Funeral Home, Willimantic. For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Elaine Sarah Desrosier

Elaine Sarah (Davis) Desrosier died Sunday, May 13, at Harrington Court in Colchester, after a long illness. She was born July 7, 1930, in Taftville to the late Ernest Leon and Emma Mary (Thibeault) Davis.

She was a graduate of the Norwich Free Academy, Class of 1949. She married the love of her life, Gerard (Jerry) P. Desrosier July 2, 1949, at Sacred Heart Church in Taftville. He predeceased her in 1998.

In earlier years, she served a term as president of the National Cancer Society, Norwich Chapter. She also participated in the Shyla Club Bowling League in Taftville. In 1976, after raising their five children, they purchased Crestwood Manor, a resident home, which she ran and operated until their retirement in 1994. She was an active parishioner of St. Thomas/St. Anne Church in Voluntown, where she and her husband started the Emmaus Ministry. She was also a charter member of the Rosary Society.

Her family was the center of her life and she loved them unconditionally, and was especially loved and admired by her 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren of whom she was very proud.

Elaine was a courageous and strong woman and fought many serious health battles throughout her life and consequently gained the admiration of everyone that she came in contact with. She will be remembered for her prayerful life, her strong conviction to those things that she believed in and her ability to bring out the best in those she met.

She is survived by her beloved children and their spouses: daughters, Susan (Stephen) Wegiel of Norwalk, Debra (Glenn) Duch of Canterbury, and sons, Thomas (Gail) Desrosier of Griswold, David P. (Linda) Desrosier of Grant, FL, and Paul (Amy) Desrosier of Guilford.

She is predeceased by one son, David A. Desrosier.

She leaves her cherished grandchildren, Laurie Paré, Dawn Desrosier, Jacob Desrosier, Julie King, Jillian Weitknecht, Rebecca Desrosier, Kyle Desrosier, Jacqueline Desrosier, Jamie Desrosier and Alexander Desrosier; as well as seven great-grandchildren in whom she took great delight. She is survived by her sisters, Ruth Desrosier of Lisbon and Harriet Debbis of Largo, FL, and is predeceased by a brother, Everett Davis and a sister, Elva Brochu. She also leaves behind her treasured Papillion, Mickey.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, May 16, at the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home, located at 490 Voluntown Road, Jewett City, CT. The funeral assembled at the funeral home Thursday, May 17, for a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Thomas Church in Voluntown. Interment followed at St. Thomas Cemetery, located on Sheldon Road in Voluntown.

Her family expresses their gratitude to the doctors, nurses and patient aides at the Wm W. Backus Hospital and the great staff at Harrington Court and Vitas Hospice who cared for Elaine in her final days. Their respectful and compassionate care for her will not be forgotten.