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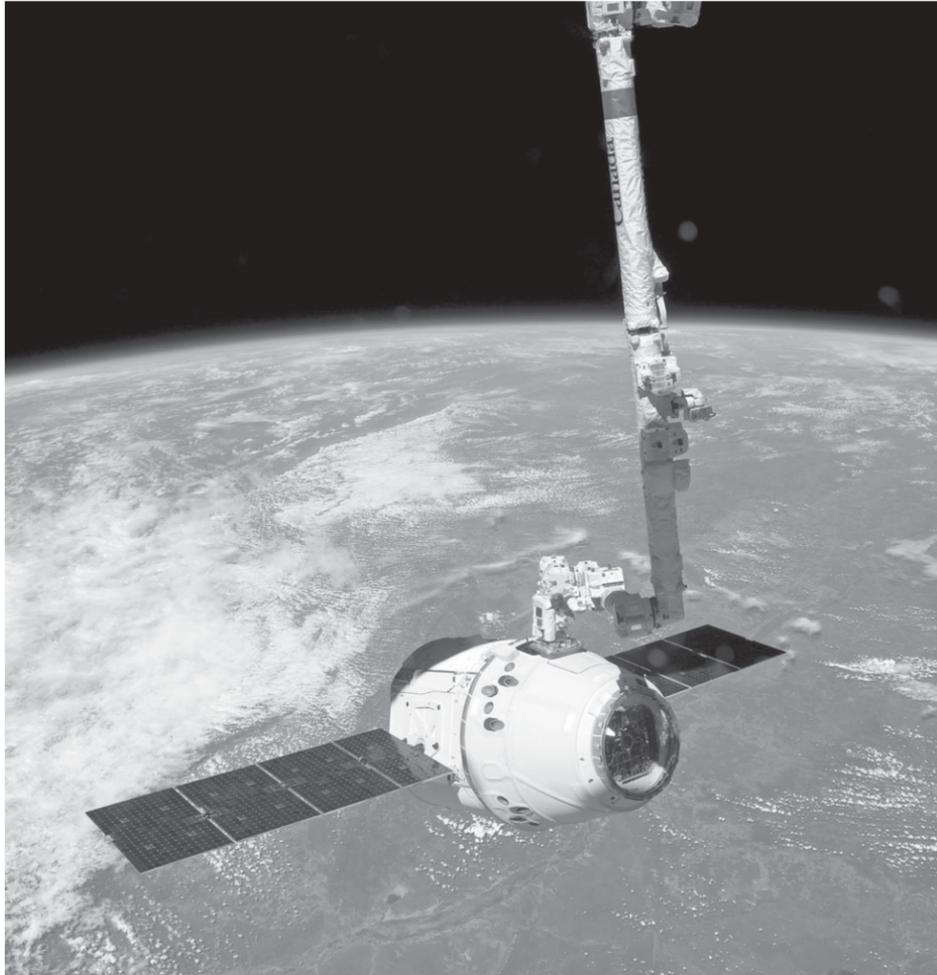
News Bulletin

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Last month, SpaceX's Dragon became the first commercial spacecraft to dock at the International Space Station. SpaceX engineer Matt Soule, who grew up in Colchester, played an integral part. *Photo by NASA.*

From Colchester to Infinity...and Beyond!

by Katelyn Kelleher

Through his work on a spacecraft that recently completed a landmark mission, a former resident brings a Colchester connection to a turning point in the aerospace industry.

When Matt Soule was at Bacon Academy, where he graduated in 1996, it was clear to him that his career would involve technology and science. "I was always interested in understanding how things worked but wasn't really sure what I was going to do," he said. It wasn't until his sophomore year of college that he caught the "engineering bug."

Never did he think that interest would lead him to work on spacecraft, specifically Space Exploration Technologies Corp.'s (SpaceX) Dragon, the first commercial mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Hawthorne, Calif.-based SpaceX successfully launched the unmanned Dragon to the ISS May 22, where it brought supplies to the astronauts aboard the station. The Dragon carried earth-bound cargo back May 31, when it landed in the Pacific Ocean, completing the mission. An initial launch set for May 19 was aborted when Falcon 9, the SpaceX rocket carrying Dragon, was found to have a faulty check valve.

As an engineer for SpaceX, the mission was also a success for Soule. He designed the electrical power system for Dragon.

Starting alone and eventually acquiring a staff of 15, Soule and the team tested the computers, radios, navigation sensors and thrusters on the spacecraft. "We test the hardware under

many tough conditions to make sure everything is working well before it gets integrated into the vehicle," he said.

The engineers had to make sure all the equipment had continuous power and designed the solar arrays, the wings that stuck out from the sides of Dragon, which converted sunlight into electricity during the mission, to accomplish that. "Dragon's computers send commands to motors to optimally point the solar panels at the sun. Surplus power generated by the solar arrays recharges the batteries on-board Dragon to power the orbiting spacecraft when it is in darkness," he said.

When Dragon was attached to the ISS, NASA allowed it to tap into the electrical power system, Soule said.

It wasn't until his college days that Soule could imagine himself doing this kind of work.

"I never really imagined myself in the aerospace industry, but when I was in college, I got a co-op job at an aerospace company," he said. "I thought it was really interesting stuff: electronics, software and mechanics, all blended together to create a high-performance system that had to work flawlessly under intense conditions."

Before SpaceX, Soule had worked on high-energy lasers for Northrop Grumman in Falls Church, Va., where he worked with engineers and physicists to develop the world's largest continuous solid-state laser. "It was good prepara-

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East Hampton Trail Extension Opens This Weekend

by Joshua Anusewicz

With sunny skies in the forecast for this weekend, many locals are bound to take part in a quiet walk, jog or bike ride on the Air Line Trail, one of the area's best recreation venues. And starting this weekend, those using the East Hampton end of the trail will have a little more room to roam, as an extension from Watrous Street to the municipal parking lot next to Main Street Pizza will be complete.

According to East Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer, the "majority" of the project has been completed and will be open for use this weekend. She added that "small details," including some of the railing features on the extension, will be completed in the coming weeks.

The project, which began last fall, is the culmination of a lengthy process that began in 2010, when the town received funding via a \$200,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. The grant was awarded through the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as part of the National Recreation Trails Program, which has designated over 1,000 trails in the United States. The Air Line Trail is considered a state park, but the municipality that the trail runs through combines with the DEP to perform maintenance

on the trail.

The extension now connects the existing portion of the Air Line Trail, which previously ended at Watrous Street, over Pocotopaug Brook on an abandoned railroad bridge and down an embankment into the Village Center. The trail previously ended at a parking lot on Smith Street near the Cranberry Bog, but an extension between Smith and Watrous streets was completed last year.

The additional trail adds 500 additional feet to the 22-mile trail, which from East Hampton stretches to Windham, going through Colchester, Columbia, Lebanon and Hebron. The entire trail is composed of stone dust and is wheelchair accessible.

While the project has remained on schedule and on budget since it started, Plummer did say there was one particular obstacle at the beginning of construction: the discovery of an entire railroad bridge that had been buried under the embankment next to the municipal parking lot.

After the discovery, Plummer and Director of Public Works Keith Hayden met with the state DEP to reconfigure the project, reaching the conclusion that the size of the bridge made the obstruction impossible to remove.

Plummer said that instead, builders were

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A ramp consisting of stone dust is part of a newly-completed extension of the Air Line Trail in East Hampton, which leads walkers, joggers and bikers over Pocotopaug Brook from Watrous Street to the municipal parking lot next to Main Street Pizza.

Soule cont. from Front Page

ration for working at SpaceX in a lot of ways," he said.

A friend encouraged Soule to apply for a position at SpaceX in 2006, four years after the company was established. "When I went in for an interview, I was blown away," he said. "The people were completely focused on getting a better rocket to orbit. ... Rather than sitting around in meetings talking about doing something, they were actually doing it. They were building things and trying them out."

Soule hopes Dragon's successful mission will both increase access to space and get the public interested in space exploration again. "Prior to the Dragon mission, only government agencies – the United States, Russia, European Space Agency and Japan – have sent a spacecraft to the International Space Station," he said. "Now a small private company in California has done it. I can only imagine that making space more accessible could open up whole new possibilities."

Soule has little time to celebrate, as now with a successful delivery mission under SpaceX's belt, a \$1.6 billion NASA contract to continuously deliver cargo to the ISS will have him doing much of the same work for future launches.

"Once a system is developed and qualified,



Matt Soule

the production team takes ownership and their responsibility is to keep building the same design over again to the highest quality possible," he said. "Now that the capability has been demonstrated, SpaceX will deliver on that contract."

Trail Extension cont. from Front Page

forced to build a slightly steeper trail leading up to the bridge, instead of a series of switchbacks that had been planned and is included on the Watrous Street end of the bridge. In place of the switchbacks, a brownstone ledge juts out underneath the trail as it leads to a large ramp down to the parking lot.

The project has been under the control of Anchor Engineering of Glastonbury, who Plummer remarked has done an "awesome job."

Also doing an awesome job? Local volunteers, who have donated time and effort to clean up the area around the bridge and the brook of trash and debris. Plummer said that last week, members of the local Boy Scout troop helped clean up the brook, while the Conservation Lake Commission is preparing for a similar cleanup of the area this weekend. The effort will be held

from 8 a.m.-noon this Saturday, June 30, and those interested in volunteering are asked to meet in the municipal parking lot.

Other events are being planned for the extension, Plummer said, including a possible ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Economic Development Commission, which has supported the extension as it would draw trail users to the Village Center businesses. Plummer also said that a piece of brownstone that was extracted from the property will be engraved to symbolize the beginning of the trail, rather than using a regular sign.

All of the upgrades are welcome changes to ever-evolving East Hampton Village Center, which might just welcome in a whole new group of visitors this weekend, whether on shoes or wheels.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I feel like I say this every summer – and I probably do – but it's hard to believe it's the end of June already. Next week will bring the Fourth of July and, for Portland, the return of the town's famous fireworks show.

Even those of you who don't live in Portland may remember the annual event was scrapped not once, but twice last year. A heavy rainstorm early last July left a Portland Exchange Club Fairgrounds that had already absorbed more than its fair share of water – due to the heavy snows of early 2011 and the ensuing melting – too wet for the planned July 16 show. The fireworks were then delayed until Aug. 25, but, well, Tropical Storm Irene paid her visit and that took care of that.

So, after a year off, the Portland Fireworks are returning. Reporter Joshua Anusewicz has a story about the upcoming show in this week's paper, and it sounds like it should be a good time. Good fair food – and come on, you guys know how I love fair food – and some interesting-sounding music, including a band fronted by Art Garfunkel's grandson, Zander. Portland's own Tony Lombardo – a.k.a. Tony Rome – will also perform a set with his band.

There's also the annual Portland Fireworks raffle, with great-sounding prizes that run the gamut, from NASCAR tickets and free golf to a new charcoal grill and a lobster dinner for four.

And then there's the fireworks display itself. It's the 20th anniversary of the display, and the Portland Fireworks committee has said it's planning a longer show than in the past, and with some "new surprises" this time around too.

Like I said, it sounds like it should be a good time, and I'm sure those who missed them last year – or perhaps Hebron residents bummed about their town not having fireworks this year – are anxious to see the show. Gates open for the festivities at 5 p.m. next Saturday, July 7, at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A, and the fireworks display itself should begin around 9:30.

* * *

July will be here on Sunday, and this year, it also means the Summer Olympics are just around the corner. Okay, they're in the middle of August but, trust me: the middle of August will be here before you know it.

I'm not hugely into the Olympics. Oh, I don't dislike them. I've just never really caught the "Olympic fever." Perhaps the fact that the baseball season is still in full swing has something to do with it (and hopefully

this year, August will be a pretty important month for my Mets). Whatever the reason, though, I just don't follow it all that closely. However, there's usually a story or two out of each Olympics that grabs my attention, and I recently came across such a story from the 1964 Olympics, which took place that year in Tokyo.

Four years earlier, in 1960, an Ethiopian named Abebe Bikila won the gold medal for the 26-mile marathon, and became the first black African to win a gold medal in any event. However, his chances of repeating in the '64 Olympics were slim. Very slim. He had an emergency appendectomy just 40 days before the race. But Bikila raced anyway – and won. In fact, he finished four minutes ahead of the second-place runner, set a world record and became the first person ever to win two marathon gold medals.

When Bikila stood for the medals ceremony, he received a bit of a surprise. Japan's national anthem was played, and not Ethiopia's. It seems no one had dreamed Bikila would win (having just received that appendectomy), so the Japanese orchestra hadn't bothered to learn Ethiopia's anthem.

Uh....woops.

* * *

Last weekend, a handwritten note the late Johnny Cash wrote was auctioned off in Beverly Hills. But before it was, an image of it was scanned in and posted online. The note was actually a form entitled "Things to Do Today," which Johnny had filled out. There were spaces for 10 items, and Johnny used all of them. If you like Johnny Cash – and who doesn't? – you may get a kick out of them:

1. Not smoke
2. Kiss June
3. Not kiss anyone else
4. Cough
5. Pee
6. Eat
7. Not eat too much
8. Worry
9. Go see Mama
10. Practice piano

Oh, and because he's Johnny Cash, in a space at the bottom of the form entitled "Notes," he wrote "Not write notes."

Johnny Cash could be a pretty funny guy, and this note was just more evidence. By the way? The price it ultimately sold for was \$6,400.

* * *

See you next week.

Area Towns Possibly Affected by Hebron Leaving Dispatch

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Town of Hebron's decision earlier this month to leave the local regional dispatch center for one in Tolland will possibly affect several area towns in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Hebron's selectmen decided June 7 to make the switch from Colchester Emergency Communications (KX) to Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service Inc. (TN).

Though in February, Hebron Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney said town officials were trying to be courteous to the other towns that use KX, which includes Colchester, Marlborough, East Hampton, East Haddam, Haddam, Bozrah, Lebanon and Salem, he said ultimately the officials would do what was best for Hebron.

Best for Hebron turned out to be making the switch to TN, which would cost the town over \$20,000 less than KX annually. Though Hebron won't join TN until July 2013, a request for proposal showed TN would have cost the town \$28,916 for the 2012-13 fiscal year, a \$22,972 savings over the \$51,888 for KX.

Geographically, TN made more sense for Hebron, Tierney said in February, adding Hebron is on the "outskirts of a lot of the towns that belong to the dispatch center." TN currently provides dispatch services for Tolland, Andover, Columbia, Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield,

Vernon, Willington, Ashford, Ellington, East Windsor, Somers, Stafford and Union.

The eight towns in KX will either have to absorb the costs of Hebron's contribution to the dispatch center, which included state funding which will follow Hebron to TN, or KX will have to find other towns to join.

Colchester First Selectman Gregg Schuster said in a Board of Selectmen meeting June 21 that, if no other towns join KX, Colchester's emergency communications bill would increase between \$20-30,000 for the 2103-14 fiscal year budget, based on numbers sent to him from KX. "It will have a significant monetary impact," he said. "It's not just the town that leaves; they also take the matching state funds."

He explained KX allocates its costs to its towns in three thirds: one third is simply a third of the operation cost, another third is based on the town's per capita and the remaining third is based on call volume.

The 2102-13 budget, however, will not be affected, as Hebron will remain part of KX through July 2013.

Marlborough First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski estimated, if no other towns join KX, Marlborough's emergency communications would increase about \$15,000 with Hebron

leaving. This was the increase estimated for the 2012-13 fiscal year if Hebron had left.

East Hampton Interim Town Manager Jeffrey Jylkka said he "wouldn't even want to venture a guess" for the town's 2013-14 fiscal year emergency communications budget increase without Hebron. East Hampton uses KX for both fire and medical dispatch services.

Although Hebron will remain with KX for the 2012-13 fiscal year, the impact in East Hampton would have been a \$31,000 increase to its \$122,000 emergency communication budget, Jylkka said in February.

However, Jylkka said, "KX is working to try to mitigate the costs" by reaching out to other towns to join.

Schuster has been in communication with KX to try to find a solution. "I continually express to KX, and I'm starting to become very vocal, that I'm very concerned with the long-term reliability of that organization," he said. "It's only going to take one or two more towns to leave for them to collapse."

Currently, Schuster said, three organizations, Colchester, East Hampton and Middlesex Hospital [Marlborough Clinic], "are really paying the lion's share of KX." Middlesex Hospital pays a flat rate and Colchester and East Hamp-

ton pay based on call volume and per capita.

Schuster said he discussed solutions with KX, such as how to attract other towns to the dispatch center and the possibility of merging with another organization.

"The town of East Lyme and town of Waterford both self-dispatch, which costs a lot of money," he said. "The two towns were in discussion about combining their dispatch centers. I approached both first selectmen and said 'why don't we have a different conversation, about joining KX? Why combine the two of them to save money when you can join an organization that's already here?'"

Schuster said a meeting set up between the two towns and KX "didn't really go anywhere."

"I'll say this about KX: they are a fantastic organization when it comes to their technical knowledge and their operations," he said. "By trade they're not salesmen."

However, Schuster said, "there are other opportunities out there for them."

A representative from KX said the dispatch center doesn't solicit other towns, but welcomes towns to come to them to reduce their own costs and, along with East Lyme and Waterford, KX has been in communication with the town of Franklin.

Marlborough Assistant Town Clerk Bids Farewell

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Susan Wallen has a laundry list of places she and her husband, Wayne, would like to visit.

And now they have time, since, after 28 years at Town Hall, Wallen, Marlborough's assistant town clerk, is retiring.

"My husband and I are both very healthy and we're still young enough to do some traveling that we wanted to do and we just decided that it was our time," she said.

Wallen, 65, notified the Board of Selectmen of her retirement in March and spent her last day in the office Friday, June 15. Wallen's retirement officially kicks in June 30.

Wallen and her husband have already begun their list of excursions, starting with a trip to Maine last week to visit family. And with a trip to Niagara Falls in August, a Paris vacation in planning for the spring and their hearts set on a cross-country road trip, the laundry list will surely grow shorter and shorter. Multiple trips to Texas are in the works to visit their children and grandchildren.

She'll also have time to spend with her brand new one-month-old grandson who lives locally. In fact, the family will all be coming together at Wallen's home in Amston this weekend. "All

14 of us," she said.

Despite no longer having to limit her travels to vacation time, Wallen said retiring was a tough decision. "I work with some wonderful people, and the people of Marlborough are just fantastic," she said.

Wallen started at Marlborough Town Hall in September 1984, working as the registrar of voters for two years before becoming the assistant town clerk in May 1986.

Town Clerk Nancy Dickson worked with Wallen for 16 years, but knew her beforehand. "We used to bowl together a long time ago," she said. "When her youngest son was just a child, we used to do ice cream for the PTA."

Wallen was a valued co-worker to Dickson and other Town Hall employees.

"We get along great together. I always thought she was a friend as well as a coworker," she said. "Everybody knows her and she's well respected by her coworkers."

Wallen was very knowledgeable about everything going on in Marlborough and at the town clerk's office, Dickson said. "She knew probably just about where everything is in our office," she said. "She had terrific ethics and

helped out department and anyone else that she could."

Town Hall has been much different since Wallen's last day, and Dickson is taking time to adjust.

"I keep thinking she's just on vacation," she said. "I do miss her; just seeing her smiling face around the office. She was always pleasant to the people who came in."

During her time in the town clerk's office, procedure changed dramatically, Wallen said. "When I first started, the daybook of records were done by hand and then these documents were copied and sent out...to be printed, mailed out, sent back to us," she said. "Now it's totally different. We enter them into the computer, we print them ourselves, put them in the land record ourselves."

The office came up with a computerized daybook index and employees are in the process of scanning older records so when a title search comes in they can print right from the computer in the office, Wallen said. The new process is a huge time-saver.

Despite digital records speeding up the process, Dickson has had to adjust to currently

having no assistant town clerk in the office. "Definitely I've already felt the impact of not having someone here," she said. "It's been extremely busy this week; we have dog licenses and it's beach sticker time and there's been a lot of people."

Fortunately, relief should come soon enough, as deadline for applying for the part-time assistant town clerk position was Thursday, June 21. "[First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski] and I will get together some time and look [the applications] over," Dickson said.

Gaudinski said, due to the lower volume of work, the town will hire a part-time assistant town clerk. The position may eventually expand to a full-time position once again if needed, she said.

On June 8, Town Hall employees held a retirement party luncheon for Wallen. They gave her a necklace and earrings as a parting gift, but Dickson joked they should've given her something else – a couple of hats. Because Wallen juggled so many tasks during her time working at Town Hall, "we often kidded that she needed two or three hats to wear," she said. "She'll definitely be well-remembered."

Marlborough Public Hearing Set for Public Water Plan

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

After initially turning it down, the Board of Finance took another vote last Thursday, June 21, to hold a public hearing to appropriate \$50,000 for a grant application to bring public water to the town center.

Though the plan is still in its preliminary stages, additional information put board members at enough ease to at least send the proposal on to the public. The selectmen recommended the Board of Finance set a July 9 public hearing for the \$50,000 appropriation from the town's undesignated fund balance contingent on a \$500,000 2013 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) state grant. The town would use the STEAP grant to bring a public water supply to properties in the center of town.

The appropriation represents 10 percent of the total grant and would only be used if the town received the grant.

The board voted 5-1 to send the item on to the public hearing, with board members Cliff Denniss, Evelyn Godbout, Ken Hjulstrom, Doug Knowlton and Susan Leser voting in favor and seated alternate Lauren Cragg voting against.

At a June 13 meeting the motion to send it

to a public hearing was defeated, with Godbout, Denniss and Leser voting in favor, Hjulstrom voting against and Knowlton abstaining. The board asked First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski and Town Planner Peter Hughes to come back with additional information on the project.

Hjulstrom's vote changed from 'no' to 'yes' between the two meetings. "[At the June 21 meeting] there was enough information. I see there's a lot of holes to fill in, but I felt there's enough to at least send it to a public hearing," he said, adding he still has some questions yet to be answered.

Part of the reason for those "holes to fill" was a time constraint to gather the information. Town officials received the grant application in May and have to act quickly as it is due Aug. 1.

Hjulstrom said that at last Thursday's meeting, Gaudinski and Town Planner Peter Hughes presented a "drawing of the path of the water lines and brought in some budgetary spreadsheets showing where they're getting the money from and other descriptive paperwork, so we had a little more to look at."

Also present at the meeting to answer questions was Craig Patlaw from Connecticut Water.

After getting input from residents at the public hearing, the Board of Finance will revisit the issue and decide whether or not to send it to a town meeting. There, residents would vote and have the final say on the appropriation.

Hughes said Connecticut Water agreed to do the design and contribute \$50,000 toward construction, cover all engineering costs, estimated at \$50-70,000 and drill three wells.

Letters of support from property owners in the town center were read at the June 21 meeting. As part of the plan, the town would seek letters of commitment from property owners with \$25-50,000 contributions. Coupled with a \$50,000 appropriation from the town, Hughes said having approximately \$150-200,000 in town and private money by Aug. 1 to contribute to the project if the grant is awarded would put the town in a good position to receive the state money.

Hughes supported the public water supply project, calling it "very doable," more so than additional sewer work and added it would provide consistent, clean water.

Earlier this month, the selectmen called the project an opportunity for economic develop-

ment in the center of town.

Some residents opposed the project. At last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, Amy Traversa expressed concern over the water system benefiting only properties in the center of town.

Gaudinski said if either the Board of Finance or residents at a town meeting vote against the \$50,000 appropriation, there is still a chance the town will proceed with the grant. However, she said, the town has a lesser chance of receiving the grant without the town's contribution.

There's also the possibility that the town won't receive the full \$500,000. Just as Marlborough received \$400,000 of a \$500,000 application for the 2012 STEAP grant, the town might receive less for 2013 as well, Gaudinski said. In that case, the town would need to re-strategize.

"We would have to assess it at that time," she said. "We would need to look at it and do further design planning at Connecticut Water."

The Board of Finance public hearing for the town's contribution to the project will be held Tuesday, July 9, at 7 p.m. at the senior center.

Hebron Skate Park Closed – But Will Anyone Notice?

by **Geeta Schrayter**

While the summer months mean the perfect time for skaters to grab their boards and hit a skate park, the rails and ramps at the Hebron park will remain empty, after it was closed June 20 for an insurance audit.

But Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco said Tuesday the park, located on Wall Street near Veterans Memorial Park, wasn't exactly busy before that, calling the usage "non-existent."

"We're lucky if we're getting eight [visitors] per week," he said.

And it's the low turnout that made the park a topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commission co-chairwoman Claudia Natorski said Wednesday there had been some concern over the number – or lack of – season passes sold.

Natorski said the Parks and Rec. Commission uses part of that money, as well as funding from the Parks and Rec. budget, to pay to have a supervisor at the park when it is open.

However, Natorski said the commission had

done some research and realized a lot of the newer parks in the area weren't supervised and didn't charge a fee. In Hebron, along with being supervised, the park costs \$6 for a full day of use and \$3 for a half-day. A season pass can be purchased by a RHAM student for \$55 and non-resident students for \$70.

"We contacted our insurance agency about what it would take to have us go that route" of being unsupervised and free, she continued. As part of that, it was recommended the park be closed and reviewed by the town's insurance company for safety.

Natorski said she thought going unsupervised and being able to eliminate the fee would "absolutely" bring in more users, as well as free up additional money in the Parks and Rec. budget to make some changes to the park. She added the audit would take place in the middle of July and alterations that might need to be made would be determined. The Parks and Rec. Commission would then work to decide the next course of action.

"The board will have to meet and determine

whether it's feasible to make the changes," Natorski continued, saying it was all about liability "and also because of the fact we're just not getting the visitors."

Like Natorski, Calarco also mentioned the possibility that removing the fee would increase use. When Parks and Rec. saw the park was barely being used, local skaters were asked why they weren't going. The most common response, he said, was the fee.

But "right now," he said, "the safest and most prudent thing was to close [the park] and let [the agent] do this audit. Obviously the community is just concerned with everyone's safety, and so am I."

And both Calarco and Natorski stressed the fact that until the recommendations come in, the future of the park can't be determined.

"I like to see the facts in front of me," Calarco said. "The town has to protect our interests and everyone's interests."

"We need the information to make an informed decision," Natorski said, adding, "At this point we're just in a holding pattern."

Natorski said there was no need for skaters to be concerned about the park closing indefinitely just yet, but if they already missed the park, their comments were more than welcome.

"We strive very hard to listen to the members of the community as far as the type of different recreational activities that they want," she said. "That's how the whole skate park got formed – a group of individuals that got together to petition for it."

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 21, selectman Brian O'Connell said he hoped individuals who liked the park would come out and let that be known. He added the park was "a good positive place" that "serves an element of our community" who prefer skating over sports such as baseball or basketball.

"It gives them something to do," he said. "We try to reach out to all members of our community and give them something. I like the idea. It may not be en vogue anymore, but we'll see. ... [I]f skating is your sport then good for you."

Hebron Budget Exit Poll Results Revealed

by Geeta Schrayter

It took three referendums for the 2012-13 budget of \$33.78 million to pass, and after being faced with the second defeat, board members were left wondering what the voters – the majority of whom didn't attend town meetings to share their thoughts – were feeling.

So, the decision was made to have an exit poll for the third – and what would end up being the final – referendum, providing residents with the opportunity to share some of those feelings.

The results of that exit poll were made available last week.

Of the 1,634 voters who turned out on June 5, 886, or 54.22 percent, stopped to fill out the anonymous poll.

"There are some good comments in there overall," Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney said at the June 21 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. "I think 54 percent at an exit poll is a good amount," he said, adding the results were worth examining even though the budget had passed.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt added he was "very impressed" with the number of voters who filled out the survey, and said some of the responses weren't surprising.

"It seemed like most thought the town budget was right around where it should be," he said. "There was a small percent that said too low and high. My feeling was, when looking through the comments, a lot were geared toward the educational side."

Watt added he felt a lot of the information collected would be helpful for the local and RHAM boards of education, as well as the Board of Finance.

Of the responses, 436 felt town government was 'acceptable,' while 173 said it was 'too low' and 241 felt it was 'too high.' Fewer felt the local Board of Education budget was acceptable at 310, but it was still higher than those who said 'too low' (127) and 'too high' (280).

Similarly, 386 felt the RHAM budget was 'acceptable,' compared to 65 who felt it was 'too low' and 208 who said it was 'too high.'

The majority of the responses were from individuals who voted in favor of the budget. Of those who responded, 570 voted 'yes' on the town budget, which includes the local Board of Education budget, compared to 291 who voted 'no.' Then, 486 voted for the RHAM budget which was approved May 22, while 276 said 'no.'

Along with providing some hard numbers, the survey asked voters to share their thoughts through a series of questions. The survey inquired what aspects of the budget they felt were too high or low, as well as how they educated themselves on the budget, what would help them better understand the numbers, and any additional comments they might have.

The responses were numerous and varied, and it was these that board member Brian O'Connell called "most interesting."

"There were very good comments," he said. "I applaud the people that took the time to write down their thoughts."

O'Connell added he was "very happy" with the feedback.

"All the boards now can get those 800-plus comments and digest it... a lot of comments said [the budget] was too low and were about the library being cut," he said, adding voters often cited the *Rivereast* as a source for their information along with the Internet, as well as the website for the tax advocacy group Hebron Dollars & Sense. Also, O'Connell smiled, one resident simply responded their information comes from "my wife."

For the question asking which parts of the budget were too low, responses ranged from "everything" to amounts for Douglas Library, Open Space Land Acquisition, the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works and economic development.

The "library [and] dump should not be reduced," read one response, while "we need to invest more in education and developing a town square" read another.

One voter wrote, "I wish my fellow residents understood what it costs to provide services," while another commented, "We don't get much to start with, so less is becoming unacceptable."

Education-wise, some said the per-student expenditure should be higher, while others said music, arts and technology needed more money, the schools were "too under-funded" overall and teachers' salaries should be increased.

Respondents also indicated which parts of the budget were too high. The education budgets and aspects such as all-day kindergarten were frequently mentioned, but responses also included areas such as salaries, CIP and Open Space, the mill rate and "too much spending" overall.

"We don't need to be adding positions at this time," read one comment, while another resident said, "I voted yes but feel administrative costs are way too high."

Still another sarcastically replied, "Why ask [which parts are too high]? We can *only* control [the] bottom line."

When asked how they might come to better understand the budget, some responders said they already understood it, while others said there needed to be a better representation of the facts, more communication, information on the town website and more flyers similar to the one sent before the third referendum.

But other voters said the board was already doing "just fine," and it was up to them to become informed.

"I need to reach out for info," commented one, while another said "attending meetings explaining details of [the] budget" would help.

As far as additional comments, residents had a variety of things to say. Some were apprecia-

tive of the budget process and thanked the boards for their work, while others said they felt the board didn't listen and lacked transparency. Some said they were unhappy with the services that were cut and wanted reductions in education and administration instead, while others said it was important to plan for the future and more money should be placed in education, not less.

Different voters voiced their concern over the increase in taxes and the mill rate, while some urged the board to consider bifurcation and others stressed residents needed to think about the town as a whole, not just themselves.

"Too many of our residents want to fund only those items that they personally use," wrote one voter. "This is short-sighted, and destructive to the community."

But as one senior citizen noted, "I'm on a fixed budget – and it's getting harder and harder to pay for bills – upkeep, taxes."

"There are a number of positive comments and comments in between" said selectman Mark Stuart. He called the amount of feedback "good," but said he was disappointed some comments were still driven by misinformation or were "just hateful."

He added next year, the boards need to do a better job communicating what's being looked at earlier in the process.

"We'll never get 100 percent [approval] but it's nice when we can present a budget that passed the first try," he said, adding each referendum costs between \$2,500-3,000.

"And as a board," added Watt, "if it doesn't [pass the first time] we kind of feel like we failed."

And so, next year, the hope is the results of the exit poll will aid in bringing about an acceptable budget the first time around.

To view the exit poll in its entirety, go to hebronct.com/finance.htm.

EH Resident Wins Award for Work with Glastonbury Schools

by Chris Seymour

An East Hampton resident was recently selected as the 2012 Connecticut Celebrated School Business Official by the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO).

Sharon E. Smith, JD, the business manager for Glastonbury Public Schools, received the award May 31 at the CASBO Institute, a workshop in Mystic. A representative from CASBO honored Smith again with the award at the June 11 Glastonbury Board of Education meeting.

Smith was nominated for the award by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alan Bookman, as well as another CASBO member.

"I was completely surprised," said Smith of winning the award. "I knew nothing about it until I was called at the end of April by the president and executive director of CASBO" and told she was receiving the award.

Smith pointed to a variety of characteristics



Sharon Smith

that she feels likely led to her selection for the CASBO award, such as her leadership, work ethic, professionalism, willingness to introduce new and different initiatives – and her sense of humor, adding, "I take my job very seriously; myself not so much!"

These, she said, "were the characteristics that people most often mentioned in the nominations and when they spoke about what I have accomplished both here in Glastonbury and for my professional organization."

Smith has been the Glastonbury Public Schools business manager for 30 years and she has been a colleague of Bookman's for 28 years (since he arrived in town to initially work as principal of Glastonbury High School).

"Sharon brings to the position of business manager her vast energy, intellect, experience and vision, which supports and enhances student learning in the Glastonbury Public Schools," Bookman wrote in his recommendation letter. "She is respected by the Board of Education, her administrative colleagues, and the faculty and staff at all levels of our organization."

Bookman also stressed that Smith is more than just an administrator, referring to her as a "true educator."

Smith "has become an integral part of the whole educational experience for our students in Glastonbury," Bookman wrote. "Sharon has taught a sixth-grade class, read in various classes, chaperoned [dances and] overnight trips ... and attends many student productions and events."

During her tenure, Bookman wrote, Smith has been a "visionary leader" who has instituted numerous initiatives to improve efficiency and provide services to staff and students. One such initiative was the implementation of a computer-based substitute teacher and nurse calling system.

"This initiative saves thousands of dollars each year by eliminating an employee position to call substitutes each day," according to Bookman. "As a result of this initiative, Sharon assumed responsibility for both the substitute teacher department and the health services department."

Smith was also recently named chairwoman of the East Hampton High School Building Committee, which is overseeing the process of renovating the school. So perhaps it isn't surprising she has been heavily involved in various school building projects in Glastonbury.

"She has been the project manager for several construction projects," Bookman wrote, "including five simultaneous elementary school renovations and the building of a new middle school."

The superintendent also touched on Smith's careful attention to detail. "The uninterrupted flow of daily tasks that include payrolls met and vendors paid attest to the attention she pays to the day to day responsibilities of her job," he wrote.

For Smith, who is CASBO's past president and current liaison to its board of directors, the most rewarding aspect of this award was the fact that it came from her professional peers.

"I said when I accepted this award that recognition by one's colleagues and peers is high praise – it is the highest praise, in fact," she said. "I honestly am humbled by this honor and amazed by the number of friends and colleagues, past and present, who have sent notes and emails. Their acknowledgement of my work and this award is nothing short of awesome!"

Chris Seymour is a reporter for the *Rivereast's* sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. A version of this story initially appeared in the *Citizen*.

Hebron Selectmen Address Budget Concerns, Open Space

by Geeta Schrayter

At their meeting last Thursday, June 21, members of the Board of Selectmen pushed aside their usual protocol and chose to respond to different issues raised by a resident.

During public comment, Marie Egbert brought up a number of issues with the board, relating mainly to the budget. These included: encouraging members to stream meetings online, particularly during budget season; encouraging members to “hash out” issues during a meeting as opposed to arriving with a decision already made; asking as to what information the board referred to as “misleading” and untrue during the budget process; and asking for details on how regionalization was being examined.

Egbert also told the selectmen she felt the town altering the wording to the budget question on the last referendum – instead of simply stating the budget amount, the question explained how much was earmarked for the local Board of Education, how much for the RHAM Board of Education and how much for general government – was done to help ensure a ‘yes’ vote.

After voicing her thoughts, selectman Dan Larson rebutted by explaining firstly, the decision was made not to live stream meetings from a “dollars and cents” perspective, but added the issue could be readdressed down the road. He then said the idea the board didn’t discuss everything openly “struck a nerve” with him, because the board did exactly that.

“I defy anyone in this town, country, state or even the world,” he said, to find that the board is holding “clandestine meetings.”

Selectman Brian O’Connell added to Larson’s thoughts on the board’s openness, saying the meetings go so long “because we talk things out – we hash them out in public.”

Additionally, O’Connell explained references made to misinformation being distributed during the budget process were in relation to a flyer from the tax advocacy group Hebron Dollars & Sense.

“The information on it was inaccurate,” he said, adding a lot of people refer to the Dollars & Sense website, which he found concerning because there was a disclaimer saying the information presented “does not necessarily have to be accurate.”

“The flyer was, in my opinion, intentionally misinforming,” O’Connell said, before explaining the decision to alter the referendum question.

The board “sat and discussed at length how to communicate what’s in the budget,” he said, and the decision was made to reword the question so that more information would be presented, making voters better equipped to make a decision. Members added the question was looked over by the town attorney, and O’Connell said “everything in the question had to be a fact and stated without bias.”

As far as regionalization, Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney explained regionalization of the transfer station had been looked into with Colchester “but it became apparent there would be no benefit for either town to do that,” he said.

He also said the town was in the process of regionalizing the economic development officer, as well as the animal control officer.

Tierney explained at the previous meeting the selectmen decided to switch dispatch centers, leaving Colchester Emergency Communications (KX) and joining 14 other towns with Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Services Inc. (TN), resulting in what he described as “big savings” over time. With KX, Hebron is paying \$51,888 in the 2012-13 fiscal year; by comparison, the town would have paid \$28,916 to TN.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt furthered RHAM and AHM were examples of regionalization that was already in place.

Hebron’s “always reaching out to other towns,” Stuart said.

* * *

After the concerns were addressed, members moved on to other business of the night,

which included authorizing the application for an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant. O’Connell explained the grant would assist in the purchase of a piece of land totaling 48.7 acres next to the Raymond Brook Marsh.

Town Planner Mike O’Leary explained in a memo the state and the town have been active in purchasing land around the marsh for “years.” He added most of the land surrounding the marsh is now owned by the state or the town, and the parcel currently being considered “is the largest parcel in the marsh remaining in private ownership.”

O’Connell said the grant could provide as much as 60 percent of the cost “give or take” or as low as 40 percent. (There is no dollar amount for the grant, as there is no set price for the land until the town appraises it; now that the selectmen have authorized applying for the grant, the town will proceed with the appraising, O’Connell said.) He added, “If we don’t get the grant, we won’t get the land.”

The motion to authorize the grant application passed unanimously. The town should find out within three to four months whether it will receive the grant.

* * *

Also unanimously approved was the decision to move forward with an Energy Savings Performance Contract with CCM Energy/Siemens contingent on approval by the Board of Finance.

The 20-year contract would allow the town to replace old, outdated equipment from an escrow account. The lender would then be paid overtime though the energy savings the town receives from the changes – savings guaranteed by Siemens.

“The savings themselves will pay for the cost of the equipment and help maintain it,” Stuart said, “but you have to buy everything upfront so there’s an interest rate.”

But, Stuart added, even with an interest rate

of 4 percent, “This is a project we want to move forward on because from a cash standpoint it’s the easiest way to pay for [the equipment] without taking out a loan.”

He continued to say, “Siemens guarantees savings, and if they don’t come, Siemens writes a check” to the town.

O’Connell explained Siemens did a survey of all the town buildings to look at their functionality and what could possibly be replaced that is aged or aging to save money. They then came back with a list of changes they’d make under the contract in buildings like the Town Hall, Douglas Library, Russell Mercier Senior Center and Fire Station No. 1 on Main Street. Some of these changes include replacing boilers, installing network controllers and making lighting improvements.

Siemens listed the total project cost at \$1,391,604, with an annual savings of \$81,718 from the changes. Over the 20-year contract, the savings would come to \$2,345,721.

“I’m in favor of it 100 percent,” O’Connell said. “It’s a thoughtful, progressive way of utilizing new technology and if we’re going to do some financing there’s no better time than right now.”

Both Stuart and Larson added keeping the current, aged equipment was risky.

“We can’t keep getting lucky” with the old equipment lasting, said Larson.

“If you want to gamble, go down to Foxwoods,” Stuart said, while Watt added, “I’d like to see us move forward as well.”

The next step is for the Board of Finance to discuss the contract at their next meeting, and, if approved, return it to the selectmen for the final “ok.” Siemens could then begin their construction, with the hope of having the majority completed in October.

* * *

The next Board of Selectmen’s meeting will be held Thursday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the town office building.

Hebron Transfer Station to be Closed Sundays

by Geeta Schrayter

Residents may have to alter their trash removal schedules, as, starting this weekend, the town’s transfer station will no longer be open Sundays.

The Sunday shuttering will leave the transfer station, located on Old Colchester Road, open Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

The change is a result of the two failed budget referendums. After the proposed budget was shot down for the second time on May 22, the Board of Finance decided to eliminate \$100,000 from the town budget. This added to the more than \$400,000 the 2012-13 budget had already been reduced after the first referendum failed, and left the Board of Selectmen to make what officials referred to as “painful” cuts.

The \$33.78 million budget passed on June 5, but the reductions had already affected some of the town’s core services – including the transfer station. At their May 24 meeting, the selectmen decided, along with cuts to areas such as Open Space, Parks and Recreation, the library and road repair, to close the transfer station an additional day per week, for \$6,459 in

savings.

The exact day wasn’t initially set, but after Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney had discussions with the department head, it was discovered in order to realize those savings, the options were limited to closing the station on the weekend and reducing the part-time employee’s hours. It was further explained the sole weekday employee is unionized, meaning his hours couldn’t be reduced.

The employee “would just revert back to the Public Works Department to do road work,” Tierney explained Tuesday. “He’s guaranteed, through his contract, the 40-hour week so there’d be no savings [closing the transfer station] on a Tuesday or Thursday,” he said.

Tierney said cutting hours both Saturday and Sunday to leave residents the option of either day was examined as well, but that route wouldn’t achieve the \$6,000 either.

“That still wouldn’t work out because people are going to want to start coming at noon when the station would be closing [if the hours were reduced],” causing the employee to stay on later and realizing less savings, said Tierney. It was

also noted that while both weekend days were popular, Saturday was more so.

And so, that left Sunday on the chopping block.

Additionally, Tierney explained the reduction couldn’t be taken from somewhere else, since the specific decision was made to reduce the above amount from the transfer station’s budget.

“You just can’t move money around at will,” he said, adding when the selectmen were looking to make the final \$100,000 in cuts, the budget was already so tight – Tierney called it “the tightest budget that I’ve seen in my career” – that the only places to save were those areas the selectmen agreed upon.

“And that’s going to impact services,” Tierney stated, adding there were other items “people are going to start to miss” because of the cuts. But he continued on to say that’s why it’s “imperative” for residents to come out and vote and attend town meetings if they’d like Sundays reinstated next year.

“We already know it’s important to [residents], but if we don’t pass the budget, that’s

what the outcome is,” he said, adding he wished he could do something different, and “really looked hard” to try and find another option.

“I do sympathize with the people,” he said. “It’s nothing I want to do, but it’s actually a reality of the outcome of the budget.”

On Tuesday, Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt voiced similar feelings, calling it “unfortunate” the transfer station was affected, but adding the decision was made after the board looked through all of the safety areas such as the fire department, emergency management and state police and decided to leave those alone. Instead, the board moved to cut from the above areas.

“Unfortunately, it’s going to be a change for the town, but the voters were looking for something that was rock bottom,” he said. “I hope next year we’ll be able to reconsider it.”

But whether or not Sunday will once again be “Dump Day” come next year is yet to be seen. As for now, residents will have to content themselves with making their trash runs on Tuesday or Thursday, from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., or Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

EH Council Chooses UV System for Firehouse Water Issue

by Joshua Anusewicz

Following a consent order from the state's Department of Public Health, the Town Council approved a plan for an ultraviolet (UV) light system to eliminate possible water contamination at Firehouse No. 1 on Barton Hill Road.

This decision, however, came after a lengthy discussion regarding a recommendation from the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to approve an extension of a water main from the Village Center water system. The idea was met with trepidation by some of the council members, who reviewed alternative plans before settling on the UV system.

According to Vincent Susco, the town's public utilities administrator, the town received the consent order in early May, announcing that there had been a failure to administer regular testing schedules and maintain separating distances. The town was easily able to resolve the testing schedules, but it would have to reach an alternative solution to move the well from the pollution source.

currently found in the well water, Susco said, are coliform bacteria, which the town initially received a violation for in 2008. Susco said that

while coliform bacteria itself is not harmful, it is a precursor to harmful bacteria within the water system, making the water at the fire station undrinkable. Susco said this was a particular concern during last year's storms, as the firehouse serves as the town's emergency operations center.

After a discussion with members of the WPCA, which reviewed multiple feasible plans, Susco said a recommendation was made to attach the firehouse to the Village Center water system with a pipe roughly 350 feet long and 12 inches wide. Susco compared the proposed project to a similar effort at Memorial School, which linked to the water system at Royal Oaks and has been "successful."

The cost of the project, Susco said, would be between \$50,000-60,000, but Interim Town Manager Jeff Jylkka said that the price would most likely be cut in half through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant.

"There's a high degree of certainty the grant money is there," Jylkka stressed, later adding that an alternative plan could result in additional operating and maintenance costs.

Susco added, "There are cheaper solutions, but they might not be acceptable by the state." But when asked by councilor Derek Johnson what the downside would be of submitting an alternative proposal to the state, Susco said it would just send the town "back to square one."

Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. said he felt that seeking an alternative was the right thing to do, particularly with new town manager Michael Maniscalco starting in two weeks. "Is it the right time to add on the existing system?" Hintz asked rhetorically. "We should wait till Mike [Maniscalco] gets here, regroup, and then look into adding it to the Village Center." Hintz also mentioned other issues at Firehouse No. 1, including roof and kitchen problems, which should be looked into along with it.

Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub also mentioned the possibility, in the coming years, of the town developing a community water system, which would leave the Village Center system dormant. "I don't want to waste \$50,000-60,000 if it could be abandoned," she stated.

Instead of linking the fire station to the wa-

ter system, the council focused on an alternative plan – and the cheapest plan – to alleviate the issue: a UV system, which uses ultraviolet light passing through the water to kill harmful bacteria. According to an estimate from Frank Grzyb, the town's facilities manager, the system would cost an estimated \$4,000, but would end up at roughly \$10,000 with additional costs for system adjustments and installation. The UV system would not be able to use the EPA grant funding, however, Jylkka said.

With a motion by Hintz to propose the UV system to the state, the council voted unanimously, 7-0, to approve the alternative plan. The town now has until July 16 to submit the proposal to the state on how they expect to proceed, and it should take several weeks for the town to receive a response.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. This will be the first council meeting for new town manager Michael Maniscalco.

Old Books? Your Friends Are Back in Portland!

by Joshua Anusewicz

It's been almost exactly one year since an unexpected rainstorm tore through Portland, leaving flooded buildings and roadways in its wake. Residential, municipal and commercial buildings were affected but have been able to recover, some looking even better than before.

One of the lesser-known casualties of the storm, however, has had a tough time recovering. In the basement of the Brownstone Intermediate School on Main Street is a storage room which, at the time of the storm, housed 175 boxes of donated books, CDs, DVDs and games that belonged to the Friends of the Portland Library (FPL) for its Read and Recycle program, its main fundraiser. After the rain subsided, the boxes were stuck under two feet of water, shelves were strewn about and all of the materials were thrown out because of mold.

The conditions also left the FPL without a place to store materials they've received since – until now. With the storage space at Brownstone back in business, the FPL will start accepting donations for the Read and Recycle program again. The first collection day is tomorrow, June 30, from 10 a.m.-noon in the Mary Flood Room at the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

According to Phyllis Prokop of the FPL, this will be the first set of donations of any kind for the FPL since a handful of impromptu collections took place last year to help replenish the supply for the annual book sale in the fall. Prokop said that while the town's "very generous" residents came out in droves to nearly match the total of materials lost, the lack of a storage space has been a challenge.

"It's been a logistical nightmare," Prokop

said Wednesday. "We've mostly been storing them in different peoples' houses and haven't been able to categorize them. It's been overwhelming with no facility."

In the past the Read and Recycle program has raised between \$3,000-5,000 for the library, Prokop said, which goes to fund various programs and materials that the library offers. "It goes a long way," she said.

Despite the return of the donations, there will be a few changes to the process. In the past, donations have been accepted at Brownstone, usually once a month. Prokop said that now, donations will be collected at the library, which provides enough space to sort and categorize the materials. She added that the FPL won't be able to decide on how often collections will take place – either monthly or every season – until after they see the response this weekend.

As for the response, Prokop said organizers are expecting a big one. "We expect a lot of books," she said with a laugh, adding the library has been inundated with phone calls about donating materials and residents storing stacks and boxes of books at the library for the collection.

"But we are gladly overwhelmed," she added.

For those who are interested in donating, the FPL is looking for items in good condition, used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games; in particular: paperback books, romance novels, and children's books. Donors are asked to enter through the side door of the library, where volunteers will be available to help them drop off the items.

All of the donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgment forms are available on site, the FPL said.



A flood last year in the basement of Brownstone Intermediate School destroyed 175 boxes of materials the Friends of Portland Library had collected through its Read and Recycle program. Tomorrow, the Friends group will start collecting donations for the program again.

Once all of the materials have been collected, sorted, and boxed, Prokop said members of the public works department will then help shuttle the materials over the storage space at Brownstone, which is donated by the Board of Education.

"It's a full community effort, which is really nice," Prokop said.

And that community is expected to show up in full force on Saturday at the library, where the FPL will be more than happy to take the used materials of their hands.

Portland Fireworks Return for 20th Anniversary

by Joshua Anusewicz

After an unplanned hiatus, the Portland Fireworks are scheduled to return to the banks of the Connecticut River this summer next Saturday, July 7, at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds on Route 17A.

This year will be particularly special, as well, as the event will mark the 20th anniversary of the fireworks, which have become a town staple during the most patriotic time of the calendar year.

This will be the first fireworks display in Portland since 2010, with last year's event being canceled on two separate dates due to inclement weather and poor field conditions at the fairgrounds. The original date last July was washed out – literally – due to the freak rainstorm that dumped several inches of water on the fairgrounds, causing a lack of parking and keeping the grass from being mowed, creating a fire hazard. The fireworks were rescheduled for late August, but that date was canceled as well, this time due to the arrival of Tropical Storm Irene.

Portland Fireworks Committee member Sharon Hoy said that this year, however, the field is in great shape to host the event. "There's always that issue of whether the field will be dry enough," Hoy said. "But we've had a mild winter and the river has stayed low, so we don't expect any problems."

And those who were disappointed with last year's cancellations should be happy to hear that this year's event is expected to make up for last year – and then some. Hoy said that to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the event, the fireworks display is going to be a longer show than usual, with a few surprises, as well.

"We have a couple special shots planned," Hoy said, without divulging too much information. She added that the display will be put on by Ocean State Pyrotechnics, which has done the Portland Fireworks for roughly 10 years.

The display is scheduled to begin at 9:30 p.m., but for those who are looking for other forms of entertainment, gates will open at 5 p.m.

On top of various food vendors and novelty items for sale to benefit the fireworks committee, this year's event will feature two concerts; the first band to go on stage will be local favorites Tony Rome and Swagger, which will be followed by Zander Garfunkel, the son of legendary folk musician Art Garfunkel.

As in the past, the fireworks event will also feature a raffle to help support the Portland Fireworks Committee for next year's event. This year, there will be eight top prizes: first prize is a NASCAR package, with two tickets at the start/finish line at the Loudon Motor Speedway in New Hampshire on Sunday, July 15, as well as two pre-race pit passes and two tickets to the Magic Mile Club; second prize is a six-hour chartered fishing service for four from Fever Sportfishing; third prize is a \$250 gift certificate to Angela's Fine Jewelry in Portland; fourth prize is a gift certificate for four at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, which includes greens fees and two carts for 18 holes; fifth prize is 40 gallons of fuel oil from Daniels Energy; sixth prize is

four one-day passes to Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park; seventh prize is an 18.5-inch Weber One-Touch Kettle Charcoal Grill from Portland A&M Hardware; and eighth prize is a New England clam bake dinner for four that includes lobsters, steamers, sweet corn, potato salad and coleslaw from Tri-Town Foods.

Tickets for the raffle are available at various merchants throughout Portland or through members of the Portland Fireworks Committee; you can also call 860-342-3474 to arrange a purchase. Tickets are \$5 each, and the winner will be pulled at the fireworks event, though you don't need to be present to win.

With a variety of activities for all ages, it's not surprising to see why the Portland Fireworks have endured for two decades.

"The event has really expanded," Hoy said. "It's turned into a great family event."

So on July 7, after winding down from Fourth of July celebrations, you can expect many Portland families to turn up at the fairgrounds, ready to be wowed by the special fireworks display.

Colchester Selectmen to Pursue Grant for Joint Utilities Project

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Selectmen approved a grant application for a joint utilities project at the shared water pollution control facility and an outside open space purchase as well as several services contracts at its meeting last Thursday, June 21.

The board authorized the planning department's application for the 2013 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to fund the replacement of the sludge removal system used at the East Hampton Water Pollution Control facility, shared by East Hampton and Colchester. Colchester and East Hampton would each apply for a \$250,000 grant to fund the estimated \$1.3 million replacement.

A memo from Director of Public Works Jim Paggioli said a fund for joint utilities between East Hampton and Colchester currently has \$800,000 in capital improvement funds within fiscal years 2012 and 2013. The grants would make up for the rest.

Paggioli's memo said the project would likely "receive favorable consideration" because two municipalities are requesting funding for the same project, they have a significant portion of the project already funded and have the design and construction bid documents already prepared. Additionally, the replacement sludge removal system would provide "more efficient

waste water removal for a five-town region."

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle asked what would happen if only one of the towns received the grant, but Paggioli said it was unlikely that would happen.

The selectmen also authorized Norwich Public Utility (NPU) to purchase 56 acres of land on the southern boundary of Colchester, abutting the Deep River Watershed property, for open space. NPU plans to apply for state open space funding to support the purchase.

A memo from Town Planner Adam Turner to the selectmen said the planning department supports the authorization because the area is far away from major population centers and public services, making the area more expensive to provide service to: the lands are more valuable as open space because "they buffer and permit the maintenance of a vital aquifer," and the purchase is supported by the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee and Conservation Commission and is no cost to the town.

The board also approved a section of the Colchester Land Trust's Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program application, certifying the trust operates and is beneficial within the community and is supported by the Board of Selectmen.

The program would provide tax credit to

businesses that make investments in qualifying community programs, such as job training, education, child care facilities or donations to open space funds.

In a public hearing on the program held immediately before the Board of Selectmen meeting, Leslie Curtis of the Colchester Land Trust explained the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) is a legislation put into effect by the state a few years ago "which allows business groups in a community to give charitable reductions to approved charitable groups such as Colchester Land Trust and take a reduction from their business tax to the state of Connecticut."

Curtis urged the selectmen to support the Colchester Land Trust's initiative to apply to become an approved organization through the program.

"This is kind of a no-brainer," she said. "It's a way to get money for open space acquisition and supporting businesses in town that want to give the land trust money for this purpose would take a very nice reduction, not only at the federal level which is automatic, but also at the state level."

Curtis added other organizations within town can also take advantage of the program if they apply. However, the eligibility lasts for one year, so they need to re-apply each year.

Also at the meeting, the fire department was authorized to pursue the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant program application, due July 6. Fire Chief Walter Cox said the funding would not exceed \$175,000 and the town would see a cost share that would not exceed \$8,750 to purchase equipment.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster was authorized by the board to sign a business associate agreement between the town and its auditing firm, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, for the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year. According to the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, the town and the auditing firm must enter into a written agreement regarding the use and disclosure of protected health information.

The selectmen voted to approve six service contracts for the 2012-13 fiscal year. An elevator maintenance contract, generator service and repair contract, fire alarm service contract, fire extinguisher and exhaust hood service contract, heating/HVAC service contract, security system monitoring and service contract and sprinkler system service contract were all approved.

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

Referendum Held on \$50.28 Million Budget in Colchester

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A referendum was held yesterday on the proposed \$50.28 million 2012-13 fiscal year budget, and while the outcome of the vote was determined after press time, voters early Thursday morning indicated they were split on the spending proposal.

The budget was sent to referendum at a town meeting held last Thursday, June 21. Residents voted to send the budget, a \$219,761, or a 0.44 percent, decrease from the current fiscal year, on to referendum.

Earlier this month, the proposed budget was reduced by \$279,938 through \$20,000 in revenue in transfer station fees, \$176,628 in Education Cost Sharing funding, the renegotiation of the transfer station's municipal solid waste contract and cuts made by the Board of Finance to the education and town budgets.

The cuts would bring the mill rate, including the revaluation, down from 29.05 with the previously proposed 2012-13 budget to 28.80. The 2011-12 mill rate was 25.85, but was not a revaluation year.

The \$12.76 million town budget is a decrease of \$922,331, or 6.74 percent, from the current

fiscal year.

Recent reductions from the town budget included \$15,500 for a Senior Center sedan, \$3,000 for Geographic Information System software updates, \$5,000 from human resources consulting services, \$5,300 by a delay in filling the currently vacant deputy assessor position, \$15,000 in savings from renegotiations of the municipal solid waste contract at the transfer station and \$15,700 from the fire department for office supplies, protective clothing, repairs, machinery and capital funding for hydraulic tools.

The \$37.52 million proposed Board of Education budget is a \$702,570, or 1.90 percent, increase over the current fiscal year. Much of the increase is due to loss of federal funding.

The Board of Finance reduced an additional \$23,810 from the education budget earlier this month. The Board of Education cut \$12,402 for library books, leaving the library book budget at \$4,000, or \$1,000 for each school. Other cuts were \$5,491 for 0.15 family and consumer science positions at William J. Johnston Middle School, based on recent student elective selec-

tions, and \$5,917 in additional administrators/superintendent contract concessions.

The finance board opted not to cut the funding that was earmarked for several freshmen sports at Bacon Academy; the sports were presented as possible cuts by the Board of Education.

At Thursday's referendum, residents stood on both sides of the budget, some asking for more cuts and others trying to save what has not yet been cut.

Resident Barbara Clark said she would like the town to consider its senior citizens. "We have a stable income and after 65 years of living [in town] and paying, they should give us a break," she said. "I don't care what kind of a break, but some kind of a nice little break."

Preventing further cuts to the Board of Education budget prompted Jean Smith to vote in favor of the budget. "My kids are grown but I still vote 'yes' on the budget when it comes to education," she said.

Part of the problem is a majority of the residents in town don't get out to vote, Smith added. "I think that it's foolish that less than 30 per-

cent of the town should be controlling the budget. When people that are dedicated to voting 'no' continue to do so, we're never going to get anywhere," she said. "I don't know what happened to the parents in this town."

Resident Merja Lehtinen was adamant that the budget needs to be sent back to the Board of Finance for more cuts. "There are no cuts [in this proposed budget]. They're all increases," she said. "People need to see they're reductions in increases. People say, 'Oh my God, they're cutting [x amount] from the budget,' and they're not."

Lehtinen added she has seen young families in Colchester leave because of rising costs. "I used to teach in a disadvantaged area and saw children coming from Colchester," she said. "Their families had lost their homes and they were going to a bigger city nearby that offered more services."

"The town is very aware that we have a population of people in need, but they don't seem to be tightening their belts," Lehtinen said.

The budget votes were counted Thursday after voting ended at 8 p.m., after press time.

East Hampton Police News

6/12: John Joseph Coloccio Jr., 18, of 80 Pinebrook Rd., Colchester, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle without a license, East Hampton Police said.

6/16: Robert Roy, 53, of 28 Spice Hill Dr., was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

Portland Police News

6/19: A 15-year-old male juvenile was arrested for operating without a license, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and breach of peace, Portland Police said.

6/22: Kyle Stolz, 39, of 340 Main St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

6/23: John Giantonio, 26, of 9 Allen St., was charged with simple trespass, police said.

6/24: Joshua Andrew, 23, of 6 Omo St., Middletown, was charged with DUI and unsafe start/stopped position, police said.

6/24: Damon Carabetta, 33, of 376 Main St., was charged with evading, unsafe lane change and traveling too fast, police said.

Andover Police News

6/19: Eric Natusch, 23, of 264 Storrs Rd., Mansfield, was arrested for first-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

6/20: Santino Bruno, 26, of 21 Sylvan St., Springfield, Mass., was charged with DUI and failure to wear a safety belt, State Police said.

6/24: Carlos Lopez, 21, of 16 Griswold St., Manchester, was charged with reckless driving and failure to carry an operating license, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

6/22: An apartment on Gristmill Road was entered non-forcibly and several items were taken between June 19 and 22, State Police said. Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Daniel Greenwood at 860-537-7555, ext. 4022.

Colchester Police News

6/19: Dennis Brayman, 25, of 141 Fitchville Rd., Bozrah, was charged with third-degree larceny, State Police said.

6/20: Alysia Rose Langworthy, 25, of 43 Chestnut Dr., was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

6/21: Christopher Turner, 50, of 12 Victoria Dr., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

6/22: Dennis Rodriguez, Jr., 28, of 210 Farmington Ave., Hartford, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension and using a handheld device while driving, State Police said.

6/22: Scott Hanka, 20, of 288 Norwich Ave.,

was charged with illegal sale or manufacture of controlled drugs, weapons in vehicle, possession of less than 0.5 ounces of a controlled substance/non-narcotic/hallucinogen and possession of paraphernalia for a drug other than for less than 0.5 ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

6/25: Jared Clark, 33, of 38 Knoll Rd., Moodus, was charged with possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal violation of a protective order, State Police said.

6/26: Sara Peay, 29, 126 River Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

Obituaries

Colchester

Regina Reynolds

Regina Witkowski Reynolds, 94, wife of the late Gerald E. Reynolds of Colchester, passed away Thursday, June 21, at the Middlesex Clinic in Marlborough. She was born Jan. 19, 1918, in Hartford, daughter of George and Sophie Kilinski Witkowski. She was a member of the Natinal Catholic Church in New Britain.

Surviving are two sons, Barry and wife Trudy Hale of East Hartford, and Dennis G. Reynolds of East Hampton; one sister, Waqnda Vogt of Vernon; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, Joseph, and a sister, Elsie Riley.

Funeral service and burial will be private. There are no calling hours. Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements. Donations may be made to the American Legion Post 54, Norwich Avenue, Colchester, in her memory.

Colchester

Thomas A. Sharkey

Thomas A. Sharkey, 81, of Colchester and formerly of New Rochelle, N.Y., passed away Friday, June 22, at the William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich with his loving family by his side. Born in New Rochelle, N.Y., he was a son of the late Dominick and Susan (Mooney) Sharkey.

Mr. Sharkey was a proud veteran of the Korean War having served with the United States Marine Corps.

He was married to Alice (Stevens) on July 23, 1998, in New Rochelle, N.Y.

He was predeceased by his first wife, June Klein, in 1987.

Thomas was active in the community of New Rochelle and served with the Police Auxiliary and the Mayor's Safety Commission. He was a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion Post 8 and a life member of the Elks. Including his wife Alice he is survived by three daughters, Karen Giglio of Yorktown, N.Y., MaryAnn Holt of Wallkill, N.Y., and Elizabeth Sharkey of New Windsor, N.Y.; eight grandchildren, Kevin, Christopher, Michelle, Lisa Marie, Meghan, Roger, Matthew and Caitlin; four great-grandchildren and numerous other family members and friends.

Friends called Monday, June 25, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was held Tuesday, June 26, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

John Lyman

John "Lid" Lyman of Gilead, born Nov. 15, 1931, the son of the late Norman R. and Bernice Lyman, died peacefully Saturday, June 23.

He was predeceased in 1997 by his wife Ellen, whom he never stopped missing and will now join. He was also predeceased by two brothers, Norman G. and Roger Lyman.

Lid was a lifelong resident of Gilead. He was an Army veteran, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Korean War. He had attended Windham Technical School and went to work at Pratt & Whitney as a foreman for 28 years. He was an outstanding baseball player in his younger years and a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan. He was an outdoorsman who loved to garden. He was a proud member of the American Legion in Hebron and enjoyed the camaraderie of the people he met there.

He leaves to mourn his passing two sons John Lyman of Gilead, with whom he made his home in recent years, and Mark and his wife Linda of Ft. Collins, Colo. Both have been very caring and supportive during his illness. He leaves his two grandsons, Benjamin and Samuel Lyman of Gilead; his brother Jim and wife Cheryl of Hindsdale, Mass.; sister Joyce Queen and husband John of Gilead; brother and sister-in-law Paul and Lynn Sandahl of Hebron; his very good friend Mike Porter of Gilead; and many nieces and nephews who will remember his sense of humor and the good times we all have shared together over the years.

Friends and family are welcome to gather for a graveside service with Military Honors at the Gilead Cemetery, Route 85 in the Gilead section of Hebron, on Saturday, June 30, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Eastern CT, 31 Ledgerbrook Dr., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 or to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of arrangements.

Colchester

James Canfield

James Canfield, 52, of Scotch Plains, N.J., formerly of Colchester, passed away at his home with his family by his side Wednesday, June 20. Born in Hartford, to Kenneth and Elma Canfield, Jim graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1978.

He went on to earn a B.S. degree in Marine Engineering at Maine Maritime Academy in 1982. He was employed in power plant operations in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, most recently at AES Red Oak, in Sayreville, N.J.

Jim married Lynn (Montagna) of Scotch Plains, N.J., in 1986 and began to raise a family in Colchester. They moved the family to Scotch Plains in 1994. He was an avid fisherman, racquetball player and a devoted Boston Red Sox fan. He also enjoyed sailing and playing craps.

Jim is survived by his wife, Lynn, daughter Sarah, sons Matthew and Bryan, his parents Elma and Ken, and sister Barbara Jean Frasca and her husband Dr. John Frasca.

Family and friends called Sunday, June 24, followed by a service of remembrance, at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad would be appreciated.

Send letters of condolences by visiting therossifuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

David W. Livingston

David W. Livingston, 71, of Marlborough, widower of the late Faye Livingston died Thursday, June 21, at the Marlborough Medical Center. Born April 10, 1941, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Raymond T. and Rose (D'Elia) Livingston.

David was a retired firefighter for the city of New Britain, and had been working as a security officer at Hartford Hospital at the time of his death. He was a member of the Interstate Police Association. At the time of his death David chose to give the gift of life to others through tissue donation.

He is survived by his two sons, Daniel Livingston of Marlborough, David Blouin of Maryland; a daughter, Dawn Gittens of Georgia; two stepchildren, Jay and Robin Peterson; his sister, Donna Hinson and her husband William of Suffield; and several grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, June 30, at 11 a.m., in Marlboro Cemetery.

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

Hebron

William J. Clark

William J. Clark, 68, passed away Friday evening, June 22, at Hartford Hospital. Bill was born at Hartford Hospital Feb. 27, 1944, to William C.J. and Dorothy Morhardt Clark. He was a 1962 graduate of Newington High School and The Ward School of Electronics in 1965.

Bill was a respected co-worker at Otis Elevator Local Union 91. He was awarded a certificate of honor from The International Union of Elevator Constructors upon his retirement in 2006. He was well known for his impeccable skills and love for "Rock and Roll."

In his leisure time, Bill thoroughly enjoyed boating as well as adding to his Lionel train collection. Bill is survived by a large circle of family and friends who loved him and will deeply miss him.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held Saturday, June 30, at 1 p.m., at Butterball's Greenleaf Café in Hebron Center. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers and to acknowledge Bill's love for animal's donations may be made to Protectors of Animals in Glastonbury.

Portland

Ralph A. Soden

Ralph A. Soden, 81, of Portland, husband of Virginia (Lipps) Soden passed away Tuesday, June 26, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late A. Lester and Marie (Hahn) Soden. Born Dec. 26, 1930, in Trenton, N.J., he was a U.S. Army veteran having served during the Korean conflict.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Lester and Heidi Soden of Pittsboro, N.C.; daughter and son-in-law, Carol and David Beatman of Middletown; and four grandchildren, Andrew, Charles, Thomas and Kenneth.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, June 30, at 11 a.m., at South Congregational Church, 9 Pleasant St., Middletown. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to South Congregational Church, 9 Pleasant St. Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, has care of arrangements. To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Marie Jean Slimowicz

Marie Jean Slimowicz (Cramer), formerly of Portland, passed away Wednesday, June 20, at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. Marie was born in Middletown on Nov. 15, 1955, daughter of the late Charles Sr. and Genevieve (Ciaburri) Slimowicz.

She was raised in Portland, and later moved to Southeastern Connecticut having resided in Niantic and Waterford. Since 1978, she was employed as a teacher of Spanish at Waterford High School, from where she retired in 2006. She was dedicated to her profession and her students. Marie was a good role model of integrity and fairness. These qualities were respected and revered by both her students and colleagues.

Marie was a loving and caring person who dedicated herself to family and friends. She enjoyed simple pleasures in life such as sporting events, the beach, particularly those in Cape Cod and Maine, and time spent with family and friends. She particularly enjoyed cooking and entertaining for the people in her life. As Julia Childs said, "Dining with one's friends and beloved family is certainly one of life's primal and innocent delights, one that is both soul-satisfying and eternal." Marie lived by this sentiment. She was a generous and giving person and she will be greatly missed.

Survivors include her brother, Theodore F. Slimowicz of Portland; her brother and sister-in-law, retired Army Lt. Colonels Chas Jr. and Carolyn of Bel Air, Md.; a nephew, Joseph C. Slimowicz of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Marie is also survived by maternal aunts, Mrs. Frances Keane and Mrs. Viola Karpe of Portland; as well as several cousins.

Calling hours were held Monday, June 25, at the Thomas L. Neilan & Sons East Lyme Funeral Home, 48 Grand St., Niantic. The funeral assembled Tuesday morning, June 26, and proceeded to a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Paul Church, 170 Rope Ferry Rd., Waterford. Interment was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland, that afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Southeastern Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360; St. Paul Church; or to the new Cancer Center at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

Marie's family would like to thank the staff at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital; the Oncology and Hematology Associates; and Hospice Southeastern Connecticut, for their outstanding level of care and compassion during this time.

Condolence messages may be left on Marie's memorial page at neilanfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Anthony John Oliveri Jr.

Anthony John Oliveri Jr., 67, beloved husband of Carol (Hosking) Oliveri of Hebron, died peacefully after a brief illness, Friday, June 22, at home, with his family by his bedside.

Born in Houston, Texas, on April 24, 1945, son of Estelle (Botts) Oliveri of Hartford and the late Anthony Oliveri, he had lived and worked in East Hartford before moving to Hebron 25 years ago.

He was employed for 30 years at First Federal Savings & Loan Association and retired as the head of the Real Estate Appraisal Department. As a youngster he was a Boy Scout and enjoyed experimenting with chemistry sets. John graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1963 as a National Honor Society member, and attended the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, and the University of Connecticut. As a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, he was assigned to the division of military intelligence.

He enjoyed spending time with his devoted children and adoring grandchildren, and viewing the "heavens" through his many telescopes, playing golf, ice fishing and traveling with his wife.

In addition to his loving wife of 28 years Carol, and his mother, he leaves two daughters and sons-in-law, Jennifer and Michael Landry, of Andover and Catherine and James Nunn, of South Windsor; a sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Julian Borkowski of Vancouver, Canada; brother-in-law, Robert LeBlanc of Rocky Hill; four grandchildren, Vanessa and Michael Landry and Rebecca and Samuel Welles; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephew. He was especially close to nieces, Jessica Couture, Tracy Lanciotto and nephew, Jamie Borkowski.

In addition to his father, a son, John W. Oliveri, and a sister, Gail LeBlanc, predeceased him.

His funeral service was held Tuesday, June 26, at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor. Burial followed immediately at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Glastonbury. His family received friends Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Hartford VNA, 103 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06105.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

William Arthur Park

William Arthur Park of East Hampton passed away Monday, June 25, at Duncaster in Bloomfield. He was the husband of the late June Yeomans Park.

William was born in Manchester in 1918, the son of the late Millard and Elsie Gilbert Park. Bill graduated from Manchester High School in 1936.

During World War II, he served as a flight engineer in the U.S. Navy Patrol Bombing Squadron VPB32. Most of his flying time was in Martin Patrol Bombers, providing anti-submarine coverage for convoys in the Caribbean and the North Atlantic. He later worked for the Southern New England Telephone Company, retiring in 1982 with 42 years of service in the installation and engineering departments.

Bill lived in Wapping and Guilford prior to moving to East Hampton. He was a former officer of the Wapping Grange, a chairman of the Wapping YMCA and past president of the Wapping Fair Association. He was also a member of the Manchester Square Dance Club, the Telephone Pioneers of America, The PBM Mariner Association, and the Association of Naval Aviation. The proud owner of a 1940 Ford convertible, he was a member of the Shoreline Auto Club, the Early Ford V8 Club and the Antique Automobile Club of America. Bill was also a past president of the Pocotopaug Community Corporation and the Guilford High School Band Boosters.

Bill is survived by his sister, Betty Thurber of Manchester and was predeceased by his brother Gilbert. He leaves his daughter, Marilyn Krentzman, her husband Ronald, son David and wife Iwona and grandchildren Julie Park, David Park, Laura Krentzman and Daria Park, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 30, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Fred Dole officiating. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m.

The family wishes to thank his many wonderful caregivers, among them Dr. Robert Dicks, APRNs Leanne Shaw-Quinn and Sheila Murphy, Dr. Jeffrey Walden, Dr. Ashley Shepard, Dr. Mary Windels, Dr. Elzbieta Basil and the staffs of Brookdale and Duncaster. We also are deeply appreciative of the McLean Hospice nurses and his aide Kofi Gyamfitti of Unity Home Care.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bill's name may be made to McLean Hospice, 75 Great Pond Rd., Simsbury, CT 06070.

East Hampton

Robert G. Barthell

Robert G. Barthell of East Hampton passed unexpectedly at his home Friday, June 22, at the age of 52. Robert was born Oct. 24, 1959, in Burbank, Calif.

He had a great love of music and inspired many hosting open mic nights at the local coffee shop in East Hampton. His gentle kind ways touched many hearts and his laughter will forever warm our spirits.

Robert leaves behind his two sons, Dylan and Taylor Barthell; former wife and friend of 26 years Eileen Ceder; his Darlin' Erin McGuire and her two sons, Rowan and Malachi Lytle. His mother and father, Marcella and James Barthell; his brother, James Barthell Jr. and his wife Connie and their children Sarah, Laura, Christopher; loving family Sheila Ceder, Bill and Lorraine Liswell; as well as many friends, neighbors and pets.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 7, at 6 p.m., at the VFW Hall in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to his sons, Dylan and Taylor Barthell, 55 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424

More Obituaries on Following Page

Andover

Dorothy Gess

Dorothy (Dottie) Gess, 97, of Andover, and formerly of Manchester, born July 5, 1914, passed away Friday, June 22, after a brief illness. She is the daughter of the late Henry & Bertha (Knolfa) Gess and sister of the late William H. Gess.

Dottie is survived by her brother Bill's children Ronald and Mary Ellen Gess of Manchester, Cynthia and Gary Brown of Micco, Fla., Richard and Beverly Gess of Lyndonville, Vt., and George and Bea Gess of Jefferson, N.C.

Dottie's greatest pleasures were dancing and performing. As a young child she and her brother performed in many dance recitals. She opened her own dance studio where she also taught her nephew and niece Ronald and Cynthia. She went on in her late 20s to perform in Vaudeville and Minstrel shows where her famous "Cookie the Clown" was created. Cookie the Clown was a comedy/magical act Dottie performed for local charity events and the Newington Children's Hospital.

Dottie could always be found to have homemade cookies whenever you visited her and always made you feel welcome. Dottie loved her UConn women's basketball team and many times, even the late night games could not keep her from watching and rooting for her girls. Dottie worked at Travelers Insurance for over 40 years and was affiliated with the Travelers Girls' Club before retiring in the late 70s.

In her retirement years, she loved living by Andover Lake, visiting with family and friends. When Dottie moved for a few years away from Andover she vowed to find another place on a lake to finish out her retirement. Luckily, she was able to move right back to Andover Lake, which has always been home to her.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers of Andover's Fire and Ambulance Department, the nursing staff at Douglas Manor nursing home in Windham, and the staff at Windham Hospital. Your kindness is forever appreciated.

Her funeral service was held Wednesday, June 27, at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester. Burial followed at East Cemetery in Manchester. Calling hours were Tuesday, June 26, at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 110 School Rd., Andover, CT. 06232.

To sign the online register book, go to holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

Mary M. Bransfield

Mary M. (Flynn) Bransfield, 83, formerly of Portland, wife of the late John W. Bransfield passed away Tuesday at Middlesex Health Care Center, Middletown. She was the daughter of the late William and Anna (Ronan) Flynn. She struggled for many years with her health and died surrounded by her loving family.

Born Sept. 1, 1928, in Willimantic, she moved to Portland in 1961. She worked as a teacher for the State of Connecticut. She volunteered for many organizations including Girl Scouts, The American Red Cross and her children's schools. She was a member of the Portland Garden Club, the Church of St. Mary and also the Ladies Guild of the church. When her health allowed, Mary enjoyed gardening, biking and swimming.

She leaves her sons and daughters-in-law, Jack and Kimberly (Adami) Bransfield of North Andover, Mass., Michael and Lois (Goodman) Bransfield of Metuchen, N.J., and Thomas and Susan Bransfield of Portland, Peter and Francene Bransfield of South Glastonbury; daughters and sons-in-law, Maura and John Dillon and Ellen and Kevin Kelley, all of Portland; 13 grandchildren, Lucas Bransfield, David Bransfield, Micayala Bransfield, Eamonn Bransfield and his wife, Angela, Thomas Bransfield, Meara Bransfield, Laurel Bransfield, John Dillon, Katie Dillon, Emily Dillon, Keenan Kelley, Sally Kelley and Ruth Kelley; a great-granddaughter, Samantha; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Dr. William Flynn of California.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, July 3, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

Memorial donations may be made to the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave Portland, CT 06480.

The family would like to thank the staff at Middlesex Health Care Center for their exceptional care and compassion shown to their mother over the last 14 months.

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



East Hampton

Lorraine (Caron) Cantara

Lorraine (Caron) Cantara, 80, beloved wife of Albert Cantara, passed away peacefully, Tuesday, June 26 at Marlborough Health Care Center surrounded by her loving family. Born April 16, 1932, in Biddeford, Maine, she was the daughter of the late Ludger and Rose Eva (Tardif) Caron.



Lorraine had been a resident of East Hampton since 1977 and was a faithful communicant of St. Patrick Church.

She leaves her husband of 59 years, Albert; two sons and their wives, Guy and Anita Cantara of York, Maine, Michael and Teresa Cantara of East Granby; two daughters, Diane Chase and her husband James of Charlton, Mass., Nancy Cantara of East Hampton; a brother, Adrian Caron and his wife Lucille of Westbrook, Maine; two sisters, Claire Chevette and Beatrice Caron of Saco, Maine; brother-in-law Thomas Gonya of Keene, N.H.; four grandchildren, Tiffany and Shaun Cantara of Maine, Jason Swan of East Hampton and Valerie Chase of Massachusetts; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister, Rachel Gonya.

Lorraine had endless love and devotion for her husband and children. She enjoyed sewing, which led to many years with Go Fly a Kite. Traveling extensively with her family brought joy to her and many fond memories. Her commitment to her faith has led her into eternal peace and rest. She will be deeply missed.

The family thanks Middlesex Hospice for the wonderful care they provided Lorraine. We also thank Dr. James Hoffman, whose great skill and compassion comforted Lorraine throughout her illness.

The funeral procession will begin Monday, July 2, at 10 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, followed by the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home Sunday evening, July 1, from 4-7 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.