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Pete Maneggia sits at his desk in the softball museum he created in his old garage next to the Museum of Andover History. The garage houses years of memorabilia from a fast-pitch softball team that got its start in town, but may soon be torn down to make way for a parking lot for trail users.

Days Numbered for Softball Museum?

by Geeta Schrayter

Beside the Museum of Andover History on Monument Lane in Andover sits an old garage. From the outside, it looks as though it might house tools for upkeep of the museum and surrounding properties. But if you step through the door on the left side of the building, you'll discover it's a museum in itself: a room filled with trophies and photos documenting the success of a fast-pitch softball team that got its start in Andover.

But the garage's days may be numbered.

The Andover fast-pitch softball team came to be under the direction of Andover resident Ed Yeomans in 1963. Originally a four-team league made up of local residents, after the first season, an all-star team was formed from the leagues best players. Under the sponsorship of the Andover Sand and Gravel Company, that team went on to play in the Willimantic League, followed by the Norwich Fast Pitch League in 1967.

Last week, former Andover resident Pete Maneggia, who was team manager, explained the team played in Norwich for a few years, then realized it needed a sponsor to cover the various costs of playing such as entrance fees to the leagues and, in the later years, room and travel. So in 1969, the team came under the sponsorship of Reed Construction and went on to play for 17 more years. During that time, the team had 608 wins against 221 defeats and won seven state championships, seven New England Regional championships and participated in eight Nationals that took the team to Ohio, Tennessee, New York and California.

And with all those wins, came a slew of memories and trophies. Originally kept by Ernie Reed of Reed Construction, the trophies – of which Maneggia said there are 80-90 – were eventually handed over to Maneggia, who decided to display them in his garage. He partitioned it off, had shelves built, and created a

See Museum Page 2

Marlborough Bids Farewell to a Friend

by Joshua Anusewicz

A shopping buddy. A dedicated public servant. Your ride to the doctor. Someone to confide in.

Betty Sullivan was a lot of things to a lot of people, but each person knew her in their own way.

"She meant something different to each and every person," said senior center director Vi Schwarzmann. "But she was always there, no matter what."

That's why the passing of Elizabeth A. "Betty" Sullivan from cancer last Saturday, Sept. 1, at age 77 has had such a profound effect on those in Marlborough who knew her well. But even Schwarzmann admitted that maybe she didn't realize exactly how much Sullivan meant to the community.

"I've never seen anything like this, someone as loved as she was," Schwarzmann said about the local response to her friend's passing, adding that it struck her this week just how "unusual" it was for so many to be affected by one individual. "It's just so hard for everyone to realize that she's gone. People certainly miss her."

Born on April 19, 1935, in East Boston, Mass., the daughter of the late Arthur and Rosetta (Freny) Kirwan, Sullivan is survived by her husband Harold, her son Thomas, and her granddaughter Kellie, someone that those close to her said she "adored."

She also leaves behind her brother, Philip Kirwan, and sisters Pauline Mcentee and Carol Hare, all of Massachusetts.

Though she was from Massachusetts, Sullivan was a Marlborough native, through and through. Her commitment to the community showed in her volunteerism, serving on multiple boards and committees including the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, the

Marlborough Women of the Moose Chapter 1251, and the American Legion Post 1197. A former employee of the state of Connecticut, Sullivan was probably best known in her role with the Marlborough Senior Citizens Club and as the Democratic Registrar of Voters.

Through her involvement, Sullivan had the opportunity to build relationships with many in town, including First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski.

"She always had a pleasant smile and had a good thing to say," Gaudinski said. "She was always willing to reach out to everyone."

Gaudinski said she got to know Sullivan closely through the elections when she was registrar, but also got to know her on a personal level by seeing her on Friday nights at Marlborough Tavern, where the two would take in the karaoke.

No singing, though, Gaudinski said. "We would just sit back and take in the talent," she remarked with a laugh.

Gaudinski would eventually appoint Sullivan to the Commission on Aging as an alternate, a position she was unable to fill due to her illness. Because of her familiarity with the seniors of Marlborough and her nonpartisanship – "she was not political at all," Gaudinski recalled – she was the perfect fit for the position.

"If there was ever a person to call on, she was always the first one to volunteer," Schwarzmann said of Sullivan's involvement with the senior center. Whether it was calling out to lunch, it was always Sullivan answering the bell, Schwarzmann said, asking, "What can I do to help?" She also recalled Sullivan bringing in food for the seniors, including a particularly popular dessert made with chocolate cake and whipped cream.

"It never lasted very long," Schwarzmann

said with a laugh, adding that a little portion would always be saved for Sullivan to bring home for Harold.

It was through the senior center, as well, that Sullivan became close friends with resident Dot Foley. When Sullivan began calling games of bingo, Foley said the two "clung to each other" and quickly became close friends. The friendship grew even more, Foley said, when both were fighting cancer at the same time.

"It felt like Betty was sent as a friend from God," Foley said, recalling the two going to the movies, shopping or out to dinner to "keep a positive attitude."

Foley recalls her friend "always smiling" and being very willing to help others, but also remembers her as a "thankful" person. Whether it was her family, her friends, or her nurses in her final days, Foley said she remembers Sullivan always saying those two special words: "thank you."

"I can hear her saying them right now – 'Thank you, Dot,'" Foley said. "She was just so thankful of everyone and everything. She was the best."

Those who didn't know Sullivan well might not have noticed all her work within the community, however. If you ask Richard Banbury, the chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, that was because she was never looking for self-gratification.

"She was a terrific lady," he said, "and she did all the work behind the scenes, never looking for recognition."

Banbury recalled Sullivan always being a driving force when events were organized or the committee was taking part in a community event, but never being front and center. It's that attitude, he said, that will always make him look back at Sullivan with "affection and respect."

"She was a kind, gentle person," Banbury



Betty Sullivan

added. "That's the best way to put it."

A kind and gentle person who was, above all, a friend to many. And for those who were friends with Betty Sullivan, it's a relationship that won't soon be forgotten.

"There are no words to explain what having a dear friend was like until Betty was my friend," Schwarzmann said.

A funeral liturgy was held Thursday, Sept. 6 at Sullivan's parish, St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough, with a burial following in Marlboro Cemetery. For information on contributions or condolences, an obituary for Betty Sullivan appears elsewhere in this issue.

Museum cont. from Front Page

museum that encapsulates nearly 20 years of fast-pitch softball. The trophies fill the shelves from floor to ceiling, while old jerseys hang on the opposite wall beside framed photographs of various team members and numerous plaques.

Maneggia, who admitted he was an average baseball player during his high school years but was “terrible” at softball and so took on the role of manager, said the team was always celebrating.

“We celebrated all the time. I think we know every tavern in Connecticut and Massachusetts,” he laughed.

Maneggia added the era of the fast-pitch team “was quite a time” and former teammate and Andover resident Paul Jurovaty agreed.

“It was a big part of my life,” he said. “It was all Andover guys basically [when it started] and we played down there in Norwich and kept getting better and better.”

Jurovaty said the team would play over 100 games a season and said for a team to get its start in a small town such as Andover, then move on to become the success that they were, was quite a feat.

“That to me, is just something that the town should be proud of – it started here,” he said.

But now, there’s some concern over the fate of the memorabilia housed in Maneggia’s old garage. Maneggia no longer lives near the garage. In fact, there is no longer a house to be found – Maneggia explained it was torn down when Route 6 was widened in 1999. But the garage was spared, and although Maneggia moved over the town line into Columbia, he said he still comes by to open the garage if anyone wants to step inside, or when a town event such as Memorial Day takes place.

“But now, I’m scared to death,” he said. “I heard they want to tear this down.”

And his concern is well-founded. The property the garage sits on belongs to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. In an effort to improve parking and access to the nearby Rail Trail, the DEEP is planning to build a parking lot – and is eyeing to locate it on the land that houses the garage.

In July, First Selectman Bob Burbank explained the parking lot for the Museum of Andover History is currently utilized by people who want to use the trails. He said the decision as to what would happen to the property was

out of the town’s control, since the land belongs to DEEP.

Burbank added the land was purchased by the Department of Transportation (DOT) when Route 6 was widened, and after the fact, the state offered the property back to the town. However, Burbank said, “because I felt that the taxpayers probably wouldn’t go along with that expenditure, I contacted DEEP and they were interested in the property and they worked it out with DOT.”

Burbank said the state allowed Maneggia to have access to the garage even after it purchased the property because “it wasn’t in their way.” He added the state said the garage could remain there until a decision was made as far as what to do with the property.

“Nothing is in black and white” regarding plans for the parking lot’s construction, Burbank said in July, and on Wednesday, selectman Jay Lindy said no updates had been received from the state.

Still, those who know of the museum inside the old garage and the era of the fast-pitch softball team are concerned about the contents.

Going to the museum brings back plenty of memories for Jurovaty, and he wondered why the contents couldn’t become part of the town’s museum.

“I just don’t know why they can’t have a place for that history in our town, because here’s something I think is very special. During those years it was very special for the town – the team had a town following,” he said. “I’d hate to see that lost because it is the history of our town. It’s a part of our history... a grassroots ball team that started in our small town, and they just went on and had a vision of being better and better.”

Maneggia stated he was told three to four of the trophies could be placed in the museum, but the rest would have to go – something he wasn’t okay with.

“I’d hate to see this torn down. I’d like to see the town do something,” Maneggia said. “I don’t want to see the rest go to the dump.”

He added it’d be nice to have all the memorabilia for posterity, especially since there are few independent fast-pitch softball leagues remaining.

“Girls in high school and colleges keep it going now,” he said, adding, “that’s a lot of history.”

Maneggia said people have told him to bring everything to his house, “but they don’t realize



Hidden in an old garage on Monument Lane in Andover are troves of trophies and photos, plaques, bats and jerseys from the Reed Construction fast-pitch softball team. The team got its start in town and went on to win 608 games and bring home seven state and regional championships.

just how much is here.”

But Maneggia is determined the dump won’t be the final resting spot for the history of the Reed Construction fast-pitch softball team. And if the town doesn’t step in and do something, they might end up in his basement after all.

“I just couldn’t stand to see it go to the dump. I would never let it. I’d probably put it in my

cellar or someplace,” he said. “Twenty years down the road, this’ll be nice for the little town of Andover.”

“It’d be nice to see that legacy as far as what happened to go on instead of being torn down and going away,” Jurovaty added. “I think it’s really special to the town of Andover.”

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I wouldn’t want to be the front office of the Washington Nationals these days.

In what’s become probably the most well-known innings limit in all of baseball, the Nationals are due to shut down their ace pitcher, Steven Strasburg, after he reaches 170 innings. That puts his last start of the season on track for next Wednesday, Sept. 12, against the Mets in New York. (Come to think of it, that may help the Mets’ attendance that day; they could use what little boosts they can get.)

Strasburg, 23, is just two years removed from Tommy John elbow reconstruction surgery, so, under normal conditions, placing an innings limit on him would seem entirely reasonable.

But did I mention the Nationals are in first place?

The Nats are on track for the franchise’s first postseason appearance since 1981, when they were the Montreal Expos. It would be the first trip to the playoffs for a Washington baseball team of any kind since the 1930s. (D.C.’s baseball team used to be the Washington Senators, before they picked up their bat and ball and fled to Minnesota after the 1960 season.)

Barring an utter collapse this month, the Nationals have a shot to bring Washington its first world championship in baseball since 1924.

So these are not normal conditions.

And Strasburg, I reiterate, is the team’s ace, carrying a 15-6 record, 2.94 ERA and 195 strikeouts into this past Wednesday’s game against the Cubs.

So if you’re the Nationals, you’re going to take numbers like that – numbers that played a huge part in getting you to where you are this season – and say, “Thanks, you rest up, we’ll take it from here; you can watch the playoffs from the clubhouse TV, it’s really nice?”

The team wants to preserve Strasburg’s career. It’s a commendable motive, and they should be lauded for it. The baseball history books are peppered with cases of guys who did too much, too soon after Tommy John and haven’t been quite the same since. Why take the chance that Strasburg would be the exception?

But a shot at a title is an awfully tempting reason why you *should* take that chance.

There are no givens in life – and this is particularly true in baseball. Yes, the Nationals have a lot of young talent – guys like

Strasburg and Bryce Harper and Jordan Zimmerman – and a first-class manager in Davey Johnson. This could very easily be the start of a little dynasty for them. Or it just as easily could not be.

The 2006 Mets dominated the NL East and steamrolled the Dodgers in the division series, only to be stunned by the Cardinals in the NLCS and lose in seven games. “No problem,” a lot of people felt at the time. “This is a great team – guys like Wright and Reyes and Beltran. We’ll go get them next year.” Only they didn’t go get them next year. A stunning September collapse the following season kicked off what’s been a rather bleak period for the franchise.

The 2008 Rays are another example. That team made it all the way to the World Series before losing to the Phillies, and was just a fantastic story. With guys like Evan Longoria and Carl Crawford, they’d be back. They finished in third the following season, and while they did make the playoffs in 2010 and 2011, they were eliminated early on, and 2008 remains their only World Series appearance.

The bottom line is, this could be the Nationals’ time. The poet Eminem once opined, “You only get one shot. Don’t miss your chance to glow. This opportunity comes once in a lifetime. Yo.”

Maybe the Nats will get more than one shot. Plenty of teams have. Look at those pesky late ‘90s Yankees. But like I said, with baseball you never know.

Also, what about the other guys on the team, the ones who have been working their butts off all season to help get the team where they are? What message does that really send to them? That all their hard work is important and appreciated and all that, but preserving Strasburg is more important? Some of the veteran Nationals players have already gone on record saying they don’t like the decision, but that it’s out of their hands.

As I said earlier, wanting to aid the career of someone who looks like he could be one of the game’s all-time greats is a laudable decision. And if the Nats were 10-15 games out, it’d be a no-brainer.

But this team has a shot at history. How do you take away one of their very best weapons?

It’s a difficult situation the executives are in, no doubt. And one without an easy answer.

* * *

See you next week.

Hebron Police News

8/28: Harry Gruss Jr., 43, of 20 Turner Rd., was charged with third-degree assault on a pregnant person, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief, police said.

8/30: Gregory Bader, 18, of 64 Jerry Daniels Rd., Marlborough, was charged with DUI, following a one-car crash on Jones Street, State Police said. According to police, the vehicle left the roadway and rolled. A passenger in the vehicle, Richard A. Walz Jr., 21, of 63A Lafayette Rd., Marlborough, was transported to Marlborough Clinic due to reports of pain, police said.

Portland Police News

8/20: Elevi Orea, 33, of Jackson Street, Meriden, was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license, insufficient insurant and improper turn, Portland Police said.

8/28: Ryan North, 18, of 65 Strongs Ave., was charged with DUI and traveling too fast, police said.

8/29: Bryan Crusberg, 35, of 98 Rockwell St., Winsted, was charged with two counts of second-degree identity theft and two counts of sixth-degree larceny, police said.

8/29: Michael Ferguson, 17, of 311 Main St., was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and insufficient insurance, police said.

8/30: James Goolsby, 24, of 93 Spring St., Middletown, was charged with DUI and traveling too fast, police said.

8/31: Patrick Lachappelle, 25, of 1503 Portland-Cobalt Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Colchester Police News

8/30: Colchester Police are investigating the report of a possible strong-arm robbery that occurred on Pleasant Street at approximately 1:30 p.m. If anybody was a witness or has any information, call Officer Adam Regnere at 860-537-7270.

9/3: Colchester Police are investigating an evading accident that occurred on Waterhole Road, just south of Pickeral Lake Road. Anyone with information is asked to call Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7555 ext. 4083.

East Hampton Police News

8/17: a 15-year-old juvenile was issued a summons for criminal mischief and breach of peace, East Hampton Police said.

8/25: Theresa Nielson Bracken, 52, of 70 Main St., No. 3, and Joann Gillespie, 49, of 19 Mary Ann Dr., were involved in a two-car motor vehicle accident with no injuries on Barton Hill Road. Bracken was issued a summons for failure to grant the right of way and failure to carry insurance, police said.

8/30: Joseph Felix Parlapiano Jr., 30, of 31 Fairfield Dr., Windsor Locks, was arrested for first-degree failure to appear, police said.

Marlborough School Board Explores Foreign Language Options

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Board of Education discussed at its meeting Thursday, Aug. 30, preliminary research on possible ways to implement a foreign language program at Marlborough Elementary School.

Following the elimination of the elementary school's Spanish program as a result of budget cuts for the 2012-13 fiscal year, several board members expressed interest in joining a committee to develop alternative ways to keep foreign language in the school.

Board of Education member Robert Clarke updated the board on three world language software programs he and his children tested over the summer: Rosetta Stone, Rocket Languages and Livemocha.

"Obviously a live teacher is always best in a classroom situation, but we don't have that luxury at this point so we're looking at these software-based programs that could be integrated into a school environment," he said. "We're going to have to rely on administration as far as timing and methodology."

Clarke quickly dismissed Rosetta Stone as the program of choice, citing it was a more business-oriented program geared toward adults.

"I personally liked Rocket Language[s] a lot

because you could record your phrase and a native speaker's phrase at the same time so you could get the pronunciation right," he said. However, he added, "The kids absolutely panned it."

Instead, their preference was Livemocha, a program that uses a socialization feature that allows students to connect with other students worldwide. This feature would incorporate some culture in addition to teaching the language, Clarke said.

"For instance, if they wanted to learn Spanish they can hook up with a native Spanish speaker," Clarke said, adding 400,000 people use the program daily globally and users can switch languages without financial penalty.

Clarke said the program can be used in a classroom as well as at home, and discussed with a local administrator the possibility of using paraprofessionals to administer aid to students needing help with the program.

"I found it very easy to use and I did not give my kids any instruction whatsoever and they just took to it right off the bat," he said.

Board of Education Chairwoman Betty O'Brien also tested out Livemocha for French language and agreed it was the best of the three.

"It just seemed more conversational, more interactive," she said.

The cost for the program is approximately \$2,000 annually, Clarke said.

"There are more limitations to a computer-based program than a live teacher," Clarke said, "But we can work within those restrictions and develop a program that is beneficial."

O'Brien brought up the possibility of creating a language lab similar to the school's STEAM Room for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The school recently received a \$25,000 grant from Lowe's to make improvements to the STEAM Room.

Marlborough Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf said he was not aware of any grants the school could apply for for a language lab at this time "but it's worth investigating."

Clarke pointed out the school's library already has a computer lab, but the language software program would require new headphones with microphones.

Nierendorf said the administrators are not ready to implement a world language pilot program just yet.

Board members decided the next step is to

put together a survey for parent feedback and to investigate grant opportunities.

The board took care of two housekeeping matters, passing motions to approve the year two amendment of a five-year agreement with Chartwell's for food management services and enter into an agreement with the state Department of Education Child Nutrition Department for school lunch programs for the 2012-13 school year.

Nierendorf updated the board that elementary school staff are continuing to collaborate with Hebron and Andover teachers on the common core standards. He also presented Connecticut Mastery Test data showing results were similar to what they have been in past years.

Selectman Dick Shea and Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout spoke to the board about the upcoming budget season, urging them to keep teachers' wage increases to a minimum or not at all. Godbout added the Board of Finance "will be fiscally conservative" in the upcoming 2013-14 budget season.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. at Marlborough Elementary School.

This Time, Camp Hemlocks in Hebron Staying Open for Winter

by Geeta Schrayter

Community members left without a place to swim last winter when Camp Hemlocks closed for the season have no reason to fret this year.

Summer may be drawing to a close, but Camp Hemlocks is remaining open, after a substantial amount of feedback from the public made it clear there's a desire to have the camp's facilities year-round. So, the Easter Seals Board of Directors made the decision to "give the people what they want," Program Director Peter Trathen said Wednesday.

In November of last year, Easter Seals Coastal Fairfield County announced the camp would be closed for the winter season due to a lack of funding. Trathen said there was a public relations issue as well – an issue of "getting ourselves out there in the community" to ensure everyone knows what's available at the camp. For while indoor swimming is a main draw during autumn and those cold winter months, it's not the only thing Camp Hemlocks has to offer. Group rentals, "respite weekends" and pool parties are also available.

"Progressing forward, we're looking at more ways to utilize the building," Trathen said.

He explained respite weekends are now planned for one weekend each month, whereas in the past they took place "only now and again." During the respite weekend, caregivers and guardians can send their loved ones to camp for a weekend where, as explained in the fall program catalog, they "will receive quality care while meeting new friends, socializing and trying new activities."

Group rentals are also available, and Trathen said these are not only for people with disabilities, "but for anyone and everyone" looking for a place to hold their team-building weekend, conference or retreat.

Individuals looking to celebrate can hold a pool party there as well. The pool and lobby can be rented for a two-hour period, with theme parties also a possibility, Trathen said.

"We're looking to extend the party program

as well – looking to create different themes," he said. "Say, for example, a soccer party or a sports party or a Robin Hood party if the weather holds – we have an archery instructor so they have those opportunities."

And then, of course, there's the swim program. Registration for the fall swim program ends tomorrow, Sept. 8, with classes to begin Monday. The swim program returns "big and bad and bold," said Trathen. "It's nice to get everyone back into it."

He explained lessons are available for all levels of experience from 1A, where children learn basic water skills, to level 5/6, which is "everything and anything – they're like a fish!"

Aquacise classes and an Arthritis class with instructors certified by the Arthritis Foundation are available too, and Open Adult and Family Swim hours also take place.

Money earned from the various programs and opportunities available at Hemlocks is put right back into the camp. In the winter, money is mostly needed to heat the building and the pool, and in general, the funds are used "so we can make sure our summer program isn't our only program and we're not just open for a small period of time," said Trathen. "We want to be able to make sure we're year-round."

He said funding is a lot better now than it was last year, and the camp had "an amazing summer," with increased campers.

"We're definitely moving forward so I'm happy," he said. "We're definitely doing what needs to be done."

Assistant Director Alycia Williams explained Wednesday that after meeting with individuals from Hebron, Colchester and Marlborough before summer started, it became clear the possibility of opening a community pool in any of the towns wasn't possible: Hemlocks was needed. So now, what was important was spreading the word that the camp was open – "people have been coming in and telling us 'we didn't even know you were open again,'" said Williams – and had quite a bit to offer.



Last year, Camp Hemlocks closed in early November for the entire winter due to funding issues. But this year, community members will continue to have a place to swim throughout the colder months, as the camp has announced it will remain open.

"We're going to get our name out there," she said. "We want people to know about the programs that are available and we'd like to be a staple in each of the surrounding towns."

Williams explained it looked like the money for the camp was there "as far as Easter Seals goes," but the organization needs to know the programs being paid for are wanted.

"They just need to know that the programs that we run are going to continue," she said. "They don't want to throw money into something if they're not going to prosper."

Williams added that, for a while, she was hesitant in letting people know Hemlocks

would be open because of how hard it was to tell the community they'd be closing last year.

"It was hard when we closed, and having to tell people that we were closed – then we thought we were going to close for good!" she said. "But we will persevere and now I'm ready to say 'Okay everybody, we're definitely going to be open.'"

"We want to reassure everyone that after speaking with the community and our supervisors, we're here to stay," said Trathen. "We're not going anywhere."

For more information on Camp Hemlocks or the fall programming, call 860-228-9496.

Arrigoni Project in Portland to Finish Ahead of Schedule

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Arrigoni Bridge project that many locals dreaded will soon be coming to an end – roughly two months ahead of schedule.

In a Thursday, Aug. 30, news release, Gov. Dannel Malloy and state Department of Transportation Commissioner James P. Redeker announced that all four lanes of traffic on the bridge would be open by Saturday, Sept. 15. Throughout the project, the projected timeline placed the completion date of the bridge deck restoration in November of this year.

“This is great news for the people of central Connecticut who deserve our applause for their patience during this year-long rehabilitation project,” Redeker said. “Getting all four lanes of traffic reopened early, and particularly for the peak-travel hours, is a significant achievement and a testament to the diligence of the DOT, its contractors and the towns of Middletown and Portland.”

Malloy added, “We know that this reconstruction project for the 35,000 commuters that cross the bridge daily has not been easy as traffic lanes were reduced in both directions, but this was a public safety project that simply could not be postponed any longer. The patience and cooperation of the public has been remarkable throughout the entire process and I want to thank them.”

Starting this week, crews from The Middlesex Corp. of Littleton, Mass., the company performing the renovations, began tearing up the temporary pavement on the two southern lanes of the bridge in preparation of final paving of the roadway. The traffic pattern has changed accordingly, with the two northern lanes of the bridge open for one-way traffic each way. From 8 p.m.-6 a.m., traffic is restricted to one lane, alternating from east to west.

When that paving is complete, all four lanes will be open for traffic.

Though the 600-foot-long main span of the bridge will be completed by next weekend,

Redeker stated that additional work to pave the approach spans on both sides, replace the bridge joints, and make repairs to the southern sidewalk will be done over the next month and a half. That work, Redeker said, is expected to begin on Sept. 15 and last until Wednesday, Oct. 31; during this time, there will be lane closures from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. in the eastbound direction and 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the westbound direction during the daytime hours with alternating one-way traffic from 8 p.m.-6 a.m.

Also on Sept. 15, the northern sidewalk will be reopened, while the southern sidewalk – which is currently open – will be closed for repairs until Oct. 31.

The announcement that the project is near completion is welcomed news by many, including First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who said Tuesday she was “thrilled” to hear that the project was two months ahead of schedule.

“It’s remarkable,” she said of the efforts to overhaul the bridge. “I can’t say enough about the cooperation of Portland, Middletown, the DOT and The Middlesex Corp. to get this done.”

State Rep. Christie Carpino also weighed in on the announcement last week, thanking the residents for their patience and the work of the local police and fire departments throughout the project.

“This is great news and will alleviate the traffic back-ups, especially during peak-hours,” she said. “This is an example of how state and local government can work together and efficiently for the good of the community.”

In recent years, officials have echoed Malloy’s sentiments that the project to restore the Arrigoni could not be put off any longer. Since the bridge was built in 1938, the bridge’s infrastructure has remained mostly intact; in 2009, the DOT tested the bridge, rating it a three out of a possible 10 points in terms of its condition.

After considerable planning, the project kicked off in August 2011. The restoration took place in three stages, replacing the entire deck



This week, crews have been putting down a permanent roadway on the two southern lanes of the Arrigoni Bridge, part of the restoration project that officials announced last week would be completed two months ahead of schedule. In the coming weeks, work will begin on the bridge approaches on the Middletown and Portland sides.

of the main span of the bridge, including the steel grid deck, deck joints, concrete barriers and resurfacing the roadway. The project has been completely funded by the state, with a final cost estimate of \$19 million; the original design estimated the project at \$20.29 million, while The Middlesex Corp. submitted a bid estimate of \$16.95 million.

Although the project was deemed necessary, before the reconstruction work started, locals feared it would create a traffic nightmare for motorists. The traffic tie-ups have not been nearly as substantial as many had thought, but delays have been seen during peak hours in the morning and evening commutes. There have

also been several accidents on the bridge that have snarled traffic for up to an hour, as well.

Bransfield credited motorists being “courteous” for traffic flowing smoothly for the most part, but added that with schools back in session, there has been a spike in traffic in recent weeks.

“[The completion of the project] can’t happen soon enough,” Bransfield said of the recent increase in traffic.

For more information on the project, the DOT has provided a website, www.ct.gov/dot/Arrigoni. Any questions and comments can be sent to DOT.Arrigoni@ct.gov.

Portland Kicks Off Solarize Program

by Joshua Anusewicz

A testament to the amount of work Portland has put into solar power and green energy throughout the town, it didn’t come as a surprise that Portland was recently chosen as one of four Connecticut towns to participate in the state’s Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) Solarize CT program.

And because of Portland’s commitment to alternative energy, it wasn’t a surprise, either, that over 75 residents showed up at Portland Library Tuesday night for the Solarize Portland Kick-Off event to learn about discounted solar installations at their homes.

“It was a very competitive process and many towns asked to be part of the first four,” First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Tuesday. “It’s a credit to [Chairman] Andy Bauer and the rest of the Clean Energy Task Force and their commitment to energy efficiency and clean energy.”

Portland – along with Durham, Westport and Fairfield – will take part in the pilot program which, according to CEFIA’s website, ctcleanenergy.com, brings “competitively priced solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to homeowners...by deploying a coordinated education, marketing and outreach effort, combined with a tiered pricing structure that provides increased savings to homeowners as more people

in the community go solar.” What that means is if more residents agree to participate in the program, all of the residents in town who participate see savings in the cost of the installation and their monthly bill through various incentives and tax credits.

“There’s never been a better time to go solar in Connecticut,” said Toni Bouchard, vice president of the marketing firm SmartPower. “People always want to go solar, but find it too intimidating. This is the time.”

Bouchard also outlined the benefits of taking part in the program, which include helping the environment, lowering one’s energy bills, improving the value of one’s home and creating jobs in the state.

Portland, particularly the Clean Energy Task Force, has been one of the most active towns in the state in committing to clean energy in recent years. On top of providing solar power and alternative energy programs for residents and local businesses, such as the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, the town itself has incorporated solar energy on municipal buildings, like the solar array on Valley View School.

According to Bauer, the Solarize CT program will be the biggest clean energy program for the town yet, providing an “awesome solar package” for residents that wish to participate.

On Tuesday, representatives were on hand from CEFIA and Real Goods, the company that was chosen to install the solar arrays on homes in Portland. The nation’s only publicly-traded solar installer, Real Goods actually installed the first solar panel in the United States and has installed more solar equipment than any other company in Connecticut.

The process of installing the solar panels, Bauer said, would begin with a home energy solutions assessment, which could be done by the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. Through that assessment, a house could be retrofitted with products like energy-efficient light bulbs and weather-stripping to lower home energy costs.

After receiving the assessment, a representative from Real Goods would visit the home to draft design specifications as to where the solar panels would go and how many the home would need, based on the amount of sun it receives. Bauer said that along with the specifications, the resident would receive a “comprehensive breakdown” of monthly energy costs, as well as the amount of incentives and tax credits you would receive.

And those home visits from Real Goods representatives, Bauer said, would be free.

Because each home would use a different

amount of energy and incentives and tax credits are based on the number of homes participating in the program, exact prices were not discussed at Tuesday’s meeting, although it was noted that purchasing and leasing options are available. However, both Bauer and Bransfield testified to the benefits of using solar energy, as both have had panels installed at their home in recent years.

“We’re very pleased with our solar panels,” Bransfield said. “We now receive all of our electricity from solar panels and we’ve seen considerable savings in our bill.”

Now that the program has been kicked off, Bauer said that spreading the word to Portland residents will be the biggest key. Information on the program will be available at the upcoming town Family Day on Saturday, Sept. 15, on the Town Green. There, residents will be able to learn more about the program and sign up to have their homes evaluated.

Information about the program can also be obtained by visiting RealGoodsSolar.com/SolarizePortland, or by contacting Bauer directly at Cleanenergy@portlandct.org. The Solarize CT program for Portland ends Friday, Dec. 14.

Andover Selectmen Agree to Add Fire Inspectors

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday agreed to add fire inspectors to help with investigations, as per request of the town's fire marshal.

Fire Marshal John Roache sent a letter to the selectmen Aug. 8 asking them to appoint five fire inspectors. In his letter, Roache explained that historically the town has only had a fire marshal and a deputy fire marshal to handle inspections, permits and fire investigations. He said that while this is adequate most of the time, whenever there is a larger incident, the state is usually called and sends staff for assistance.

But due to cutbacks, the state fire marshal's office "has been making it clear that they will not have the same ability to respond to assist with fire investigations or technical questions as they once could," Roache wrote.

As a result, Roache said fire marshals from various communities were looking to create some "mutual assistance" agreements, and possibly a regional team made up of certified staff from each town who would help each other when requested. But Roache furthered that the members have to be appointed and sworn in by the town, which was the reason for his request.

Selectman Jay Linddy – who filled in at the meeting for the absent First Selectman Bob Burbank, who is still recovering from a recent heart operation – said declaring five fire inspectors would increase the town's insurance premiums, and as a compromise, he'd look for a motion to appoint two instead.

"In the event that you do think it's necessary for another one, you're welcome to come back," he said.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Also related to the fire department, a bid was awarded for refurbishing Fire Tank 215 to Gowans-Knight Co., Inc., a company out of Watertown. Gowans-Knight submitted a bid totaling \$114,950.80, while Greenwood Emergency Vehicles submitted a bid for \$128,469.00 and New England Fire Equipment and Apparatus submitted a bid for \$128,711.39.

Linddy noted \$130,000 was allocated in the Capitol Improvement Plan budget for refurbishing the tank, but he said he recommended the balance of \$15,049.20 remain in that fund in case more problems are discovered with the tank during the refurbishing process.

"You never know when you're stripping it apart," he said.

Both the motion to approve the bid of \$114,950.80 to refurbish Engine Tank 215 and the motion to keep the remaining \$15,049.20 in the CIP fund in case additional repairs are needed passed unanimously.

Finally, a Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant in the amount of \$1,852 was awarded to the fire department from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). In a letter from DEEP it was explained the funds allow for a 50 percent reimbursement "of the cost of their project with a maximum grant award of \$2,500." The funds can be used for areas such as training and communications or items such as safety supplies and suppression gear.

Also at the meeting, the selectmen unanimously appointed Paul Bancroft as the town's emergency management coordinator, replacing Sylvia Dake, who recently resigned. The selectmen also unanimously appointed Catherine Crem'e assistant coordinator.

In his letter to the selectmen, Bancroft explained he's a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) instructor and runs the RHAM High School CERT Team. He's been a member of the Andover Fire Department for 25 years and is a certified firefighter and EMT. As coordinator, he said his primary goals would be to "continue the excellent work the Andover CERT has done" in preparing shelters and to strengthen the relationship between the Andover CERT and the fire department.

Also discussed at the meeting was an issue

that took place during the primary election last month. Selectwoman Elaine Buchardt explained that on the day of the primary, Aug. 14, a voter came into the town office building and said political signs weren't supposed to be on town property. The individual then attempted to remove the signs themselves, which, she said, "shouldn't have been done."

The signs were returned, but Buchardt said the selectmen's discussion "is the reaction" to the event.

No one proposed creating any type of ordinance against the placement of political signs on town property, and Linddy stressed he'd be opposed to such an idea.

"I would have a problem saying 'lets make a regulation' because that would make it go to a public hearing, and freedom of speech is expressed in the signs," Linddy said, adding that, as per state statute, as long as the signs aren't within 75 feet of the town's polling location, they're acceptable.

Buchardt furthered that signs have always been posted in that area, and no one's asked permission to do so because "it's always been done." It was only after the incident at the primary that residents started looking into what was appropriate and what wasn't.

"There are no rules in zoning saying the signs can't be there," she said, adding they just had to fall under a certain size. "So I see no problem with it."

"You have to walk very carefully when you start taking signs away because that's a right to express yourself," Linddy added. "I wouldn't vote in favor of [a regulation] because I think it's going against constitutional rights."

"Until that [issue] came up [signs have] been posted and no one's complained," said Buchardt.

The town also received a Members' Equity Distribution check in the amount of \$3,807 from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA).

The "distribution is an extraordinary achievement made possible by the commitment and collaboration of our members, our strong capital position, and stable financial performance," CIRMA wrote in a letter to the selectmen.

The money will be placed back into the general fund.

Also at the meeting, Linddy discussed recent damage that had been done to the electrical box at Veterans Memorial Park. He said a car ran into the junction box at the park, but the police department didn't know who hit it. After requesting bids for repairs to the box, only one was received, but Linddy said it was from the same individual who put in the original box "and since the bid came in at only \$600 I gave him the okay."

Finally, the town signed an agreement with Direct Energy Services, LLC for the year at a rate of \$0.0670 per kWh. The rate is available to Andover residents and companies in town. A senior citizen discount is also available, which drops the rate to \$0.0660 per kWh. Andover Energy Committee Member Rick Linden explained individuals who receive their energy from a different company can switch over to Direct Energy to receive the above rate if they're not bound by contract to their current provider. He added individuals who are already with Direct Energy should roll over and receive the new rate in November.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m., at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

AHM Teen Center New Partnerships, Programs

by Geeta Schrayter

Now that school's back in session, the AHM Teen Center is back as well. And this year, the activities available are being expanded in an effort to entice students away from their Facebook pages and Twitter accounts to socialize face-to-face.

AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg explained Tuesday that there's been some concern recently over a drop in participation at the center. After asking around in different communities, it was discovered other teen centers were seeing similar drops, and in response, AHM decided they needed to expand the types of activities they had available.

"One thing led to another, and in the process we formed two partnerships," he said.

One of the partnerships is with the Marlborough Arts Center, which Rosenberg explained started to introduce programs last year like African drumming, art, poetry readings and a videography program.

"We're excited to continue with that partnership this year," he said.

The other partnership is with the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department, which Rosenberg said is "really going to be a significant change." Josselyn Salafia, who spends her mornings with Parks and Rec. and her afternoons at the Teen Center as coordinator, will now be planning events with Peggy Tunick, program director with AHM.

"They'll be working together on how to introduce new programs and activities and also engage teens more," said Rosenberg.

On Tuesday, Salafia explained community partnership is "vital" to the success of AHM Youth Services, and as a result of the new partnership, teens from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough "will be able to enjoy a host of new after school activities through our planned collaborative efforts with AHM and Parks and Recreation and the Marlborough Arts Center."

Those new activities include a cooking workshop, where participants can learn the skills needed to bake a cake or cook dinner; jewelry

and journaling for teens; an origami workshop; Hip 2B Fit, which introduces participants to different forms of exercise; and a skateboarding workshop where participants can learn the basics of skateboarding.

In addition, a "vacation camp" will be held at the teen center during staff development days so students have the option to hang out there as opposed to sitting at home. But these days, kids don't seem to have a problem staying home, and that was another reason for the expansion of activities.

Tunick said Tuesday that after noticing the drop in enrollment at centers across the state, the overall conclusion was that now kids can stay at home and play video games or interact on the computer.

"They don't have to go to a place and hang out. They can hang out in cyberspace," she said. "I'm not knocking cyberspace, but we really want kids to come together. So we knew that we really needed to look at our teen center in a different kind of way. We love the program, we have this gorgeous space and we want to keep it going."

Tunick said the collaborative was "a really logical place to go," since it meant access to more activities that would perhaps bring in kids who wouldn't have come before.

"We want to provide things that they can't get at home," she said.

The activities will be offered on a rotating schedule so it's different each week and going forward. Salafia said the plan is to continue to offer different activities and special events such as movie nights and a coffee house-type gathering.

Tunick added that the center used to have coffee houses, poetry slams and dances, "and we really want to go back to that."

"With our increased participation we're hoping that we can get some of these bigger special events," Salafia stated, adding the kids that already attend are having fun and enjoy the activities the center has to offer as well as the opportunity to do their homework.

"The overall purpose [of the teen center],"



In an effort to curb a drop in participation, the AHM Teen Center has formed partnerships with the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department and the Marlborough Arts Center to offer a wider range of activities, from cooking and skateboarding workshops to origami and journaling.

Salafia said, "is basically to give kids a place where they can go – and parents can feel safe and know where their kids are – and to get the kids involved with activities and events to keep them busy."

"We're really excited," said Tunick. "We're just really trying to reach out into different venues to attract kids, and you know, I think we all enjoy doing new stuff and stuff that isn't available some place else."

Tunick furthered the hope was to get not only a core group of kids coming to the center, but

kids who stop by to take part in an activity of particular interest.

"They don't have to feel like they have to come every day," she said, "but can come for different kinds of things" – things they can't get by scrolling through their Facebook news feed or learn from a 140-character tweet.

"Again, we want to give them something that they can't get in cyberspace," said Tunick.

The AHM Teen Center is open Monday-Thursday from 2:30-6 p.m. For more information, call 860-228-9488 ext. 26.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Elizabeth A. Sullivan

Elizabeth A. "Betty" Sullivan, 77, of Marlborough, beloved wife of Harold E. Sullivan, died Saturday, Sept. 1, at Hartford Hospital. Born April 19, 1935, in East Boston, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Rosetta (Freny) Kirwan.

Betty lived in Marlborough for most of her life and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, a former Democratic registrar of voters for the town of Marlborough, a member of the Marlborough Women of the Moose Chapter 1251, a member of the American Legion Post 1197 in Marlborough, a member of the East Hampton VFW Post 5095 and a member of the Marlborough Senior Citizens Club. She was retired from the State of Connecticut, where she had worked as a secretary.

Besides her husband Harold, she is survived by her son Thomas Sullivan of Mansfield, her granddaughter Kellie Sullivan, a brother Philip Kirwan of Massachusetts, two sisters, Pauline Mcentee of Massachusetts and Carole Hare of Massachusetts.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Sept. 6, at 11 a.m. in St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Burial followed in Marlboro Cemetery. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Maureen Gayle Hill

Maureen Gayle Hill, 66, of Colchester, passed away at her home Wednesday, Aug. 29, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Dec. 20, 1945, she was the daughter of Joseph Intravia, Sr. of Oakland, California and the late Pat (Allen) Intravia.

Maureen was a self-taught IT systems analyst, working as a contracted employee for many companies in the area throughout her career.

She traveled the world extensively, visiting exotic locations in Iceland, Turkey and throughout Europe. Maureen was well read. She gained a treasure trove of information about technology, culture, art and cooking. She will be remembered most fondly by her family as "the cool and fun aunt".

In addition to her father, survivors include two brothers, Richard Intravia of Hebron, Joseph Intravia Jr. of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Funeral services will be held privately.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK, 73123.

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

Portland

Lloyd C. Erskine Jr.

Lloyd C. Erskine Jr., 81 of Portland, husband of the late Eileen (Buckley) Erskine passed away Monday, Sept. 3, at Hartford Hospital. He was the son of the late Lloyd C. and Ariel (Buckman) Erskine.



Born May 29, 1931, in Gardiner, Maine, he's been a resident of Portland since 1962. Lloyd was a teacher and administrator for the Portland School System for over 30 years until his retirement and was also a U.S. Army veteran having served during Korea. He was a member of the Eastern English Springer Spaniel Club, the Portland Fish and Game Club and he also ran Wayfarer Dog Kennels.

He leaves his children, Winifred "Wendy" Waterbury of Higganum, Laura McElearney of Chicago, Ill., Alice "Lisa" Ridge of Bloomington, Ind., Lloyd C. Erskine III of Kearney, Mo., and Diane Tateishi of Kissimmee, Fla.; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the New England English Springer Spaniel Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 407, Ashland, MA 01721.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, has care of arrangements.

Portland

Louise E. Papallo

Louise E. (Markham) Papallo, 60 of Rocky Hill, formerly of Portland, wife of Michael P. Papallo, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 5, at Midstate Medical Center, Meriden. She was the daughter of the late Raymond and Eleanor (Kuligoski) Markham.



Born Nov. 30, 1951, in Cheshire, she was a 1969 graduate of Mercy High School in Middletown. Louise worked for the Connecticut Lottery Headquarters in Rocky Hill for the past 15 years. She was enthusiastic about quilting, she enjoyed reading and was fond of classic movies. She loved her pet cats, occasional travels to Disney World and loved her summer vacations in Maine.

Besides her husband, she leaves her sons, Brian of Rocky Hill, and Christopher and his wife, Courtney of Brookfield, her mother-in-law, Jane (Tomassone) Papallo of Meriden, brothers, Marshall Markham and his wife, Leslie of East Hampton and Robert Markham of Portland, a sister, Lenore Smith and her husband, Walter of Portland, her precious cats, Chocko, Tigger and Pinky McGee; and nephews, Michael Smith and his wife, Kim of Grapevine, Texas, Patrick Smith, Andrew Markham and Sarah Markham all of East Hampton.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Relatives and friends may call today, Sept. 7, from 5-8 p.m., at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Protector of Animals 144 Main St. No. N, East Hartford, CT 06118.

The Family would like to thank Dr. Raj Nadkarni and her staff at Midstate Medical Center and the team of nurses on Pavillion D.

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

East Hampton

Thomas J. Herlihy Sr.

Thomas J. "Joe/TJ" Herlihy Sr., of East Hampton, died Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Veterans Hospital in Rocky Hill. He was born Sept. 18, 1930, in County Cork, Ireland, one of 11 children.

Joe later moved to New York and graduated from Brooklyn Poly Tech with a degree in civil engineering. He proudly served in the U.S. Army, 38th Infantry Regiment ("The Rock of Marne"), from 1951 to 1953. While serving in Korea, Joe earned the Combat Infantry Badge, the United Nations Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal.

Joe raised a family in Simsbury, and worked for Combustion Engineering Corp. in Windsor. He retired to East Hampton where he loved living by the lake. In retirement, TJ was an avid golfer, worked for the Knights of Columbus and enjoyed visiting his home in Kearny, Ireland.

Joe is survived by his five children: Patricia, Thomas, Evelyn, Doreen and James; his sister, Anne McAleer; 11 grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Calling hours will begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, in the Levitow Health Care Facility Chapel on the grounds of the Veteran's Hospital, 287 West St., Rocky Hill, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Interment will follow in Colonel Raymond Gates Memorial Cemetery where full military honors will be accorded.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joe's memory to the Senior Center of East Hampton, 105 Main Street, East Hampton, CT 06424 or Special Care Unit B-Lower-Comfort Care Committee c/o State Veteran Hospital, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., is handling the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Olga Roman Meisterling

Olga Roman Meisterling, 85, passed away at The Farm Saturday, Sept. 1. Ma was born April 6, 1927. She grew up in Portland, with her parents Gabriel and Maria Roman and brothers Victor and Daniel.

Iggy and Dunk (John W. Meisterling) were married in 1947, moved to The Farm and her life there became legendary. Stories from The Farm are endless from her 11 children, 22 grandchildren, three great-granddaughters, 12 nieces and nephews and countless extended family and friends far and wide...

In keeping with Ma's wishes, there will be no calling hours.

There will be a memorial to celebrate her life Saturday, Sept. 8, from 1-3 p.m., at Brooklawn Funeral Home, 511 Brook St., Rocky Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donate to Homes for our Troops at Homesforourtroops.org, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at ASPCA.org, or a charity of your choice.