

RIVEREAST

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Champion Bringing Home the Blue...Avery Hall from East Hampton, 8, took first place blue medal in 11 and under walk/trot showmanship. He also took first place blue medal in the 11 and under walk/trot equitation. This event was the UPHA-14 (United Professional Horsemen's Association) Winter Tournament. Also, for the third straight year, Hall was named an American Saddlebred Horse Association Connecticut state champion for his class – and this year he's actually a double state champion. He was state champion in Academy Pleasure walk and trot 17 years old and younger, and was also 2012 state champion in Academy Equitation walk and trot 17 years old and younger. Hall rides for Cater Stables out of Dunbarton, N.H.

Maple Fest, Take Two

by Geeta Schrayter

The old saying goes “March comes in like a lion,” and this year, that certainly proved true. A snowstorm that started last Thursday night and continued into Friday dumped more than a foot and a half of snow in some places – and, more importantly to area sweets lovers, led to the postponement of the 23rd annual Hebron Maple Festival.

The festival will now be held this weekend, March 16 and 17.

Maple Fest Committee member and Wenzel Sugar House owner Ron Wenzel said Monday he and Town Manager Andy Tierney made the call to reschedule the event the morning of Friday, March 8.

Wenzel said he and Tierney had “collaborated on the fact that Town Hall had been getting a bunch of calls wanting to know if [the festival] was going to be postponed,” explaining the town does “an awful lot” to make sure there’s access to public buildings, no snow on the roads, and that the sidewalks and parking lots are cleared for the event.

But due to the storm, Tierney had told Wenzel he didn’t think the town would be able to get it all done.

“So I said ‘Mr. Andrew Tierney, it’s a no-brainer. We’re going to make it [next] weekend,’” said Wenzel. He added the weathermen had first said it would snow a manageable

amount – first reports suggested one to three inches, then three to six – and if it had stayed that way, the sugary show could have gone on.

“We can handle that; it’s no big crank,” said Wenzel. “But when it’s a foot-plus, there’s no place to put it! And a lot of the events take place downtown... there was just no place to park, no place to walk.”

On Wednesday, Tierney explained while the weather that weekend was “very nice,” and the sidewalks and roads “cleared nicely,” it was the snow piled up between the two that was a hindrance.

“We knew we could get the roads and sidewalks cleared,” said Tierney, “but it was the area between that a lot of vendors would have been setting up on and that wouldn’t have been free of snow.”

In addition, Tierney said police had asked the town to approve additional officers since it was possible more people would be walking in the roads – and that meant a cost increase.

“So it was a hard decision,” he furthered, “but we felt still that we made the right one.”

But for some maple syrup fans, neither the weather nor the official delay of the event could keep them from getting their fix. At Woody Acres Sugar House, Denise Schaller said she and her husband Russell still had several hun-

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All Aboard for ‘Anything Goes’ at PHS

by Joshua Anusewicz

The buzz around Portland High School is already building, as the school’s theater group will soon be presenting its production of the Tony Award-winning classic *Anything Goes*, the school’s first show in two years.

This week, if you were to visit the auditorium in the middle/high school complex, you’d no doubt hear the cast and crew hard at work, the sound of brass horns flowing down the hallway, just a bit louder than the singing and dancing emanating from the stage. The tinkling of a piano leads the way, with school music director Samuel Tucker dutifully plunking on the keys and directing all at once.

“It’s a lot of chaos and madness,” Tucker said Tuesday of the timeless musical, although he could have easily been speaking of the 30 or so students in the cast and the countless others in the band and stage crew.

Anything Goes, which made its Broadway bow in 1934, tells the tale of a cruise ship to England and a group of its passengers. One of the passengers, Billy Crocker, is a stowaway madly in love with an heiress, Hope Harcourt, who’s set to be engaged to Sir Evelyn Oakleigh. In hopes of winning her affection, Crocker enlists the help of nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and gangster Public Enemy No. 13 Moonface Martin, along with a colorful cast of characters that are met along the way.

“It’s kind of silly, and just a lot of fun,” Tucker said of the show, which also boasts such Cole Porter classics as “I Get a Kick Out of You,” “You’re the Top,” “Blow, Gabriel, Blow” and the title tune, “Anything Goes.”

With the high school holding its musical every other year, this will be the first production for Tucker, who is in his first year teaching music to grades seven through 12 in Portland. Prior to coming to Portland, Tucker spent over 20 years involved with the theater program at Morgan High School in his native Clinton. This production of *Anything Goes* will be his directorial debut.

Not only will it be a debut of sorts for Tucker, but also it will be the debut for many of the cast members, particularly in some of the lead roles. The role of Hope Harcourt will be played by junior newcomer Jessica Wilcox, while the roles of Moonface Martin and Billy Crocker will be played by juniors Joshua LaBella and Gary Scaramella, respectively. The role of Reno Sweeney will be played by Megan Erricetti, also a junior. Though many of the cast members are new to Portland High School productions, some of them are veterans of local theater groups like Young People’s Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) in East Hampton.

Erricetti, who was part of the last school production, *Annie Get Your Gun*, in 2010, said

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Cast members are hard at work rehearsing for the Portland High School production of *Anything Goes*, which debuts next weekend. The cast includes, from left, juniors Megan Erricetti, Joshua LaBella and Gary Scaramella, who will play the roles of Reno Sweeney, Moonface Martin and Billy Crocker, respectively.

Maple Fest cont. from Front Page

dred visitors, including many from out of town who didn't know the event was postponed.

"It was really pretty awesome," Schaller said. "We had a steady stream of customers actually and one of our comeback customers was kind of glad that they didn't have to beat the crowd."

Schaller said postponing the event meant those who did turn up got to have a more one-on-one experience. Since the weather was so nice, she added some people couldn't understand why the festival had been postponed. But after showing them a map and explaining how there would be no real place to walk or for vendors to set up, everyone seemed to understand.

"It would have been a dangerous situation and all in all, I think they understood once it was

explained to them," she said.

And at the end of the day, Schaller said she still expects the event to be a success. The Maple Festival had been postponed once before, she said, "and it was really just as busy" when it finally took place.

"We're hoping everyone returns this weekend and we have a more successful event than we would have if there hadn't been snow," Tierney added.

If March decides to stay lamb-like, the Hebron Maple Festival will take place this Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, from 10-4 p.m. For more information, visit hebronmaplefest.com.

Anything Goes cont. from Front Page

Tuesday that she didn't know how familiar she was with *Anything Goes* until the rehearsals started.

"I had heard of it before, but I didn't realize I knew so many of the songs," she said. "It's a lot more funny than I would have thought."

Fitting nicely in one of the lead roles in her debut, Wilcox said the rehearsals have been hard work, but she hasn't minded. "It's really fun," she said. "I'm looking forward to the premiere."

The cast and crew have been rehearsing in

earnest in recent weeks, and Tucker said everything's been "fantastic so far...things are falling into place."

The rehearsals will continue up until show time, which is scheduled for Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 23, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Portland High School auditorium, 95 High St.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and \$6 for children age 10 and under. To reserve tickets, call 860-342-1720 ext. 2020.

State to Monitor Portland Rest Home

by Joshua Anusewicz

The state Department of Public Health announced last week it will begin monitoring the Greystone Retirement Home, and will continue to do so for 18 months, in light of the disappearance and eventual death of a resident in 2012.

According to a consent order sent from the DPH to Greystone, the retirement home, located on High Street, has hired an independent consultant to help provide additional personnel to monitor residents, as well as report unusual occurrences to the DPH and enforce policies on residents that go on leaves from the facility.

The consent order stems from the January 2012 death of 59-year-old Margaret Oliver, who was initially reported missing after she didn't return from a bus trip to Middletown. Oliver's body was found partially submerged in the Connecticut River several days later.

At the time of Oliver's death, Luel Swanson, the administrator at Greystone, stated that Oliver was a "very intelligent and highly articulate" individual, but added that she did suffer from "mental health issues" without specifying any particular diagnosis. Swanson also said that it was not uncommon for Oliver to make trips to Middletown for the day.

In the consent order from the DPH, however, Oliver was listed as schizophrenic, with a history of self-destructive behavior that included instances where she attempted to push a piece of glass down her throat and gouge her eyes out with her fingers. Oliver also reportedly heard voices and had hallucinations, the consent order stated.

What concerned the DPH, the consent or-

der said, is that staff members at Greystone did not realize until the following day that Oliver had not returned home, and that police were not notified of Oliver's disappearance until the following afternoon, over 18 hours after Oliver was expected to return. When the police were called, the consent order stated, a Greystone staff member notified the police that a suicide note had been found in a drawer in Oliver's room.

The consent order stated that Swanson told the DPH that the delay in notifying police was due to Greystone's protocol of searching for the resident and that staff members had gone out to look for Oliver on their own.

On Thursday, Swanson said, that since the incident, the rest home has worked in collaboration with state to integrate new safety precaution at the facility, including a more efficient tracking process for residents, an upgraded buzzer and alarm system to alert staff members of issues during overnight hours, and additional head counts of residents. Swanson said the changes have gone "exceptionally well" so far, and that changes have made the nationally-recognized rest home even better.

"We're going way above and beyond the normal scope of care," Swanson said. "We're one of the best facilities in Connecticut, and this just makes it better."

She added that residents have been "receptive and compliant" to the changes, and the facility is "moving onward and upward" from the traumatic experience of losing a fellow resident.

Swanson said that with the changes in place, the DPH monitoring is set to begin in the coming months.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

"If you don't like the weather in New England," so the saying goes, "just wait a few minutes." Last Friday and Saturday were wonderful examples of this saying, commonly attributed to Mark Twain, as being pretty much on the money.

Saturday was a brilliant day: sunny skies, temperatures in the mid-50s. It would've been a great day to wander Hebron, taking in the sights, sounds and smells of the annual Maple Fest.

Too bad that just 24 hours earlier a storm quite unexpectedly dumped more than a foot and a half of snow on the town.

As Geeta Schrayter reports in this week's *Rivereast*, Maple Fest organizers early Friday made the call to postpone the Maple Fest. And I can understand why. Yes, I had heard all about how terrific the weather was supposed to be on the weekend. But that's still an awful lot of snow to get out of the way, so that people could safely drive and walk around the center of town. Plus, various tents needed to be set up, such as the one in front of the American Legion Hall on Main Street, where the Legion and VFW sells their delicious hamburgers and chili dogs year after year.

And then there would've been the added complication of getting to the sugar houses themselves. It can be tough enough to find street parking for those sugar houses when there's no snow on the ground. Imagine having to contend with multiple feet-tall snowbanks.

Of course, there were still syrup-buyers in town anyway. Denise Schaller, of the Woody Acres Sugar House, said people stopped by to purchase various maple goods both days last weekend. There were enough that Denise's husband, Russell, gave his customary syrup-making demonstrations, which is always a fun, and educational, Maple Fest highlight.

Most of the attractions that were planned for the Maple Fest last weekend will be there this weekend. This includes the annual pancake breakfast offered by the Lions, as well as the one offered by Church of the Holy Family, the annual quilt show in the Old Town Hall, and other delightful offerings. Among the items I'm looking forward to the most – and come on, you knew they'd be food-related – is the always-refreshing icy maple milk the Hebron Historical Society is serving up outside of the Old Town Hall, and the delicious maple pudding cake being sold by Gilead Congregational Church over at the Wenzel Sugar House on East Street. If you get some, here's some advice: When they ask you if you want it heated up, and with ice cream put on top, just say 'yes.'

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's ban on selling sugary drinks was struck down by the courts earlier this week, a mere day before it was due to begin. And to be honest, I have mixed feelings about it.

On the one hand, do people drink far too much soda? You betcha. And they certainly don't need to consume it in 64- or 128-ounce containers. (Bloomberg's proposal would've prohibited New Yorkers from buying more than 16 ounces of soda at a time.)

But on the other, I think we should educate people about making proper choices when it comes to their food-purchasing and

food-consuming habits. Don't make the choices for them. I'm generally not of the opinion that government is overly involved in our lives, but this just seemed like too much.

And, frankly, it seemed unfair. The New York Supreme Court justice who struck down the law said it was "arbitrary and capricious" – and he was right. The law, strangely, would've applied to the city's restaurants, movie theaters and other food service providers – but not to grocery stores or convenience stores. So that means 7Eleven's Big Gulp – and its super-sized cousin, the Super Big Gulp – would've been safe. Wouldn't you have considered those to be the most egregious of the soda offenders?

Justice Milton Tingling also noted the ban wouldn't have applied to all to sweetened milk-based drinks, like milkshakes, and he felt this too was unfair.

Now, I suppose one could argue a milkshake at least has, you know, milk in it and therefore has some nutritional merit to it, but I'd argue all the fat, calories and grams of sugar more than outweigh any health benefits of the milk. After all, you could point out soda is fat-free – but no one's calling Pepsi health food.

I agreed with Tingling, and just couldn't side with Bloomberg on the ban – which felt odd, as I've liked the other public health initiatives he's put in place in New York. For example, another move of his to help people watch their waistlines was to make chain restaurants post the calorie content of menu items. And that, in my opinion, succeeded where the soda ban failed. It allowed people to make an educated choice: You want that Big Mac Extra Value Meal? Fine, go ahead – but you're not eating it without knowing just how many hundreds of calories you're putting in your body.

Bloomberg has vowed to appeal the decision, saying, "People are dying every day. ... This is not a joke. This is about real lives." And I sympathize with his cause. The obesity problem in this country is a real problem, and something needs to be done. I just don't think this ban was the best way to do it.

So what then? How to deter the next 15-year-old from wandering into his nearest convenience store and pouring himself a 64-ounce Fanta? Well, a friend of mine suggested tax. Tax soda, he argued, and sales will go down. And he may have a point. Just look at what happened to cigarettes.

In April 2009, the federal cigarette tax rose from 39 cents per pack to a whopping \$1.01. And cigarette sales, accordingly, fell. *USA Today* reported last fall that, according to surveys by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about three million fewer people smoked last year than in 2009, despite a larger population. And teen smoking, *USA Today* reported, immediately fell 10 to 13 percent when the new tax hike took effect, according to Jidong Huang of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

So maybe a special "super-size me" tax on overly large sodas is the way for Bloomberg to go. I'm not sure. One thing I do know is an outright ban – especially a ban that doesn't even apply to Big Gulps – isn't necessarily the way to go. Educate, yes; but don't ban.

See you next week.

Gaudinski Presents \$22 Million Budget to Marlborough Finance Board

by Melissa Roberto

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski on Wednesday gave the Board of Finance its first look at the proposed 2013-14 town budget.

The overall budget totals \$22,036,543, which is an increase of \$485,244, or 2.25 percent, over current year spending.

The spending package consists of five categories broken down into separate totals: Marlborough's portion of the RHAM budget, at \$7,457,004; the local Board of Education budget, at \$7,372,984; town operations, at \$4,526,682; contingency – used for emergencies if needed – at \$20,000; and debt service at \$2,659,873.

Gaudinski translated those totals into percentages over the current fiscal year: a 2.06 percent increase for the RHAM portion; 2.40 percent increases each for the Board of Education and town operations; and a 6.91 percent increase for debt service. The amount allotted for contingency is remaining flat from the current fiscal year.

The net capital account – which is for proposed capital items and projects – was listed at \$0, due to a new policy Gaudinski pitched to the finance board. Under the policy, capital expenditures would be removed from the town budget, and instead paid for in cash by the town's capital expenditure reserve.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout said the board is interested in paying

capital expenditures with cash. However, a decision still needs to be made by the Board of Finance members on the policy.

In her presentation, Gaudinski also mentioned a change expected to occur in the town's health insurance account that she said would work out in the town's favor – a potential reduction in the initial placeholder for the health insurance account from the initially-proposed 25 percent down to approximately 15 percent.

"That is great news," Godbout said about the estimated drop in the health insurance increase.

Gaudinski, however, did explain other changes that may not be as beneficial to the town. She shared with the board possible eliminations in revenue as a result of the proposed state budget that total approximately \$108,956 from grants and state reimbursement the town of Marlborough usually receives.

Additionally, Gaudinski told the board if Gov. Dannel Malloy's proposal to eliminate car taxes is approved, the town of Marlborough could lose approximately \$1.2 million in tax revenue.

However, it's not all bad news in terms of state aid. If the proposed state budget passes, Gaudinski said, increases would be seen in Town Aid Road funds – which she said would be used to pay for road improvements in town – as well as increases in the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) and the K-12 Edu-

cational Cost Sharing grant.

During her presentation, Gaudinski also highlighted three primary cost drivers of the proposed budget: salaries and benefits of town employees, insurance and bonds and debt service.

Gaudinski explained that AFSCME employees – who work at Town Hall, the Senior Center or the Public Works Department – are due to receive 2.5 percent pay raises in the 2013-14 fiscal year; full-time non-bargaining employees are to receive 2 percent; and part-time non-bargaining employees are due a 1 percent raise. The budget also holds a 2.5 percent placeholder for raises for the Teamsters Union, who work at the Public Works Department.

Gaudinski told the Board of Finance a reduction in electricity is expected to be reflected in the budget, although the exact reduction wasn't included in the proposal. The budget also calls for increases in the cost per gallon of heating oil and diesel fuel; heating oil is due to rise from \$3.02 to \$3.08, while diesel fuel will go from \$3.08 to \$3.16. However, gasoline is expected to drop from \$3.54 to \$3.41 a gallon and propane is estimated to drop from \$3.50 to \$3.29 per gallon.

As for those capital expenditures, they featured five items, totaling \$350,000: a future capital expenditure reserve of \$45,000; a revaluation reserve for 2015-16, at \$40,000; a new

Town Hall generator to replace the current 1987 generator, at \$55,000; a new roof at Richmond Memorial Library, at \$65,000; and a new seven-year dump truck used for plowing streets at \$175,000.

Following discussion of the capital expenses, Gaudinski also provided pictures of the town's 1991 dump truck that she wants to replace. She showed pictures of three separate areas of the truck that are rusted, including bolts that have rusted off of the truck that are used to hold the transmission in place. The 1991 truck is one of eight total dump trucks the town currently uses for plowing roads, and Gaudinski said eight are needed for each town employee that is responsible for plowing Marlborough roads.

The mill rate for the 2013-14 year was also shown at 31.76 mills, or 0.74 percent increase over the current year. The tax increase was also estimated at 2.38 percent over the current year.

Talk of the town's budget will continue throughout the month and into April, with a Board of Finance budget workshop scheduled for next Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School media center. The Board of Finance budget public hearing is also tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 29, followed by an annual town budget meeting scheduled for Monday, May 13, both to take place at the MES cafeteria.

Dog Struck When Shots Fired Into Marlborough Home

by Melissa Roberto

Gunshots were fired into a residence on Portland Road in Marlborough Monday night, injuring a dog inside, according to State Police.

At approximately 9 p.m. on March 11, police said they received a 911 call from the victim, who reported shots had been fired into his home.

According to police, state troopers responded to the residence and conducted a search of the area. State Police Major Crime detectives also responded to the scene to gather physical and forensic evidence, police said.

Police said a man and his girlfriend live at

the residence, and both were inside the home when they heard the gunshots, the press release said. On Tuesday, State Police Lt. Paul Vance said neither resident was injured.

However, police said residents discovered a shattered sliding glass door window in their home and that their dog had been shot. The dog was taken to a veterinarian to remove the bullet.

Additional shell casings were found outside of the residence by state police detectives, the press release stated.

The shooting is still under investigation, Vance said, and as of press time Thursday no suspects had been identified.

Man Charged in Fatal Wrong-Way Marlborough Crash

by Melissa Roberto

State Police arrested a Willimantic man that was one of three drivers involved in a fatal wrong-way crash that occurred last April on the Marlborough/Glastonbury line.

Lingxin Wu, 23, of 317B Roanok Ave., Willimantic, was charged March 7 with first-degree manslaughter, second-degree assault, first-degree reckless endangerment, reckless driving and driving the wrong way on a divided highway, police said.

The collision took place at around 4:15 p.m. April 28, 2012, police said. Wu was traveling eastbound on Route 2 west in Marlborough, approximately 300 feet prior to the Glastonbury town line, when he struck the driver side of a Subaru Impreza traveling west in the right lane, according to police.

The crash fatally injured the Subaru's driver, Richard Sullivan, 68, of 20 Old Orchard Rd., Huntington, and left his passenger, Barbara Sullivan, 67, injured at the scene.

Barbara Sullivan was transported by a Glastonbury ambulance to Hartford Hospital with incapacitating injuries, State Police said.

A third driver, Jerry Johnson, 64, of 48 Morningside Circle, Feeding Hills, Mass., was unable to avoid the crash and struck the Sullivans' vehicle as it spun out of control, State Police said. Johnson, however, was not injured, police said.

Wu's vehicle continued eastbound, rolling onto its side in the roadway, Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Captain Kevin Asklar told the *RiverEast* last year, and said LifeStar helicopter landed on the highway to transport Wu to Hartford Hospital for Level 1 trauma care.

The crash led to the shutting down of Route 2 westbound for three to four hours that evening, while state police reconstructed the accident.

Wu is scheduled to appear in Manchester Superior Court on April 10.

Police Investigating Andover Package Store Burglary

by Geeta Schrayter

State Police are investigating a burglary that allegedly occurred at the Andover Package Store on Route 6 last Sunday afternoon.

The incident was brought to the attention of police at approximately 2:35 p.m., after an individual noted visible damage to the building. Police said entry was forced through the

front door of the store and the items taken included two cash registers.

No arrests have been made at this time, police said, and the case remains open and is being actively investigated.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Philip Soucy at Troop K, 860-537-7500 ext. 4015.

East Hampton Police News

2/26: Scott Edward Evans, 28, of 29 Windsor Ave., Hartford, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

2/28: Debra Taylor, 59, of 208 Main St., Apt. 7, was issued a summons for second-degree harassment, police said.

3/1: Blaire Marie Ocelik, 31, of 81 Middletown Ave., was arrested for risk of injury to a minor and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

3/6: Jose Figueroa, 43, of 100 Maple St., East Hartford, was arrested for third-degree burglary, fifth-degree larceny, credit card theft and illegal use of a credit card, police said.

Portland Police News

2/13: A 17-year-old male was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of marijuana near a school, possession of marijuana and referred to Juvenile Court, Portland Police said.

3/3: Frederick Rubio, 30, of 1170 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with police, police said.

3/9: Walter Harris, 23, of 133 Deerfield Dr., Glastonbury, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, police said.

Colchester Police News

3/4: Michael Oddis, 21, of 477 Westchester Rd., was charged with drug paraphernalia and possession of narcotics, Colchester Police said.

3/4: Mark Allen Gionfriddo, 50, of 4 Van Cedarfield Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

3/5: Colchester Police said Jose Robles, 28, of 846 Park St., Hartford, was arrested on an arrest warrant for fifth-degree conspiracy to commit larceny and third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary. Police said the arrest warrant is part of several arrests related to an interrupted burglary ring involving several towns throughout southeastern Connecticut. Anyone with further information is asked to contact Officer Bryan Kowalsky at the Colchester Police at 860-537-7500.

3/5: Ashley Lynn Pare, 23, of 188 Alexander Dr., turned herself in on a warrant for sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

3/7: Colchester Police said that the manager of Cottage Gardens, located at 460 New London Rd., reported that an unknown person or persons attempted to gain entry into the establishment sometime between March 6 and 7. Police said the main entrance door was damaged and found to be unlocked. Police said, however, that it appeared nothing was taken from the store. Colchester Police are currently investigating the case.

3/8: Shannon Anderson, 20, of 47 Bow Oarsman Rd., East Hampton, N.Y., was traveling on Route 2 east in the right lane, approximately one-tenth of a mile east of the exit 21 on-ramp, and Mark G. McKeever, 58, of 17 Beaver St., Hamden, was traveling behind her, when she

veered to the right and overcorrected to the left, State Police said. Anderson's vehicle then spun counter-clockwise and entered the left lane, and McKeever collided into the right side of Anderson's vehicle. McKeever complained of pain in his right knee as a result of the crash and was transported by Colchester Fire Department to Backus Hospital for further evaluation and treatment, police said. Anderson was found at fault for the collision, police said, and issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

3/8: Janice Terrell, 34, of 174 Ashley St., Hartford, was charged with third-degree forgery and fifth-degree larceny, Colchester Police said.

3/10: Jared Coffin, 20, of 720 Deep River Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

3/10: Andrew R. Pisano, 24, of 132 Pinebrook Rd., was charged with reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, Colchester Police said.

3/11: Emma M. Winiarski, 27, of 63 Reservoir Rd., was charged with violation of probation, Colchester Police said.

3/11: Paul E. Brennan III, 44, of 1271 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook, was charged with second-degree larceny and second-degree forgery, State Police said.

3/12: Colchester Police said Jason Alan Daniels, 25, of 61 Flyers Dr., Norwich, was arrested on an outstanding arrest warrant for charges of third-degree burglary, third-degree criminal mischief and third-degree larceny. Police said the charges stemmed from a Jan. 29 burglary on Jan. 29.

Finance Board Decision on EHHS Project Delayed

by Joshua Anusewicz

After a series of fits and starts, residents are going to have to wait just a little longer to find out if the town's Board of Finance will approve a design concept to move forward with the proposed renovation project of East Hampton High School.

The finance board was scheduled to meet last Friday, March 8, to make a decision on whether to approve the \$52 million project, but the meeting was postponed on Friday morning, due to snow. The meeting was rescheduled to this past Monday at 6 p.m., but, just hours before it was to be held, it was postponed again.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said this week that the decision to postpone the meeting came from the Capital Region Education Council (CREC), which will manage the renovation project. Maniscalco said CREC raised concerns about the presence of PCBs - polychlorinated biphenyl - in the school's windows and walls.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, PCBs, which have been banned in the United States since 1979, were used as coolants and insulating fluids, as well as an additive in paints, cements and caulking. The EPA states that PCBs have been found to cause cancer and other adverse health effects.

Maniscalco said Tuesday that the abatement of PCBs and other contaminants was factored

into the \$52 million cost of the project - \$2 million was set aside for the remediation - but that the testing for the contaminants has not yet been completed. If there were found to be additional - or less - contaminants at the facility, he said, the cost of the project could possibly change.

If the cost were to change after the Board of Finance approved the \$52 million request, Maniscalco explained, the town would have to bring the new amount back to the finance board for another approval.

"CREC didn't want to have to go back to the well again," he added. Maniscalco said CREC has recently run into similar issues with schools in Wethersfield and Southington, where the costs changed and the process of approving the project was delayed.

"We want them [the finance board members] to vote from a place of knowledge, and not an assumption," Maniscalco said.

With a deadline of June 30 for applying for state reimbursement approaching, the thought is that a small delay now will prevent a longer delay from happening in the future.

"Even though it's a delay, it's a wise delay," said Town Council member Kyle Dostaler on Tuesday.

Michelle Barber, a member of the High School Building Committee, added Tuesday that she was "disappointed, but I think it's prudent."

The project, which is expected to entail a major overhaul of the school's infrastructure and technology and improve the science resources, has already drawn the approval of the building committee and the Board of Education, as well as a preliminary approval from the Town Council. If the finance board approves the design concept, the plan then goes to back to the council for a final approval to send it to a town referendum.

As of last week, the hope was to have the plan pass the finance board and the council this week, setting up a referendum on Tuesday, April 9. With the postponements, however, Interim Superintendent of Schools Mark Winzler said Monday that the Board of Finance meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, March 25, and the council would meet Tuesday, March 26, pushing the referendum to late April.

Winzler said Monday that the postponement of a possible referendum should not affect the town making the June 30 application date, but that it will give the school board less time to draft the education specifications that will be

submitted to the state along with the building plan.

The need for an extensive renovation of East Hampton High School, particularly in the areas of science and technology, was highlighted in a 2007 report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which is tasked with putting schools through an accreditation process over 10 years. With the district over halfway through the accreditation process, the district has had to show NEASC that it is taking considerable steps toward reaching its accreditation in 2017. To meet the requirements, the Board of Education formed the High School Building Committee early in 2012 to oversee the operations of the proposed project.

The "renovate as new" project approved by the building committee and the school board would cost \$52,471,220, with the town on the hook for \$28,834,540 due to the state reimbursement rate 52.5 percent for renovation projects. The project is expected to be financed by municipal bonds, which town finance director Jeff Jylkka said will be issued in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Early estimates, Jylkka said, are that the average interest rate over the 20-year repayment period is roughly 4.5 percent.

Marlborough Police News

3/6: Eric Daniel Lang, 18, of 435 Hillstown Rd., Manchester, was charged with reckless driving, DUI and possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana, State Police said.

3/7: Robert M. Holiday, 46, of 556 Laurel Point, Oakdale, was charged with DUI and speeding, police said.

3/9: Nicole A. Claps, 23, of 23 Landing Hill Rd., East Haddam, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane on a multiple-lane highway, police said.

3/12: Chelsea M. Gray, 23, of 280 Parum Rd., was charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

East Hampton Brothers Arrested for Copper Theft

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton Police recently arrested two local brothers who allegedly stole copper pipes from a building near the Village Center, the department announced.

On March 9, police arrested Brian, 24, and Christopher Cherry, 25, of 159 Main St., and charged the men with third-degree burglary and sixth-degree larceny. The incident occurred, police said, at 13 Summit St. at an unoccupied building being prepared for renovation.

According to police, a neighborhood witness notified the department of "suspicious persons" at roughly 11 a.m. on March 9. Police said the witness waited to call when they saw the men walking from the building a short time later with backpacks filled with heavy objects that they had not been carrying before.

The witness then followed the two men while calling the police and saw them drop their backpacks and flee on the Air Line Trail behind Main Street Pizza when they realized they were being followed, police said.

Officers Matthew Hanlon and Mark Pekar responded to the scene and coordinated a search of the area; Hanlon located Christopher Cherry behind an apartment building at 82 Main St., and Pekar found Brian Cherry



Brian Cherry

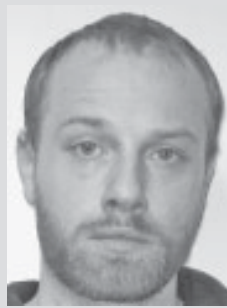
behind the Board of Education building at 100 Main St., police said.

Later, police were able to locate the discarded backpacks on the Air Line Trail, which were filled with roughly 30 pounds of copper pipes stolen from the Summit Street building.

The brothers were arrested and taken into custody, where it was discovered that both men were already wanted and had active arrest warrants pending. According to police, Christopher Cherry is a convicted felon with an extensive criminal history, including multiple arrests involving burglary, larceny, robbery and assault. Brian Cherry is also a convicted felon, with past arrests for burglary and larceny.

In addition to the burglary and larceny charges, Christopher Cherry was charged with violating probation and Brian Cherry was charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

Christopher Cherry was released after posting \$10,000 bond, while Brian Cherry was released after posting \$5,075 bond. Both are scheduled to appear at Middletown Superior Court on Tuesday, March 19, at 10 a.m. to enter their pleas.



Christopher Cherry

East Hampton Council Discusses Solar for Municipal Facilities

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a meeting on Tuesday, the Town Council discussed a possible "power purchase agreement" that would bring solar canopy arrays to Memorial School and the Water Pollution Control Authority facility located on Route 66.

The discussion included a presentation by Solar City, an alternative energy provider that was chosen through a request for qualifications process to develop the plans for the project.

According to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, the plan comes from a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) program where municipalities are asked to submit plans for solar energy on town buildings. The program is coupled with an auction of Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credits that would facilitate the design, construction, and maintenance of the solar arrays at no cost to the town. After the solar arrays are developed, Maniscalco said the town would be able to purchase electricity at a lower cost than what CL&P currently offers.

Maniscalco said that, through CCM, 20 alternative energy providers were taken on walkthroughs of the two town facilities and tasked with drafting up a solar plan. Solar City, which company representative Brent Eskay said Tuesday has handled over 400 projects in Connecticut, was chosen by an independent consultant to develop the East Hampton project. Solar City's resume includes a recent solar project at nearby Glastonbury High School and the Glastonbury Town Hall.

The solar arrays in East Hampton, Maniscalco said, would provide a quarter of the electricity needed for Memorial School and half of the electricity needed for the WPCA. The arrays at the school would be located on the roof, Eskay said, while the arrays at the WPCA would be in an unused lot near the facility.

Eskay said that Solar City's projects have "pretty much gone off without a hitch," but Tuesday's presentation did not. After a brief presentation from Eskay, the council admitted to being less than impressed with the lack of information provided on the proposed project, particularly on what the arrays would look like.

"I'd like to see a mock-up of the facility," said Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub. "It shouldn't be that hard to do."

With a resolution in front of them to authorize Maniscalco to enter the purchase agreement, some council members said they weren't ready to make a decision until more information was known. "I think there are too many questions," said councilor Barbara Moore, who pointed out the fellow council members Ted Hintz Jr. and Derek Johnson were also not present.

"I don't disagree," responded George Pfaffenbach, who added that the council should be expeditious in moving the agreement forward, as the offer is set to expire at the end of the month.

With that in mind, the council unanimously authorized Maniscalco to enter into the agreement, with the stipulation that the council reviews the proposal prior to the agreement being signed.

Maniscalco said Thursday that the addition of solar, particularly at a lower cost, is a great opportunity for the town. "It should be very exciting," he said. "It has a lot of potential, and gives us the chance to save a lot of money."

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Hebron Town Manager Presents \$35.58 Million Budget

by Geeta Schrayter

At last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Manager Andy Tierney proposed a total town budget of \$35.58 million for the 2013-14 year, which includes an expenditure increase of 5.35 percent, or \$1,807,764.

The number includes: \$8,456,783 for the town budget, \$14,958,976 for the RHAM Board of Education and \$12,168,256 for the Hebron Board of Education. (The town budget makes up 24 percent of the overall budget, while RHAM makes up 42 percent and the Hebron Board of Education accounts for 34 percent.) In a summary released by Tierney, he explained a large portion of the increase (\$1,242,530) could be contributed to a population shift at RHAM and an increase in the RHAM budget levy; the levy for Hebron increased from 54.74 percent in the current year to 56.55 percent for 2013-14.

In addition, other budget drivers include health insurance, contractual salary increases, increased costs for heating fuel, diesel and gasoline, and the restoration of various services. However, on Wednesday, Tierney said the numbers included for insurance would actually be lower.

"As I compiled the budget and when I did the presentation I had to use the numbers that were available," he said. "Since that time there's been some good news."

Tierney explained a 24.9 percent increase had been used when determining the insurance numbers, but after going to bid, Anthem came in 11 percent lower than what was originally presented. An insurance meeting was scheduled for Thursday, after press time, at which the new insurance costs were expected to be determined.

Included in the budget is \$37,669 to restore services that had been cut during last year's budget process. The funds would be used to maintain and restore services at the library (\$24,802), the transfer station (\$8,367) and parks and recreation (\$4,500).

The budget also includes \$100,000 for open space. Tierney noted the \$100,000 was less than the department had requested but \$27,000 more than last year. Along with funding to the library, transfer station and parks and recreation, funds for open space were cut last year after the town faced two budget defeats before the \$33.78 million budget passed on June 5.

Also included in the town budget is \$688,457 for capital expenditures which includes a \$558,325 general government contribution for capital improvement projects (CIP) over \$25,000; \$69,445 for capital expenditures between \$5-25,000; a \$50,000 annual contribution to revaluation; and \$10,687 for capital non-recurring projects.

CIP Committee recommendations are prioritized into three tiers, and Tierney said the hope was that all of the Tier 1 items – which total \$580,087 and include \$238,811 for road resurfacing and road improvements; \$81,000 to fund the first-year lease of a replacement fire truck; and \$50,000 to renovate the bathrooms at Gilead Hill School – would be funded. He added, "in the best world," the items in all three tiers would receive funding.

In order to offset some of the budget increases, Tierney explained some cost-saving measures are in place, including the elimination of the part-time clerical position in the assessor's office, consolidating the Water Pollution Control Authority administrator position with the public works department for approximately \$20,000 in savings, changing the town's emergency service provider which brought \$21,000 in savings and switching to an electricity provider with an improved rate.

Expected revenues were presented as increasing from \$25,399,317 to \$27,009,580 and include \$7,315,555 from education and other state grants; \$703,880 from the general government; \$225,000 from back taxes and lien fees; and

another \$330,000, made up of \$180,000 in RHAM surplus and \$150,000 from the Village Green Fund.

Tierney explained money from the RHAM surplus is a result of special education students or students who attend magnet schools moving out of town. Money from the Village Green Fund is due to the fact the town put money aside for the installation of the traffic light at John E. Horton Boulevard, but a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant was received to cover the costs.

"We cut the budget too much last year and it's been a struggle this year to maintain services," Tierney said. He noted residents are paying about \$100 less per capita than they were in 2008, when the population in town was 9,500.

"So we're doing more for less," he said.

In addition, it was shown in a bar chart depicting fiscal years 2005-06 to the present that the general government budget "has always remained somewhat flat and in some years goes down."

"I'm hoping everyone understands that we just want to maintain the services we can afford," he said. "We don't want to crank the budget more than needed but the initiative this year was to go back to where we were [prior to last year]."

On Wednesday, Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt called the presented budget "reasonable."

"At this point, without entire review, it seems reasonable," he said, explaining from his perspective, and insurance increase aside, the change was mostly to refund services that had been cut into last year.

The total amount that will need to be raised by taxes in 2013-14 as the budget was presented is \$27,009,580, which is an increase of \$1,610,263. The Grand List, which represents

the net value of assessed property in town and is used to help set the mill rate, increased .595 percent, or \$772,697,085. The mill rate is determined by dividing the town's budget by the Grand List and, based off those numbers, the mill rate for 2013-14 is proposed to increase 1.94 mills to 35.49.

By multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments, residents can determine what their taxes will be for the upcoming year; based on the proposed mill rate, a house with a market value of \$242,058 and an assessed value of \$169,440 would see a tax increase of \$328, from \$5,685 to \$6,013.

Tierney explained the selectmen will review the budget throughout the rest of the month of March, and then make a recommendation to the Board of Finance by March 31. The finance board then reviews budget requests throughout April and will hold a public hearing on their recommended budget no later than the third Tuesday of the month.

As of right now, a public hearing on the budget will be held by the selectmen on March 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Douglas Library Community Room. The finance board is scheduled to conduct a budget hearing on April 11 at 7 p.m. at RHAM High School, which will then lead up to a referendum vote on the town budget and the capital improvement budget on Tuesday, May 7.

"Some difficult decisions have been made in preparing this budget," Tierney wrote in his summary, "but overall we feel we are presenting a responsible general government budget which the taxpayers of Hebron will be able to support."

Information on the budget can be found in the town clerk's office, the Douglas Library, and on the town website at hebronct.com. Residents with questions or comments can email the selectmen at hebronbudget@hebronct.com.

Many Weaknesses Found in Hebron School Business Office

by Geeta Schrayter

A report presented at the Board of Education's meeting last week indicated there were a number of weaknesses in the business office operations for Hebron Public Schools.

Still, the board stressed, the report on the business office was not at all connected to the allegations surrounding former superintendent of schools Ellie Cruz, whom the board has accused of making \$15,000 worth of questionable expenses using the school district's funds.

Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea explained last week the review came about in response to an insurance error that was found on a town audit report. Last year, when she was still superintendent, Cruz informed the board its insurance carrier, Anthem, had wrongly credited a \$104,000 payment to RHAM. By the time Anthem realized it was actually money owed by the Hebron Board of Education, Shea said the fiscal year had already started. This meant money for the payment hadn't been budgeted. However, due to some savings in the insurance line from employees who took off dependents or no longer needed coverage, Shea said the board was able to pay off the sum in the current fiscal year.

But as a result of the incident, the decision was made – at the suggestion of Cruz – to have a consultant come in to examine how things are operating "to make sure that problem didn't happen again."

Ed Arum of Arum & Associates LLC was hired through the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) to conduct the study, and work began in December. The study took place over a two-month period, during which time a number of site visits and interviews with administrators and business office personnel took place. In addition, it was explained in a report provided at the meeting that a system "walk-through" for accounts payable and payroll took place as well as a document review to verify procedures.

"The purpose of CREC coming in and hiring me was to review the district's business office procedures and identify strengths, areas for growth and assist in providing accurate reporting," Arum said at the meeting.

The presented report indicated the school system had some strengths; it said "day-to-day transactions are managed competently in accordance with good accounting practices and there appears to be proper documentation and

custodianship of financial records." The report also said the computer software the business office uses is "up to date and widely used by districts in the state."

But it was the dozen weaknesses that were found that garnered the most attention. For starters, the report said a disconnection was discovered between practices and written procedures; while good accounts payable and payroll procedures are in place, the report said, "there is an absence of accurate documentation for those procedures."

"Your district needs an actual manual of its procedures and staff who work within that framework must be aware of the manual and use it as a reference," the report said.

The report also found there was "weak oversight" in the district. While there is a "competent accounting clerk," there is no one to supervise the clerk's work, the report found. The report called the lack of a school business official to oversee the payable and payroll function "disturbing." Therefore, there was no one to review and sign off on purchase orders before they're paid, something the report called "an essential step in the internal control systems" and a "final check on unusual transactions."

"I think you're being kind in saying the oversight was 'weak,'" board member Stephanie Raymond told Arum at the meeting. "I think there was *no* oversight."

The report also found that there was no special provision for the approval of larger items. Typically, Arum said provisions are made for purchases over \$10,000 but to be conservative, it was recommended that moving forward any transaction over \$5,000 require the signature of the superintendent. Furthermore, it was suggested that reimbursements to the business official also require the superintendent's signature, and reimbursements to the superintendent for any amount require sign-off from the school board chairman.

Shea acknowledged at the meeting that she hadn't signed off on anything since becoming board chairwoman in 2011, and Acting Superintendent of Schools Kathy Veronesi said that, in response to the findings, she and the bookkeeper had begun sitting side-by-side when checks are printing.

"I'm cross-referencing every check and initialing every amount," she said.

The report also said there was a lack of documented budgeting controls, no procedure for transferring funds between budget lines, no plan for cross-training staff and a need for more effective budget review meetings, variance reports, reporting to the board and a recommendation to replace stipends with a reimbursement system for travel.

Weak financial controls and security and a lack of encumbering were also discovered. The study determined, for example, that there was no procedure to deal with an administrator or employee who leaves the district; "in the past, administrators have left the district without computer access codes being terminated, keys returned or banks or credit card companies being notified."

The report also found "serious flaws" in the district's budgeting practices and budget management process requiring "immediate attention." The report said encumbering funds, or designating them for specific purposes, was not taking place.

"We were surprised to discover that few items were being encumbered and concerned about what this implied about the whole budget and financial management process," the report read.

Furthermore when William Mazzara, the school's business manager, was asked how he kept track of budget lines without encumbering funds, the report said he seemed "unaware" that governmental accounting practices required this. Mazzara had been using offline spreadsheets to manage funds, and while the report said this might "minimally suffice," it doesn't have the controls to protect against potential issues like a double payment.

Mazzara is technically an employee of the RHAM school district, where he also serves as business manager; he had been contracted out to Hebron Public Schools to work there two days a week. However, Mazzara was placed on paid leave Jan. 2 due to "an ongoing investigation" with the Hebron Board of Education. It wasn't until the board issued its report Feb. 20 detailing its allegations regarding Cruz's questionable purchases that RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski knew what the investigation pertained to.

The Hebron Board of Education last week authorized Veronesi to terminate the agreement the school board had with RHAM for Mazzara's services, and on Monday, the RHAM board

authorized Siminski to "enter into an agreement" with Mazzara and the Hebron school board regarding his employment as the business manager for RHAM and his services for Hebron.

Shea has repeatedly stressed Arum & Associates' operations review had nothing to do with the current investigation regarding Cruz.

"They are separate and distinct functions," she said. "The investigation had nothing to do with the start of the report."

Cruz, who had been superintendent for over seven years, left in December to become superintendent of schools in Plymouth (but has been placed on personal leave). The Hebron school board has alleged that, during her last year as Hebron superintendent, Cruz used the school district credit card for charges ranging from unauthorized fuel purchases to groceries, restaurants, gift and/or jewelry shops or boutiques, pharmacies, food stores, farm markets, florists, online retailers, a toy store and a car wash. Many of the charges lacked documentation to determine if they had been made for the district.

In addition, the Hebron board alleged Cruz authorized a \$2,375 payment from the Board of Education to a consultant with Northeast Consulting Group who was used to help her "understand and interpret data and information" regarding the Plymouth School District.

However, while Arum's report and the investigation into Cruz may be separate, Shea expressed concern over the report's contents, "especially the fact that so many areas in which there should have been controls by the staff doing the job – including the former superintendent – those measures and protections were not in place."

Shea added it was "hard to say" if Cruz's questionable expenses could have occurred had the appropriate policies and procedures been in place, saying, "I just don't know."

But, she said, "I think a lot of problems would have been remedied had the office been functioning in the way it should have been and in accordance with what was in the report."

Looking ahead, Shea said, "I'm pretty sure the board would say in a unison voice there's no looking back; we must go forward and correct all of these areas that need to be worked on."

Colchester Selectmen Seek Appropriation for POCD Process

by Melissa Roberto

A controversial topic that has been buzzing around Colchester in recent months is whether the Planning and Zoning Commission will start work on the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), and at its March 7 meeting, the Board of Selectmen took action on it.

The selectmen agreed to encourage the Planning and Zoning Commission to start work on the revision of the town's POCD simultaneously with the town's zoning regulations while adding the board's decision to seek an appropriation of up to \$30,000 to cover costs for updating the POCD.

The POCD process is an item that was first placed on the selectmen's agenda last month after several residents continuously attended selectmen meetings to voice their concerns on it. Citizens argued that the POCD is a document that should be done before the town's zoning regulations – a document currently being reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission – as well as arguing that revising a POCD is a lengthy process.

Colchester's POCD was last updated in 2001. The state requires municipalities to update its POCD once every 10 years. However, Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Joe Mathieu explained to the board last month that the state has extended the amount of time a town has to update its POCD, with July 1, 2014 as Colchester's deadline.

The decision to appropriate up to \$30,000 for the POCD process was made after the board reviewed a memo sent by Town Planner Adam

Turner, which included estimated costs of updating a POCD ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000.

The selectmen agreed to appropriate for a lesser cost up to \$30,000 after selectman Stan Soby – the board's Planning and Zoning Commission liaison – admitted that a lot of work has already been done by the commission.

According to Turner's memo sent to the selectmen on March 5, the town planner gathered information from employees of Planning and Zoning departments in nearby towns (Hebron, Marlborough, Lebanon and Wallingford) who estimated the process would take between six and nine months to complete.

Ford, who served on a Planning and Zoning Commission subcommittee to help develop the town's POCD in 2001, stressed the importance of meeting the July deadline.

"I don't particularly want to take the chance of not being able to complete a Plan of Conservation and Development and put the town in a position of not being able to go forward on the grant applications and things like that," he said.

Ford added that he believed both the regulations and POCD can be worked on simultaneously.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster did not oppose the idea but did ask the board where the appropriation money would come from. Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle referenced the town's general fund, which was used last month to appropriate \$34,000 for the fire department.

The Board of Finance will also need to ap-

prove the \$30,000 appropriation for the POCD at a future finance board meeting.

At the end of the meeting, some residents thanked the selectmen for taking action on the POCD process while others voiced concerns about doing both documents (zoning regulations and the POCD) simultaneously.

* * *

Also at last Thursday's meeting, discussion was had about employee time tracking, or town employees recording their hours on time sheets.

Selectman Greg Cordova referenced the topic as an "issue" that he wanted to be resolved. The use of time sheets was first discussed at a January selectmen meeting, when Town Clerk Nancy Bray told the board she was told to use a time sheet for the first time last July and was threatened of losing her health benefits for failing to do so.

Cordova made a motion for the board to approve a policy that states all non-exempt employees are to submit their hours worked with start and end times and for all exempt employees, including paid elected officials, are submit their daily hours on bi-weekly time sheets.

Coyle did not agree with approving the policy in one night, however.

"This has been a very controversial issue and I don't believe just making a motion to resolve it should happen in one meeting because it's a change of policy," she said.

While both Coyle and Ford did not oppose the policy, they did voice concerns about changing union employees' past practice.

"Are we creating essentially a situation where we're going to be embroiled in some kind of union grievances?" Ford asked.

Schuster explained to the board that the town's attorney has given him advice on the subject. He also said it is required by law for non-exempt employees to submit their start and end times for hours worked – adding that four of the six unions are currently made up of non-exempt employees.

Coyle and Ford requested that Schuster supply the board with more information about what employees the proposed policy would affect and how it would affect them based on their past practice. The board then agreed to postpone Cordova's motion and to review the policy at the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting.

* * *

The board also approved the acceptance of a towable electronic message board to be stored in Colchester as a regional asset. The board will be able to be used by Colchester and will be transported to other towns in the region when needed. Paggioli explained that it can be used for traffic control during events in town or for emergency purposes.

Also, the selectmen approved changes made to Colchester's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The minor changes update Colchester's plan to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Colchester School Board Approves Cut to Budget

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Education Tuesday made its first cut to the proposed 2013-14 budget, reducing the \$39.77 million spending plan by \$182,570.

Initially, the board approved the budget last month at a total of \$39,767,054, or a 4.94 percent increase over the current year. But with the cut, the budget was lowered to \$39,193,484 – a 4.44 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

In addition to the reduction being the first cut the board has made since its approval, the cut also comes after the budget was presented to the Board of Finance for the first time last Monday, March 4.

While finance board members said they felt the budget proposal was high, they said the board did a good job developing it, and were actually unsure of what to cut from it.

But with the help of Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu's administrative team, a list of nearly 40 items was shown to board members Tuesday night for review of potential reductions.

The \$182,570 cut includes changes to both operating expenses and capital items within the budget. Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov explained this week that \$146,370 of the overall cut was made up of operating expenses, or smaller items that are ongoing expenses at lower values, while \$36,200 of the cut was part of capital expenses that are usually one-time pur-

chases of higher value.

The cut mostly affects equipment and materials within the Colchester schools, but also includes the elimination of smaller items in repair and maintenance, instructional supplies, special education and transportation, staff development, printing, dues and fees, contracted services, capital outlay and personnel.

One item that was not affected by the cut was the all-day kindergarten proposal, which is something many parents in the crowd were pleased to hear Tuesday night. In fact, after Mathieu announced this to the public, several parents reacted with a round of applause.

The highest reduction included in the overall cut is actually a change that the district was not aware of until after the budget was originally presented: the removal of one student's special education tuition at a total of \$60,118. Additionally, the district is no longer responsible for paying for that student's transportation, which produces another cut of \$18,842 from the budget.

Other items cut from the budget include three capital outlay items. The items include repairs that were originally proposed to enhance deficiencies within Bacon Academy and Jack Jackter Intermediate School. The eliminations include air conditioning in the high school's graphics lab at a total of \$22,000; a retaining wall at JJIS at \$7,700; and repairing interior

doors at JJIS at \$6,500.

Another cut Mathieu highlighted was a .2 full-time equivalent teacher reduction at Bacon Academy, totaling \$9,703. The .2 reduction only affects the removal of a teacher for an elective math class. Mathieu explained the reduction was based on the number of students that enroll each year for the class, which has been dropping in recent years, he said. The elimination of the teacher from the budget won't be permanent, however, as Mathieu explained the class will now be offered every other year rather than every year. Ironically enough, Mathieu explained on Wednesday that the teacher who has been teaching the math elective has also chosen to retire this year.

Other items included in the overall cut were smaller operating expenses, such as projectors, scanners, curriculum binders and cameras used within the schools.

Additionally, Mathieu explained that there are still two potential reductions that could lower the budget in the near future: an HVAC repair at Bacon Academy and the elimination of seven mid-day buses.

Outside of the meeting, the superintendent explained that the HVAC repair at the high school is needed to properly air condition the school. The repair was originally proposed in the budget at a cost of \$57,000. However, Mathieu said the repair has the potential of be-

ing part of a repair done by the current Honeywell Energy Conservation project in town.

Another to-be-determined reduction could potentially be seen within the transportation account. Mathieu explained that if all-day kindergarten remains and is approved in the budget then the district will be able to eliminate seven mid-day kindergarten school buses from its contract. The potential savings could be as much as \$84,000, Mathieu said, adding that he is still in talks with M&J Bus Company about the reduction.

* * *

Also at the meeting, the board approved changes to three policies. One change was made to the Religious Holidays Regulation policy, which now states that any sporting events that conflict with major religious holidays will be rescheduled when possible.

Another approval was made to the Participation Fees for School Activities policy, which will now include refund procedures for student athletes that can no longer participate in athletics.

Lastly, the board approved minor changes to the tuition fees policy to update outdated information.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m. at the Colchester Elementary School cafeteria.

New Outside Lighting Coming to Andover Elementary?

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Education Wednesday learned there was an opportunity to replace the outside lighting at the school with performance contracting.

Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia explained the lights in the parking lot are one of the school's biggest consumers of electricity. In addition, he said the technology is old, and each year an electrician is called in to replace burnt-out bulbs. The process requires two people, the use of a lift, and costs the school an average \$500-1,000 per year.

Over the last few years, discussion has taken place about replacing the lights, Maneggia explained. Estimates had been received for as high as \$30,000 - but utilizing performance contracting, that cost could be significantly less.

"We have the opportunity to get involved with performance contracting and basically be able to replace the light fixtures that are outside on poles and over a period of time, namely four years, be able to pay off the cost of those new light fixtures" Maneggia stated.

The school wouldn't need to provide any upfront money for the installation. The project would be almost entirely paid for by the electricity savings that are realized. Maneggia said these savings were expected to be approximately \$193 per month. The total cost of the project was listed at \$18,079; however, the board would also be able to receive a conservation incentive for the project which would lower the cost to \$10,872.

With those savings, and taking into consid-

eration the expected energy savings, Maneggia said the board would be responsible for paying about \$34 a month. At around \$408 dollars a year, Maneggia said this would be less than the cost of replacing the current lights' bulbs each summer.

"We're spending more than that every summer," he said, adding the project would mean better lighting; LED bulbs that are good for 100,000 hours. Maneggia broke down the use of the outside lights and said if they were kept on for 10 hours each night, every night of the year, that would equal 3,650 hours.

"If you divide that into 100,000 [hours], they'll last more than 20 years," Maneggia said, adding in conjunction with the expected savings, "it's kind of a no-brainer."

Labor and parts for the project would be 100 percent guaranteed for the first two years, while the fixtures and any parts that need replacement would have a five-year warranty. In addition, at the end of the payment term, the school would realize the \$193 in electricity savings.

"The payments go away," Maneggia said, "then we're saving \$2,400 a year."

The board voted unanimously to enter into an agreement with Con Serv, Inc. to replace the lighting in the parking lot and three fixtures on the building.

* * *

The board also voted at the meeting to allow Maneggia to negotiate a new five-year lease with Connecticut Business Systems (CBS) to replace the two copy machines at the school.

Maneggia called the machines a "necessity of life" but also one of the difficulties.

"When the machines are working properly they're wonderful, but when they're not working properly they're a headache," he said.

The copy machines at the school "have seen their better days," Maneggia furthered, explaining they were continuously being repaired and "it's an ongoing saga" that began a year or two ago. The machines were installed in 2009 and Maneggia said in response to the school's concerns, CBS was willing to replace them with two new Xerox photocopy machines. He added the school was "kind of stuck" with CBS since there was another year left on their initial contract. If they were to go to another vendor, the school would have to pay the remainder of the lease "and get nothing for it."

The board voted unanimously to approve a new, five-year lease with CBS.

* * *

Finally, the board also voted to allocate \$1,500 for a consultant to analyze the bus contracts for the Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and RHAM school systems, and prepare a new contract and bid specifications that would include all three towns and RHAM.

Maneggia explained for the last couple of years, the superintendents for all three towns and RHAM had discussed trying to get all the bus contracts synchronized so that they began and ended at the same time. That had finally occurred, which would now allow the schools to go out to bid for a contract for all three towns

and RHAM.

"Prior to that we couldn't do that because we ended at different times," he said. "We as superintendents worked to have them all conclude at the same date. We're there."

Now, in order to take the next step in examining the possibility for a regional bus contract, each board of education is being asked to contribute approximately \$1,500 for the study and the consultant work.

"We're not going to do it tomorrow or the next day," Maneggia said. "Each superintendent said they would go back to their respective boards and ask the question, explain what we're trying to do and see if there was an interest."

Maneggia said if the other towns aren't interested, "end of story," but going out to bid for a contract for 32 buses (16 for Hebron, 10 for Marlborough and six for Andover) "could very well be more attractive than Andover going out for six buses."

"There's a push on the part of the state for more regionalization," Maneggia furthered. "This is an opportunity to take a look at one aspect of it. If there's no willingness to do this, we will continue what we're doing, but it may be the opportunity."

The board unanimously voted to allocate \$1,500 for the study.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. in the Andover Elementary School library.

New Teacher, Principal Evaluation Plan Reviewed in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

Andover Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia went over the school's new teacher and principal evaluation plan last week, in preparation for its submission to the state and implementation next year. The plan was developed in response to new state requirements and as Maneggia explained, it is meant to "improve instruction and improve achievement."

The plan the school will be using was jointly developed by many towns with EASTCONN, a regional educational service center, and then revised "to fit Andover's needs." Maneggia explained the plan allows for future modifications, as the school would be "living through this pilot," and discover things that need to be altered or added.

"We're going to grow with it," he said.

Maneggia said the overall document consists of three different plans: one for classroom teachers, one for teachers in special areas and one for administrators. The "heart of the plan," he said, is the breakdown of the teacher evaluations. He explained student growth and development count toward 45 percent of the evaluation while observations of teacher performance and practices count for 40 percent, parent feedback makes up 10 percent, and the School Performance Index (SPI) counts for 5 percent.

As far as the SPI, which is determined using

an average of student performance, Maneggia said all of the ratings Andover Elementary School received were in the "90th or higher percentile with the exception of one area."

"Part of the evaluation of individual teachers is based upon how well the school does," he explained, "and the philosophy behind that is everyone contributes to the total performance of the school."

Maneggia said under the school's present plan, each teacher needs to establish goals for the school year. This will continue under the new plan, but teacher's will develop SMART goals, which are "Specific and Strategic," "Measurable," "Aligned and Attainable," "Results-Oriented," and "Time-Bound."

The goals are evaluated with standardized measurements in order to see if they've been achieved or not. For instance, if a teacher noticed their new fourth-grade class didn't perform well on writing during their Connecticut Mastery Tests the year before, the teacher might set a goal to improve their writing during the year. That goal would then be measured based upon the results of the CMTs the students took that same year.

"So there's a lot that goes into this," Maneggia said, "all geared toward student

achievement."

Maneggia explained teachers will also be evaluated based upon factors such as their teaching practices, strategies and lesson preparation - "all those types enter into that 40 percent." Teaching standards are based upon those listed in a document developed by the state Department of Education called the "Common Core of Teaching," and Maneggia said while this document was adopted "a few years back," more emphasis is now being placed on it.

Regarding the parent feedback, Maneggia said parents will be asked to take an annual survey online, probably in March, which will be used to learn how parents feel about the school. They'll be asked about different areas such as whether or not they believe their children are being instructed properly, challenged, and whether or not there is adequate parent-teacher communication. Maneggia said if the survey showed the school was lacking in a particular area, like parental communication, a goal for a teacher might be to share with the evaluator things they plan to do to address that concern.

"So everyone in school would work on that particular goal or objectively so theoretically, we'll improve," Maneggia stated.

Maneggia said at the meeting he could spend "a lot of time" going over the entire document with the board, but his intentions were to give them "a flavor" of how the new document has changed from the old document.

"Things have changed but they haven't changed," he said. "Good teaching is still good teaching."

Maneggia said the more he learned about the new requirements and the more the plan was looked at and worked with, the more comfortable he felt with it.

"I feel more comfortable with it than I did when I initially found out about the changes," he said.

And by teaching school staff about the new requirements through a number of professional days, Maneggia said the hope is that the school will be able to start next year off "with a staff that is very familiar with the new requirements for teacher evaluations."

"We're in pretty good shape as far as the school system is concerned," he said.

The school board unanimously adopted the plan, subject to final revisions by the Teacher Evaluation Committee and the endorsement of the superintendent, to be submitted to the state Department of Education by April 15.

Runaway Andover Teen Found in Virginia

by Geeta Schrayter

An Andover teen went missing Monday, moments after his School Road home caught fire. He was apprehended in Virginia the next day, and now awaits extradition back to Connecticut.

According to published reports, James Bayer, 16, was apprehended at around 3 p.m. Tuesday in Wythe County, Va. Bayer's name is never mentioned, but published reports state that, according to a news release from the Wythe County Sheriff's Office, a deputy saw a Connecticut vehicle parked in a gravel parking area off I-81 in Wythe County. The deputy approached the vehicle and ordered the occupant out. He refused, however, and according to the release, when the deputy attempted to break the vehicle's window, he drove away.

The deputy pursued the car and the chase ended in nearby Smyth County, when the driver got stuck in the mud after attempting to cross the median. According to reports, the release said the driver ran across the northbound lane into a field and was taken into custody.

The release said the driver was being held at a juvenile detention center and faces a charge of felony attempting to elude police.

The Connecticut State Police said in a release Wednesday that Bayer was "an endangered runaway." Police said he had last been seen in the state in the area of School Road at about 10:14 a.m. Monday – just minutes after a fire was reported at the teen's home.

Andover Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ron Mike said a call came in at 10:06 a.m. for a fire located at 62 School Rd. Along with Andover, fire departments in Colchester, Hebron and Willimantic responded to the scene and had the blaze under control "roughly around 10:30."

Mike said the fire was confined to one room of the home "with heat and smoke damage

throughout the house." He added the house has been condemned until an electrical inspection is done, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Bayer's mother, Wendy Bayer, was transported to Hartford Hospital for injuries sustained from the fire, Mike said.

A Silver Alert was then issued Monday night. Due to the alert, Andover Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia said the decision was made to increase security at Andover Elementary School on Tuesday.

"We made a decision yesterday along with chairman of the Board of Education [Jay Lindy] to have police presence in the schools or on the grounds until further notice," Maneggia said Tuesday. "We were just concerned about the incident. From our point of view it's a precautionary measure."

Bayer is a student at RHAM High School, and Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said Wednesday there were state troopers and "heightened security" at both the high school and the middle school Tuesday. Siminski said the measures had been taken "because the police wanted to speak with [Bayer]. He was a person of interest."

But regular security measures were back in place at both schools on Wednesday, due to the fact that Bayer had been found.

State Police said Wednesday they were "continuing to investigate the case and charges against Bayer are yet to be determined." They said that, once Bayer is released by Virginia police, he'll be extradited to Connecticut.

On Thursday, Connecticut State Police Public Information Officer Lt. Paul Vance said details on the charges they plan to file against Bayer haven't been released yet.

"Virginia will handle their business with him down there," he said. "We will then extradite him back to Connecticut and will launch our charges."

Colchester

Robert F. Krist

Robert F. Krist, 68, of Colchester, formerly of South Windsor, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 11. Born in Hartford, the son of the late Francis and Ann (Sokol) Krist, he grew up and lived most of his life in South Windsor before moving to Colchester six years ago.

Prior to his retirement in 2005, Robert was employed by the former Cassarino Trucking Company in South Windsor and formerly owned and operated Wish's Restaurant in East Hartford for many years. He was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church in South Windsor. Robert was a graduate of Ellsworth Memorial High School, Class of 1962, and the Ward School of Electronics in Hartford. He was a former member of the New England Antique Racers and had a lifelong passion for cars and racing. His other passions were summers spent boating, fishing and camping with his family and friends at Water's Edge Campground and most recently Gardner Lake.

He is lovingly remembered and missed by his two children; Lori Gallon and her husband Michael of Newington, and Robert Krist Jr. and his wife Donna of Unionville; three grandchildren, Melanie, Ashley and Annie Krist; a brother, Leonard Krist and his wife Nancy and Robert's niece Jennifer of Marlborough; his aunt, Anne Welles of South Windsor; several cousins, and his beloved cat and companion, Boo.

His family would like to thank Middlesex Oncology and the Hospice and Palliative Care team for their compassion and care.

Funeral services and burial are private and at the convenience of his family.

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home in South Windsor is caring for the arrangements. For online condolences and guest book, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries

Colchester

Lydia G. Cooley

Lydia G. Cooley, 86, of Colchester, passed away Feb. 17, in Colchester. She was born Jan. 25, 1926, in New Britain, daughter of Claire F. and Helen Klepts Fafard.

She is survived by two sisters, Lois and Gertrude, and a dear friend, Claire Fafard.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 20, at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Burial was in New St. Andrew Cemetery. There were no calling hours. Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester handled the arrangements.

Marlborough

Agnes Marie Jonas

It is with great sadness that the family of Agnes Marie Jonas, 92, announces her passing on Tuesday, March 5. Agnes was a longtime resident of Enfield, and more recently of Marlborough.

Born Sept. 9, 1920, in Providence, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Armedeo Ricci and Irene Mulholland Fiore.

In 1937, Agnes was a graduate of St. Patrick's Academy, in Providence, and continued her education at a local secretarial school. She then worked for both the federal government and the State of Rhode Island. Agnes was proud to serve as a sergeant in the US Army Air Corp, as a WAC in 1945, and earned a World War II Victory Medal. There she met Kenneth Jonas, her husband, with whom she shared almost 30 years of marriage. Ken passed away in St. Petersburg, Fla., in 1995.

Agnes will always be remembered for her positive attitude, strong religious convictions and faith in God. She truly was an inspiration and joy to everyone she met. Agnes suffered from Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) after being injured from chemical spraying in her home. Her immense knowledge concerning environmental illnesses enabled her to educate and advise countless people suffering with chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, chemical poisoning, Candida and multiple chemical sensitivities, over the 30 years of her involvement with the illnesses.

Agnes also loved politics and incorporated her two passions to help pass several bills concerning chemicals effecting people and our environment. She served on the board of ECHO, an MCS awareness organization, for several years, and also founded SEEK, a self-help support group for people with MCS.

Agnes loved to network with doctors, politicians and patients across the country, many of whom became dear friends. Until her final days, Agnes continued to educate and help everyone she met. She enjoyed life, loved her family and friends, and always kept a sense of humor through all the adversity that came her way. Agnes was always ready with a joke to share and loved a good game of cards.

She leaves her daughter, Marilyn Jonas Pavone of Clearwater, Fla., and her son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Sandra Jonas of Amston; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Agnes also leaves her four sisters: Rosemarie McCurdy of Swansea, Mass., Jeanne Toole of Seekonk, Mass., Maureen Loiseau of N. Providence, R.I., Dorothy Meure of Providence, R.I., and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, and her former husband, Agnes was predeceased by her son, Michael Jonas of Clearwater, Fla.; her sister, Claire Macomb of Cranston, R.I.; her brother, Paul Fiore of Pawtucket, R.I.; and her dear friend, Harold Cote of Enfield.

Agnes had a big heart and loved all of her family and friends very much. Agnes, Aggie, Mom, Mumsey, Mrs. Jonas, Ricky, Grama and "Aggie the Great" will continue to be loved greatly and remembered forever as an amazing, giving soul.

The family would like to thank the caregivers from Homemakers and Companions in Glastonbury, CT. and also the VNA Hospice nurses and caregivers from Mansfield. Their excellent homecare, personal concern, and love will always be appreciated with gratitude.

Her High Mass funeral will be celebrated Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m., at The Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. (Burial will take place this summer at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. Friends and family will be notified of the details at a later date.)

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to The Chemical Sensitivity Foundation. Visit chemicalsensitivityfoundation.org, or checks may be sent to P.O. Box 283, Topsham, ME 04086.

Amston

Philip DesJardins

Philip DesJardins, 51, of Brown Avenue, Jewett City, formerly of Amston, died Wednesday, March 6, at Greentree Manor in Waterford.

Mr. DesJardins was born on Nov. 26, 1961, in Willimantic, the son of Leonard and Rachel Magnant-DesJardins. Phil graduated from E.O. Smith High School in Storrs and served in the Air Force for eight years.

Mr. DesJardins is survived by his son, Jeremy L. DesJardins of Hebron; his brother, David DesJardins of Chaplin; and his five sisters, Alice Sheriff, Denise and Judy DesJardins, all of New London, Emilie Krograd of Florida, and Laura DesJardins of Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Vitas (Hospice) or the American Cancer Society.

A celebration of Philip's life will be held at a later date.

Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, New London is handling the arrangements. Visit fultontherouxnewlondon.com for photos, tributes and his biography.

Marlborough

Walter M. Czapl Sr.

Walter M. Czapl Sr., 78, of East Hartford, formerly of Marlborough, devoted husband of 55 years to Elizabeth "Betty" (Riccio) Czapl, passed away peacefully Monday, March 11, in St. Francis Hospital, Hartford. Born Nov. 4, 1934, in Clifton Heights, Pa., he was a son to the late John and Mary (Matusz) Czapl.

Walter was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving as a helicopter crew chief. He was employed with ADVO in Hartford for over 30 years. He enjoyed playing guitar and woodworking, but his true passion was spending time with his family and friends, who he was always willing to lend a helping hand.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Lori (John) Rudker of Salem, Lisa (Joe) Michaud of East Hampton, and Walter Jr. (Lori) of Manchester; five grandchildren, Jennifer, Adam and Randy Michaud, and Kyle and Sarah Rudker. He also leaves sisters Mildred Pilarski and Stephanie Dulka, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, March 13, at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor. A funeral service was held Thursday, March 14, at the funeral home, followed that morning with a Mass of Christian Burial from St. Francis of Assisi Church, South Windsor. Burial followed in Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

For online condolences and guestbook, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Russell C. Tischofer

Russell C. Tischofer, 83, of Lakewood, Fla., and Colchester, beloved husband of Mary, passed away Saturday, March 9, at the Orchard Grove HCC in Uncasville. Born May 5, 1929, in White Plains, N.Y., he was a son of the late Howard Lenentine and Emma (Billings) Tischofer.

Mr. Tischofer was a professional driver for Park Trucking in East Hartford for 43 years before his retirement. He was an active member of Lions International and was a member and cook for the Germania Lodge in Florida for many years. In his spare time, he was an avid golfer.

In addition to his wife, he leaves five children, Russell of Amston, Bruce of Montville, Linda Peterson of Brookville, Fla., Karen Zeppa of Manchester, and Barbara Morales of Fort Myers, Fla.; stepdaughters Kirsti Stennent of Colchester, Kris Lonardelli of Lebanon and predeceased by Karen Ruffo; 14 grandchildren, Russell Tischofer Jr. of Hebron, Michael Tischofer of Brooklyn, Thomas Tischofer of Bristol, Brenda M. Tischofer of New Britain, Rhonda Tischofer of Hartford, Jeremiah Tischofer of Manchester, Keven Tischofer of Colchester, Betsy Mead of Brooksville, Fla., Matthew Pedersen of Chrystal River, Fla., Susan Zeppa of Hebron, Andrew Zeppa of Vernon, Ashley Zeppa of Griswold, David Sander of Ellington, Patty Sander of Fort Myers, Fla.; five great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Care of arrangements, with services to be announced at a later date, has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

More Obituaries on Following Page

Colchester

Sharon Margaret Shumski

Sharon Margaret Shumski, 69, of Colchester, formerly of Hartford, passed away Monday, March 11, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice after an extended illness. Born in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 19, 1943, she was a daughter of the late Loren and Margaret (Lowandis) Penfield.

She married John J. Shumski on June 30, 1962. The couple raised their family in Hartford and retired in Colchester several years ago.

Sharon was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester. She was an avid flower gardener, talented crafter, knitter and painter. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a friend to all with a beautiful smile that would light up a room.

In addition to her loving husband of 50 years, she will be sadly missed but always remembered by three children, Peter A. Shumski of Colchester, John S. Shumski of Colchester, Denise P. Lovley of Arundel, ME; four siblings, Loren Penfield of Wethersfield, Jeanne Benet of Groton Long Point, Paula Tufaga of Hartford, Kristine Jenkins of S. Windsor; five grandchildren, Jason, Cassidy, Darren, Katelyn, Sarah; a great-grandson, Joseph; two beloved friends, Sheri and Amy; a devoted pet, Wilbur; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Sonny Pfermoder.

Friends may attend calling hours today, March 15, from 5-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. There will be a gathering at the funeral home Saturday, March 16, at 10 a.m., followed by the funeral liturgy celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, Colchester. Burial will be in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Dept. 54 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Cobalt

Rosalind Glassman Adler

Rosalind “Rose” Glassman Adler, 96, of Cobalt, wife of the late Solomon Adler, passed away Tuesday, March 5, in California. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Ida (Kahn) Glassman.

Rose lived in Cobalt since 1955 and wintered in Deerfield Beach, Fla. She was a volunteer at Middlesex Hospital and was a member of Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue where she was a member of Hadassah and the Sisterhood. She was also a member of the True Sisters in Florida.

Rose is survived by her son, Victor Adler of Madison; her daughter, Sheila Alperin of South Hamilton, Mass.; a sister, Jean Sanofsky of West Hartford; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also predeceased by her son, Major Gary R. Grant, and her brother, Abraham “Abe” Glassman.

A graveside service was held Sunday, March 10, in Adath Israel Cemetery, 714 Pine St., Middletown, with Rabbi Seth Haaz officiating.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Rose’s memory to The Major Gary R. Grant Jewish War Veterans, Post 680 c/o Richard Shapiro, 23481 Cavanaugh, Lake Forest, CA 92630, or Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown is handling the arrangements.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Dorothy K. Parker

Dorothy K. Parker 85, of Lebanon, died Saturday afternoon, March 9, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born in Moretown, Vt., on Jan. 23, 1928, the daughter of the late Fred W. and Doris (Ingerson) Currier.

Dorothy was employed for 24 years at Rand-Whitney Corp. in Montville before retiring in 1986. She was married to Arthur W. Parker, who died on March 3, 1998.

She is survived by one son, Scott M. Parker; five daughters, Linda Huntley, Donna Mack, Sherry Sawyer, Carol Dubicki and Joan Avery; one brother, Stanley Currier, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by one daughter, Joyce Raye.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, March 14, at Sacred Heart Church in Taftville, meeting directly at church. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, Norwich. There were no calling hours.

Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B. St., Taftville, is in charge of arrangements.

East Hampton

Roberta K. Poulin

Roberta K. Poulin, 81, passed away Saturday, March 9. She was born Oct. 26, 1931, in Portland, Maine.

Mrs. Poulin was a retired social worker for the State of Connecticut. She and her husband, Victor, came to Florida from East Hampton in 1994. She was a member of the St. Timothy Catholic Community where she played hand bells. She was also a past member of the garden club. She enjoyed playing the piano and line dancing.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph Victor; daughter, Suzanne E., West Orange, N.J.; two sons, Stephen Victor of Milford, James Matthew (Meaghan) of Cary, N.C.; and five grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, March 23, at 8:30 a.m., at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Lady Lake, Fla. Inurnment will be in Florida National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Arrangements are by Hiers-Baxley Funeral Services - The Villages, The Villages, Florida.

Marlborough

Claudette Cynthia Stainrod

Claudette Cynthia Stainrod, 70, of Hartford, beloved wife for 23 years of Aubrey J. Stainrod, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 2, at St. Francis Hospital.

Born in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, on Nov. 16, 1942, daughter of the late Aubrey Heron and Mavis Cunningham, Claudette came to the U.S.A. from Montego Bay, Jamaica, and resided in Hartford for over 20 years. She worked as a dental assistant in Jamaica and as a nursing assistant at Marlborough Health Care Center. She gave her life to Christ many years ago and was a member of the Family Worship Center in Hartford.

Besides her husband, she is survived by six sons, Garnet, Kevin, Chris and his wife Janika, Birchel and his wife Rose, Loran and his wife Suzette, and Rowan; two daughters, Audrey and her husband Bramwell and Rhonda; two brothers, Anthony and Carl; a sister, Veviene; 16 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by a son, Paul.

Her family will receive friends Saturday, March 16, from 9-10 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 10 a.m., at the Family Worship Center, 650 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Julia Booth Blass

Julia Booth Blass, 58, of Portsmouth, R.I., and Andover, died Monday, March 11, at the home of her sister in Portsmouth. She was born March 23, 1954 in Hartford, and was the daughter of Ned and Anne (Pickett) Adams of Washington, Conn.

Julia graduated from East Hartford High School, received her BA degree from the University of Bridgeport and her Master’s Degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. She was a reading teacher for many years at Norwich Technological High School in Norwich, where she was active in many extracurricular activities for the students. She was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, and sister; and loved to read, garden, sew and bake. Julie enjoyed long walks in the country and hosting family holiday celebrations.

Julia is survived by her husband, Robert E. Blass of Andover; and her children, Trevor Barrows of Middletown, Jocelyn Werkheiser and her husband Kevin of E. Hartford, and Mariah Barrows of Andover. She is also survived by her brothers, Henry Adams of Wethersfield, Bill Adams and his wife Ann of Hillsborough, CA; her sister, Vicki Kirby and her husband Ken of Portsmouth, R.I.; her step-children, Brian Blass and Jennifer Blass; and several nieces and nephews, Peter Adams, Z.Z. Kirby, Torianna Kirby, Alexa Adams and Michael Adams.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 16, at noon at Christ Church in Roxbury. Her burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Norwich Tech Reading Department, 7 Mahan Drive, Norwich, CT 06360.

For additional information, visit memorialfuneralhome.com.