

RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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**Who Won?....** Signs urging Colchester residents to vote for or against the town and school budgets lined the entrance of Town Hall this week. More than 2,000 voters turned out to weigh in on the proposed spending packages, which totaled \$52.225 million. There were plenty of 'yeas' and plenty of 'nays.' To find out which side prevailed, turn to page 32.

## Survivor of Suicide Attempt Shares Story

by Geeta Schrayter

RHAM High School juniors and seniors recently stepped away from their normal school-day routine to listen to the powerful story of Jordan Burnham.

Students filled the auditorium and talked among themselves until Burnham took the stage, walking to the stool that had been set up for him with a limp and a slightly hunched back. At first, the students had no idea what those features meant, but they soon discovered they were a result of Burnham having attempted suicide during his senior year of high school.

In the fall of 2007, Burnham jumped nine stories from his Pittsburgh, Pa., bedroom window, shattering his femur, breaking his left fibula, his left tibia, his pelvis, his left wrist and his spinal cord in two places. In addition, he bled internally from various organs – including his brain. After the fall, Burnham was placed into a medically induced coma for five days. He was given 24 hours to live, then 48 hours to live, then a 40 percent chance to survive – but survive he did.

Burnham was brought to RHAM via a collaboration between AHM Youth and Family Services and The Jordon Matthew Porco Memorial Foundation, a non-profit created in the memory of Andover resident Jordon Porco, who committed suicide in 2011, while a freshman at St. Michael's College in Vermont.

On April 25, Burnham spoke not only to the students at RHAM, but to students at the University of Connecticut later that evening. Burnham is speaking to college and high school

students across the country, in an attempt to start a conversation about depression and other mental health issues.

Burnham explained mental health issues as something everyone goes through. He said they're dependent upon "how you view yourself internally" and can be affected by events such as a bad break-up, having a tough time in school or the divorce of parents. Then, there are mental health disorders, which are diagnosed conditions such as depression or bipolar disorder.

"Twenty to 25 percent of young adults suffer from a mental health disorder in any given year," Burnham said, "but many of them don't seek help."

Reasons why an individual may keep quiet, Burnham said, are because there can be a stigma of shame attached to the idea someone has a mental health disorder, or a fear someone will be looked down upon if they talk about those issues and disorders or seek treatment.

"I don't want you to focus on just me and just my story, but on mental health issues and mental disorders," Burnham stated. But through his story, he hoped by the end of the presentation, those present would find it easier to have a conversation about mental health.

Burnham's jump out the bedroom window was a move of impulse. To this day, he said he doesn't remember the jump. He remembers everything else from that day: attending class, golfing, getting into the car with his dad, going

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## East Hampton Residents Pass Budget on First Try

by Joshua Anusewicz

In a result that has become uncommon in recent years, East Hampton's proposed 2013-14 fiscal year budget was approved – and by an overwhelming margin – at a referendum Tuesday on the first go-round.

"It shows the people were listening," said Town Manager Michael Maniscalco on Wednesday.

With a solid turnout, the \$39.24 million spending package was approved by a margin of 1,031-752. The budget total represents an \$892,213, or 2.33 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. Of the budget total, \$27.53 million is for the Board of Education; \$9.735 million is for town operations, \$1.10 million for debt service, and \$869,916 for fund transfers. The town operations budget represents a \$299,538, or 3.17 percent, increase from the current fiscal year, while the education budget is an \$820,023, or 3.07 percent, increase.

The current year's budget, which was defeated at the first referendum, was approved by

voters last June, 994-812. That budget totaled \$38.35 million, a \$581,471, or 1.54 percent, increase from the prior year.

Following the referendum, the upcoming mill rate was approved by the Board of Finance at 26.63, a 0.66 mill increase from the current fiscal year. To explain the tax impact with the new mill rate, a taxpayer with property valued at \$200,000 would pay \$5,326 in taxes for the year, up from the \$5,194 they owed for the current fiscal year.

Despite the overall increase in the new spending package, Maniscalco called it "a lean budget this year," with the only increases on the town operations side coming from mandated increases in items such as health insurance and workers' compensation. He added, however, that the overwhelming approval of the budget shows that the townspeople expect the budget increase to be used in the best way possible.

"This is a charge from the community; it's them saying, 'Now let's see what you can do

with it,'" said Maniscalco. "So this is where our work gets started. It's time to put our money where our mouth is, literally."

That will be particularly true on the school board side, which has seen a sizeable deduction since Interim Superintendent of Schools Mark Winzler proposed the school budget earlier this year. Presented originally at nearly a 6 percent increase, the budget was trimmed to a 5.19 percent increase by the Board of Education. It was then cut to a 4 percent increase by the Board of Finance, and, finally, a 3.07 percent one by the Town Council – or more than \$560,000 less than what the school board originally approved.

Facing a series of unfunded state mandates, which includes new technology for teacher evaluation and standardized testing and increased magnet school tuition, Winzler said the school board would have a formidable challenge to meet in regards to funding for many of the budget items. In particular, the school board

will have to decide how – or if – it will be able to fund music and English positions at the high school and an additional section of all-day kindergarten, which many residents have pleaded for during the budget process.

Winzler said it will be up to the Board of Education to decide where the funding goes, and he expects everything to be on the table. "It puts everything in jeopardy," Winzler said of the deductions.

"I'm not a soothsayer, but I think a sleeping giant has been awakened from its sleep," he added. "The people are recognizing the needs in the community, particularly in the school system."

By taking a sample of the voters that streamed into the high school on Tuesday, Winzler would seem to be correct. A healthy portion of the electorate entered the polls with children in tow, most of them school-aged. One mother, who asked not to be identified, said that

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**On April 25, Jordan Burnham, a suicide attempt survivor, encouraged RHAM juniors and seniors to begin talking about mental health. Burnham shares his story of depression at speaking engagements across the country, in the hopes of making mental health a “relevant topic.”**

#### Survivor cont. from Front Page

home and being confronted by his parents at their discovery of a duffel bag full of alcohol in his car. He jumped that night, falling 100 feet, but when he woke up in the hospital days later he had no idea how he'd gotten there.

But Burnham had thought about suicide before, and had dealt with depression for years. After changing from private to public school, Burnham and his sister were picked on for dressing preppy and talking proper. But the two of them were able to deal with it by talking to each other – by being each other's counselor. Then his sister left for college, he moved to a new school, and was again made fun of. This time however, he had no one to talk to. He began to keep how he was feeling – and any negative thoughts – inside, while putting on a “fake mask” and laughing and smiling in school.

He started to drink as a freshman and, over the next four years, would battle his thoughts and emotions. He was diagnosed with depression the following year, something he thought people would consider him “weak or weird” for. Junior year rolled around and brought with it a stint in a mental hospital after he contemplated taking a bottle of pills.

Although things got better there, and Burnham was able to share his emotions and learned “we can't choose the bad things that happen to us, but we can choose how we cope with them,” he fell right back into his previous patterns after he left. Once again, he felt he had no one to talk to.

Then, during senior year he began to have suicidal thoughts.

“I remember thinking ‘I don't necessarily want to die, but I want this part of me that has depression to die,’” he said.

He wanted to be “numb to the world,” and would listen to depressing songs that were turned up so loud he couldn't hear anything apart from the music.

And then came that fateful day. After playing golf, an activity Burnham said always made him feel better, his dad came to pick him up.

Burnham was anxious to share how well he'd played, but he noticed something was off with his father. When he got home, he discovered it was because his parents had found the duffel bag filled with alcohol.

That was the breaking point. His parents were disappointed, and at that moment, it seemed to Burnham they didn't even want him around. He thought if he couldn't make the people who meant the most to him – his family – happy, then, “what's the point in being here?”

And so, at some point that evening, he jumped. There was no note, he'd made no plan – it was completely impulsive, and he never remembered doing it.

Burnham was in the hospital for three months, then a physical rehab hospital for another two. He spent eight months in a wheelchair, then progressed to a walker, crutches, two canes and finally, walking again without assistance. Burnham shared his story – telling about his depression and how alone he felt – for the first time while he was still in the hospital. He made the front page of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and has continued to share his story ever since.

But “don't just think about me,” Burnham said as he concluded his story. The point, he said, is to “continue the conversation on mental health; make it a relevant subject we can all talk about.”

Burnham explained his depression will never go away. “But I thought it was a death sentence before, but you can cope with it in healthy ways,” he said.

“Depression is a flaw in the chemistry in your brain, but not a flaw in your character,” he stated. “It took me a long time to accept that.”

But the hope is, through sharing his story and making it acceptable for teenagers to talk about mental health, others may learn to accept that, talk about it, and seek any help they may need much sooner than he did.

#### Pass Budget cont. from Front Page

supporting her children's education made the town a better place for not just students, but all residents.

“People come to this town for the schools,” said the woman, repeating what many have said during the budget process. “Our schools are the best thing we have going for us as a town, and we have to support that.”

Resident Jackie O'Brien agreed, stating she voted for the budget because of the education funding. “I feel very strongly about our schools and how they're being run,” said O'Brien. “We can't lose our accreditation [of the high school], either.”

The accreditation of East Hampton High School will be at the center of the next referendum, which will be held on Tuesday, June 4. Voters will head to the polls again to decide

whether the town will begin a \$52 million renovation project of the school facility, a proposal that has, understandably, generated more hullabaloo than the budget process.

Many supporters of the high school project felt that approving the school budget was the first step, and that an approval on the first referendum would be a good indicator of whether the building project would pass. When asked on Wednesday, Wenzler said he was “hopeful” that was the case, but that he would remain cautiously optimistic.

“Sometimes, you have to put the need above the cost,” he stated. “And when you look at the need here, we need this high school.”

The newly approved 2013-14 fiscal year budget will go into effect on July 1.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

We've had a string of really nice days in a row. It seems that, though it took its time, the warm weather is finally here. This is my favorite time of year. I love leaving the jacket at home, driving around with my windows rolled down, and just getting out and enjoying nature and all it has to offer.

Unfortunately, however, one of the things nature has to offer this time of year is tick bites. A friend recently discovered a tick bite after a hike. He got it checked out, and thankfully, it proved not to be Lyme disease.

Lyme disease isn't necessarily fatal, but, as anyone who's had it knows, it can be debilitating. It can just cause flu-like symptoms, but it can also lead to joint problems, neurological issues and more (such as, in less common cases, liver inflammation or even heart problems such as an irregular heartbeat – though it typically lasts only a few days or weeks).

I read a story a couple of months ago about Hall of Fame baseball player Tom Seaver. His 2012 was basically a wash-out. He spent nine months feeling like, well, crap. He was having difficulty remembering things, his thoughts tended to wander, and when he'd make an unusually rare public appearance (Tom Terrific had never been one to shy from the spotlight), he simply hadn't been himself.

“I felt like I had the worst case of the flu every day,” Seaver told the *New York Daily News* in March, “and then I was having trouble remembering things and making bad decisions. I was scared. I said to myself: ‘It's like I'm getting old before my time. Why is this happening?’ I thought I'd had a stroke.”

Seaver finally went to see the doctor and, after running a battery of tests, learned he had Lyme disease. Again.

Seaver was first diagnosed with it in 1991, and had a severe case – even suffering Bell's Palsy for a time. At the time, doctors thought he had experienced such a severe bout with it that the disease would never return. Twenty years later, they were proven wrong.

Stage 3 Lyme disease, which the *Daily News* reported can occur months or even years after an initial infection, can result in memory loss, speech problems, sleep disorder and an overall feeling of chemical imbalance. Seaver had experienced all of these in 2012.

He's feeling more like himself these days – “I feel like I'm a bunt single away from feeling totally normal again,” he told the *Daily News* – thanks to a treatment that includes taking 24 pills a day, most of which are vitamins, as well as a penicillin pill to help correct the chemical imbalance in his body.

But Seaver's experience drives home the point: Lyme disease is nothing to mess around with. And to that end, the state Department of Public Health recently issued some tips to prevent tick bites when out hiking. Among them:

Avoid tall grass and over-grown, brushy areas; when hiking in wooded areas, stay in the middle of trails; consider using insect repellent, according to manufacturer's instructions; tuck pant legs into socks and wear long-sleeved shirts and closed shoes; wear light-colored clothing to see the ticks easier for removal.

When returning indoors, shower using a wash cloth or puff to remove any unattached ticks, and also examine yourself, your children and your pets for ticks. DPH also recommends you talk to your veterinarian to find out how to protect your pets from tick bites.

For more information about ticks and tick-borne diseases, including what to do if you find a tick, visit [ct.gov/dph/ticks](http://ct.gov/dph/ticks).

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From the “you mean someone actually think this would work?” category: Did you hear about Senator Tom Coburn's great “compromise plan” for gun background checks?

Coburn, a Republican from Oklahoma, thinks self-background checks would work.

Seriously.

Under this plan – which, shockingly, gun control advocates are skeptical of – a would-be gun buyer would log onto a website. They'd enter some personal information. If

the person passes the background check – and I'm sure no would *ever, ever lie* – they'd then be given a multi-digit key code, good for 30 days, to print out and take to a seller. The seller would use the same website to confirm the authenticity of the background check.

Sorry, Sen. Coburn. Not exactly a fool-proof system.

Coburn said his self-serve plan would bypass the cost and cumbersome book-keeping the proposal shot down in the Senate last month would have called for. Coburn also displayed a somewhat Pollyanna-ish approach to laws, saying, “If you make it easy for people to comply with the law, they'll do it.” (Plenty of easy-to-comply-with laws get broken every day, Sen. Coburn.)

Not surprisingly, critics aren't sold on Coburn's proposal.

“It's unworkable,” Ladd Everitt of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence recently told *USA Today*, “and there would be no incentive for any private seller to do a background check under the legislation.”

On the “Weekend Update” segment of *Saturday Night Live* last weekend, Seth Meyers briefly made note of Coburn's proposal, and then said simply, “The way the plan works is, it doesn't.”

Couldn't agree more, Seth.

Once again, I fail to see the problem with expanded background checks. I have yet to hear anyone explain why they're a bad idea. I know as much as 91 percent of the American public think they make sense. I'm anxious to hear from the 9 percent who think they're not – since they're apparently the 9 percent the Senate listened to.

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Lastly, I have some sad personnel news to share: this is reporter Joshua Anusewicz's last issue of the *Rivereast*, as he is moving on. Josh has been with the paper a little more than two years – since February 2011 – and in that time has covered a wide variety of issues in Portland and East Hampton. Particularly in East Hampton, where he reported on such high-profile stories as the unfortunate fire at the Bevin Bros. bell factory, the tragic murder of young Jini Barnum, and the ongoing issues concerning the Town Council and the East Hampton police chief.

Josh handled all of those issues extremely well – and also proved himself quite adept at the smaller stories: the human interest pieces, the stories about drama club plays, the feature-length obituaries. While fires and murders are what – understandably – grab the front page, it's these types of stories, the ones that seem smaller, that can resonate the most with people. Josh seemed to understand this, and consistently did a great job with these types of pieces.

And his work did not go unnoticed. I cannot count the number of phone calls or emails I've gotten in the time that Josh has been here from residents in his towns, telling me what a fine job he did on a particular story, letting me know what a find I had in him. As an editor, you always love those phone calls and emails.

Josh had a great rapport with people in his towns too. Day after day, I could hear him on the phone with various people in Portland and East Hampton, sharing a laugh, or his genuine concern over an issue they were facing. He's one of those reporters who genuinely seemed to care about the issues he covered – and that type of passion was evident in his work.

And around the office, Josh was a great team player, helping out in various capacities when needed – including being thrust into a stint as editor last March when I was unexpectedly out sick for a week. He got along well with, quite literally, everyone here, from me and Jim Hallas to his fellow reporters, to the ad representatives, to the layout desk, to the circulation staff, and more. We'll all miss him – just as I know people in Portland and East Hampton will – and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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See you next week.

# \$10.68 Million Andover Budget Heads to Referendum Next Week

by Geeta Schrayter

Next Tuesday, Andover residents will head to the polls to vote whether or not they're in favor of the proposed \$10.68 million budget for 2013-14. And based on the annual town budget meeting held May 2, residents have little to no qualms with the numbers.

At the meeting, Board of Finance Chairwoman Georgette Conrad explained the numbers to an audience of around 30 residents. The proposed budget is an increase of \$110,382 over the current year or 1.03 percent, and would result in a mill rate of 30.77, a slight drop from the current year's mill rate of 30.80. For a resident whose property is assessed at \$200,000, this would translate to \$6,154 in taxes, down from the \$6,160 in taxes they owed under the current mill rate.

The \$10.68 million number includes \$4.33 million for Andover Elementary School – up from \$4.18 million – and \$3.96 million for RHAM, down from \$4.03 million due to a decrease in students at the schools.

Four capital requests were approved for 2013-14 and included in the budget. These are; \$75,760 to replace 16 Scott air packs for the firefighters, \$37,500 to lease-to-own an angle plow truck to replace one from 1987 (to con-

tinue for five years, totaling \$185,000 at 2.5 percent interest), \$12,500 for a planning consultant to help the Planning and Zoning Commission produce a new state-mandated Plan of Conservation Development, and \$7,124 for 10 portable radios for the fire department.

After Conrad explained the budget highlights, those present were given the opportunity to weigh in on the numbers.

Resident and former first selectman Ed Turn took the opportunity to share his feelings on the state legislature and the difficulties they cause for towns.

"The legislature in the governor's office continues to play the same old game every year and we continue to elect the same people to go back and do the same thing over again," he said. "That is, wait until the last minute to let us, the town, and other municipalities know what they are going to give us in terms of grants. It's a difficult situation for any Board of Finance or Board of Selectmen to come up with a budget and not know what funding is going to be."

Turn added the town caught a break this year in terms of education. He noted Andover's decrease in the RHAM levy – from \$4.03 million in the current year budget to \$3.96 million in

the 2013-14 budget that passed on Tuesday – and furthered "here in Andover, we're fortunate to have a superintendent that looks out for us," to which those in attendance agreed by applauding Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia.

During the meeting, resident Debbie Scanlon also noted that First Selectman Bob Burbank had opted to take a zero percent salary increase for next year and thanked him for the decision.

"That is very nice of you," she said.

Linddy added the town clerk was taking a zero percent increase as well, and Scanlon said residents "should all appreciate that."

Along with her recognition, Scanlon asked for more information as to the increase in the education budget. Maneggia explained "the bulk of that money is tied up in the cost of insurance."

He said there have been some "very high claims" between Andover, Hebron and Marlborough and as a result, the cost has increased.

"Basically there are some people who have extensive health care in all the towns and collectively we have a group rate," he said but noted "all the towns fare better if we [get a rate] together."

Resident John Corl also asked for clarification as to why employee benefits were increasing about \$50,000.

Burbank explained some of the increase was due to "a modest 2 percent increase in the wages of the fulltime personnel to offset some of the increased costs that they are receiving from state mandated programs."

But Linddy added that amounted to about \$2,000 out of the overall increase, and Burbank furthered along with the aforementioned insurance increases due to claims, as a result of the Affordable Health Care Act there is a federal insurance tax of \$6.80 per person in the program each month. In addition there is another .80 per person tax under the state budget. The town is also required to set aside money for employee retirement, he said that an amount has increased over the years.

When no further residents spoke, the motion was then made to approve the budget and send it to referendum. The motion passed via anonymous paper ballot, by a vote of 39-1. The referendum will take place Tuesday, May 14, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.

## Election Day in Andover Brings New Names to PZC, Fire Commission

by Geeta Schrayter

The municipal elections in Andover have come and gone and for the majority of candidates, the outcome came without suspense. Of the seven boards and commissions with candidates running, only two had actual races.

On the Planning and Zoning Commission, incumbent Republicans Leigh Ann Hutchinson and Robert Russell were up against Democrat Patrick Dougherty. Meanwhile, the Fire Commission race saw incumbent Democrat Barry Hansen Sr., Democrat Gregory Vincek and Republican Gerald Wright vying to fill two available spots.

By a vote of 260, Hutchinson will continue her work on the commission along with newcomer Dougherty, who ousted Russell, a 23-year commission veteran, by receiving 188 votes to Russell's 178.

Dougherty has been an Andover resident for five years and already serves as an alternate, a member of the Economic Development Commission and the Democratic Town Committee. He shared last week he was running for the

commission because he has an interest in what's going on with the town and likes helping out his community.

Dougherty said he wanted to keep Andover "a nice town to live in" for his family and considered it important to pay attention to the kind of business that's promoted.

"You want to see the kind of businesses move into the town that'll fit the town," he said, "and that's my focus."

On Monday, Dougherty called his election "a pleasant surprise."

"I wasn't really sure if I was going to win or not," he said. "I would definitely like to thank everybody that came out and voted," he added. "I'm very honored that they chose me."

And now, Dougherty said he's looking forward to "learning all the rules and requirements and helping my community."

On the Fire Commission, the elections resulted in two newcomers to the commission. Hansen, who received 176 votes, was beaten by Vincek with 194 votes and Wright with 220

votes.

Wright, who has lived in town for about two years, said he never expected he'd win.

"I didn't really think it would happen," he stated. "I want to thank the voters in Andover for having confidence in someone they really don't know. I will get in there and I will do my best to teach fire safety in the community and I thank them for voting me in."

Wright explained he became interested in joining the commission after attending one of the meetings and discovering there wasn't anything going on in the way of fire safety.

"The Fire Commission is supposed to be teaching fire safety to the community and I didn't see them doing that," Wright said.

He added Fire Chief Ron Mike had asked him if he would run, explaining someone was needed with business sense who had no involvement with the fire department.

"So I said 'sure,' never thinking in my wild-est dreams I'd get elected."

But now that he has been, Wright already

has some ideas. He said he wants to contact different insurance companies who provide coloring books and other materials to help teach fire safety to kids. Then, he said he wants to speak to local Cub Scouts and see if he can go into the schools to speak to students.

"It's so important that we educate our young kids," Wright said, and as a new member of the Fire Commission, he's hoping to help do just that.

Hutchinson and Vincek did not return calls to comment on their election.

As for the other candidates, Republicans Jeff Murray and Georgette Conrad and Democrat Nathaniel Houle had guaranteed seats on the Board of Finance. The case was the same for Republicans Whitney Covell and Lisa Hewett and Democrat Christina Tamburro on the Board of Education. Similarly, Democrats John Handfield and Walter Weir, Jr. both received seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Donald Keener became a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate.

## East Hampton Man Arrested for Wielding Machete

by Joshua Anusewicz

A local man was arrested last week for brandishing a machete and threatening his neighbors, East Hampton Police announced in a release.

According to Police Chief Sean Cox, Christopher Goralski, 39, of 39 School House Ln., was arrested Thursday, May 2, and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree threatening, criminal trespassing and carrying a dangerous weapon.

Cox stated the incident occurred around roughly 8 a.m., when the department received a call about a man causing a disturbance. Cox, who was actually being sworn in as the new

police chief while the incident occurred, said Sgt. Jerry Boynton and officers Mark Pekar and Jason Wishart arrived at the scene and came upon an allegedly intoxicated Goralski, allegedly wielding a machete and threatening his neighbor.

The officers were able to "take control of the situation," Cox said, and subdue the suspect. Cox added that a small struggle allegedly occurred between Goralski and police after the suspect was handcuffed.

Due to the suspect's physical state, Cox said Goralski received medical treatment.

# Town, School Budgets Pass on First Vote in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

It was a close call, but Colchester's town operations and Board of Education budgets for the 2013-14 fiscal year passed on the first try.

The two budgets combined result in a spending package of \$52.225 million – an increase of 3.87 percent, or \$1.94 million, over current year spending.

The tally for passing the \$39.08 million school budget was 1,211 voters for and 1,163 against – a slim margin of 48 votes. The town operations budget didn't result in quite as many people weighing in but nonetheless resulted in 1,199 for and 1,164 against – an even slimmer margin of 35 votes.

In total, 23 percent of Colchester voters headed to Town Hall Wednesday to cast their ballots on the town's future spending. According to Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein, the turnout of voters was "average."

"We've been lower," Goldstein said of the percentage.

The chairman repeated that statement once more when referring to the slim margins of victory for both budgets. He added that a double-digit margin is not "unheard of" in Colchester.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster also referred to the voter turnout as "typical" for a referendum – but added that he'd "always" like to see more activity at the polls each year.

"The budget affects our town in many ways and I hope to see greater turnout in the future,"

Schuster said.

But putting percentages aside, the two were pleased that each budget passed. The pair also felt appreciative of everyone who helped develop the budgets, and for those in town who gave input.

"I'm very thankful for everyone who put in so much work to produce the proposed budgets," Schuster said.

While the town operations budget was described by Schuster throughout the development process as a budget compiled of expenses that don't vary from the norm, the local Board of Education proposed all-day kindergarten for all for the first time – a proposal that received several thumbs up by parents over the last few months, which was reflected in the polls.

On Wednesday, several voters said it was the kindergarten proposal that played a big role in their decisions to vote in favor of the school budget.

Resident Christopher Dickey said he "absolutely" liked the proposal, adding that seven kids on his street will enter kindergarten (now all-day kindergarten) next year.

Ashley Delaney, who has one daughter in preschool and another who will enter kindergarten next year, said she also voted in favor of the school budget because she liked the all-day kindergarten proposal.

"One of my daughters attends preschool right

now for four-plus hours a day, and a half-day in kindergarten is like two and a half hours," she explained. "There's no way they can get through everything they should learn without a full day."

In terms of the town operations budget, though, many voters on Wednesday weren't as supportive. Many who voiced concerns about the budgets outside of Town Hall on Wednesday expressed their dissatisfaction with the proposed 5.14 percent tax increase, which, based on the turnout, will become a reality on July 1.

The increase in taxes causes the mill rate to climb 1.48 mills over the current year's tax rate from 28.80 to 30.28. In terms of dollars, a property valued at \$200,000 would be charged \$6,056 in taxes, up from the \$5,760 it was charged in the current fiscal year.

Resident Daniel Dawson balked at the large tax increase before heading to the polls on Wednesday.

"I'm not going to vote no," he said of his decision. "I'm going to vote hell no! Let's live with what we have. We don't need more. ... I want these clowns to get their hands out of my pocket."

Though resident Susanne Bengston said she has nothing against the school system in town, she said her decision to vote 'no' to both budgets was also due to the large increase in taxes – an increase that she feels doesn't work to tax-

payers' advantages.

"Our taxes keep going up and we get nothing in town," she said. "Everything I do is a half-hour away!"

Resident Doug Wyckoff, who described himself as an "angry taxpayer," said he "definitely" planned on voting down the budgets.

"This country don't know when to stop spending and the only place we have an opportunity to make our voices heard is at the local level," Wyckoff stated. "The state don't listen to us, the fed[ederal government] don't listen to us, and they keep finding ways to reach into our pocket and it's gotta stop. It's really gotta stop."

Board of Finance Chairwoman Rob Tarlov also admitted that the board as a whole would have liked to keep the tax increase down.

"We're all taxpayers," he said of the board. "We'd all like to keep that rate as low as we can, but we also understand that there's a lot of expenses that are out of our control."

He explained the board's approach when looking at the budget.

"What we try to do is tear back the budget as much as we can and then it's up to the voters to make a decision whether the tax increase is too high in view of the services," Tarlov said.

The new budget will take effect at the start of the 2013-14 fiscal year on July 1.

## Portland Budget Vote Set for Tuesday

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland voters will flock to the polls next Tuesday to vote on the proposed 2013-14 fiscal year budget, which represents a 1.24 percent increase from the current fiscal year.

The budget, which was approved by the Board of Selectmen last month and passed at a subsequent town meeting, totals \$30,823,855, which is up \$377,260 from the current year. Of that total, \$11,887,627 accounts for general government and \$18,936,228 is set aside for the Board of Education; the budget for general government would be a decrease of \$104,272, while the Board of Education would be up \$481,532.

If approved, the mill rate increase would be an estimated .55, from 30.73 to 31.28. In terms of dollars and cents, a homeowner with property valued at \$200,000 would see their taxes

on said property climb from \$6,146 to \$6,256.

The selectmen reached the proposed budget total after a series of deliberations over the past few months, which resulted in a fair amount of addition and subtraction to both sides of the spending package. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield originally proposed the budget at \$30,861,603, with \$11,945,375 for general government and \$18,916,228 for the Board of Education. Altogether, that represented a \$415,008, or 1.36 percent, increase from the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The current year budget was approved by referendum last May at \$30.45 million, \$11.99 million for general government and \$18.45 million for education.

This week, Bransfield called the proposed budget "very reasonable" and was glad that the

selectmen reached a unanimous decision on the budget total.

"There aren't too many new things," said Bransfield. "We try to keep the taxpayers in mind and what they can afford to pay. I think they will find it a very fair budget."

The few new things that are included in the proposed budget are found mostly on the education side. Due to state mandates, the budget has allotted funds for upgraded technology to meet upcoming teacher and administration evaluations and standardized testing, which will all be done through computers on a new fiber-optic system.

The school budget also includes funding for the integration of all-day kindergarten, an initiative that has been championed by Portland

parents and the Board of Education. The funding would include classroom upgrades and new materials, and savings would be found from the lack of a midday bus for half-day kindergarten students; no additional faculty would be needed, due to a shuffling of teachers from different grades.

On the general government side, the budget would actually decrease, mostly due to health care savings, switching from heating fuel to natural gas, and town employee retirements.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 13, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. For a comprehensive look at the budget, visit [portlandct.org](http://portlandct.org) and click on the Board of Selectmen's proposed budget link on the homepage.

## Flex Your Pain Away in Portland

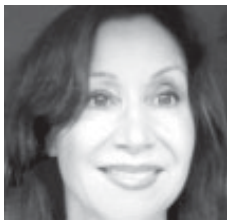
by Joshua Anusewicz

Usually when you have aches or pains and are in need of relief, you reach for the aspirin or the nearest muscle relaxant. But while it may mask the soreness for a short period of time, it's a temporary solution to what can often be a long-term problem.

For those tired of reaching into the medicine cabinet over and over, Janet Colonghi of Body Flex Physical Therapy in Portland might just have what you're looking for.

With over 30 years of experience in the field of physical therapy, Colonghi opened Body Flex in March in the Portland Professional Building, just a stone's throw from her home. Body Flex, Colonghi said, is sort of a one-stop shop for physical therapy and rehabilitation for various injuries and pain.

"It's important to have a wide repertoire of skills and resources and this is where experience comes into play," explained Colonghi, re-



Janet Colonghi

ferring to what she does as being a "body detective." What might seem like pain in your legs might actually be caused by a previous injury in your shoulder or neck, she gave as an example; rather than spend 30 minutes working out that one area where the pain is, Colonghi said she will work for at least an hour to find the root of the pain and begin a treatment plan that will get the patient on the right path to rehabilitation.

Colonghi has a passion for physical therapy that radiates in the way she speaks about the various treatments that a patient can go through to alleviate pain. It's a passion that manifested itself when she was in high school and a member of the track team. Two of her coaches had experience in physical science and soon, she became just as interested in physical therapy as in running.

Colonghi went on to study at the University of Connecticut and train under a number of experienced manual therapists around the state. Under their tutelage, she learned how to treat chronic pains, including headaches and facial pain, and serious ailments such as trauma and

failed surgeries.

Through years of working at various practices, Colonghi sharpened her skills in a number of techniques, which grew to include even holistic and natural therapy treatments. She has worked with pediatric therapy, treating infants, and has treated senior centers and individuals with disabilities, as well, including a time working with Easter Seals' former Portland office, which was in the same building Body Flex is now in.

Having grown "disenchanted" with the system of therapy clinics, particularly the ever-busy management aspect, Colonghi opted to branch out on her own, focusing on hands-on, one-on-one patient care.

"I love working with people, and I love what I do," Colonghi said. "This is what I was meant to do. This gives me the chance to really take my time."

Body Flex is currently in a small, brightly lit and decorated office that Colonghi said is a good, quiet environment for rehabilitation – "no bells and whistles," she added. The small space promotes the one-on-one therapy aspect, but

also allows for personal training, yoga, and fitness evaluations, and even work on your golf game.

But while the business venture and its space are small now, Colonghi said she hopes to expand her business, possibly into a larger empty space within the Portland facility. Colonghi said that, being from town, she has seen a need for up-close therapy for residents and thinks the business has a good chance to grow.

"I see a lot of opportunity here in Portland," she added.

Living essentially next door to her office, Colonghi said that her hours are very flexible, based on the needs of her patients. It's not uncommon for her to treat patients first thing in the morning or later at night, as she's able to walk to and from the office in a matter of minutes. The only problem, she related, is that her cats and dogs often try to follow her out of the yard.

Body Flex accepts most major insurance carriers, Colonghi said. To schedule an evaluation or an appointment, call Colonghi at 860-759-2011.

# \$35.02 Million Hebron Budget Falls by 37 Votes

by Geeta Schrayter

When the results of Tuesday's referendum were announced, there were audible sighs of anguish from officials present in the auditorium at Hebron Elementary School. "37 votes!" Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel exclaimed exasperatedly.

The reactions came after the \$35.02 million budget failed 594-557, sending it back to the Board of Finance to be worked on, in preparation for a second referendum on May 21.

"The problem here is there's a lack of voter turnout," said Hazel.

The 1,151 votes cast Tuesday represent 17.4 percent of the town's registered voters – and both those in favor of and against the budget could be found outside the polls.

"You see this grey hair?" said resident Craig Cyr. "I'm on a fixed income. It's a factor. Some people, all they know how to do is spend [money] and raise your taxes."

Cyr said he'd had discussions with friends about moving to another state as a result.

"We have another house in Florida and it's a possibility," he said, adding he'd stick around "until the taxes drive me out."

Cyr said when people see the grey hair, they tend to think "here comes another 'no' vote," but he said he has nothing against kids or education and his own children had gone to school in town. But "we keep putting more and more and more in for education and nothing seems to change."

Cyr added in Palm Beach County, Fla. (the fifth-largest school district in Florida and the

11th largest in the continental U.S., according to the website [palmbeachschools.org](http://palmbeachschools.org)), there is only one superintendent.

"And we have one here for every little town," he said. "When you're on a fixed income it makes it more difficult. You keep seeing everything going up but your pay."

Rob Haberern felt similarly.

"I think they should try and lower [the budget]," he said. "I'm working 72 hours a week to try to make ends meet."

Haberern said it seemed like the town wanted certain items in an attempt to "keep up with the Joneses."

"It just seems like everybody wants new and they don't want to make do with what they've got," he stated.

But for resident Karen Braunwart what the schools already have isn't enough.

"I feel like all we do is cut things from the school," she said. "I know it always comes down to people picking on the school saying we shouldn't have this, we shouldn't have that, but I feel like we don't have enough."

Braunwart said she wanted the budget to pass so the schools wouldn't lose more money or cut more teachers. She also noted each election costs the taxpayers and that was something she didn't want to keep paying for.

(On Thursday, Republican Registrar of Voters John Richmond said the ballots for the referendum cost \$609, while food and pay for the poll workers cost "probably someplace around \$1,300," bringing the total cost of the referen-

dum to "just a little bit under \$2,000".)

Braunwart added she respected the town officials' thoughts and was happy with their choices.

"I'm happy with these decisions and I just want to move forward," she said. "I don't want to be stuck for months."

Stacey Schwartz also supported the budget, and as she exited the polls with her daughter, she said she'd just told her, "When you have strong schools you have a strong town."

But whether further cuts will have to be made to the education budget is yet to be seen.

"We await a decision from the Board of Finance," Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea said after the budget's defeat.

"It was a close vote and I think turnout was a factor – there was not a lot of turnout for this vote," said Hazel. "Hopefully we get a more representative turnout [at the next referendum] and we'll see what we have to do from a budget perspective."

The Board of Finance was expected to meet yesterday morning to discuss how to proceed.

Town Manager Andy Tierney agreed with Hazel, saying he was grateful to those who came out to vote, but "hopefully more come out for the next one."

An exit poll was available to voters as they left on Tuesday which asked for their thoughts on the budget. Tierney said about half of the voters filled them out and the results would be taken into account.

"We'll be tallying the exit poll results and

comments as soon as possible and take the comments into consideration," he said, adding it should "give us a picture of what [voters] are happy with and what they're not happy with."

Although the town budget didn't pass, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget of \$846,641 was approved 626-522 via a separate question.

The CIP budget includes, for the public works department, \$238,811 for road resurfacing and road improvements, \$146,204 for a large dump truck with plow and \$40,000 for a wood chipper; and for the Board of Education, \$50,000 for bathroom renovations at Gilead Hill School and \$50,000 for the engineering and design of the parking lot at Hebron Elementary School.

For the fire department, \$81,000 has been included for the first year lease funding for a new fire truck along with \$30,000 for three thermal imaging cameras. Other miscellaneous CIP items included are an upgrade to the generator/electrical service at the town office building for \$58,400, a police vehicle for \$45,000, second year funding for a building official vehicle amounting to \$17,876, and an electrical service upgrade and switchgear at the Horton House for \$12,350.

Also via a separate question, residents voted 597-553 against the RHAM budget of \$25.94 million. However, the budget still passed as a result of the 'yes' votes from Andover and Marlborough (a story on the RHAM referendum appears elsewhere in this issue).

## Alternatives Looked at for Sewer Project in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

The town received just one bid for Phase II of the sewer project, and Marlborough officials were in talks this week about what to do with it. Judging by officials' reactions, the town might be in good shape to move the project forward.

The conversation started in a joint meeting on Tuesday between the Board of Selectmen and the Water Pollution Control Authority Commission (WPCA) and continued into Wednesday night's Board of Finance meeting. On Tuesday, Town Planner Peter Hughes presented the selectmen with four costs based on the one bid the town received from Hubble Construction of Burlington.

As a reminder, though, WPCA Chairman Jack Murray explained on Tuesday just what Phase II entails. Phase II of the project is proposed to pick up where Phase I left off, with the construction of a sewer line up Cheney Road, and would also hook up five or six houses each on Beverly Lane and North Main Street.

Murray also explained that the project includes a second portion that the town isn't responsible for paying: a sewer line extension to hook up the Marlborough Health Care Center (MHCC). He added that MHCC is in "dire straits" for a sewer system, as it currently pumps its system manually twice a day at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

The four alternatives Hughes presented range from total project costs to the town of \$1.49 million down to \$1.11 million.

The most expensive alternative Hughes presented was the initial bid Hubble Construction submitted at a total cost of \$1,485,993. The bid

includes construction for all three towns (Cheney, Beverly and North Main), which vary in price because of the level of construction and length of each road.

In Hubble Construction's bid, Cheney was ranked the most expensive road to construct on at a cost of \$476,123, and following that was Beverly at \$167,067, and the construction on North Main came in at the cheapest cost of \$78,553.

From there, each alternative consequently dropped anywhere between \$124,000 to nearly \$390,000 from the initial bid. Hughes said he achieved each alternative cost by eliminating different roads from the project each time, in turn lowering the cost of construction and interest.

The second alternative Hughes presented was achieved by eliminating just the construction on North Main Street. The total was presented to the selectmen at \$1,361,172. The third cost eliminated just Beverly Lane construction at a total of \$1,220,871. Lastly, the cheapest alternative included only the construction of Cheney Road while eliminating Beverly Lane and North Main Street at a cost of \$1,096,289.

The difference between the highest and lowest alternative Hughes presented is \$389,704.

Hughes also pointed out factors of the initial bid that make it attractive. For starters, he said the bid came in at just \$100,000 more than what the town originally anticipated before it went out to bid. In terms of the 20-year loan repayment to the town, the bid calls for the town to pay \$5,000 more each year than what was anticipated in the initial cost estimate, Hughes

said.

Another relief, Hughes said, is that Hubble Construction would use a different machine to break up rocks during construction that requires "no blasting." Instead, Hughes said the construction company would grind up the rock and use it for a different purpose. With that change, Hughes explained that the cost of construction per cubic yard of rock will now be one cent per cubic yard; the town had initially anticipated the cost would be \$50-\$100 per cubic yard.

The town planner added that if the project moved forward with the initially anticipated start date of mid-July, Hubble would be able to complete the construction in mid-November.

Following Hughes' presentation, the WPCA unanimously passed a motion that recommended the first alternative – or the bid price submitted by Hubble that includes all three roads – go to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

"That money's reasonable," Murray said. "I don't have a problem at all with the one bid."

In addition to the price, WPCA member Bill Lardi said he is supportive of moving forward with Hubble's initial bid because it's a company he's heard great things about.

"This is a strong company," he said. "One of the best."

Then it was up to the Board of Selectmen to discuss the bid – but each member agreed that they wouldn't be able to come up with a decision right away.

The selectmen did, however, say they felt comfortable with the one bid submitted by

Hubble but didn't speak further about what alternative they favored.

Gaudinski added that having to re-bid would delay the project for at least another year from the project's initial start date of this summer.

At the Board of Finance meeting, members mainly discussed what would happen if the project were delayed.

"The Health Care Center can't really wait too long," member Cliff Denniss said.

Member Beth Petroni said her only concern was that the town couldn't take advantage of the low bid and finish the entire project – that includes other areas in town in need of sewers.

"[In] three years when inflation hits we're going to wish we did that now," she said of the remaining phases of the project.

"You're preaching to the choir," Murray said to Petroni.

Resident Amy Traversa told the finance board she supported the project.

"I cannot imagine *not* supporting this and I vote down everything," she said, adding that voting it down would be "incredibly short-sighted."

The ultimate decision to move the project along would be decided by a town meeting where residents would vote for or against the project. But before a town meeting can be held, the Board of Selectmen needs to recommend a cost for the project, which would then have to be approved by the Board of Finance.

The Board of Selectmen plans to hold a special meeting to further discuss the project in the next couple of weeks.

# Keep on Track with the Toy Train Exhibit in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

If a person grew up in the era when toy trains made their peak in American history, or if a child's eyes widen at the sight of a train chugging along a toy track nowadays, the same can be said: a toy train has the ability to excite just about anyone – young or old.

And the toy train exhibit that is currently on display at the Marlborough Arts Center can attest to that. The “On Track Toy Train Exhibition” – which kicked off with a reception on April 6 and will continue to run each weekend until May 19 – has drawn in people of all ages to look at toy trains ranging from the year 1870 all the way up to the present day.

At first glance, visitors who step into the center will notice the walls are filled with toy trains in chronological order that vary in size, color and type of locomotive. But when looking a bit further, they'll also find plaques accompanying the collectibles that reveal America's history of the toy train.

The toy train exhibit was coordinated by Marlborough Arts Center member Diane Sandler, and thanks to East Hampton resident Fred Dole and a small group of residents from nearby towns, the exhibit is complete with dozens of toy trains.

Dole had worked as a photographer taking pictures for calendars and posters for 20 years before he became the editor and photographer of *O Gauge Railroad* magazine for another 20 years. He said his interest in trains began when he was a kid and it wasn't until years later when he found his old train sets that rekindled his interest.

“There's something magical about trains,” Dole said. “They've always been an important part of American culture and history. From real trains down to the toy trains, they've always – for children – had a fascination.”

But the exhibit hasn't attracted just families with children. Sandler said it's had great success, with 50-60 visitors coming each day it's been open to take a peek, including some new faces.

“The nice thing is we're getting people in here that have never been here before,” Sandler said, adding that many of the attendees have been older men who've enjoyed recognizing the toys that were made when they were young.

“It's a generational thing,” she added. “There's a lot of memories with toy trains.”

The trains at the exhibit range from the earliest kinds of toy trains called “push” toys made of wood or tin, to freight cars made by the well-known train manufacturer Lionel, to up-to-date toy trains with electric motors and lots of detail.

All of the residents that contributed to the exhibit actually own the trains. Many are trains they grew up playing with when they were kids while others were purchased at shows, in stores and even over the Internet.

In fact, one train set on display is the very first one Dole got for Christmas one year back in the 1940s, when he was just 8 years old.

“That one's probably my favorite,” he said.

Residents who helped design the exhibit also chose to dedicate a corner of the room to a Christmas theme. The display has an operating train track and village scene underneath a decorated Christmas tree. The intent of the scene is to show how trains were first introduced to children, and still are, Dole said.

According to Dole, the exhibit portrays just what toy trains are all about. He added that people are most likely interested in toy trains for two reasons.

“One of them is collecting, where people try to find rare or valuable toy trains to put on shelves and look at,” he said. “The other aspect is people who operate toy trains and run them.”

Manchester resident Jan McCollum – who lent many collectibles to the exhibit – describes himself as someone who became interested in toy trains because he has a love for building things. One of the models on display at the center is one McCollum built himself. It is a model of the old Niantic River railroad bridge in Connecticut, and is just one part of a large portable train layout. The bridge is made of plaster, wood, and an electric motor that makes the bridge go up and down.

Also, McCollum brought one collectible that has become popular among attendees, a 1934 Mickey and Minnie Mouse handcar designed by Lionel. The handcar is the reason the business didn't go bankrupt during the Great Depression after it sold nearly 253,000 handcars for \$1 each, McCollum said.

“They're very scarce,” Dole said of the 1934 handcar. “Not many of them still exist. It's an awesome part of the display.”

The exhibit at the arts center ends on Sun-



**Toy trains from the early 1900s line the walls at the “On Track Toy Train Exhibit” that is currently on display at the Marlborough Arts Center. The exhibit gives visitors a taste of American history and culture, as it is full of collectible toy trains from the late-1800s up to the present day.**

day, May 19. Members of the center invite anyone interested in revisiting their childhood, looking to create memories for their own children, or even to learn more about the history of toy trains, to take advantage of it while it lasts. It will be open each Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. – although it will be closed this Sunday, May 12, for Mother's Day. The exhibit is free to attend.

To continue the toy train theme, Dole is offering tours of his own handmade running train exhibit in his East Hampton home on Saturday, May 11. The tours will be done in half-hour increments from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The exhibit is called the “Town of Ramondale” and is a replica of an original town that appeared in New Orleans in 1948. It includes several railroad tracks, toy trains, villages, a turntable and background scenic panels that Dole painted himself.

“It's one of the best around,” McCollum said

of Dole's exhibit. “If you're a train lover and want to see something unique, that's it.”

Anyone interested in attending a tour of Dole's exhibit is required to purchase a ticket. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under 9 years of age. Details of the times of the tour and the application form can be found on the center's website at [marlborougharts.org](http://marlborougharts.org) or can be found on the center's Facebook page, which can be accessed by typing Marlborough Arts Center into the search engine.

The Marlborough Arts Center is a non-profit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts and fine crafts. Its main focus is to bring local history and art exhibits to the community, while also offering a variety of art classes to people of all skill levels and ages. For more information about the center's upcoming shows or exhibits, or to learn more about class offerings at the center, people can call 860-295-9389 or log on to the websites mentioned above.

## Fawn Book Bridge in Marlborough in Need of Repair

by Melissa Roberto

Town officials confirmed this week that the Fawn Brook Bridge located near the intersection of South Main Street and Kellogg Road is in need of repair.

On Friday, May 3, safety signage was put up in front of the bridge to warn drivers that only one lane is open for travel.

The bridge was deemed in need of repair by the state Department of Transportation last Wednesday, May 1. The DOT conducted its inspections, as it is required to do every two years for bridges longer than 20 feet, and found that the bridge has “immensely” deteriorated in the last two years with concrete underneath the bridge starting to crumble, Town Planner Peter Hughes told the Board of Finance Wednesday.

Hughes said a temporary fix will need to take place in the next six to eight weeks to open the bridge back up to two travel lanes. He added that just putting up safety measures at the bridge last week – which included signs, lights and barriers – cost the town nearly \$9,000.

A temporary fix is estimated from \$30,000 to \$35,000, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said, adding that the estimate could change in the next week once more information is received.

In the future, however, the bridge will need to be rebuilt, Hughes said. In order to pay for rebuilding the bridge, Hughes said the town can apply to receive a federal grant for the long-term project that would be 20 percent of cost to the town with an 80 percent reimbursable rate.

However, applying for and receiving a federal grant is a process that takes up to five years, Hughes said. Once the town submits its paperwork, it is put on a waiting list for a grant.

Hughes added that this isn't the only bridge that has been deemed in need of repair to the town. As Fawn Brook Bridge was last repaired in the 1980s, he said other bridges in town are most likely on the same cycle. The DOT will issue more information on the bridges in town in the next week. Hughes warned the Board of Finance that a few of the five bridges in town will most likely need to be repaired down the road, estimating that “in the next five to 15 years, [the town is] going to be paying \$1-1.5 million for each.”

Gaudinski said Thursday the town's on-call engineering service firm, Jacobson & Associates, will be issuing more information on the temporary fix in the next week.

Officials ask that drivers travel on the Fawn Brook Bridge with caution until it is repaired.

## Town Meeting Next Week on \$21.66 Million Marlborough Budget

by Melissa Roberto

Residents will have a chance to vote on the \$21.66 million proposed budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year at the town's annual budget meeting next Monday, May 13.

Also at the meeting, residents can vote separately on the new approach to funding capital items, as well as voting to return leftover money from closed projects to the capital and non-recurring fund.

The budget totals \$21,665,665, or a .53 percent increase over current year spending. The five pieces that make up the town budget are the town operations budget, the local Board of Education budget, Marlborough's portion of the RHAM budget, contingency and debt.

The budget proposal includes a few surprising aspects. It includes a tax decrease of .52 percent, which reflects a drop of .16 mills from the current mill rate, to a proposed mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year of 30.86. For a homeowner with property valued at \$200,000, this would translate to them being charged \$6,172 in taxes, down from the \$6,204 in taxes they were charged in the current fiscal year.

The proposal also includes a new way of funding capital items. In the next fiscal year, the town has proposed five capital items that total \$350,500. Instead of including the capital items within the town's annual budget, the proposal is to pay for the items with cash through the town's general fund balance – a method town officials have said would save the town money because capital items would

not need to take out loans to fund the items.

In addition to the budget and capital items, voters will also vote to return \$15,130.44 to the town's capital non-recurring fund. The money comes from funding capital items that ended up being paid for at a lower price than they were initially budgeted in the current fiscal year. Residents will vote to approve the transfer of \$15,130.44 that is made up of \$11,338.31 for funding Public Works dump trucks, \$1,920.31 for a Public Works 4 x 4, and \$1,871.82 for a Public Works lawn mower.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout broke down the town's expenses for the 2013-14 fiscal year at a public hearing that was held on April 29. Coming in at the highest percentage is Marlborough's portion of the RHAM budget at 33.8 percent, followed by the local Board of Education at 33.2 percent, town operations at 20.7, and debt service at 12.2 percent, capital items at 1.4 percent and contingency at 0.1 percent.

Residents will be able to vote on the proposed budget, funding of capital items and to return the leftover money from closed projects separately. If the budget does not pass, a town meeting will be rescheduled within three weeks of the initial town meeting, and will continue to be rescheduled every three weeks until it is passed.

The annual budget meeting will be held at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria, 25 School Dr., at 7 p.m.

# Andover, Marlborough Send RHAM Budget to Victory

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron taxpayers – perhaps chaffing at the idea of paying nearly \$1 million more for the RHAM budget than they did this year – voted ‘no’ on the proposed \$25.94 million RHAM schools’ 2013-14 budget Tuesday. But the other two towns in Region Eight voted ‘yes,’ and that was enough to send the spending package to a 941-709 victory.

The \$25.94 million number, which is a 3.52 percent increase – or, \$873,936 – over the current year’s budget, will be paid for by the three towns in the district. How much the individual town pays is determined by the number of students attending the schools from each municipality.

Andover and Marlborough’s levy is decreasing in the 2013-14 fiscal year. Hebron’s, however, is rising, from 54.74 percent to 56.55 percent. This means Hebron is responsible for \$14.67 million of the RHAM budget – an increase of nearly \$1 million from the \$13.72 million it owed for the current fiscal year.

In Andover and Marlborough, the budget sailed to victory, winning 132-55 in Andover and even more decisively – 256-57 – in Marlborough. In Hebron, though, the ‘no’ votes won out, as the budget fell by a 597-553 tally.

But since each vote cast carries an equal amount of weight, the victories in Andover and Marlborough far outweighed the Hebron loss, and the RHAM budget wound up winning rather handily.

The approved budget includes budget drivers in the form of health insurance, contracted negotiations, magnet school tuition and transportation.

Health insurance – a topic of much discus-

sion throughout the budget process – is expected to climb \$324,672, or 13.43 percent, due to rising benefit costs, national health care changes and an increase in the number of employees enrolled.

Certified staff salaries will be increasing 1 percent plus step while non-certified staff salaries are set to climb 2 percent plus step and the administrators’ salaries will increase 1.88 percent.

Magnet school tuition will also be increasing \$126,024 over the current year’s \$338,448 as a result of more students opting to attend.

In addition, the district chose to extend the bus contract for another year with a one percent increase. This move aligns the expiration date with the three towns in the district so the group can then go out to bid on a new contract together, which will hopefully realize some savings.

About \$200,000 in the budget has been earmarked for technology purchases including upgrades to the telephone system at the high school which was installed when the school was constructed, as well as the 10-year old Internet data switches. Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said the switch upgrade is necessary to ensure the Internet runs as efficiently as possible in preparation for the change to online testing expected in two years.

Also in preparation for that change, money is included to lease purchase six laptop carts holding 24 laptops each. Money is also included for the replacement of 10 desktop computers for office personnel and three Apple laptops. These items will be purchased utilizing the lease-to-purchase option, and will be paid for

over five years.

In order to lower the budget increase caused by the above budget drivers, Siminski said less money has been budgeted for heating oil and bus fuel. Savings were also realized due to a new, lower, electricity rate. In addition, there was a \$165,440 decrease in special education tuition, a \$23,976 decrease in vocational tuition and a \$10,310 decrease in board services.

Regarding the budget’s approval, Siminski said Wednesday he was “very pleased.”

Now, he said, it’s important “to continue to provide the good programs that we have in the past to the communities,” adding that he thought the budget’s approval was “a vote of confidence” in the work of the district.

Siminski went on to say when it came to the budget, it was important to take a look at some of the changes coming forth as a result of the state budget. For example, the district lost \$100,000 in state transportation aid, he said.

## Columbia Man Dies in Crash

by Geeta Schrayter

A 22-year old Columbia man died last Saturday after the motorcycle he was driving crashed in Hebron, police said.

Benjamin Iacovelli was traveling south on Church Street at around 1 a.m. May 4 when the Honda motorcycle he was driving went off the road and struck an embankment and a utility pole near Lake Road, police said.

Police said Iacovelli, who was wearing a helmet, sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The accident remains under investigation.

## Police News

4/19: Garret Pratt, 20, of 44 Chestnut Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for having a loud exhaust, failure to have a mirror, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

4/20: Amanda K. Norton, 22, of 4 Wangonk Tr., as arrested for DUI and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

4/26: Ronald Komora, 62, of 99 New Rd., Nassau, N.Y., and John Donahue, 65, of 502 Lake Vista Dr., were involved in a two car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Route

66 and Lake View Street. Komora was issued a written warning for failure to grant the right of way to oncoming traffic, police said, and donahue was arrested for DUI.

4/28: Ronald Way, 45, of 100 Young St., was arrested for violating a protective order, police said.

4/30: Faith D. Johnson, 77, of 117 Quarry Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for failure of juvenile passenger to wear a safety belt, police said.

4/30: Julie L. Root, 30, of 33 Flatbrook Rd., was issued a summons for shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny), police said.

## Colchester Police News

5/1: State Police said Anthony G. Sonidis, 25, of 491 Weir St., Glastonbury, was charged with reckless driving, disobeying the signal of an officer and unsafe passing.

5/1: State Police said Frisco Johnson, 27, of 43 Winter St., Willimantic, was charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault.

5/3: Colchester Police said Jason Thomas Wunsch, 31, of 31 South Wig Hill Rd., Chester, was charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear and fifth-degree larceny.

5/3: Colchester Police said Amanda L. Buell, 19, of 269 Cato Corner Rd., was traveling northbound on Cato Corner Road when her vehicle struck a utility pole approximately one-tenth of a mile of the Skyview Drive intersection. Police said Buell sustained a possible head injury and was transported to the Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department. Buell was later issued a written warning for making an improper turn.

5/3: State Police said Daniel Omara, 23, of 26 Berry Rd., East Haddam, turned himself into Troop K on two arrest warrants for sixth-degree larceny.

5/4: Colchester Police said a resident of Lake

Hayward Road reported that a boat motor had been stolen from his home. Colchester Police said they are currently investigating the case.

5/5: State Police said Thomas Culhane, 62, of 26 Brainard Rd., was traveling westbound on Route 354 when he entered the eastbound lane for an unknown reason and struck the metal beam guide rail off of the eastbound shoulder. Culhane’s vehicle then traveled into the westbound lane striking the metal beam guide rail and then traveled east and collided into a stone wall at the intersection of Ventura Drive. Police said Culhane was transported to Backus Hospital by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for minor injuries. Culhane was later issued an infraction for restricted turns and failure to renew registration.

5/6: Colchester Police said Elmar Baker, 32, of 55 Renee Dr., Apt. 4, was charged with violation of probation.

5/7: Colchester Police said Joshua L. Rippe, 51, of 250 Gold Star Highway, Mystic, was charged with threatening.

5/7: Colchester Police said Kristopher Kahle, 29, of 37 Davidson Rd., was charged with first-degree failure to appear.

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## Hebron Police News

4/24: State Police said a motor vehicle accident occurred on Route 85 south at the intersection of North Pond Road. Police said Trevor Frey, 18, of 60 Jones St., Amston, was traveling behind Duane Snell, 76, of 1926 Se. 11th Ave., Cape Coral, Fla., on Route 85 when Frey struck Snell’s vehicle from behind. Police said Snell’s passenger, Ann Snell, 74, also of Cape Coral, Fla., was transported to Marlborough Clinic via the Hebron Fire Department for reported back pain. Police said Frey was found at fault for following too close.

4/29: State Police said Thomas Randazzo, 49, of 9 Turner Rd., was charged with violation of probation.

## Marlborough Police News

4/29: State Police said Damon Jansky, 19, of 32 Bruce Circle, Colchester, was charged with third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree larceny.

## Obituaries

### Portland

#### Robert Whitehead

Robert "Bob" Whitehead, 85, of Torrington, formerly of Portland, passed away after a brief illness on Tuesday April 30th at the Torrington Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was the son of the late George and Josephine (Kurek) Whitehead.



Born on March 9, 1928, in Middletown, he lived in Portland for most of his life and worked for the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation as an electrical supervisor for 43 years until his retirement. He was a veteran of World War II serving with the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Higbee and was awarded the World War II Victory Medal. He was an active member and served as past commander of the American Legion Post 69 in Portland. While in Portland, he was a member of St. Mary Church and later, when he moved to Torrington, he was a member of St. Paul's.

Bob had many friends and loved ballroom dancing, entertaining in senior centers around Connecticut, and putting on shows with Irene. Bob also loved spending time on the golf course and was a member of the Portland Golf League for many years. He was a big UConn women's basketball fan. Bob was a delight to everyone who knew him and always put a smile on everyone's face. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Bob is survived by his wife, Irene Summa of Torrington, his daughter, Debra Bougor and her husband, Randy of Portland; son-in-law, George Swanson; sister, Madeline Watkinson of Baltimore, Md.; grandchildren, Erik Swanson and his wife Paulette, Lindsay Bougor of Middletown and Matthew Bougor of San Diego, Calif.; two great-grandchildren, Chloe and Charlotte; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Cecelia (Sally) Whitehead and his beloved daughter, Kathleen Swanson.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 7, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial with military honors was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Monday, May 6, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Bob's memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center "For Patient Care," 540 Saybrook Rd., Suite 280, Middletown, CT 06457 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

### Portland

#### Louis M. Vinci

Louis M. Vinci, 85, of Portland, husband of the late Althea Ruth (Verrillo) Vinci, died Monday, May 6, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born Sept. 15, 1927, in Middletown, son of the late Joseph and Maria (Salemi) Vinci. Louis was a veteran serving with the United States Navy.

Louis is survived by a son, Lou M. Vinci of Portland, a brother, Joseph Vinci of Portland; two sisters, Rosemarie Vinci and Elena Vinci both of Middletown; a granddaughter, Samantha Debra Vinci; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his wife, he was predeceased by his daughter, Debra Lee Vinci; four brothers, Sebastian, Salvatore, John and Nicholas Vinci; and a sister, Anna Rousseau.

A funeral liturgy will be held today, May 10, at 11 a.m., at St. Sebastian Church, Middletown. Burial with military honors will be in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to St. Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

### Colchester

#### Angelina Stone

Angelina (Saraceno) Stone, 85, of Colchester, died Tuesday, April 30, at Middlesex Hospital. Born June 27, 1927, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Rosario and Anna (Aresco) Saraceno.

She had lived in Middletown and Colchester. She is survived by her three sons Ralph Stone Jr. of East Hampton, James Stone of Vernon and John Stone and his wife Kathleen of Colchester; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery. The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Colchester

#### Lauri Ann Lundborg

Lauri Ann Lundborg, 55, of Colchester, beloved wife of Frank DeBuono, passed away early Thursday, May 2, at home. Born Aug. 10, 1957, in Norwich, she was a daughter of Joseph Cook of Norwich and the late Patti (Chappell) Cook.

Lauri was employed by UPS in Bozrah. She served in many capacities, including package center supervisor. Lauri held an avid love for animals, especially dogs, cats and birds. She enjoyed listening to Bob Seger, and she loved being with people and making them smile.

In addition to her husband and father, survivors include a daughter, Pam Ertel and husband Adam of Canterbury, stepchildren, Kristen Zercie and husband, Ken of Meriden and Lisa DeBuono of Hamden; two brothers, Wayne Cook and wife, Michelle of Oregon, David Cook, his wife Diane and their children, Heather and Jonathan of Baltic; a sister, Sue Langlois, her husband Gary and their children Cory, Jamie and his wife, Karen; three grandchildren, Tim, Kolbe and Arianna.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her family, her Chili's friends, and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her mother, she was predeceased by an infant daughter, Karen Ann Lundborg, and a brother, Kenneth Cook.

Memorial visitation was held Wednesday, May 8, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 169 Old Colchester Rd., Quaker Hill, CT 06375.

### Portland

#### Jane M. Roberts

Jane M. Roberts, 60, of Westbrook, formerly of Portland, wife of Laurent "Bud" Roberts, passed away Thursday, May 2, peacefully at home, with family by her side after a brave battle against cancer. She was the daughter of the late Francis H. and Ruth (Block) Clark.



Born July 3, 1952, in Hartford, she grew up in Portland, graduated in 1970, and has lived in Westbrook for the past 25 years. She was a loving mother who also enjoyed gardening, animals and helping others.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Jeffrey Loiselle of Westbrook; a daughter, Laura L. Gowac of Westbrook; brothers, George Clark of Colchester, Richard Clark of Portland, Alan Clark of East Hampton, Gary Clark of Colorado, sisters, Joan Rice of Middletown, Claire Ciochini of East Hampton, Ruth Norton of Sanford, ME, Carol Bowerman of East Hampton, Linda Brown of Colorado, Alice Valli of East Hampton and Paula Oakliff of Portland; grandchildren, Chelsey and Tyler Gowac and Zander Napper; numerous nieces and nephews; and her loving dog, Sophie.

She was predeceased by a brother, Robert Clark.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 8, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. Relatives and friends called Wednesday from 11 a.m. until the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries or Estuary Counsel for Seniors, both of Old Saybrook.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

### Hebron

#### Antonio Peter Fasanelli

Antonio Peter Fasanelli, 89, of Hebron and formerly of South Windsor, beloved husband of Mary "Marti" (Mayo) Fasanelli, passed away Friday, May 3, at Apple Rehab in Colchester.



Born Aug. 13, 1923, in Hartford, he was the last surviving of the four children of the late Peter and Maria (Molisi) Fasanelli. He and Marti were married on April 25, 1953 in Windsor.

Mr. Fasanelli was an officer with the Hartford Police Department for 41 years before his retirement. He was a member of the police union, and, having a great love of dogs, was a member of the K-9 Corps and also trained dogs on his own. His greatest joy was found in spending time with his family and friends. Mr. Fasanelli was a member of the Abundant Life (of the Assemblies of God) Church in Colchester.

In addition to his loving wife of 60 years, he leaves two children, Anthony Fasanelli and Sharon Fasanelli-Turner, both of Hebron; five grandchildren, Danielle, Marissa, Rebecca, Brandon and Aaron; two great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Visitation was held Tuesday, May 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 8, directly at the Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., Colchester. Burial followed in the New Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Compassion International, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

### Colchester

#### Kenneth W. Clay

Kenneth W. Clay, 57, of Colchester and formerly of East Hartford, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 4, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford May 22, 1955, he had been a lifelong resident of East Hartford, prior to moving to Colchester over a year ago. Kenneth was the loving son of Emily (Furtado) Clay of Colchester and formerly of East Hartford and the late Frederick G. Clay.

Kenneth was a graduate of George J. Penney High School in East Hartford, Class of 1973. He was employed by Glastonbury Tire Company for the past several years and was previously employed for many years by Hartford Distributors. Kenny was an avid sports fan, especially of football. He was a proud grandfather who loved spending time cheering and supporting his grandchildren at their sporting events or at school activities.

Besides his beloved mother, Emily, with whom he had made his home, Kenny is survived by two sons, Kenneth F. Clay and his wife, Catherine, of New Britain, Christopher J. Clay and his wife, Shannon, of Vernon; 11 adored grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Besides his father, he was predeceased by his brother, Fredrick "Ricky" J. Clay.

Funeral services were Thursday, May 9, at the D'ESOPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. Burial was at Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford. Relatives and friends called at the funeral home chapel Wednesday, May 8.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

### Portland

#### Margaretha Rose Haas

Margaretha Rose "Margo" (Lyman) Haas, 82, formerly of Portland, wife of the late Wallace J. Haas, passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 1, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Henrietta (Popp) Lyman.

She leaves her oldest brother, John Lyman, and his wife Viola, of Oreno, Maine, and her only son, Cliff Haas, and his wife Julie, of Rocky Hill; two grandchildren, J.T. Lambert, and his wife Adrienne, of Glen Allen, Va., and Kaitlyn Lambert of Hartford; four great-grandchildren, Joseph, Annabel and James Lambert, of Glen Allen, Va., and Skyler Santana of Hartford; and several in-laws, nieces, and nephews who all loved her dearly.

Margo graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and Mary A. Burnham School for Girls, a finishing school in Massachusetts. After graduating she worked as a secretary at Middlesex Hospital until June of 1952, when she married Wallace Haas. One year and five days later she gave birth to Cliff. In her later years, Margo returned to Middlesex Hospital as a volunteer in the gift shop. Margo was also a lifetime member of Holy Trinity Church in Middletown.

She was an accomplished pianist and owned an Acrosonic spinet all of her adult life. Her favorite hobby was doing crossword puzzles in the newspapers. She picked that up from her father, who always completed the same puzzles with an ink pen and she would compete with him in pencil. Another of her favorite hobbies was reading books and magazines, especially ones specializing in food preparation and home decorating, enjoyed gardening and grew beautiful flowers around her home, and belonged to a local bridge club from the South Farms. Margo's absolute favorite thing to do was to travel.

Her father's favorite hobby was swordfishing and named his boat, "Margaretha Rose" after her, so it was fitting that Margo always adored beaches and the sea. She was a strong swimmer. In the mid-1960s, she and her husband Wally purchased a cottage on Jobs Pond in Portland and enjoyed many years entertaining friends and family, swimming, and simply enjoying their waterfront property during the summer.

Funeral services for Margo Haas will be held Saturday, May 11, at 1 p.m. at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

### Marlborough

#### Elinor Kahn

Elinor (Piontak) Kahn, 80 years of age, of Marlborough, formerly of Commack, N.Y., died Friday, May 3. She was the widow of Stanley M. Kahn, Born in Bronx, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late Adolph and Bertha (Sacks) Piontak.

She leaves her two daughters, Marilyn Korth and her husband Bradley of Marlborough, and Penny Hebert and her husband Keven of Lebanon; her three grandchildren, Melanie Hebert, Danielle Hebert, and MacKenzie Korth; and her sister, Corrine Wach and her husband Daniel of Florida.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 8, in the State of Connecticut Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. The family received relatives and friends Wednesday, May 8, at the home of Marilyn Korth, 12 Lewis Rd., Marlborough.

Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford. For further information, directions, or to sign the guestbook for Elinor, visit online at [weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm](http://weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm).

## More Obituaries on Following Page

## Portland

### David Lionel Werner

David Lionel Werner, 88, of Portland, died Monday, May 6. The son of the late Rev. Oscar V. Werner and Margaret C. Haupt Werner, he was born in Ranchi, India, and raised in New Britain.



He served in the U.S. Navy and later as a Captain in the Air Force Reserves. On Nov. 10, 1946, he married Gladys Elizabeth Robertson. He earned BS and MA degrees from Trinity College and taught math and chemistry for four years at Portland High School. He was forever proud that the students dedicated the 1957 yearbook to him. In 1985, he retired from the Connecticut State Highway Lab in Rocky Hill, where he worked for many years as a chemist.

Dave was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church. He liked gardening, hiking, camping and canoeing, and he loved making a joyful noise with his music. He played trombone and many other instruments, and he could coax a tune from bottles, spoons, glasses, and almost anything else. In later years he acquired an extensive collection of chromatic harmonicas in different keys, and he enjoyed entertaining around the area with various musical groups. Despite his lengthy battle with Parkinson's, he remained cheerful and kind to the end.

Dave is survived by his former wife, Gladys Werner; his son, Paul (Christine) Werner of Boise, Idaho; his son, Carl Werner of Cromwell; his daughter, Ruth (James) Hubert of Franklin, Mass.; his sister, Beatrice Jensen of Seattle, Wa.; his granddaughters, Emily (Eric) Hahn and Jennifer Hubert; and his step-grandson, Donald (Jill) Jones and his children, Connor and Ethan Jones.

He was predeceased by his parents, his brother, John Werner, his sister, Louise Hintz, his infant son, Robert Werner and his daughter-in-law, Harriett Jones Werner.

The family is grateful to the devoted staffs of Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, Assisted Living Services and especially Greystone Retirement Home for their many kindnesses and expert care.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, May 28, at 1 p.m., at Zion Lutheran Church 183 Williams St Portland with Rev. James Reemts officiating. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call on Tuesday from noon until the service at church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church 183 Williams St Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Hebron

### Robert J. Dixon

Robert J. Dixon, 78, formerly of Hebron, passed Wednesday, May 1, at his home in Bridgeport.



He leaves behind his beloved wife Diane; his daughter Cheryl and her husband, Erik Paul, of Bridgeport; his son, John, and his wife, Linda, their daughter, Marley, of Newtown; granddaughters Tamara Thornton, and her husband, Eddie Quinn, their daughter, Ariana, of Norwich; Cassandra Rae Dixon, and their mother, Doreen Dixon, of Lebanon; siblings George, and his wife, Marie, of Windsor, Beverly, and her husband, Pete Southwick, of Ellington, Gary, of Bristol; many nieces and nephews.

Bob was a devout citizen and committed his life to community service. He and his family lived in Hebron for 35 years where he served as a selectman, member of the boards of planning and zoning, tax review, republican town committee and volunteer fire department. He was a little league umpire and referee for youth basketball. He was a charter and life member of the Hebron Lions Club and was best known as the "Voice of the Hebron Harvest Fair." He and Diane were members of Gilead Congregational Church.

Bob and Diane lived for 17 years in Winter Haven, Fla., where he sang tenor in the choir at the First Church of the Nazarene. Bob enjoyed golf and ceramics at Four Lakes Golf Club.

Bob was a loving grandpa. He taught us everything from driving a golf cart to filling a room with his personality. Our memories are filled with attending UConn women's games and eating ice cream and playing on the swings.

Bob worked at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for 34 years. He worked in a variety of capacities throughout the plant and considered his co-workers and their families as friends.

Family trips were a passion and Bob was not hesitant to pack up his family and camper to head off to destinations such as Houston, the Smokey Mountains, Maine, Myrtle Beach, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C., and the New England shoreline. Best memories are of times spent with work friends and families camping locally in Lebanon and Salem.

Active in National Marriage Encounter in the Hebron community, Bob and Diane, were a presenting couple for marriage encounter weekends for several years.

Bob leaves newly made and life-long friends from childhood, a large loving family and many special acquaintances. The family expresses deep gratitude to Vitas Hospice Care.

His Memorial Service is to be held on Saturday, May 18, at 11 a.m., in the Gilead Congregational Church 672 Gilead St., Hebron.

Donations in lieu of flowers could be sent to Gilead Congregational Church Garden of Remembrance 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, the Hebron Lions Club 347 Gilead Street Hebron, CT 06248 or the First Church of the Nazarene Music Department PO Box 819 Winter Haven, FL 33882.

For travel directions, or to sign his online guest register, visit [LeskoPolkeFuneralHome.com](http://LeskoPolkeFuneralHome.com).