

RIVEREAST

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Grease is the Word... The Pink Ladies and the T-Birds are getting ready for the East Hampton High School drama club's production of *Grease* next weekend. Top row from left are Shayla Belanger as Sandy and Lucas Gerolami as Danny; middle row from left are Sierra Taylor as Jan, Jenna Cordeiro as Marty, Hunter Brazal as Kenickie and Jacob Gagliastri as Sonny; and seated are Carli Villa as Rizzo and Mate Cote as Doody. See story on page 32.

Osten Champions Dyslexia Bill

by Geeta Schrayter

State Sen. Cathy Osten recently championed a bill aimed at having dyslexia included as a 'primary disability' in the state's schools – a bill that hits home with Hebron resident Allison Quirion.

Dyslexia, in a release sent by Osten's office earlier this month, is described as "a general term for disorders that involve difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters, and other symbols, but that do not affect general intelligence."

The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity estimates 20 percent of the population is dyslexic, "yet many remain undiagnosed, untreated and struggling with the impact of their dyslexia," according to the release.

Currently, dyslexia isn't listed on a school district's individualized education program form, and, Osten's release argued, "inclusion would qualify a child for special education services and individualized assessment and learning modifications."

At a public hearing with the legislature's Education Committee March 17, Osten said, "The broad array of challenges students with dyslexia experience demonstrates the need for action by schools, partnerships with parents, and individualized programs catered to each student."

She furthered, "By adding dyslexia to the individualized education program form, this bill places dyslexia on the radar. It can help facilitate recognition and intervention so students with dyslexia can learn in environments that recognize their needs and facilitate their learning."

Osten's news release stated there were almost five dozen individuals at the hearing who offered written or spoken support of the bill. One of those individuals was Quirion, who Osten said this week was the reason she got involved.

"I got involved because of Allison Quirion and meeting with her in Hebron," Osten explained. She said they met in town and started talking about dyslexia and "recognized that there was an issue."

Osten said after attending a couple of different forums Quirion was holding and meeting with other individuals who had concerns regarding dyslexia, she pushed for the public hearing.

"That's how this came about – listening to the constituents that were very interested in seeing something happen," Osten stated.

For Quirion, her interest in, and involvement with, dyslexia is due to her 10-year old son, who was diagnosed with dyslexia in second

See **Dyslexia Bill** Page 2

Portland Middle School Nominated for Blue Ribbon

by Elizabeth Bowling

Portland Middle School was recently nominated by the state of Connecticut as a National Blue Ribbon School, a program that falls under the umbrella of the U.S. Department of Education.

PMS is one of only four schools in the state to be nominated for the distinction for the 2013-14 academic year – and Principal Scott Giegerich couldn't be happier.

Giegerich said in a phone interview Tuesday, "I'm obviously excited and proud. I think it's a testament to the collaborative efforts between and among the teachers, the students, the families and the community."

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen echoed Giegerich, calling the nomination "a tremendous accomplishment for all the kids and the teachers from kindergarten on up."

PMS is hoping to become the second Portland school to earn a Blue Ribbon distinction; the first was Brownstone Intermediate School, which received the distinction in 2011.

On Jan. 31, Giegerich received a letter from the director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, Aba Kumi. The letter congratulated the PMS principal on the school's nomination to join the "esteemed community"

of National Blue Ribbon Schools.

Kumi explained in the letter, "National Blue Ribbon Schools are public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are producing outstanding results for all students. They have demonstrated consistent excellence and made progress in closing gaps in student achievement."

The National Blue Ribbon Program was established in 1982 and "each year, representatives of newly recognized schools gather for a ceremony in Washington, D.C. where their achievement is officially honored by the U.S. Department of Education," Kumi's letter stated.

PMS was nominated as an Exemplary High Performing School, which, according to the U.S. Department of Education, means the performance of all tested students in the school in the most recent year tested in both reading and mathematics is in the top 15 percent of all schools in the state.

It also means that for each of the school's subgroups, the performance of all tested students in the subgroup in the most recent year tested in both reading and mathematics is in the top 40 percent of all schools in the state,

according to the U.S. Department of Education.

For PMS, that "subgroup" category includes the 10 percent of the school's population that is made up of free and reduced lunch students, who Giegerich said are performing "extremely well, so there's no big gap."

In sum, Exemplary High Performing schools are ranked by state assessments – in Connecticut's case, that's the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) – in both reading and mathematics in at least the most recent year tested.

Giegerich explained that the criteria for earning a Blue Ribbon nomination "really relates to the Connecticut Mastery Test."

The principal furthered that PMS' nomination shows "that we value education in Portland and we do whatever it takes to make a difference for each child in our school. This [nomination] truly does speak to that because you're seeing that 99 percent of our kids met that No Child Left Behind in both science and math this year – that's pretty impressive." (Students can earn one of five scoring levels on the CMT: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced. The No Child Left Behind criteria calls for students to rank "proficient" on the CMT.)

Giegerich said the Blue Ribbon program essentially calls for schools to be "looking at kids over time." After PMS was nominated for the Blue Ribbon award, Giegerich submitted a 31-page application on March 19. The application included essays and CMT data from the past five years, as well as information on how PMS meets the needs of its subgroups.

In one of the application essays, Giegerich emphasized the school's "whole-child approach" to learning, which includes educational opportunities in foreign language classes, band and chorus, art, technology education, family and consumer science, and health and physical education.

Giegerich also mentioned the 2004 "rebirth of Portland Middle School," which moved the seventh- and eighth-graders into the "new, state of the art building" attached to the existing high school.

He elaborated, "In a short period of time, Portland Middle School has blossomed into a premier institution of learning due to our highly focused, professional and caring teachers, our motivated and curious students, our families

See **Blue Ribbon** Page 2

Spring Motoring Section Inside

Dyslexia Bill cont. from Front Page

grade. Quirion spoke to the *Rivereast* last year about her experiences in getting the appropriate type of special education program in place for her son, and the push she felt to raise awareness of, and create legislation for dyslexia. As a result of said push, she founded Decoding Dyslexia-CT, the Connecticut chapter of a grassroots movement that began in New Jersey.

Through the group, Quirion had said she hoped to bring awareness about dyslexia to the area and have legislation passed that would help catch students with dyslexia early, ensure their interventions are quickly implemented and that teachers are properly educated on the signs and symptoms of the disability so they can provide the appropriate programs and teaching methods.

And now, a year later, Quirion seems to be well on her way to achieving those goals. The legislation, she said this week, “could bring about awareness surrounding dyslexia. Through my experience, and experiences with parents through Decoding Dyslexia-CT, I found schools are reluctant to talk about dyslexia and use it within a conversation. So this legislation would help facilitate that.”

Osten felt similarly, explaining the legislation meant “children that exhibit signs of dyslexia will hopefully be recognized earlier [so there is] a more dramatic impact on their education.”

As a result of this month’s hearing, Osten said the Education Committee took into account all the testimony and recognized the need for change.

“They said they thought that the issue of addressing dyslexia was its own distinct special education issue and that they were in concurrence with all of the advocates that spoke for it,” Osten shared.

As a result of that agreement, Osten said the committee worked on the language of the bill so that it was “a little bit stronger than the lan-

guage they saw originally,” included professional development “and a series of other things in it so we were really, really well organized and able to present enough information for the Education Committee to agree.”

The proposed bill has bipartisan support, and has been co-sponsored by both deputy Republican minority leaders in the House and Senate, where the bill now has to head for a vote. Osten said she was hoping for the bill’s passing “as soon as possible.”

“I’m hoping that it passes quickly,” she said. Quirion added the bill – and the awareness it would provide – was “huge,” and if such a bill had been in place when her own son was younger, his dyslexia may have been detected earlier.

Quirion said “having that information, providing those resources and knowledge to teachers is extremely beneficial in early education” she said.

Quirion was also quoted in Osten’s release, where she stated that “early assessments will lead to early identification, which is key to a dyslexic student’s success. Without early identification our bright, creative, social and caring children are feeling lazy, dumb, anxious and stupid.”

Quirion added this week she hoped this was just the beginning of the dyslexia conversation.

“I think that this year is the start of the conversation and there are many things that we look forward to accomplishing for our dyslexic students,” she said. “The key for them and their success is early identification and early intervention.”

Quirion concluded Osten’s work and the bill were “positive steps forward.”

For resources or more information on Decoding Dyslexia-CT, visit decodingdyslexia.org, or follow the group on Twitter @ddyslexia.

Blue Ribbon cont. from Front Page

who want the very best for their children and our community which supports our endeavors tirelessly. As all schools work to establish a culture and climate where students feel safe and secure, we take pride in knowing that appropriate and calculated risk taking is encouraged in every classroom.”

Giegerich explained that the PMS teachers meet daily to plan and integrate interdisciplinary activities and that students raise money and awareness for: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; their adopted orphan, Sebastien, in Haiti; their local soup kitchen; and other annually selected charities based on student input.

He also noted some of PMS’ “unique” programs, like its Entrepreneurs Program, which integrates the Family and Consumer Science students and Manufacturing/Technology Education students to select, design, manufacture, market and sell “Portland’s Own Products (POP).” He explained that the school has a bi-annual POP Expo, which brings the community into the school where students vend their products. The profits are then redistributed to a

charitable cause.

Giegerich concluded in his essay that PMS has been recognized by CONNCAN and the Connecticut Department of Education for its outstanding academic achievements on the CMT.

Though the PMS Blue Ribbon nomination was based mostly on test results for the 2012-13 CMTs, to meet final eligibility, it also must meet the state’s Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements in the 2013-2014 school year.

All nominated public schools must make AYP in each of the two years prior to nomination (2011-12 and 2012-13), as well as the year in which they are nominated (2013-14).

AYP is determined at the end of the year based on each year’s CMT results. Essentially, Giegerich explained, if PMS makes AYP at the end of the current school year, then it should be named a Blue Ribbon School.

Giegerich affirmed that AYP results for the current 2013-14 school year are due to come out in September.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It’s been a brutally long winter this year; the snow thankfully seemed to dissipate after February, but the cold hung on, with high temperatures earlier this week – the last week in March, mind you – unable to escape the low 30s. If the weather goes according to forecast, things will warm up this weekend, and then next Monday, comes a real sign hotter days are on the way.

Baseball will be back.

Okay, yeah, technically the season started last weekend, as Major League Baseball somewhat strangely decided to have two teams play a few games in Australia. But for the rest of baseball, the season starts next week – and I’m quite happy to welcome the Boys of Summer back. The manager of my Mets has set a goal of 90 wins this season; it’s a rather lofty goal considering the team hasn’t even finished .500 since 2008. But it’ll be fun to see if he can get them there.

Speaking of the Mets, I plan to return to Citi Field for around a dozen games this season, as I do every summer. Having not seen the place since last fall, I’m anxious to go for a walk around – and, me being me, to check out the new eats on the ballpark menus.

The Arizona Diamondbacks made headlines last week when they unveiled their newest addition to the concession stand: the D-Bat Dog, an 18-inch corn dog stuffed with cheddar cheese, jalapenos and bacon, and served with a side of fries. In case you’re wondering, the concoction – which, to be honest, doesn’t even sound that good, but mainly because I’m not a big fan of corn dogs – costs \$25.

Believe it or not, that’s not the single most expensive hot dog in the majors. ESPN reports the \$25 threshold was crossed in 2012, when the Texas Rangers unveiled the Broomstick, a two-foot-long hot dog smothered in chili, nacho cheese, jalapenos and onions. Cost is \$26 – not including a roll or two of Tums.

As for the Diamondbacks, not only are they launching the D-Bat Dog, they’re bringing back two fan favorite sausage specials: a Venom Dog, which is a footlong habanero sausage topped with black beans, guacamole, pico de gallo and sour cream, and costs \$10; and the Sonoran Dog, a hot dog wrapped in mesquite-smoked bacon with pico, beans and mayo, and sells for \$7.

While not everything on the Diamondbacks’ menu may be up my culinary alley, I have to give them points for creativity.

I recently came across a list on the website BuzzFeed of “77 facts that sound like huge lies but they are completely true.” While I sometimes am a little wary of such “awesome facts!” list, as the facts are often not all that awesome, I have to admit a lot of these are pretty interesting. While I won’t share all 77, I thought I’d relay some of them:

The YKK on your zipper stands for “Yoshida Kogyo Kabushikigaisha.”

Maine is the closest U.S. state to Africa.

Anne Frank, Martin Luther King Jr. and Barbara Walters were all born in the same year, 1929.

The toy Barbie’s full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

Carrots were originally purple.

The heart of a blue whale is so big, a hu-

man can swim through the arteries.

Vending machines are twice as likely to kill you than a shark is.

Home Alone was released closer to the moon landing than it was to today.

Not once in the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme does it mention that he’s an egg.

France was still executing people with a guillotine when the first *Star Wars* film came out.

Betty White is actually older than sliced bread.

The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland.

A strawberry isn’t a berry but a banana is – and so are avocados and watermelon.

There are more fake flamingos in the world than real flamingos.

Nintendo was founded as a trading card company back in 1889.

The last time the Chicago Cubs won the baseball World Series, the Ottoman Empire still existed; Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii and New Mexico were not yet states, and women did not have the right.

John Tyler, the 10th president of the United States, has a grandson who’s alive today.

Humans share 50 percent of their DNA with bananas.

The difference in time between when Tyrannosaurus Rex and Stegosaurus lived is greater than the difference in time between Tyrannosaurus Rex and now.

Pluto never made a full orbit around the sun from the time it was discovered to when it was declassified as a planet.

There are more stars in space than there are grains of sand on every beach on Earth.

And there’s enough water in Lake Superior to cover all of North and South America in one foot of water.

For every human on Earth there are approximately 1.6 million ants. The total weight of all those ants is approximately the same as the total weight of all the humans on Earth.

One in every 5,000 babies is born with a condition known as “imperforate anus.” This means the baby is born without an anus and has to have one created manually in the hospital.

You can’t hum while holding your nose.

It rains diamonds on Saturn and Jupiter.

If a piece of paper were folded 42 times, it would reach to the moon.

If you dug a hole to the center of the Earth and dropped a book down, it would take 42 minutes to reach the bottom.

Every two minutes, we take more pictures than all of humanity in the 19th century.

Peanuts are not nuts. They grow in the ground, so they are legumes.

There are more atoms in a glass of water than glasses of water in all the oceans on Earth.

The probability of you drinking a glass of water that contains a molecule of water that also passed through a dinosaur is almost 100 percent.

At the time the current oldest person on Earth was born, there was a completely different set of human beings on the planet – and at the time you were born, you were briefly the youngest person in the entire world.

See you next week.

Colchester Town, School Budgets Head to Public Hearings

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Finance last week voted to send the town and school proposed budgets that total \$53.64 million to public hearings scheduled for next week.

The 2014-15 fiscal year spending packages result in a combined increase of 2.92 percent over the current fiscal year, which is down from the initial 3.72 increase presented at the beginning of March.

Both budgets are to be voted on separately at referendum May 6. Through budget discussions, the school budget was trimmed by \$220,000, while the town operations budget featured cuts of \$298,000.

The school budget stands at \$40,180,795, which is an increase of 2.83 percent, or \$1,104,741 over the current fiscal year while town operations totals \$13,767,042, an increase of 2.99 percent, or up \$617,192, over the current year.

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov explained the total tax warrant – or the amount of the budget that the mill rate is based on – totals \$37,683,494. He continued that estimated revenue totals \$16,559,166, with a majority of that, or \$14.4 million, relative to the school district.

The budgets as they stand now cause the mill rate to climb .88 mills, from the current rate of 30.28 to 31.16. This means a resident with a home valued at \$150,000 would pay \$7,990 in taxes on it, up from the \$7,570 currently paid.

Debt stands at \$1,972,866 and transfers/capital totals \$750,678.

Tarlov said the budget reductions were made per the finance board's request of having less than a 3 percent combined increase over the current year. Tarlov said this week that if a person was paying \$5,000 per year in taxes, a 2 percent budget increase would amount to an extra \$100 in the tax bill, whereas a 3 percent increase would translate to an extra \$150.

The largest increase in First Selectman Gregg Schuster's first draft of the budget was found in the public safety account. Some of the items that drove that increase, however, have since been cut. In recent weeks, Schuster has pre-

sented two lists of possible reductions, as well as a list that restored some of those reductions.

The possible cuts include a \$25,000 reduction caused by trimming the number of hours per week the fire marshal works; the elimination of a new police officer, at a cost savings of \$39,000; and the elimination of third shift police coverage in the summer months, at \$23,000.

Funding for the creation of a strategic plan for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department was also eliminated from Schuster's proposed town operations budget. That produced a savings of \$10,000.

A substance abuse counselor, at a cost of \$11,200, in the Youth and Social Services Department, was also on Schuster's list of cuts. The position has existed and has been funded through a grant, which is set to expire in the fall, Tarlov explained.

A total of non-union raises to employees receiving a salary were also cut throughout various departments, which causes a reduction of over \$18,000.

However, some selectmen and finance board members have questioned these proposed reductions. According to meeting minutes posted at colchesterct.gov, one Board of Finance member questioned the cut to the funding of the strategic plan, which was initially included in the budget based upon a recommendation that came from the Fire Department Task Force earlier this year.

Another cut that raised questions was the elimination of the substance abuse counselor. At a March 20 selectmen meeting, selectwoman Rosemary Coyle told Schuster she would "love to restore" that position in the budget. She also advocated reversing the reduction in hours of the fire marshal, and the cut to non-union raises. Schuster responded by saying his proposed cuts weren't easy decisions, and that he would "keep delving into [the budget] and see what we can move around."

Finance board members also last week discussed the possibility of restoring the additional police officer initially added to next year's bud-

get. The officer would have served as the first step taken to achieve the goal of 24/7 local police coverage. Tarlov said the finance board, Police Commission and members of the police department will begin meeting to discuss the future possibilities of making this happen.

On the Board of Education side, the \$220,000 in proposed cuts, presented earlier this month, included reductions in the funding of materials, technology, professional development, and the most cost savings were produced by cuts to staff. Reductions in staff members have resulted in differing of opinions from citizens in town meetings, with a majority yearning for maintaining small class sizes.

The largest proposed school budget cut was a \$53,813 expense of one guidance counselor at Bacon Academy. Additionally, a full-time kindergarten teacher, at \$49,596, was included in the cuts, along with reductions of a .4 math teacher, a .4 English teacher, and a .4 social studies teacher, all from Bacon Academy, at a savings of \$19,405 per teacher.

Technology cuts include the elimination of \$18,000 of Technology Thin Client labs at each of the four Colchester schools, and to instead fund those through a technology grant. Funding for AP testing was reduced by \$14,580, meaning students would now have to pay for a portion of the tests if that is indeed approved.

The reductions also featured \$8,000 from the funding of server racks, and other, smaller cuts were made by reducing the number of projector bulbs and projectors requested, English reading materials at the William J. Johnston Middle School and minor trims to professional development.

Tarlov confirmed both entities – town and school district – were requested by the finance board to produce budgets that would result in less than a 3 percent increase combined. Now at 2.92 percent overall, Tarlov said this week the numbers are "certainly much better than what we started with."

Of course, Tarlov admitted, "Every cut im-

pacts somebody," adding the goal of the finance board is to "try to balance the need for desired services and the ability and desire to pay the tax increase."

As it does every year, the town conducted a budget survey, where residents could give their opinions on fiscal matters. Tarlov said this year's survey reeled in some interesting comments that gave finance members "a lot of insight." For starters, the chairman said he was surprised to see the largest group of respondents was the age category of 30-49 year olds. Additionally, the number of respondents nearly doubled, from 375 last year to more than 600.

The survey indicated respondents felt maintaining or increasing expenditures for road and facility maintenance was the number one priority on the town side – a response Tarlov felt may have been "a direct result of the recent talk of the middle school building project."

(A proposed renovation and expansion of William J. Johnston Middle School, which would have incorporated a senior center and community center for the town, was soundly defeated at referendum last year. A new building committee has since been formed, to discuss a new project solely involving the middle school.)

Funding for the fire department also seemed to be high in terms of priorities, while social services and government seemed to be the areas where respondents would support reductions.

On the school side, Tarlov said survey results showed academics continued to be the top priority, and recalled that facilities was the second "in terms of maintaining if not increasing those."

Next week's public hearings will be held on Monday and Tuesday night, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Votes from the finance and selectmen boards are anticipated to take place later in the week, which would determine which bottom line numbers of each budget will head to a town meeting.

Colchester Seeks Grant for Open Space

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen last week approved applying for a state grant that would allow the town to purchase open space once occupied by a lifelong resident of the town.

The land, located at 144 McDonald Rd., was formerly owned by Stanley Moroch, a well-known resident who passed away last year.

Moroch wore many hats in town, from town historian, tree warden, head custodian at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, and was a member of several boards and commissions, including the Colchester Historical Society, Bacon Academy Board of Trustees and Colchester Grange No. 78.

Town Planner Adam Turner attended last week's selectmen meeting and told the board he had walked the property with Moroch prior to his death last January. When he passed away,

Turner said, Moroch's children offered the property to the town.

The property is about 10 acres with an estimated price of \$85,000, Turner said. It would be purchased through money available through the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program.

Approximately every 12-18 months the state makes money available to municipalities to purchase open space, Turner explained. The planner continued there are various categories for water sheds, or other kinds of areas in towns. Purchasing Moroch's property would expand one of the existing holdings the town already owns.

"I think it's a good strategy anytime a piece is available to us that we continue to expand," Turner said. "That's really our focal point."

The 10 acres includes two streams and gives access off of Dutton Road, Turner furthered.

Turner did not go into specifics but said there were other projects looked at, but Moroch's property "scored the highest." In addition to knowing Moroch during his life, Turner said he "always wanted to work with the family."

The unanimous vote allows the grant to be applied for.

Also at last Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting, the board agreed upon the process it would take to fill the position of the tax collector.

The position has been vacant since Feb. 28, shortly after the town approved a separation agreement with Tricia Coblentz, who had resigned from the position after more than six years in office. The town charter states it is up

to the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacancy.

The board unanimously agreed to name itself a personnel search committee, which would hold a meeting to review applications. The committee would then select which applicants to be interviewed in open session. Applicants chosen would then be interviewed publicly during selectmen meetings, and a candidate would ultimately be hired by the board.

Schuster explained to fellow members that if the board wishes to seek outside opinions, such as other department heads in Town Hall, that it can be decided in the future as the process moves along.

The position was advertised Monday and the application deadline is Monday, April 7.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Colchester Finance Board Approves Appropriations

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Finance unanimously approved two appropriations at its March 19 meeting – one to cover an expense of the town, and the other to be utilized by the school district.

The town's appropriation totaled \$3,900. It was a request from First Selectman Gregg Schuster to fund a Feasibility of Improvements Study for the Paper Mill Road Bridge.

The request comes from a recent report from the state Department of Transportation, which is responsible for checking the status of municipality bridges. In 2013, Paper Mill Road over Jeremy River was downgraded to a rating of "poor," according to a memo sent from Town Engineer Salvatore Tassone to the Board of Selectmen dated Feb. 7.

The DOT recommended a sign be posted at the bridge, indicating a load limit of 20-30 tons. According to the memo, the signs have already been purchased and posted as recommended.

However, the bridge report further recommended repairs to the bridge because of its "significant section loss due to rust/corrosion." The DOT recommended the town engage in services from an engineering firm, who would "determine the best course of action at this structure."

The \$3,900 covers the lump sum fee for the study, which is to be conducted by Anchor En-

gineering Services, Inc. The appropriation will come out of the fund balance and into the professional services line item within the budget.

The second appropriation approved totaled \$41,580, and is to be utilized by the Board of Education. The appropriation is an annual procedure, in which the district's unexpended funds from the previous year's budget are returned. The funds are then "always used towards capital purchases we need to make," said Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein.

The appropriation will go to the Board of Education Capital Reserve; of it, \$12,750 will go towards the purchase of evacuation chairs at Bacon Academy. Goldstein explained these chairs are used to transport students who are mobility-impaired down the stairs in the case of an emergency.

"We've known for some time that we needed to get these purchased," Goldstein said this week. "So the time was right to do it now."

The remainder of the appropriation will go into the reserve, Goldstein explained, "and then over the course of the year we'll have funds available to pay for other capital items that come up."

Police Respond to Colchester Town Hall Incident

by Melissa Roberto

Local and state police responded to Town Hall Wednesday, March 12, for a disturbance from a man up in arms about his taxes.

At what Colchester Resident Trooper Joseph Mercer believed to be "around 10 a.m.," resident Dennis Palmer Sr. was a "bit too overzealous for standards one would have in a government building."

Mercer said the disturbance began in the tax office at Town Hall before Palmer made

his way to First Selectman Gregg Schuster's office.

The incident did not involve any violence, but Schuster said staff in the tax office felt concerned enough with the behavior to activate internal security measures, which prompted the police response.

Schuster said the police had caught up with Palmer in his office. Mercer said he was issued an infraction for creating a public disturbance.

Fuel Spill at Colchester Condo Complex

by Melissa Roberto

Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to a fuel spill in a parking lot of a local condo complex last Friday, March 21.

Fire officials said the spill came from a saddle tank that had fallen off of a garbage truck in the Westchester Hills condominium complex located off of Route 149. The tank was leaking diesel fuel.

CHFD was notified at 9:05 a.m., and was the first to arrive on the scene. The department then notified the Public Works Depart-

ment, which addressed the spill with a sand truck and application to the driveway, and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

A company called Crop Environmental was on site and vacuumed the pooled fuel that spilled and applied SpeedyDry.

There were no injuries as a result of the spill, the fire department said. The fire department cleared the scene in about 30 minutes.

Hebron Selectmen Send Town Govt. Budget to Finance Board

by Geeta Schrayter

The boards of selectmen and finance held a hearing Tuesday to collect feedback from the public on the proposed general government budget for 2014-15. But said public was non-existent: the boards faced a room of empty chairs.

And so, they quickly moved to discussion of the budget numbers, which resulted in some changes and the eventual unanimous recommendation by the selectmen to forward the budget to the finance board for review.

The board examined a number of recommendations for both additions and reductions to the proposed budget, which amounted to \$8,692,656.

On the reduction side, the selectmen decided to remove \$30,000 from the \$60,000 included for emergency work at the Peters House. The \$60,000 was to repair the HVAC system for \$32,482, replace a middle beam in the basement for \$11,500 and work on the plumbing for \$15,295.

Selectman Jeff Watt explained the \$30,000 would allow for the work on the plumbing and the beam in the basement to be completed.

"The basement is definitely the biggest issue," said Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan.

However, the HVAC system was also considered important. Larson explained "heat helps stabilize the building and helps keep it from deteriorating more."

But Mulligan mentioned the weather would soon warm up, so heat wouldn't be immediately necessary.

Watt furthered "my feeling is, we've always said [to the Historic Properties Commission]

to kind of work with grants but in time of emergency to come and see us. I think \$30,000 gets us started. Like Gayle said, we're getting closer to spring and summer."

Tierney said those involved would also be looking into fundraising and acquiring donations.

Another reduction was listed in the amount of \$15,000 intended for a Dial-a-Ride van for the Russell Mercier Senior Center. Tierney explained that "at this point they're feeling they don't really need another van" and a car would do instead. And so, Tierney said, the town was planning to get a hybrid car for the center, which was possible since the town was recently approved for a grant to install an electric vehicle car charging station in town.

Since that grant was approved, the town now qualifies for another grant which will cover half the cost of an electric vehicle. The original intention was for the car to be used by the assessor's office, but Tierney explained the assessor stays in town while the senior center vehicles go out of the zip code. As a result, the car that's currently being used by the senior center will be given to the assessor, and the hybrid car will go to the senior center, since it will be more economical.

Board of Finance Chairman Malcolm Leichter called the arrangement "a great, great approach – very creative."

Other reductions included \$8,500 from Public Works; \$1,955 from heating fuel at the Douglas Library which should be less in the upcoming year once a new boiler is installed; and \$500 from mileage, which also ties into "the car shuffle" as Tierney called it, that would re-

sult in less personal car use by employees.

The selectmen were in agreement with all the reductions, which totaled \$55,955.

They were also in favor of the provided additions, which included \$23,736 for a part-time mechanic at the Public Works Department. Tierney said with only one mechanic, if anything breaks he has to stop what he's doing – like plowing in the winter – and return to fix it. Or, if he's on vacation there's no one to repair things. The part-time mechanic would help with smaller tasks like oil changes and other things "that keep getting pushed back, to keep things up to snuff."

Another \$2,500 addition was recommended for the Salmon River Watershed.

"We're one of the largest contributors and are consistently one of the smallest monetarily," Tierney stated. "Now we can hang our heads high if this gets through."

"We doubled that to get to the amount we should be at," Mulligan added.

Further additions included \$1,000 for the Citizens Green Committee for promotional purposes; \$1,500 to fund more adult programming at the Douglas Library along with \$225 for an online subscription to Jobs Now; and \$1,000 for a subscription to ePanic, an emergency notification system.

The additions totaled \$29,736. Combined with the above decreases, the town budget dropped \$26,219, which lowered the overall increase from the current year's budget to \$338,047 or 4.06 percent.

As a result of Tuesday's meeting, the selectmen decided the town budget was ready to be

forwarded to the Board of Finance for review.

"I think we're going in the right direction but we're still being prudent," said Watt. "I think we should approve this and pass it on."

Selectman Brian O'Connell felt similarly. "I'm comfortable with the numbers we've gone through – very much so," he said, adding "I think we had good deliberations and I'd like to see it move forward."

Mulligan said she felt the board was being responsible, while supporting town services.

"I think we support all of the programs that we offer and I think it's a really prudent, thorough budget and I fully support all of the changes. I think it should pass," she said. "I think the public should be accepting of this budget."

Larson added, "I think we've done what the voters have asked us: to be prudent, fiscally responsible and think outside the box."

And with that, the selectmen unanimously voted to recommend a town budget for fiscal year 2014-15 to the Board of Finance of \$8,328,393 which is a 4.06 percent increase over the current year and includes \$6,814,960 for town government, a \$642,114 contribution to Capital Improvement, a \$125,000 contribution to Open Space, a \$10,000 contribution to Capital Non-recurring items, a \$34,000 contribution to Capital Projects between \$5-25,000, \$50,000 for the next revaluation and \$963,364 for debt services.

The Board of Finance will now meet to discuss the budget. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the town office building.

East Hampton Council Forms Town Facilities Evaluation Committee

by Elizabeth Bowling

The Town Council Tuesday formed a committee tasked with evaluating town facilities, and also confirmed the purchase of a new tanker for the town fire department, which had been approved at a town meeting the night before.

Initially, the council had proposed forming of a town facilities building committee to delve into the matter of relocating town facilities like the Police Department and Town Hall.

But at Tuesday's meeting, the council voted unanimously to hold off on a building committee and instead form a town facilities evaluation committee, which would "sunset" on Sept. 30, according to vice chairman of the council Kevin Reich.

The approved resolution for the evaluation committee calls for a total of nine members to be appointed by the Town Council.

According to the resolution, those members are: "one member of the Town Council, one member of the Board of Finance, one member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, one member of the Board of Education and five members of the public who demonstrate knowledge of building, design, architecture, engineering or other related fields."

The resolution further states that the purpose of the evaluation committee is to "review all town facilities and the 2005-08 Friar report [a feasibility study that advocated upgrading town facilities];" "request funds for the development of formal plans;" "review all possible options for solving the facility challenges in East Hampton;" "develop a plan for solving the issues of space, quality and efficiency with the intent to increase services to residents including cost and designs;" and "report findings to the Board of Finance and Town Council by Sept. 30, 2014."

Reich explained to the council that once the six-month reviewing period is up, the committee would present its finding to the council so the council "could then review and then consider moving forward with a building committee based on a direction."

"We really do have a host of plans out there that we've been reviewing," Reich said, thus

making the formation of an evaluation committee more logical than that of a building committee "since we don't know what we're building."

Councilman George Pfaffenbach said, "I think it's a great idea."

Council member Mark Philhower agreed. "I like having a date," he said of the six-month timeframe. "Let's do it. Let's get it done."

Reich suggested that the council could advertise in the newspaper that it is accepting applications from members of the public "with certain expertise" in the coming three weeks. Once applications have been sent in to the council, its members would conduct interviews with the candidates.

Reich went on to call the five members of the public to be appointed to the evaluation committee "crucial to the success of this project."

* * *

The council voted unanimously on several other action items at its meeting Tuesday – including confirming the purchase of a new tanker truck for the East Hampton Fire Department, which residents of the town voted in favor of the day prior.

At a town meeting held Monday night at East Hampton Middle School, residents in attendance voted unanimously in favor of purchasing an approximately \$250,000 front-line tanker truck for the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

The new tanker will replace a tanker from the early 1980s that reached the end of its useful life and was taken out of service last year.

According to a news release from James Burke, the Fire Department's public information officer, the new tanker will be stationed at EHF Company No. 2 in Cobalt and the tanker currently stationed there will be relocated to Company No. 3 on White Birch Road. The tanker currently at Company No. 1 on Barton Hill Road will remain there.

Burke concluded, "This planned movement

of apparatus will enable the Fire Department to maximize the position and utilization of its available equipment to enhance the fire protection services provided across the entire town."

The council also unanimously approved the lowest qualified bidder – Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing, Inc. – to resurface the tennis courts at East Hampton High School and Sears Park.

According to the resolution, the resurfacing project is not to exceed \$27,000 (\$18,000 has been allocated to the high school courts and \$9,000 to the Sears Park courts) and funding is set to come out of the Capital Improvement fund.

* * *

The council also discussed the development of a Veteran's Advisory Committee for the town of East Hampton. Town Manager Mike Maniscalco explained that such a committee would "help individuals when they return from war to re-acclimate in getting themselves back into civilian life."

The resolution stated that a town employee should act as that liaison.

Regardless, East Hampton resident Ann McLaughlin spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting to recommend the council appoint Board of Finance member Ted Turner (who is not a town employee) to a Veteran's Advisory Committee if it were to be developed.

"He does it anyway," McLaughlin said. "He does everything for the veterans; whenever there's a problem he's right there."

She concluded, "I think he'll do a great job."

The council did not take action on the matter Tuesday, but will look into it further at its next meeting.

The council also discussed the development of a library board, based on an interest from the general public.

Maniscalco said, "We currently have an advisory board for the Parks and Rec. Department, we have the Commission on Aging for the Se-

nior Center, and it might make sense to develop something for the library as a place for public input."

He furthered that the library director is "interested" in the development of an advisory board.

Melissa Jones, an East Hampton resident who is also interested in developing a library board, addressed the council during a public comment portion of Tuesday's meeting.

"I just think that we need a group that advocates for the library because I think it's getting lost in this town," Jones said. "I don't know if you've been in the library lately, but it's a pretty sad-looking library. I don't think that the physical plan has been kept up the way it should be. It's rather depressing to walk in there."

She furthered that the purpose of the board would be to help examine what the role of the library should be to the town.

But the discussion led council members to wonder how many boards are currently in place in town, and whether they should continue to add boards.

Philhower said he'd like to see the number of boards in East Hampton compared to other, similar towns.

No action was taken on the development of a library board Tuesday.

* * *

With spring finally here – according to the calendar, anyway – Maniscalco took a couple minutes Tuesday to update the council on the Department of Public Works' winter overview.

He said that according to the public works director, Phil Sissick, there were savings of about \$56,000 this winter as a result of using some treated salt rather than all treated salt.

Maniscalco said of Sissick, "I think he needs to be commended for trying to find savings and making those savings."

* * *

The next regularly-scheduled Town Council meeting is Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

East Hampton Names Woman ‘Good Samaritan’

by Elizabeth Bowling

Corri Noble Cummings of Colchester was named a “Good Samaritan” in East Hampton earlier this month, for her heroic attempt to save someone’s life last fall.

Noble Cummings, a psychology student at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, previously lived in East Hampton, and has lived in Colchester for the past three years. She is the mother of two: a 5-year-old stepdaughter named Arianna, and a 2-year-old son, Riley.

Noble Cummings, 29, recalled the incident for which she was named “Good Samaritan” in an interview this week.

She said she had just left her mother’s house on Comstock Trail in East Hampton at around 3 p.m. one day last November. She had only driven about a quarter- to a half-mile down the road – she was traveling on Sillimanville Road – when she pulled her car over.

“I saw something on the side of the road,” she said. “As I got closer and closer, I realized it was a person and I stopped.”

Noble Cummings approached the 29-year-old East Hampton woman, Antonina Soriano, who was lying unresponsive in the grass on the side of the road. Noble Cummings said it was obvious the woman had been out jogging.

Noble Cummings’ husband, David, had been driving behind his wife in a separate car and, she recalled, “I got out and yelled for him to call 911.”

While David Cummings was on the phone

with 911, a third car stopped and the driver “put a blanket over [Soriano],” Noble Cummings said.

David Cummings stayed on the phone with the dispatcher, who asked if anyone at the scene knew how to administer CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Unfortunately, no one did. The dispatcher then asked if someone would be willing to administer CPR if he were to talk them through it.

“I said, ‘Of course,’” Noble Cummings said.

Asked how long she performed CPR on the woman, Noble Cummings said, “It seemed like forever,” but her husband had told her it actually lasted about 10 minutes.

After those 10 minutes, two police officers arrived on the scene. By that time, “it seemed like she was gasping for air,” Noble Cummings said – adding that she didn’t know whether that was a good or bad sign.

Ultimately, Soriano was flown by Lifestar to Hartford Hospital and “they were able to keep her stable in a coma for about a week” before she passed away, Noble Cummings said.

Soriano, of Comstock Trail, died from a rare heart failure at Hartford Hospital, according to her obituary.

Noble Cummings said, “I shed more tears for her than I did for some of my family members.” She furthered that’s because the woman’s death “hit close to home” – both women were 29, married, and had two children, Noble Cummings explained.

“I couldn’t imagine not being here to raise my children,” she said. “I just feel so bad for the family and her kids.”

Noble Cummings called Soriano’s death “a tragic accident” and “terrible.”

The Good Samaritan Proclamation, presented to Noble Cummings by the East Hampton Town Council at its March 11 meeting, stated that the recipient “went above and beyond, acting in good faith to assist a citizen in need.”

Noble Cummings is the first official “Good Samaritan” for the town of East Hampton, but the council plans to continue the naming of a “Good Samaritan.” Each “Good Samaritan” will have a plaque put up on the wall at Town Hall; Noble Cummings has earned the first wall space.

Regarding the special presentation earlier this month, Noble Cummings said, “I definitely appreciate the town doing that and acknowledging me and honoring me.”

But she was modest, saying, “Anybody would have done that. I just wish it had turned out differently.”

She added that receiving the honor would have meant more to her if Soriano had survived to be there when the Town Council presented Noble Cummings with the award to say, “Thank you, you saved my life,” Noble Cummings said solemnly.



Corri Noble Cummings, pictured here, was named a “Good Samaritan” by the Town Council at its meeting March 11. The Colchester resident earned the title when she gave CPR to a woman lying on the side of road last November.

East Hampton High School Drama Club Presents ‘Grease’

by Elizabeth Bowling

The East Hampton High School auditorium will be transformed to fictional Rydell High next weekend, as the EHHS drama club puts on its spring show, *Grease*.

For the past three months, the club has been working hard at its production of the hit Broadway and movie musical. And Rachel Mansfield, the show’s director, is particularly excited about putting on the show.

This is just Mansfield’s second year as director of the EHHS Drama Club, but the veteran of the local non-profit Young People’s Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) has about 20 years of directing experience – and specifically has directed adaptations of *Grease* twice before.

Mansfield said her favorite aspect of the EHHS’ production of *Grease* is that the actors get to play characters that are the same age as them.

“I just love kids playing kids,” she said, noting that the students “really connect with their characters.”

She added, “They can relate to the story of these teens and that’s a lot of fun to watch.”

And the story of these teens is one that’s been around for quite some time now. The musical made its Broadway debut in 1972, and eventually ran for eight years, being translated along the way into a hit movie adaptation in 1978. The show takes audiences back to the late 1950s and fictional Rydell High, where a group of bad boys known as the T-Birds get their kicks by working on cars, falling in love and dancing – with their female counterparts, the rebellious Pink Ladies, at their side.

The plot focuses around Sandy and Danny – parts made famous in the movie adaptation by Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta, respectively – who meet and have a summer romance, only to part ways until it turns out Sandy is the

new girl at Danny’s high school. But now that school is back in session, Danny doesn’t want to ruin his bad boy reputation as the leader of the T-Birds by becoming Sandy’s sweetheart.

Sandy, a good girl at heart, is exposed to the world of the rebellious Pink Ladies and must decide if she’s willing to change herself to win over the man of her dreams.

The EHHS Drama Club, made up of about 40 cast members, will bring the plot and characters of *Grease* alive in just one short week. The group started rehearsals at the end of January, Mansfield affirmed.

“This group is so much fun,” she said. “They’re really willing to just go for it.”

She said this show in particular has “some really fun dances.”

Some of those dances were choreographed by EHHS senior Jenna Cordeiro, who has been performing in shows since she was 3 years old.

The experienced actress/singer/dancer took on two roles for this year’s drama club production. First, she’s playing Marty, a Pink Lady. Second, she’s choreographing half the show. (Jen Friday choreographed the other half, but could not take on the role of full-time choreographer, Cordeiro explained).

Cordeiro was responsible for choreographing a handful of *Grease* classics, including: “Greased Lightning,” “Summer Lovin’,” “You’re the One That I Want” and “We Go Together.”

Asked what her biggest challenge was as choreographer, Cordeiro said, “There’s a lot of people and they have to all fit together on the stage and you want to feature everyone.”

The 18-year-old furthered that the task was “difficult at times, but very fun.”

She said her favorite part of rehearsals has been working with the boys who play the T-Birds.

“They surprised me,” she said. “They have a

ton of energy and are so into it. They inspire me.”

Regarding the production of *Grease* in general, Cordeiro said, “I think it’s a great show; it’s a classic. It’s very upbeat and fun.”

Another EHHS senior, Shayla Belanger, 17, plays Sandy. She said her favorite aspect of the character is “her innocence. She’s sweet.”

This is Belanger’s second year in the EHHS drama club but she’s been involved in YPCCA for five years.

Regarding her theater experience, she said, “I’ll always be involved with it. I love it.”

The female lead said she’s “so excited” and “a little bit” nervous about her upcoming performances – and said the choreography is her biggest challenge.

The EHHS senior said she really enjoyed this year’s drama club production. Specifically, “I love the cast. They’re all such great people,” she said, noting that her castmates are “like a family.”

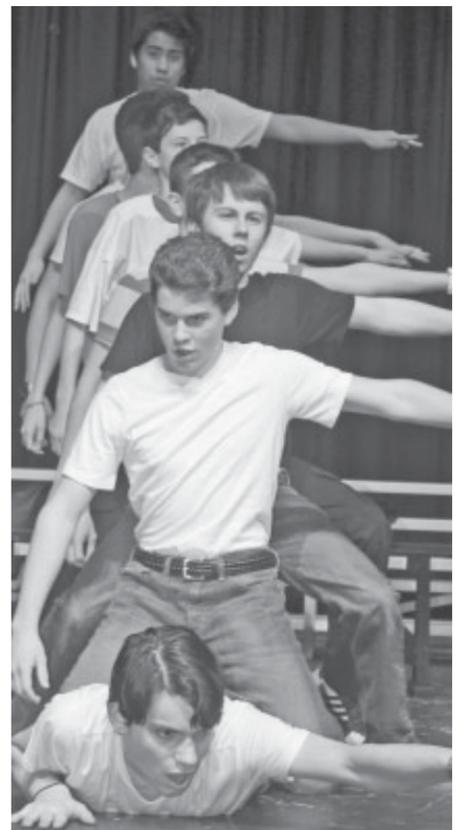
Sandy’s love interest, Danny, will be played by 15-year-old Lucas Gerolami. The EHHS sophomore said this is his first time playing a lead character and filling John Travolta’s shoes is a huge challenge because “he has a lot of range in his voice.”

Gerolami also said regarding getting the part of Danny, “I feel really humbled by it.”

The male lead said his favorite thing about his character is “how full of himself he is. He’s really a fun character.”

He said his favorite thing about putting on this show, like Belanger, has been “working with the cast.”

Grease will hit the EHHS auditorium stage Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door – \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors.



The T-Birds – from top, Hunter Brazal, Jacob Gagliastri, Adam Eurbin, Alex Curylo, Alex Devin, Matt Cote and, on floor, Lucas Gerolami – perform “Greased Lightning” during rehearsals recently.

East Hampton Town Manager Proposes \$41.38 Million Budget

by Elizabeth Bowling

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco presented the Town Council and Board of Finance with an approximately \$41.38 million budget proposal earlier this month for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Maniscalco's proposed spending package totals \$41,379,166 and includes the Board of Education budget, the town operations budget, transfers to other funds, and debt service. It is a 5.46 percent – or \$2,141,191 – increase over the current year's \$39,237,975 budget.

The proposed budget features a mill rate of 28.18, up from the current year's 26.63. This means that a home assessed at \$150,000 would be charged \$4,227 in taxes, up from the \$3,994 charged to it now.

According to Maniscalco's proposal, approximately 70 percent of the overall town budget goes toward education; about 25 percent goes to town operations; approximately 3 per-

cent to debt services; and the final approximately 2 percent goes to operating transfers.

The Board of Education voted forward a \$28,707,560 budget for the 2014-15 school year, which is a 4.27 percent or \$1,176,697 increase from the current year.

The proposed town operations budget for 2014-15 is \$10,109,455 – a 3.85 percent or \$374,536 increase over current year spending.

The town operations budget is broken down into: "salaries and wages," "employee benefits," "professional services," "purchased services," "supplies and equipment," "dues, fees and other" and "contingency."

The "salaries and wages" line item calls for approximately \$4.45 million, which is a 2.05 percent increase from the current year; "employee benefits" comes in at approximately \$2.50 million, or a 6.17 percent increase; "pro-

fessional services" is set at a proposed approximately \$605,000 for next year, a 5.09 percent increase from current year spending; "purchased services" at approximately \$1.28 million, a 7.84 percent increase; and "supplies and equipment" at approximately \$1.16 million, a 2.54 percent increase.

Other line items are proposed to see decreases. The "dues, fees and other" line item is shown to decrease by 12.39 percent from the current year and cost only approximately \$47,000. Similarly, the "contingency" line item is a proposed \$60,000, which is a 7.69 percent decrease from the current year.

The "transfers to other funds" portion of the town budget is a proposed \$1,262,471 (a 45.13 percent increase from this past year's approved budget), while the "debt service" portion of the budget is a proposed \$1,299,680 (a 17.91 per-

cent increase).

According to the town manager's budget report, the Oct. 1, 2013 Net Grand List total is \$1,134,825,289, which is a 0.65 percent increase over the October 2012 Grand List. The new Grand List growth is expected to generate approximately \$195,000 in new tax revenues, he said.

The Board of Finance is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the budget Monday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton High School library.

More information regarding the East Hampton town budget can be found by visiting easthamptonct.org and clicking on "2014-2015 Budget" under the "Quick Links" section of the page.

Troop K Back to 24/7 Coverage

by Geeta Schrayter

The recent consolidation of state police dispatch operations across Connecticut has resulted in police barracks, such as Troop K in Colchester, being closed at various times of day. This has drawn complaints from residents and even state lawmakers, who have argued that, for safety reasons, the barracks should be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

And this week, the new head of the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection said she agreed.

In a March 24 news release, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner Dora Schriro, who replaced Commissioner Rueben Bradford in January after he announced he would be retiring, said that "after careful review, I have determined that our state police barracks need to be open and accessible to the public 24/7."

Schriro furthered she had directed Eastern District Major Michael Darcy and Western District Major William Podgorski "to implement this plan, effective immediately."

Darcy said in the release, "This plan will afford all Connecticut residents the peace of mind that comes with knowing their troop is open and immediately available to them."

The decision to restore coverage comes as part of a review Schriro is currently conducting regarding the dispatch consolidations, which began in 2012. When first announced, the consolidation was described as being more efficient, would free troopers from the barracks and put them on the roads, and would yield cost savings (although the state has since backtracked from the "cost savings" part of the equation).

But as consolidation of dispatch operations began in the western part of the state, followed

last year by the consolidation of Troop K (which covers the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, Marlborough, Hebron and Andover), Troop D in Danielson and Troop E in Montville to Troop C in Tolland, questions arose as to whether or not those benefits were being realized.

State Rep. Linda Orange, D-Colchester, voiced her concerns at a conference held at Troop K last December. In addition to skepticism at the overall plan and its benefits, she explained she was concerned the consolidation put the public at risk, and mentioned there was a chance individuals who head to the barracks looking for a safe haven will find the doors locked.

As part of the consolidation, some troops began to close after business hours; and during the day a visitor could find the building empty if all of the troopers were out on a call. Blue call boxes had been installed that automatically transfer individuals to the appropriate dispatch center for assistance.

But Orange said this week the call boxes weren't the same thing.

"I was down [at Troop K] one evening and someone came in to do a child transfer because it's a safe place," she explained. "According to Col. [Danny] Stebbins that's not what troops are for – but yet it is, for various issues such as that. It's a safe haven. When you're in the lobby you're safe."

Orange went on to say she applauded Schriro for restoring coverage, explaining in the smaller towns, residents depended on the state police especially in the off hours.

With Schriro's arrival, Orange said things had "definitely gone in a positive direction" regarding the State Police.

Further consolidation has been suspended

until Schriro completes her review, at which point she'll brief Gov. Dannel P. Malloy on her findings and recommendations. Her actions – and her decision regarding the barracks – have been called positive steps by State Police Union President Sgt. Andrew Matthews, who has been against the consolidation from the beginning.

State Police Union leadership is "pretty happy about it," Matthews said. "We know that it will enhance public safety and the safety of our members."

Contrary to one of the advertised benefits, Matthews said the consolidation didn't always mean more troopers are on the road. The resulting empty barracks meant troopers needed to go back to assist if another member needed to process a prisoner. This took more time, he explained, and would take two troopers off the road instead of one.

"Now we'll have a trooper in the barracks to help [again] rather than pulling two off patrol, which was leaving us short on coverage," Matthews explained.

In addition, Matthews said there may not be enough coverage when troopers need to travel outside their area to process prisoners, which was a change under the consolidation. He also said response times had increased.

Matthews went on to say the union was "optimistic" about Schriro and the changes she would bring. He said Schriro had "exhausted herself" over the last two months trying to understand what the consolidation had done and how it affects public safety.

"This is just one step I think she's taking until her evaluation is complete," he said. "We really applaud her decision and give her a lot of credit."

Since she became commissioner, Matthews

said he'd met with her more than he had in three years with the previous commissioner.

"So she's not only speaking to leadership, she's speaking to the command staff and the men and women who are in the field every day," he explained. "She's a good leader and from what we've seen so far she's the right person for the job."

Although Matthews said he was happy union leadership was now being heard, he expressed disappointment it took two years and a new commissioner, and said everything could have been avoided if the union's concerns had been listened to from the beginning.

"We've been saying this for two years and we're happy because someone's listened to us," he said. "We could have avoided all this. ... It never should have gotten to the point where one or two people get to decide to close [barracks]."

But, Matthews reiterated, "We're fortunate to have [Schriro]. We're going to continue to work with her and we're hopeful that there'll be a reverse of the dispatch consolidation."

Orange felt similarly. "A full reversal would be just wonderful," she said. "I would be totally ecstatic."

But she added she thought it unlikely after she learned this week the dispatch equipment from the troops that had been consolidated – like Troop K – had been taken out of their respective barracks.

"It's yet to be seen [whether there will be a reversal] but it's a bad sign when good, solid equipment has been wasted," she said.

But reopening the barracks 24/7 "is a good first step," Orange said. "And I'm watching carefully what the second step is."

East Hampton Police News

3/11: David Whitehill, 58, of 1166 Gilead St., Hebron, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle and violation of emissions standards/periodic testing, East Hampton Police said.

3/11: David E. Martinoli, 31, of 93 Main St., Second Floor, was issued a ticket for possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana, police said.

3/11: Erich J. Hansen, 32, of 93 Main St., 2nd Floor was issued a summons for failure to

display front marker plate, operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle and misuse of a marker plate, police said.

3/13: a 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for illegal possession of a controlled substance, police said.

3/15: Arleigh Streich, 55, of 4A Bellevue St., was issued a summons for violation of exhaust emissions standards, drinking while driving and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

Marlborough Police News

3/17: State Police said Agnus McGuire, 33, of 7 Birchwood Dr., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and restricted turns.

3/23: State Police said a vehicle in the parking lot of the Moose Lodge on South Main Street had its front driver's side window smashed out. The Moose Lodge also had a window smashed. Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Jason Hickey at 860-465-5400 ext. 4077.

Colchester Police News

3/19: State Police said Kristopher Kahle, 30, of 85 Horse Pond Rd., Apt. 6, Salem, was charged with violation of a protective order.

3/19: State Police said Stephen Marion, 39, of 338 Lebanon Ave., was arrested for DUI.

3/19: State Police said William V. Depietro, 24, of 225 West High St., East Hampton, turned himself into Troop K on an active arrest warrant for first-degree failure to appear.

3/21: State Police said Brian Talaga, 31, of 23 Pine Hill St., Manchester, turned himself in on an active PRAWN warrant for second-de-

gree failure to appear.

3/21: State Police said Jacob Bellefleur, 22, of 272 Hartford Turnpike, Tolland, was charged with breach of peace and second-degree harassment.

3/22: Colchester Police said Frank Roche, 54, of 554 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

3/22: State Police said Edward S. Stolarz Jr., 58, of 9 Park Rd., Unit 1, was charged with disorderly conduct and reckless endangerment.

Portland Police News

3/19: Kelly Randazzo, 42, of 208 Gospel Lane, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

Hebron Police News

3/19: State Police said Aaron J. Blow, 20, of 200 Wall St., was arrested for third-degree burglary, fifth-degree larceny and second-degree criminal mischief.

RHAM School Board Continues Budget Discussions

by Geeta Schrayter

Members of the RHAM Board of Education headed to Andover Monday night to further their discussion on the proposed budget for 2014-15. As a result of the meeting, the budget saw some reductions – and an addition, too.

The changes brought the proposed spending package to \$27,274,485 for an increase of \$1,329,652 or 5.125 percent.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski provided the board with a list of proposed reductions totaling \$474,165. These included removing \$74,315 to work on the HVAC system in the science rooms and \$70,000 for a new hot water heater. Instead, Siminski said he would look to fund those projects with money received from a transportation grant which he said amounted to \$120-130,000 and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds for about \$20,000.

Also included in the proposed reductions was the postponement of track maintenance and repairs to the HVAC system in the media center, which totaled \$241,240. Rather than funding those in the budget Siminski said these items, as well as the installation of over 200 windows that are failing at the school and a traffic study, which is in response to the recent accident at the middle school where teacher Dawn Mallory was hit by a car, could be paid for by having a short-term note issued.

A number of smaller reductions were also proposed. These included reducing the requests for special education paraprofessionals from three to two, saving \$36,610; a reduction in the request for Spanish textbooks, amounting to \$17,500; and a reduction in technology for \$10,000.

After some discussion, Board of Education member Rich Jacobson made a motion to reduce the request for paraprofessionals. Member Ken Lee asked about the impact of that reduction, and Siminski said after speaking with special education director Eric Protulis the view was “the program should be able to go forward.”

Protulis explained at the meeting there was a process to determine how much staff was needed based on the current students who require special education and the incoming seventh-graders expected to require services.

“It will be hard going from three to two but I’m reasonably comfortable we will be able to do that,” he said, but added, “Again, it’s one of those things where I may come back at the beginning of the year and say we can’t do it.”

But that wasn’t good enough for school board member Dieter Zimmer.

“I would like to see the three positions standing as a placeholder because every year it’s a very sensitive line item because we never know what we’re getting,” he said.

To that, board member Kevin Williams said he understood the concern, “but we can only make decisions based on the information we have now ... We don’t have room in a budget we hope to get passed to have too much of a buffer in that number for ‘just in case.’”

The motion to reduce the request passed 8-1 with Zimmer voting against (Tom Tremont and Manny Catarino were absent from the meeting).

Also on the chopping block Monday was \$2,000 Siminski put in the budget to implement a Capital Fund. But rather than remove the item, some members were interested in increasing

that amount; Jacobson wanted to increase the line item to \$125,000, citing the work that needs to be done at the school.

“As we all know, we should have been funding this for many years and we’re stuck in a bad spot now because we haven’t been doing that,” he said. “We have to start putting money aside to do that.”

Board member Joe O’Connor furthered that point.

“This is a hard pill to swallow for everyone, including myself, but you’re robbing Peter to pay Paul,” he said. “This region, for 10 years, has not funded a nickel [for capital projects] and it’s poor business. We have to plan and that’s the reality. We can’t just keep kicking this can down the road – we all inherited this.”

O’Connor mentioned the failing windows and the HVAC systems and said “you can’t put a Band-Aid on these things anymore.”

“I want to send a strong message to the public that we cannot continue to do this,” he said. “This problem has to be addressed. These things need to be funded – and by the way this is only the tip of the iceberg.”

O’Connor said more things were bound to fail at the school and the board needed to start funding them. He mentioned E.O. Smith School budgeted \$200,000 for capital projects while “Siminski budgeted \$2,000 and people are giving him heartburn about that.”

But despite his words, Jacobson’s idea wasn’t agreeable to the rest of the board.

Next, two motions failed, as members attempted to approve some – but not all – of Siminski’s proposed reductions. This was soon

followed by a motion to approve the entire list, minus the paraprofessional reduction, which had already been approved. The motion passed 7-2, bringing the budget down to \$27,236,240, an increase of \$1,291,407, or 4.977 percent, over the current year’s budget.

That number was short lived however, as the board then voted 7-2 to add \$38,245 back in for the implementation of a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program at the school.

Member Judy Benson-Clarke called the addition “a wise decision.”

“I think it would be money well spent to start to think about building capacity, attracting kids and keeping local kids local instead of going to magnet schools,” she said.

Zimmer added he really wanted to see the STEM funds included.

“We may have to think of something else to cut, but it’s an important program to have in there,” he stated.

Like Benson-Clarke, Williams furthered, “The bottom line is that it provides the right services and programs but it also has the opportunity to counter students looking at magnet schools.”

“This is a program that needs to be protected,” added Holtsclaw.

The addition brings the budget, as it stands, back up to \$27,274,485 for an increase of \$1,329,652 or 5.125 percent.

Further discussion on the RHAM budget is scheduled for Monday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School chorus room.

Changes at Middle School After Accident

by Geeta Schrayter

A teacher remains in the hospital after she was hit by a car March 14, and back at RHAM Middle School, where the accident took place, work is underway to help ensure a similar incident doesn’t happen again.

Dawn Mallory, 65, of Groton, who has taught seventh and eighth grade math at the school since 1997, was walking through the parking lot around 7 a.m. when she was struck by a vehicle.

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said this week from what he knew, the driver, Elizabeth Everett, 50, of Hebron, “was in a place where there are only school buses and she realized she was in the wrong place and tried to correct what she did.”

In doing so, Everett backed up and ran into Mallory.

“I didn’t see the car but I’m told that the back of the car was dented” as a result of the accident, Siminski furthered.

Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain. Her family reported March 17 on her fundraising site at giveforward.com that the bleeding had stopped and she had no broken bones aside from the fractured skull. The family described Mallory as in “critical but stable condition.”

In a post from Monday, Mallory’s family wrote a short update explaining “procedures were supposed to be scheduled for yesterday, but due to medical complications, were not able to be done.”

Back at RHAM, school officials made some immediate changes after the accident, to help ensure the safety of those at the school. Siminski said the school had responded “in a number of ways.”

In the immediate aftermath, a Hebron po-

lice officer was assigned to the school in the mornings to help supervise, along with three adults.

“We’ve also contacted a civil engineer who specializes in traffic and requested a proposal,” Siminski furthered. “We will be working with him and their folks to see what they’ll suggest. Ultimately they’ll come up with a plan, and we’ll have a public hearing for input before we finalize anything.”

Siminski said the recommended changes could be something such as a new traffic pattern or eliminating access to certain driveways at certain times.

“There was an issue that happened, and I think based on that issue we should examine everything we do as far as traffic is concerned to be sure it doesn’t happen again,” he furthered. “That’s the ultimate goal.”

The March 14 accident was just the latest in a string of tragedies that have affected RHAM recently. Four students at the high school have died in the past year – including two seniors, just months away from graduation. This devastation has not gone unnoticed by Siminski.

“Everybody is deeply touched by [the accident]. Everybody is concerned about it,” he said. “You put that together with the other tragedies RHAM has had to endure this year – that’s pretty significant.”

But Siminski commented on the sense of community that has arisen as a result of the losses.

“There’s a great sense of community down here,” he said. “People are coming together and supporting one another.”

And in times of tragedy, that often becomes the most important thing.

Obituaries

Colchester

Linda McMahon

Linda (Shanahan) McMahon, 73, of Colchester, formerly of Hamden, widow of the late Edmund "Ted" McMahon, went home to the Lord peacefully Wednesday, March 19, surrounded by her loving family, after a brave and courageous battle with cancer. Born Dec. 14, 1940, in New Haven, she was the daughter of the late John and Dorothy (Shea) Shanahan.



Mrs. McMahon was a secretary at Yale Law School for many years before her retirement; but her greatest joy was found in her devotion to her family and faith. She was an active communicant and choir member of St. Andrew Parish in Colchester. Linda was also active with the ACTS community and involved with the AFG 12-step fellowship for many years.

On Oct. 13, 1962, she and Ted were married at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hamden. Together they shared 48 years of marriage before he predeceased her Dec. 14, 2010.

She leaves four children and their spouses, Kathleen and Daniel Moody of Apache Jct., Ariz., Teddy and Cindy McMahon Jr. of North Franklin, Maureen and Rob Sullivan of Hebron and Jen Utz and her fiancé, Christian Choma, of Colchester; 12 grandchildren, Julie, Gehrig, Anita, Riley, Brigid, Eamonn, Abigail, Brian, Padraig, Jeremiah, Brendan and Faith; her lifelong friend, Mary Ann Palmer of Hamden; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her two brothers, John and Neil Shanahan.

Friends called Monday, March 24, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, March 25, at St. Andrew Church. The Most Rev. Peter A. Rozassa, auxiliary bishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of Hartford, was principal celebrant. Interment followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Jeffrey Kamradt and the staff at the Helen and Harry Gray Center for their care and concern of Linda over the past few years.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Immaculate Retreat House, P.O. Box 55, Willimantic, CT 06226 or to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center, P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102-5037.

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

Portland

Sebastian J. Ruffino Sr.

Sebastian J. "Mike" Ruffino Sr., 81, of Portland, husband of Elaine (Saucier) Ruffino, passed away Saturday, March 22, at St. Francis Hospital. He was the son of the late Sebastiano and Josephine (Siena) Ruffino.



Born Aug. 23, 1932, in Middletown, he was a lifelong resident of Portland. He worked for many years as a lineman and at the State of Connecticut at the governor's residence for 25 years. He was a volunteer fireman for Portland Fire Company 1 for 60 years, worked and played at Gotta's farm and was a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

Besides his wife, he leaves his children, Sebastian J. Ruffino Jr. and his wife, Patricia of Columbia, Athena Marie Neville and her husband, Richard of Portland and Edward J. Puto and his wife, Pam of Bristol; a brother, John Ruffino and his wife Irene of Chester; sisters, Claire Shoaf and her husband Jim of California, Jane Gore of Portland and Rosalie Giamo of North Haven; six grandchildren, Joshua Neville, Michael, Sebastian III, and Thomas Ruffino, Allison Ruffles and Staci Browning; a great-grandson, Dylan Ruffles; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a grandson, Justin Lee Hinds.

Funeral services will be held today, March 28, with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called today from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Company No. 1, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT. 06480.

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

Portland

Caroline Veronica Day

Caroline Veronica Day, 85, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, wife of Ronald S. Day Sr., passed away Thursday, March 20, at Cobalt Lodge Health Care. She was the daughter of the late Burr and Myrtle (Barker) Jordan.



Born Dec. 27, 1928, in Portland, she lived in Portland for most of her life, before moving to Middletown 15 years ago. She was a homemaker and a lifelong member of the Portland United Methodist Church in Portland. She taught Sunday school at the church and was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Besides her husband, she leaves her son, Ronald S. Day Jr. and his wife Michelle of Portland; a daughter, Susan LaPlant and her husband Richard of East Hampton; sisters, Laura Amatore, Grace Lombardo and Mildred Day, all of Portland; six grandchildren, Kyle and Lukas Day, Jordan and Austin Davignon and Melissa and Nicole LaPlant; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great nephews.

She was predeceased by her brothers, Burr "Pike" Jordan and Wilfred "Bud" Jordan; a sister, Alice Beckett; and a niece, Deborah Lombardo Tyrseck.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 26, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was at Center Cemetery, Portland, at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends called Tuesday, March 25, at the funeral home.

A special 'thank you' to both the past and present staff at Cobalt Lodge for your wonderful love, friendship and support during Mom's last four years with you. We know what she meant to all of you and you know that she loved all of you. You really became a part of our family. Love to all!!!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cobalt Lodge Recreation Dept., P.O. Box 246, Cobalt, CT 06414.

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

Colchester

Laura Mae Peterson

Laura Mae Peterson, 86, of Colchester, passed away Monday, March 24, at the Chestelm Health Care Center in Moodus. Born May 5, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Laura (Rose) Hawk.



She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Charles O. Peterson; her son, Daniel S. Peterson; sisters, Gladys Bigbee and Alice Lorenz; and a brother, Charles Hawk.

Laura was a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother. She enjoyed sewing, crocheting, quilting, baking, gardening and painting. She and her husband designed and built nine homes, leaving behind beautiful properties in California, Connecticut, Rhode Island and North Carolina. She was an active church member her entire life; most recently at the Hebron Church of Hope.

Laura will be sadly missed by her beloved twins, Bruce and Chuck Peterson; daughters-in-law, Susan and Carol; two grandchildren, James and Colleen; Colleen's husband, Drew Lucas, and Chuck's fiancée, Pam Galbraith.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone at Chestelm for their exceptional care and concern over the past year.

There will be no calling hours and burial will be private in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Chestelm HCC Recreation Fund, 534 Town Street, East Haddam 06423, to benefit the Art program.

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

Colchester

Raymond Bellarosa III

Raymond Bellarosa III, 50, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, March 23, while doing what he loved, mountain biking the Air Line Trails. Born April 15, 1963 in San Diego, Calif., he was a son of Raymond Bellarosa Jr. of Florida and Judith (Miller) Smith of Ketchikan, Alaska.

He married Janet Lynn (Lazowick) Bellarosa Dec. 16, 1990. The couple moved to Colchester in 1997 where they raised their family.

Ray was self-employed; his business was known as Bellarosa Floor Maintenance. He was an outdoorsman, enjoying fishing, camping and mountain biking in particular. He loved movies, magazines and he was an avid reader. He had a natural talent for pencil and pastel art and photography. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his loved ones as a devoted family man who was generous to everyone he knew.

In addition to his beloved wife of 23 years and his parents, survivors include two daughters, Lauren Rose Bellarosa and Cheyenne Sky Bellarosa, both of Colchester; six siblings, Jody Garrison of Juneau, Alaska, James Bellarosa of Ketchikan, Alaska, Annemarie Myhre of Dallas, Texas, Clint Crellin of Milford, Pa., Barbara Costello of Bayville, N.J., Kimberly McBee of Florida; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 27, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Calling hours were that afternoon at the funeral home, immediately followed by the funeral service.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Amston

Gail Fisher

Gail "Windy" Fisher, 58, of Amston passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, March 12, at her home overlooking Amston Lake. She was born Oct. 15, 1955, in the middle of a raging hurricane, and was nicknamed "Windy" by a very wet, but adoring, father.

Gail grew up in the Hartford area, and graduated from Hartford College for Women and Smith College with honors. After graduation, Gail led a distinguished banking career – first as a senior marketing executive and later as a successful and independent marketing consultant for the industry's leading banks.

Gail was an excellent gourmet cook, and frequently hosted wonderful gatherings of family and friends. She loved to travel, especially to Paris – as she loved everything French! She had an artist's eye for interior decoration, especially loving antiques, and was an avid gardener. She loved animals, especially her dogs, and was devoted to her friends and family.

Gail lived most of her adult life in Glastonbury, but moved to Amston Lake four years ago, fulfilling her dream of living on the water.

She is predeceased by her parents, Orin and Frances Fisher; her oldest brother, Orin Fisher Jr., "Butch"; and her nephew, Michael Fisher.

She is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law Stephen and Lauren Fisher, Thomas and Joanne Fisher and Gayle Fisher as well as nieces Nicole Searles, Tina Pierce, Katie Fisher and children; nephew David Fisher; and her many friends.

In accordance with her wishes, a memorial service for Gail will be held in late spring, when the ice melts.

Donations in her memory may be made to the ASPCA and Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

For online condolences, visit pietrasfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Linda Emmons Ulm

Linda Emmons Ulm, 75, of East Hampton, widow of the late Frederick N. Ulm, died Sunday, March 23, at Chestelm Health Care in Moodus.

Born July 26, 1938 in Middletown she was the daughter of the late John N. and Bernice (Kaye) Phelps. Linda was a Colchester resident prior to moving to East Hampton 53 years ago.

She is survived by her son, Frederick "Peter" Ulm of Vermont; a daughter, Sandra Badrick and her husband Jack of East Hampton; a sister, Jean Daniels of Oakdale; two grandsons, Matthew Badrick of Cromwell and Thomas Badrick of New Jersey.

She was predeceased by two brothers, John N. Phelps Jr. and Wayne N. Phelps, and a sister, Allison Freeman.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, March 29, at noon at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Robert Lee Coder

Robert Lee Coder, 78, of Hebron, widower of the late Constance (Meyers) Coder, passed away Friday, March 21, at home, with his loving family at his side. Born Dec. 19, 1935 in Cedar Bluff, Iowa, he was a son of the late John and Berniece (Sharpless) Coder.



Mr. Coder had served proudly with the U.S. Navy for 15 years, during both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He went on to work as a nuclear boiler inspector for many years before his retirement.

In his spare time, he loved the outdoors, boating, fishing, hunting and gardening, and also enjoyed working with his hands, whether it be mechanics or building model ships and lead soldiers.

He leaves three children, Robert Coder Jr. and wife, Sujitra of Windsor Locks, Brenda Costa and husband, Mark of Storrs and Barbara Faber of Hebron, with whom he made his home; five grandchildren, Amanda Sigleski, Erika Faber, Stephanie and Alexander Costa, Kyle Coder and step-granddaughter Kayla DeSousa; great-grandchildren, Anthony, Gianna and Isabella Sigelski; stepchildren William Rose IV, Christopher Rose, David Rose and Lisa (Rose) Kegler; siblings, Patsy Wicks of Springfield, Mo., James Coder of Tombstone, Ariz., and Thomas Coder of Shellsburg, Iowa; his former wife, Jean (Zimmerman) Coder of Storrs; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a brother, Jerry Coder.

Donations in his memory may be made to VNA Hospice Fund, Dept. 106093, P.O. Box 150485, Hartford, CT 06115-0485.

There are no calling hours and services and burial will be private. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Joshua Aaron LeJeune

Joshua Aaron LeJeune, 28, of Hebron and Marlborough, died suddenly Monday, March 24, at Marlborough Medical Center. Born Dec. 15, 1985, in Westerly, R.I., he was the son of David and Leslie (Smith) LeJeune of Marlborough.

Josh was a 2004 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron. Josh was employed as a foreman for the DeRita Construction Company of Middletown. Growing up in Marlborough, Josh was a member of the MYAL, Tri-County and RHAM baseball teams and also a devoted Boston Red Sox fan.

Josh was a passionate outdoorsman who loved to fish no matter the season. He spent his free time in North Hero, Vt. Fishing the annual Lake Champlain International Father's Day Fishing Derby was a tradition Josh shared with his father, brothers and extended family.

No matter the occasion, Josh was always making someone laugh. His many friendships were profound and will be forever treasured. Above all else, Josh found the love of his life and soulmate in Samantha, as they were engaged to be married. He will be missed greatly.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his grandmothers, Louvima LeJeune of Winsted, Alberta G. Smith of Winsted; two brothers, Matthew LeJeune and his wife Laura of Portland, Andrew LeJeune of Marlborough; his fiancée, Samantha Liappes of Hebron; many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his grandfathers, Alexander LeJeune and Ivan Lester Smith, his uncle Orin Smith and cousin William Smith.

Joshua's family will receive relatives and friends at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Sunday, March 30, from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will be private with burial in Marlboro Cemetery in Marlborough.

The family is requesting that in lieu of flowers please make donation to the Marlborough Youth Athletic League (MYAL), P.O. Box 124, Marlborough, CT 06447 in his memory.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Amston

Margo A. Cone

Margo A. Cone, 46, of the Amston section of Hebron, passed away Friday, March 21, after a brave fight with leukemia. Margo was born in Manchester, the daughter of Margaret (Whitehouse) Cone of Amston and the late Robert Cone.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her beloved daughter, Haley Cone of Amston; her sister and brother-in-law, Connie and Ken Medeiros of Columbia; her nieces, Sarah and Nicole; and many very close family members and friends.

Margo loved traveling and spending time with her friends and family.

Visiting hours were Monday, March 24, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic. The funeral service was held Tuesday, March 25, at Christ Lutheran Church, 330 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron. Interment followed in New Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to AHM Youth and Family Services Inc., 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, CT 06248.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven for the exceptional care, compassion, and love that was shown to Margo and her family for the last two years. The family would also like to thank the people at XL Group in Hartford for their tremendous support. Margo could not have worked for a better company or with better people. She was truly blessed.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit potterfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Elliott Bernstein

Elliott Bernstein, 82, of Colchester, died in New London Sunday, March 23, with his devoted wife, Arlene, and his two Rabbits by his side. He was the beloved husband for 21 years of Arlene (Blum) Bernstein.

Born in New Haven, he was the son of Julius and Sadie (Hershowitz) Bernstein. He was a graduate of Mitchell College. Elliott was a proud U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict. He and Arlene are members of Congregation Kol Haverim in Glastonbury.

Elliott worked full-time for Foxwoods Resort & Casino in Ledyard. He was an avid golfer since he was 13 and grew up as a childhood friend of golfing great Billy Casper of the PGA.

Besides his wife, Arlene, he is survived by two daughters, Debbie and Lynn; three step-children, Lisa Gittleman, Helene and her husband, Larry Ganezer, and David and his wife, Alexandra Gittleman; his sister, Lois Friedhoffer; brother, Robert Bernstein, and sister-in-law, Pat Bernstein, all of Waterford; seven devoted grandchildren, Nicole, Julianne, Jessica, Michaela, Marissa, Daniel and James; and many dear, lifelong friends, including John McArthur of Rhode Island.

The funeral was Wednesday, March 26, at Congregation Kol Haverim, 1079 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, with Rabbi Craig Marantz, Rabbi Sarah Gurshuny, and Cantor Soloist Tami Cherdack officiating. Interment with full military honors followed at the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Ln., Middletown.

Following interment, the family received friends back at Kol Haverim for a meal of consolation. The family observed an evening Shiva service Wednesday at the Ganezer residence, 47 Woodberry Hill Dr., Southington, and again on Thursday, March 27.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Elliott's memory may be made to Congregation Kol Haverim.

Funeral arrangements are provided by Hebrew Funeral Association, Inc., West Hartford.

Hebron

Kenneth Glen White

Kenneth Glen White, 57, formerly of Hebron, passed away Friday, March 21, with his family by his side.

He is survived by his parents Glen and Lesly White of Diamondhead, Miss.; his brother and sister-in-law Bill and Kim White and nephew Thomas Campbell of Stafford Springs; his two daughters, Katie White of Glastonbury and Kerri White of New Britain; and grandchildren Venecia Rose Thomas and Isabella Grace Thomas of Windsor; and many other friends and relatives.

He was a longtime friend of Vernon and Hebron, before retiring as an executive from Pfizer. Ken's recent home was in Sun City Center, Fla., where he enjoyed the constant sunshine and warm weather.

He was a very talented musician and a wonderful father to his children. Ken will be truly missed by all.

There will be no calling hours and a private burial service will be held for close friends and family.

Colchester

Lester H. Duncklee

Lester "Les" H. Duncklee of Colchester, formerly of Pawcatuck, passed away suddenly Friday, March 21, surrounded by his loving family. Les was born in New London, on April 23, 1941, the son of the late Christine (Geyer) Duncklee and Willis A. Duncklee.

He is survived by his best friend, soulmate and fiancée, Lisa Stevenson of Colchester, and her children, Hannah and Connor Stevenson; his two sons, Christopher S. Duncklee of Hillsboro, N.H., and Jonathan L. Duncklee and his partner, Emily A. Kukulka, of Mystic; his adoring granddaughters, Christine Duncklee Bryer and her husband, Aaron, of Hancock, N.H., and Dr. Rachel Whitaker of Union City, Calif.; and grandson, Louis Nordlund of Hillsboro, N.H. Les will also be missed by friend, Alex Fearnley and former wife, Juliana Woodworth, of Florida.

Those closest to Les will always be thankful for his constant support and encouragement. His motto of living with a positive mental attitude will forever be etched in their hearts.

President of L.H. Duncklee Refrigeration, Inc., now known as Duncklee, Inc. Cooling & Heating, Les was recently honored by the vice president Jonathan, at the company's 40th anniversary, as its founder in 1973. He learned his trade in the HVAC business while proudly serving in the U.S. Navy from September 1959 to October 1963. Les was also a New London County State Marshal since 1995.

As the act of giving was one of Les's most admirable traits, he contributed to a multitude of organizations which kept him strongly connected to his community. He was a brother of the Masonic Coastal Lodge 57 of Stonington, a brotherhood now shared with Christopher; past president of the Stonington Rotary Club, past president of the Chamber of Commerce of Southeastern Connecticut in the 1980s, past president of the CHCC (Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors Association), and a recipient of the Paul Harris Award.

Les served on the Stonington Water Pollution Control and Democratic Town Committee and was recently elected as the incoming president of Stonington Rotary for this upcoming year. He held the honor of Eagle Scout, a shared achievement with Connor.

Les's life was full of adventure, and he enjoyed experiences far and wide. He always said, "The world is small; it's only a plane ride to anywhere." Les also loved riding his Harley-Davidson. Many of Les's favorite memories were also created at his family lakeside cabin in Hillsboro, N.H.

Calling hours were Thursday, March 27, at the Mystic Funeral Home, Route 1, 51 Williams Ave., Mystic. Coastal Lodge No. 57 A.F. & A.M. and the Worshipful Master announces with deep sorrow the death on March 21, of Brother Lester H. Duncklee, a member of this Lodge for 43 years. A Masonic memorial service was held Thursday, March 27, at the funeral home.

A celebration of Les's life will be held at 11 a.m. today, March 28, at the funeral home followed by a graveside service with military honors at the Elm Grove Cemetery, Route 27, Mystic.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Foundation of the Rotary Club of Stonington, P.O. Box 304, Stonington, CT 06378.

Visit mysticfuneralhome.com to leave an online message of condolence.

Colchester

Eileen A. Jordan

Eileen A. Jordan, born Eileen Angus Curran on May 28, 1926, in Grand Falls, Canada, died peacefully in her sleep Wednesday, March 19, at Harrington Court in Colchester.

She immigrated to the states following in her sister's footsteps where she met and married Edward William Jordan. She and Ed were longtime residents of South Windsor, where they raised their five children. She loved to dance, entertain and be the life of the party.

She is survived by her five children and their spouses; 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was known as "Nana" to all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and passed away quietly after months of declining health surrounded by her family. She will be remembered for her hospitality, her love of children, her famous meatballs, and her unique sense of style. She was beloved as matriarch of the Jordan clan and will be missed terribly by all.

A Mass will be held at St. James Church, Manchester, on Saturday, March 29, at 10 a.m.

Instead of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

Colchester

Blanche H. Robillard

Blanche H. Robillard, 90, of Griswold, formerly of Merritt Island, Fla., passed away Saturday, March 22, at Apple Rehabilitation in Colchester. She was born Jan. 17, 1924, in Plainfield, eldest daughter to the late Frank and Minnie (Lavigne) Blanchard.

On Sept. 5, 1942, in Jewett City, she was married to Clement W. Robillard, Jr. He predeceased her after 53 years of marriage.

Blanche worked at the Norwich State Hospital for many years. She enjoyed spending her winters in Florida. She was an avid seamstress and enjoyed making clothes for her family and friends. She was truly a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and aunt. She will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her two grandchildren, Roxanne Rondeau and Dennis Rondeau; four great-grandchildren, Maygan and Marshall Richard, Danielle and Melanie Rondeau; a sister, Claire Lenoir; two brothers, Raymond Blanchard and his wife Carol, and Charles Blanchard and his wife Donna; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her beloved husband, she was predeceased by a son, Clement W. Robillard III; a daughter, Diana I. Rondeau; two sisters, Rita Samboy, Irene Deloge; and a brother, Frank (Buster) Blanchard.

Calling hours were Thursday, March 27, at the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home, 490 Voluntown Rd., Jewett City. Funeral will assemble today, March 28, at the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home at 2 p.m. for a 3 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Thomas Church, Voluntown. Interment will follow at St. Thomas Cemetery, Griswold. At this time the family will also inter the ashes of her daughter, Diana I. Rondeau, who passed away Sept. 9, 2013, in Florida.

For online condolences, go to gagnepiechowski.com.

East Hampton

Margaret Ellen Booth

Margaret "Peggy" Ellen (Horn) Booth, 91, formerly of East Hampton, wife of the late Warren Lindsey Booth for 63 years, died peacefully at Covenant Village, Cromwell, Thursday, March 13.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Dec. 24, 1922, to George B. and Vera Ethel (Pratt) Horn, she graduated from Roger Ludlow High School in Fairfield and the College of William and Mary, and earned a teaching certificate from Eastern Connecticut State College. She resided in Cromwell, Kensington, South Windsor, East Hampton, Danielson and Fairfield, taught school in Colchester and substituted in the South Windsor school system.

She is survived by three daughters and two sons-in-law: Claire and Peter Grossi of McLean, Va.; Kathy and Bob Kutschera of Loudon, Tenn., and Janet Booth of West Hartford; one son, Walter and daughter-in-law Delia Marshall of Somerville, Mass.; seven grandchildren and their spouses, David (and Lori) Riordan, Nathaniel (and Denise) Booth, Eric (and Catherine) Booth, Amanda (and Patrick) Dwyer, Peter Grossi (and Jane) Trinh, Thomas (and Emily) Grossi, and Sonia Booth; one step-grandson, Todd Kutschera (and his wife, Brandi); nine great-grandchildren, Hannah and Abigail Riordan; Jaya, Turner and Henley Booth; Jackson and Oliver Grossi; and Isabella and Alexandra Grossi.

She was predeceased by her son, Donald Booth, her sister, Marcelle Weber, and brother, Gerald Horn. She is also survived by her son's widow, Dawn Carr, and her sister's husband, Carolyn Gregory, both of Wisconsin.

Peggy was active in Delta Delta Delta sorority, American Association of University Women, University Women Investment Club, Eastern Star, Girl Scouts, and women's groups at East Hampton Congregational Church, Wapping Community Church in South Windsor and First Church of Christ Congregational in New Britain.

A memorial service will take place Saturday, March 29, at 2 p.m., at the chapel at Covenant Village of Cromwell (CVOC), with a reception to follow at CVOC's Hilltop Lounge from 3-5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to CVOC Benevolent Care Fund, 52 Missionary Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416.

Porter's Funeral Service in Kensington is assisting her family.

Hebron

Marian Patnaude

Marian (Bednar) Patnaude, 84, was so gently called to heaven Monday, March 24. Marian was born to Michael and Suzanne (Gayara) Bednar Feb. 23, 1929, in Hebron. She moved to Middletown and graduated from Middletown High School in 1947.

Marian began working at Sears and Robuck where she met the love of her life, "Franny" Patnaude, where they both were employed. Fran and Marian were married 61 years until Fran passed in 2012. Together they raised three wonderful children who went on to marry very special people and gave Fran and Marian five beautiful grandchildren.

Fran and Cathy (Russell) Patnaude of Bethlehem are both artists and teachers. Fran is department head of Rumsey Hall School and an adjunct professor at Western Connecticut State University, while Cathy teaches in Regional District 14; parents of Nick, who currently is teaching in Istanbul, Turkey; Nathan, who resides in Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Emily, of Litchfield who teaches in Oxford.

Steve and Betsy (Neumann) of Columbia, S.C., where Steve teaches high school English and is a musician, and Betsy a video artist and program director for The Columbia Public Broadcast Station.

Also, Kathy and Greg Hancock of Old Lyme, where Kathy teaches fourth grade and are owners of Hancock Pharmacy of Meriden and Long Wharf in New Haven; parents of Dr. Melyssa Hancock, who is fulfilling her otolaryngology residency at Georgetown University Hospital; and Matt, who is completing his master's in criminal justice at The University of New Haven this summer and pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Marian loved her children and grandchildren and was so proud of all of their achievements and the people they have become. She is also survived by her sister, Carol Jarzabek of Canton, and sister-in-law, Mary Bednar of Hillside, N.J., along with many nieces, nephews and special friends.

She was predeceased by her husband, Francis T. Patnaude; her sisters, Anne Masselli, Millie Kowalski, Ellen Lasky, Betty Mastzal; and her brother, Charles Bednar.

Early in her life Marian worked at Sears Robuck and Topps Department Store as a bookkeeper. She then banquet waitressed and ultimately worked for Farmers and Mechanics Bank, where she retired after 15 years.

Marian lived a rich and full life devoted to her faith and her church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where she was a member of the choir and volunteered as treasurer for many years. Marian was very active in the church and helped on various committees. Marian was also an active member of the Elks Lodge Emblem Club. She was often an officer in the club and spent many hours organizing events and working at fundraisers.

Once Marian retired, she was able to travel and became an active member of the Middletown Middletuners Choir, where she continued her love of singing. As Marian was a social soul, she also attended Middletown Adult Day Care to continue to be around friends.

In 2013, Marian left her Middletown home for the "resort," as she called it, Gladeview Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Old Saybrook, where from day one she received personal care and attention on a daily basis.

Anyone who knew Marian found a friend; she was friendly, compassionate and always willing to lend a hand. She was very social, loved to have fun and could be found often hanging out with her sisters. Marian stayed connected to her family by always visiting them and taking an active interest in their lives. She was dearly loved by so many and will be truly missed.

Marian's family wishes to thank caregivers Alicia and Sandra, who helped Marian while at home; all of the staff at Gladeview who made Marian's last few months so meaningful for her and took the time to make her smile; and Masonicare Home Health and Hospice, Eastern Hospice Team where in lieu of flowers donations can be made c/o The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, 74 Cheshire Rd., P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Funeral services will be held Monday, March 31, at 9:15 a.m., from the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a 10 a.m. Funeral Mass at Faith Lutheran Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery. Friends may call at the Biega Funeral Home Sunday, March 30, from 4-6 p.m.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

Vincenza LaBella

Vincenza (Jane) LaBella, 70, of Portland, daughter of the late Rosario and Rose DiMauro (Middletown) passed away peacefully at home Friday, March 21, with her family by her side. Jane was born in Melili, Sicily, on Aug. 25, 1943. She moved to Middletown with her family at the age of 12, where she attended and graduated St. Sebastian's School.

At 17, while visiting her family in Sicily, she met the love of her life, Sebastiano LaBella and married him 21 days later, the day after her 18th birthday. They eventually settled in Middletown and then onto Portland, where they raised their family. Jane and Sebastian would have been married 53 years this coming August.

Jane, who had a love of hairstyling, graduated from the New England School of Hairdressing and was a hairstylist for 46 years. In 1976, she opened Jane's Hair Fashions, an accomplishment she was very proud of.

She is remembered fondly for her sincere kindness, generosity and love of her family; always spoiling her grandchildren and those who knew her well. She was an avid Red Sox fan and also enjoyed cooking for her family, planning elaborate meals for the holidays and making sure no one left hungry.

Jane is survived by her loving husband, Sebastiano LaBella; twin sons, Luigi (Lou) LaBella and wife Lori, Rosario (Tom) LaBella and wife Donna; daughters, Nella Marie LaBella and Rosanne LaBella. Her grandchildren, Michael, Matthew, Mark, Taylor, Joshua and Jason, were her pride and joy and the light of her life.

She is also survived by brother Salvatore and wife Ida DiMauro, sister Josephine and Joe Bartolotta, brother John and Mary Ellen DiMauro and Tony and Barbara DiMauro, as well as in-laws Maria and Sal Aparo, Teresa and Sarino Scamporlino of Melilli, Sicily and Enza & Sebastiano Cavarra of Priolo, Sicily, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday morning, March 27, from the D' Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial was in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield. Relatives and friends called at the Funeral Home Wednesday evening, March 26.

Portland

Judith Tedesco Mitchell

Judith Tedesco Mitchell of Portland peacefully passed away Wednesday, March 26. Born in Southington on Sept. 4, 1942, she was the daughter of the late Carmen Tedesco and Theresa Femia Tedesco.

Judy had attended Southington schools, the University of Connecticut, and Central Connecticut State University where she completed her sixth year in reading. She went on to serve as a teacher for the Southington School System for 24 years. Judy had resided in East Berlin for many years before moving to Portland in 2007.

She is survived by her loving family: her daughter, Tamara Carella and son-in-law, Richard, from Portland; her son, David Mitchell and daughter-in-law, Danielle, from Tolland; her grandchildren, Kassandra, Joshua, and Nathalie Mitchell and Caroline and Mitchell Carella. She is also survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Susan and Brian Perrone, of Southington and nephews and niece, Brian Perrone and wife, Lindsay, of Plainville, Brett Perrone, of Wolcott, and Brooke Perrone, of Boston, Mass. She will be remembered by her many aunts and cousins from the area along with her many friends.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 29, at 10:15 a.m., from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by an 11 a.m. funeral liturgy in St. Mary's Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial will be in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Calling hours will be held from 4-8 p.m. today, March 28, at Biega Funeral Home.

The family is deeply grateful to the doctors and nurses from Yale New Haven Hospital Neurology ICU, Smilow Cancer ICU, and Middlesex Hospital Hospice for their wonderful care.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Judy's memory to Yale New Haven Neurology Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508, or Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice. c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

Elizabeth Denuzze Longo

Elizabeth Denuzze Longo, 86, wife of the late Dr. Americo Longo, passed away peacefully in Grand Haven, Mich., Tuesday, March 11.

Elizabeth was a former resident of Portland and St. Petersburg, Fla. She loved beautiful things and found beauty in all. Elizabeth found joy in entertaining her family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Edward (Peg) Bransfield; daughter, Ellen (Dana) Bonney; five grandsons; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Rosemary Perna, Mary Ann Cianci; brother, Peter (Irene) Denuzze; sisters-in-law Peg Denuzze, Pauline Denning, Helen Munno and Teresa Bransky.

A funeral service was held Saturday, March 15, in Spring Lake, Mich., and burial will be held at a later date in New Britain.

Andover

Dr. Stephen M. Donohue

Dr. Stephen M. Donohue, 90, of Andover, beloved husband of 63 years of the late Mary (Clemens) Donohue, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 25, at his home.

Born in Windsor, Steve attended the Loomis School followed by Trinity College. He served in the U.S. Army as a medic during World War II. He married his sweetheart Mary in 1946 and soon they started their family. He graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1949 and returned to Windsor where he spent the next 40 years caring for a great many people as their devoted family physician.

In retirement, he loved golfing, gardening, summers at Old Lyme Shores, trips to Saratoga, winters in Sarasota, Fla., and above all spending time with family.

Steve is survived by five children, Sheila Johnston of Asheville, N.C., Michael Donohue and wife Carole Maloney of Cincinnati, Ohio, Stephen Donohue and wife Romina of Newton, Mass., Tom Donohue and wife Kristin Triff of Windsor and Brigid Donohue of Andover. He also leaves 13 beloved grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews.

Besides his wife and parents, he was predeceased by his children, Maureen A. Donohue and Gerard L. Donohue; his siblings, Margaret Donohue Libera, Marion Donohue, Anne Donohue Rosenberger and James Donohue.

A gentle, humble, fun-loving man, Steve will be missed and fondly remembered.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 29, at St. Joseph Church, 1747 Poquonock Ave., Windsor, followed by burial in Mount St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. His family will receive friends today, March 28, from 4-7 p.m., at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Steve's name to the Loomis Chaffee Founders Scholarship Fund, 4 Batchelder Rd., Windsor, CT 06095.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.