

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Here's What's Cookin'... Twenty-five scarecrow displays, like this "What's Cookin' at the Colchester Senior Center?" entry created by the senior center members, are currently up on the town green, as voting for the 18th annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest is officially underway. See story, more photos on page 25.

Elmcrest Site Plan Officially Submitted

by Elizabeth Regan

A concept that has been evolving since Danbury-based developer Dan Bertram first came to town more than two years ago has been officially submitted in the form of a site plan and almost \$100,000 in application fees.

The Planning and Zoning Commission on Nov. 2 will hold a public hearing on the proposal to turn the former Elmcrest Hospital property into 94,000 square feet of commercial space and 238 apartments. The plan will put three federally-recognized historic houses back into use as part of the mixed-use development.

The \$97,759 check was received in the land use department on Oct. 10.

Documentation includes engineering studies from the Brookfield-based engineering firm CCA and a traffic study from transportation and engineering firm VHB.

The application sets the clock on a zoning process outlined in state statute. The Planning and Zoning Commission has 65 days to open a public hearing, 35 days to close it, and 65 more days to make a decision. There are also allowances for extensions, if requested by the applicant.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield called the development a "well-thought out" proposal.

"It's a plan we put together that had its pluses, its minuses; it's had its critics, its supporters," she said. "And I think in the long run, that's so healthy. It means in the end we get a much better product."

Opponents of Bertram's development have said the plan had too many apartments and too many unknowns. They worried about the effect of the development's large-scale residential component on the school system, the volunteer fire department and the small police de-

partment, among other services.

Proponents, like the Economic Development Commission and the Portland Historical Society, rallied behind the prospect of more jobs, a more vital town center and the restoration of at least three historic homes.

According to land use department estimates, the project will generate about \$489,000 in building permit fees throughout the two-phase construction process.

Economic Development consultant Mary Dickerson said the estimates do not include permit fees for demolition or for infrastructure such as asphalt, curbing and utilities.

Bertram has vowed to spend no less than \$30 million on the project as part of the tax abatement agreement struck with selectmen in March.

Under the terms of a tax abatement agreement, Bertram will be paying a projected \$2.60 million in property taxes on the two-phase project over 14 years.

Finance department projections indicate Bertram would pay \$6.24 million in property taxes over 14 years without the tax abatement.

The deal has been whittled down from Bertram's original request for a full property tax break on all new and improved construction for seven years.

The effort brings together Bertram, of BRT General Corporation, and the Rochester, N.Y.-based DiMarco Group through a limited liability corporation called BRT DiMarco PTP.

The first phase, valued at \$20.9 million, would include construction of a 37,500-square-foot retail and office building, a pharmacy, a coffee shop, a restaurant and a leasing center

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RHAM Soccer Shatters Glastonbury Unbeaten Streak

by Lauren Yandow

In something of a David-and-Goliath story played out on the soccer field, the RHAM High School girls' varsity team bested Glastonbury High School 1-0 last Tuesday, Oct. 10 – ending nationally-ranked Glastonbury's 69-game unbeaten streak.

"It was so awesome to finally beat Glastonbury, and it was very rewarding that my team was the one to do it," said RHAM senior Gretchen Kron, 17. Kron plays forward on the RHAM team, a team she said has worked "so hard" this season, both physically and mentally preparing.

"Our team has always had a goal to beat Glastonbury," said Kron. During the game, as a team "we kept the intensity high" and remained focused, she said.

RHAM junior Laura Jepson, 16, said the chemistry of the team played a "huge part" in

their win.

Head Coach Nick Libera has coached the RHAM team for four years. After a 3-0 loss to Glastonbury last season, Libera said the team was looking for redemption in their only game against their rival this year. "Going into this season, as we were preparing for Glastonbury," he said, "our mentality was we're going to be just as good as or better than this team."

Libera said Glastonbury is a "very efficient team" – which makes them a "great" opponent.

On game day last Tuesday, "we came out strong and we played well the first 25 minutes," Libera said. But he added the team seemed to "panic a little bit" the last 10 or so minutes of the first half.

RHAM was "giving up the ball a lot," he said, which gave Glastonbury the "better of the play."

While neither team had scored approaching halftime, "you could feel the momentum was shifting Glastonbury's way," Libera said.

The first half was "messy," said Jepson. "It was obvious that many of us on the field were scared of making a mistake."

During halftime, Libera said his team had the opportunity to regroup. "I said if we get an opportunity let's finish it," he said.

Fifteen minutes into the second half, RHAM did just that; Kron had the ball and it was deflected to Jepson for a goal.

As an attacking center midfielder, "I usually look to make through balls and set others up for scoring opportunities," said Jepson. But Glastonbury is a "very strong team," she said, so those gaps aren't always open.

"When the ball was cleared to me at the top of the box, I didn't really think there was any

other option besides to shoot," she said. "Luckily, it worked out in our favor."

After scoring, Libera switched things up by dropping Jepsen back to defense and Kron to midfield in an attempt to strengthen the team's defense and keep Glastonbury off the scoreboard for the remainder of the game.

Ultimately, RHAM shut Glastonbury out 1-0.

Coaching and teamwork played a huge factor in the outcome of this game, said Jepson. "We know each other's strengths and weaknesses," she said which enabled each player to "back each other up on the field" and ultimately shut out Glastonbury.

Kron said her team is "capable of winning against any team in the state," as long as they continue to train and go into each game with

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Elmcrest cont. from Front Page

as well as a three-story apartment building with 102 units.

Phase two is valued at \$19.9 million. It would finish off the final 37,500 square feet of the retail and office building and add a 136-unit, four-story apartment building to the mix.

Dickerson said Bertram is in negotiations with a “high-end” restaurant owner to set up shop in the 1884 Sage House.

The plan allots more space than previously indicated for the imposing, four-columned 1830 Hart-Jarvis House, which is slated to be moved by a nonprofit group to the southwestern corner of the site. The new proposal indicates the building will look squarely onto Main Street instead of being placed kitty corner as in previous concept plans, but will still be visible from the Arrigoni Bridge.

Its front lawn would be town-owned property deeded to Portland as open space by former car dealer Charles Wiltsie.

Elwin Guild, who serves as chairman of the Economic Development Commission and is spearheading efforts to relocate the home, said this week it is still unclear what the building will be ultimately used for.

Guild said there is already enough grassroots support to pay for relocation and stabilization, but efforts are just beginning to secure official nonprofit status and to begin raising funds in earnest in order to preserve the house and put it to use.

It would cost “a little more than \$1 million” to fully restore the house, according to Guild. He expects about a third of that price tag to be funded through grants and tax credits.

He said the nonprofit group being formed will take ownership of the building and move it once a site plan is approved by the Planning and

Zoning Commission.

Bertram said this week he adjusted the positioning of the Hart-Jarvis House based on feedback from historical preservation consultants. He also pointed to several additional trees that he plans to save compared to previous iterations of the plan.

“These are the measures we incorporated into the engineering and the final site plan to accommodate the public dialogue here,” he said.

The area around the project’s namesake, the 1852 Brainerd House, is where Bertram said his team was able to identify most of the additional trees that will remain. The house, which will be preserved and turned into a clubhouse for the apartment buildings, stands over the entrance of the proposed development.

The start of a coffee-shop drive-through will wind around a “significant” beech tree to the right of the new Marlborough Street entrance, he said.

“There was a lot of rework in that part of the parking lot to create the grandeur of the entrance,” Bertram said.

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission indicated during an August workshop with the developer that they’d like to see more green space – including original trees – and less parking space.

Bertram said architectural renderings will be released prior to the Nov. 2 hearing to give commissioners and the public a much clearer idea about how the site will look.

The Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing will be held Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. It is tentatively slated to be held at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Ave.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Those of you in Colchester might have seen a nice notice in the Colchester edition of the *Rivereast* last week about a recent clean-up at Jeremy River.

On Sept. 23, a group of 16 volunteers worked all morning removing trash and debris from the banks of the river in Colchester. Don’t get me wrong – it’s a great cause, more than worthy of a little Saturday morning elbow grease. But what really caught my eye was just what the volunteers collected.

During the morning of cleaning, the volunteers removed: more than 200 plastic water bottles, 110 glass bottles, 56 aluminum cans, 313 other plastic containers, 63 Styrofoam cups, 52 fast-food packaging items, and 33 nippers.

And those are just the food- and drink-related items. Also removed were: two car batteries, eight tires, a mattress box spring, an old carpet, two pieces of furniture, five pharmaceutical devices, nine articles of clothing/shoes, 12 bags of domestic garbage and 16 street sweeper bristles.

Oh, and there were also eight diapers – I’m assuming of the used variety.

My takeaway after reading the volunteers’ haul was simply: that’s disgusting! Really, people sometimes have no shame at all. I couldn’t believe some of the crap people just tossed on the ground, instead of placing in a garbage can or recycling bin. Out of sight, out of mind, I suppose, but really, if you can’t find a garbage can, hold on to your trash until you do.

Nature belongs to all of us – don’t be a slob.

Congratulations are in order for State Trooper Kaila Michonski, who was recently honored by the Connecticut State Police for her actions during the one of the saddest chapters in Andover history.

On July 3, 2015, Michonski was one of several first responders to the homicide of 38-year-old Jason Marchand on the shores of Andover Lake. While searching for the suspect, state police said, Michonski located Marchand’s son, scared and confused and hiding in Marchand’s residence. The boy was uninjured but, police said in a press release, “clearly suffering from the traumatic impact of witnessing the incident.”

According to police, Michonski cared for the boy until family could be located. “She spent hours with him,” police said, “comforting him and establishing a strong relationship. He provided her with information that helped the investigation. The boy’s mother was eventually located and returned in the early morning.”

Police said that several months later, the boy’s mother contacted Michonski and told her he still talks about her regularly. Michonski then kept in contact with the boy and, police said, became a “mentor and role model” to him. She was later invited to a picnic in Marchand’s memory, where she was reunited with the boy, police said.

Due to Michonski’s actions and caring, police presented her with a Medal for Outstanding Service.

Marchand’s murder was such a dark, dark day for sleepy little Andover, and I feel so much for his family and everyone that knew him. I’m glad Michonski was able to provide some comfort to his son – and happy for her that she was officially honored for it.

An interesting notice floated across my desk this week, and while the *Rivereast* doesn’t cover Lebanon, I thought I’d share it here since, well, Lebanon is pretty close by, and it’s for a good cause.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, all are invited to participate in the second annual Veterans Day 5K, supporting Boy Scout Troop 180.

Funds raised from this event will go toward future trips and for the boys to give back to the community. The course is run through what organizers call the “rolling hills of Lebanon,” and will also feature a fun run portion around the green. The fun run is for kids 8 and under, as well as anyone else who prefers not to do the 5K.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m., with the fun run/walk starting at 9:15 a.m. and the 5K beginning at 9:30. Fee is \$25 for the 5K if you sign up in advance; it’s \$30 on race day. Groups of five can also sign up for the 5K; cost is \$100 per group (the group rate isn’t available on race day). For the fun run, fee is \$5 for ages 8 years and under. Fee to walk is \$20.

Visit the facebook.com/BSTroop180 for more information.

I recently had my 20-year high school reunion. Now, I didn’t have a very big graduating class to begin with; only 124 people total. But of that total, only eight – including me – showed up. The pathetic turnout perhaps could’ve been attributed to a rather steep ticket price (\$75); the fact the reunion was being held a random early October weekend as opposed to the more traditional Thanksgiving weekend; the fact that a bunch of other classes, from the Class of 1967 to the Class of 2012, all had their reunions in the same spot; or it could’ve simply been that, in this age of Facebook, reunions just aren’t as relevant as they once were.

I certainly hope it’s not that last one, as reunions are a lot of fun. Catching up with people via the sterility of social media just isn’t the same.

Anyhow, for whatever reason it seems the RHAM High School Class of 1987 is having some difficulty getting people for its reunion. So, organizers have opened it up to include the entire decade. That’s right; if you graduated RHAM at any year in the 1980s, this reunion is for you.

The reunion will be held Friday, Nov. 10, from 7-11 p.m., at Glastonbury Hills Country Club in South Glastonbury. Visit <http://gdradio.net/reunion/> for more information or email questions to RHAMreunion87@gmail.com.

If you’re a proud 1980s RHAM alumnus, I really think you should go. It sounds like you’ll have a fun time.

See you next week.



The RHAM girls’ varsity soccer team topped Glastonbury High 1-0 last week – ending an unbeaten streak that had made national headlines. Pictured from left, front row, are Jordan Synodi, Rachel Purcell, Laura Jepson, Gretchen Kron, Marley Forbes, Katie Milone; middle row, Bridget Lalonde, team manager Lia Baroncini, Chloe Kostick, Madison Czarnecki, Victoria Orama, Sydney Neumuth, Sydney Farrar; back row, head coach Nick Libera, Kaleigh Bozzo, Sara Egazarian, Julianna Hallin, Morgan Ennis, Sierra Blank, Lauren Costa, Zoe Lachut, Kathleen Olmstead, and assistant coaches Kyle Wood and Gene Libera. Not pictured: Gretchen Blume.

RHAM Soccer cont. from Front Page

the same “confidence” they did in the Glastonbury game.

Beating Glastonbury “was an amazing feeling for our entire team,” Jepson said – and being a part of RHAM is “something to be grateful for.”

On the win, Libera said he couldn’t be “happier or more proud” of his team.

As of Tuesday, RHAM currently stands at

11-1 for the season and has four games remaining, said Libera. RHAM won’t play Glastonbury again this season, he added. With 22 girls ranging from high school freshman to seniors on the varsity roster, Libera said his team’s only loss this season was to Enfield. But, he said RHAM will seek “redemption,” when they play their final game of the season against Enfield on Monday, Oct. 30.

Meet the RHAM Board of Education Candidates

by Lauren Yandow

During a tumultuous time for the state budget, the candidates for the RHAM Board of Education stress fiscal frugality – while at the same time maintaining the school system’s track record of excellence.

Nine candidates from Hebron and Marlborough are vying for the five open seats on the RHAM Board of Education this year. The list includes four incumbents and five newcomers.

In Hebron there are three candidates on the Republican ballot and three candidates on the Democrat ballot, and each are hoping for one of the three available seats for their town.

The Hebron Republicans

Bruce Olmstead, 55, a project manager for the Connecticut Department of Transportation, lives in town with his wife, two children and dog. “I truly am living the dream,” he said. “I enjoy watching my kids grow up in this community,” and think everyone should be “very proud” of the district.

During his past two years serving on the RHAM Board of Education, Olmstead said he’s already “made a difference” by voting to complete fire safety issues and supporting a separate capital improvement budget. Working with other town board members is “instrumental in leading this district forward in these challenging fiscal times,” he said.

Olmstead said he believes in “paying it forward,” and serves the town’s youth as a T-ball coach, baseball assistant coach, soccer coach, equipment manager for the Hebron Soccer Association, member of Friends of RHAM Lacrosse, and is a hockey team manager.

“We can only get better as a community if we work together as neighbors,” he said.

The opportunity to continue to be “one of the highest performing school districts at one of the lowest expenditures is still possible if we can work on the goal together.”

Fellow incumbent **Rich Jacobson**, 56, a retired engineer, moved his wife and three children to Hebron eight years ago. The couple’s two eldest children, now in college, are RHAM graduates; their youngest is a current junior at the high school.

During his past four years on the board, Jacobson said he has “worked hard” on addressing “many issues,” ranging from building maintenance to program issues. “I have been a proponent of the one-to-one computer environment,” he said. The district completed establishing the one-to-one environment this year, he added, and “now we can really start to take advantage of this technology in all that it can bring.”

Jacobson said the district has made “great strides,” and that, if re-elected, he plans to continue to push the district forward.

Would-be newcomer **Keith Petit**, 39, moved to Hebron with his family a year ago, after living in Marlborough for several years. “I am now looking to give back to the community” by serving on the RHAM Board of Education, he said.

Petit, a capital assets manager at UConn Health, started attending district meetings in March of this year, and said he “quickly realized the board could benefit” from his “strong financial background” of 20-plus years in private and public purchasing, contracting, and accounting. Petit served in the military for four years; for most of his career he has worked in civil service. Petit said he hopes to bring to the board a “mindset towards being fiscally prudent,” while still “achieving district goals” and “providing an excellent education” for students. He added that, as a father of a future RHAM student, he wants to ensure the opportunities available at RHAM today are still available in

years to come.

The Hebron Democrats

On the Democratic ticket, three candidates are campaigning to represent Hebron on the school board. “It has been a long time since we have been able to offer a full slate of candidates that have the qualifications necessary to lead our regional school system in a positive direction,” said Ted Bromley, Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chairman.

A self-described “visionary” who likes to “fix problems,” **Joseph O’Connor**, 54, said during his last four years on the school board he helped the community move in a “more positive direction” and provided taxpayers with a “higher degree of transparency and strategic planning” by implementing a capital improvement plan.

If re-elected he plans to bring “rejuvenated leadership, knowledge, and experience” to the district, specifically by making critical decisions during these “challenging times in educational funding.”

O’Connor, a director of aviation, is married to the “love of his life,” Joanne. Together the couple have three children: Caleigh, a RHAM graduate, and twins Ryan and Dylan, who are currently RHAM seniors. O’Connor is an Eagle Scout, head coach of Hebron Baseball, and both boys’ and girls’ travel basketball. He’s an active member of the Church of the Holy Family and the RHAM Sports Boosters.

“It has always been about the kids,” he said and providing them with a “quality education and experiences” that will assist them in their life after RHAM.

For **Kathleen Goodwin**, 51, this is her first time seeking political office. She has lived in town for the last 14 years, with her husband, Dan Brodeur, and two sons. For 25 years, Goodwin has been an educator, serving students as a special education teacher, director of pupil services and currently as a principal at Windham Center School. “Education is what I know,” she said.

Goodwin said her goal in running is to be “part of a team” that is dedicated to motivating teachers, creating effective policies, and empowering those who want the best for children. If elected, Goodwin said she would listen to the community’s goals for education while finding a “common ground” between fiscal responsibility and the needs of children.

“As an educator myself, I live with the reality of strained resources and the desire to provide our children with the academic and social education they deserve,” she said. “I can empathize with the frustrations of a lean budget and the pressure to do more with less.”

Robert Schadle, 38, is another newcomer running on the Democratic ticket. Schadle has lived in Hebron all his life and is a RHAM graduate. Schadle is married with two children, part owner of his family’s construction company and works for the facilities department at the University of Connecticut. This year, Schadle became a member of the Hebron Youth Baseball Association, which he said gave him the idea to “pursue another outlet” where he could “help the town.”

The RHAM Board of Education is a “good fit for me,” Schadle said. “My children will be headed to RHAM in the coming years and I would like to be a part of the positive direction that the school is going.”

In Marlborough, there are three candidates vying for two available seats.

The Marlborough Democrat

Jean L. P. Wilson, a Democrat, has lived with her family in Marlborough for 15 years.



Benson-Clarke



Goodwin



Jacobson



O’Connor



Olmstead



Petit



Pryor



Schadle



Wilson

“We know the town,” she said and “we’re thrilled with the quality of instruction and services,” the district offered our daughter during her years at RHAM. “I am running because I feel strongly about giving back,” she said.

Wilson has 30 years’ experience working in education and is currently the director of instructional technology for the University of Hartford. Wilson said she has experience budgeting in “tight times” and the skills to effectively implement change in a way that gets “everyone to buy in.” In a time that calls for the skill set, she considers herself a “pragmatic visionary.”

The Marlborough Republicans

The Republicans are running two candidates, both of whom bring “extensive experience” from their history of service to the community, said Ken Hjulstrom, the Marlborough Republican Town Committee chairman.

Newcomer **Larry Pryor**, 64, said having been a single parent to his son, and now retired and living on a fixed income, gives him “many perspectives” to approach RHAM concerns.

Pryor compared serving one’s community to jury duty, saying it’s “an obligation of citizenship.” The more people are involved in the political process, he said, “the stronger the community.”

While Pryor is registered as an unaffiliated voter, he said the Marlborough Republicans have “successfully” supported those who are unaffiliated by allowing them to run on the Republican slate. The Republican Town Committee “believes that I would be an asset for their party and to the town in this role,” he said. “Please vote,” he added, because “it does

matter.”

Meanwhile, seeking re-election is **Judy Benson-Clarke**, the current vice chairwoman on the RHAM board. Benson-Clarke lives in Marlborough with her two daughters, Isabelle, a sophomore at RHAM, and Gabrielle, a RHAM senior.

With a doctorate in special education and gifted education, Benson-Clarke said she’s been a “strong advocate” for public education for more than 25 years. Benson-Clarke said she wants to continue serving on the school board because she “deeply” believes in the “value of strong local public schools,” and worries staff isn’t compensated enough due to budget issues.

“Listening to community members makes me a better board member,” she said. RHAM Public Schools have “enjoyed a long tradition of success,” but, the parents, staff, students and residents who “contribute to a culture of caring, compassion and excellence” is what sets the district apart, she added.

Although she’s registered as a Republican, Benson-Clarke said she’s a “swing voter.”

“I follow issues carefully,” she said, and because of that “I vote for the person who I determine is the best candidate.” Benson-Clarke asked all parties to vote for her because “education is too important for politics.”

Voting in the November municipal elections take place Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Hebron residents will vote at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., while Marlborough residents will cast ballots at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

East Hampton School Board Candidates Face Challenges

by Elizabeth Regan

Five Board of Education seats are up for grabs during a tumultuous era of reduced state funding that has underscored the need for active problem-solving at the local level.

Seven candidates are asking for the chance to decide how to provide the best education possible amid declining revenue from the state and increased demands on taxpayers.

A majority of the candidates have been put forth by the Democratic Party, with one Republican and one Chatham Party member rounding out the race.

The Democrats

Incumbent school board chairman **Christopher Goff** was first elected to the Board of Education in 1999 before beginning a eight year stint on the town council. He received the most votes of any candidate for the school board when he took his current seat in 2013.

Goff, 45, is a senior sales executive with Du-lite Corporation.

Goff said his priorities include continuing to implement school safety measures, improving communication with other boards and commissions, and support professional development among school staff.

"Whether it's the book fair at Memorial School, the plays at Center School, Panther Fest at the Middle School or graduation at the high school, having a relationship with the staff and students is the best way to be an effective board member," he said. "I want to continue with our student successes whether they prepare for the military, college or career."

Jeffrey Carlson, 45, is a senior design consultant for a commercial construction firm and a professional musician. He is a four-year incumbent member of the school board with two children in the school district.

While many towns in the state are facing "draconian cuts" from the state and federal government, Carlson noted East Hampton is in a unique position because of unexpected increases in enrollment.

He said funding for strong schools is the best use of taxpayer money.

"My four years on the Board of Ed have taught me that bold moves are rarely rewarded or tolerated by the public, particularly when budgets are concerned. With that fundamental understanding, I am an advocate for gradual, but positive growth in our school district," he said. "My support for expanding course offerings and widening the opportunities for our students is consistent but moderated by pragmatism."

Lois Villa, an incumbent, was appointed in June to replace former chairman Kenneth Bar-

ber for a term ending in 2019.

Villa, 50, is a lead dental assistant at Connecticut Valley Hospital. She is a life-long resident of East Hampton, with two children who went through the school system.

She cited budget problems as one of the major problems facing East Hampton.

"I will always support the smallest class size possible and recruiting and retaining the best staff and teachers available to our students," she said.

She said input from the community is a crucial component to solving the problems facing education.

Goff said Wednesday that Villa will finish out the final two years of her current term if she does not win election for a four-year term. If she does win a four-year seat, school board policy specifies the vacant seat will be offered to the next qualifying candidate with the highest amount of votes who was not elected. If that next highest vote getter is not interested in taking the seat, the board will appoint a replacement through an interview process.

Amanda Amtmanis, 51, is a physical education teacher who brings experience gleaned from her role in state and local professional organizations. She is the current vice president for physical education with the Connecticut Association of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and is a member of the Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Amtmanis said the biggest problem facing schools today is the convergence of for-profit interests and public education. She cited standardized testing and charter schools as two examples.

"While neither of these things is inherently bad, they cost us money and, if we don't have a clear vision of what we want to accomplish, we can end up not only spending our money ineffectively but also doing a big disservice to the children in our community," she said. "When people are trying to sell us something, we can't just trust that they have a great product and the best interests of our kids at heart. That is where careful and informed decision-making becomes really important."

Lori Caldwell, 57, said she is running for election as a way to become more involved with decisions in the school system.

"I want to help protect our children's education," she said.

The local businesswoman owns Old Bank Flowers and Greenery in the Village Center.

She said the school board will be dealing with many issues that have arisen in the past year, the most important of which is the "devastating effect" that possible state funding cuts



Amtmanis

Caldwell

Carlson

Dostaler



Goff

Lambert

Villa

would have on many school districts in the state.

"I want to assure many that I would take this responsibility very seriously and uphold our school system's academic standards," she said.

The Republican

Marc Lambert, 54, is the current chairman of the Board of Finance. He was appointed to the board in 2014.

Lambert, who is the Chief Financial Officer for Business Lenders, LLC and a longtime volunteer with the East Hampton Soccer Club, said he is running for the school board as a way to give back to the community.

He described the biggest issues the school board will be facing over the next four years as "primarily fiscal in nature."

While the amount of education aid the town will receive from the state remains uncertain, he said whatever amount is eventually received will require elected officials to manage funds in the most efficient manner possible to balance the community's need for an effective and varied educational experience for students.

"I have stated previously and will continue to have the opinion that education and public safety are the two top priorities for East Hampton," he said. "I believe our decisions should be made with that perspective as our guiding principle."

The Chatham

Mary Ann Dostaler, a member of the Chatham Party, served a term on the Board of Finance and is a past chairman of the Economic Development Commission. She is a current member of the Brownfield Redevelopment Agency and the branding committee of the East Hampton Prevention Partnership.

"I am a strong advocate for public education as I believe it is the most important asset we have to support a positive culture and economic development," she said.

Dostaler, 49, is a marketing executive and owner of MAD Communications. She created the *Citizens' Guide to the Budget* during her tenure on the finance board, which she cited as an example of her passion for effective communication. The comprehensive annual publication describes what goes into the local budget, what comes out, and how it all affects East Hampton taxpayers.

"Education funding from the state is being drastically reduced," she said. "I understand the budget process and want to contribute to finding solutions to maintain our excellent school system without burdening East Hampton taxpayers."

The municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

East Hampton Police News

10/1: After an investigation into an evading motor vehicle crash that occurred at the intersection of East High Street and Lakeview St., Jeffrey Green, 42, of 3 East Hayes Rd., was issued a summons for evading responsibility and following too closely, East Hampton Police said.

10/5: Barton Blau, 69, of 13 Lake Dr., was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a cracked windshield and operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

10/6: Paul Distefano, 54, of 64 West High St., was issued a summons for failure to obey a traffic signal, misuse of marker plate and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

10/7: David Sattler, 18, of 14 Portage Tr., and Daschel Burchsted-Glynn, 18, of 9 Berkshire Dr., were both issued summons for third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

10/7: Kathleen Flannery, 61, of 11 Flannery

Row, was issued a summons for illegal termination of electric services, police said.

10/7: A 17-year-old juvenile was issued a summons for third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

10/8: Nancy Derda-LaFlamme, 56, of 331 West Rd., Colchester, was issued a summons for operating under suspension and failure to have ignition interlock device, police said.

10/11: Tracey Michelle Oliva, 48, of 45 East High St., was charged with second-degree violation of conditions, police said.

10/11: Jason Canterbury, 34, of 5 Bellevue St., was charged with first-degree threatening, first-degree reckless endangerment and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

Also, from Oct. 2-8, officers responded to 14 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and nine alarms, and made 52 traffic stops, police said.

Colchester Police News

10/10: State Police said Gregory A. Smith, 27, of 17 Long Dr., North Windham, was arrested and charged with violating a protective order and threatening.

10/12: State Police said Jadan Canada, 18, of 9 White Oak Dr., was arrested and charged with second-degree harassment.

10/13: State Police said Cooper Dupuis, 18, of 20 Salem Ridge Dr. N, Salem, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Andover Police News

10/11: State Police said Anthony J. Robinson, 21, of 16 Boston Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with violating a protective order.

Hebron Police News

10/13: State Police said Lucas S. Rheume, 20, of 77 Keirstead Circle, Marlborough, was arrested and charged with traveling at an unreasonable speed, sale of a hallucinogen, and possession of a controlled substance.

Portland Police News

10/9: Coty Moran, 22, of 54 Gospel Ln., was charged with fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

10/13: Kevin Koenig, 25, of 92 Contact Dr., West Hartford, was charged with third-degree larceny, police said.

10/14: Kevin Wilson, 19, of 137 Summer St., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

10/14: Lewis Nicholas, 24, of 175 Prospect St., Middletown, was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

Mix of Incumbents, Newcomers in Portland School Board Race

by Elizabeth Regan

Six Portland candidates, evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, are vying for four full-term seats on the Board of Education.

The candidates are also evenly split when it comes to experience: three are incumbent candidates while three are newcomers to the board.

The Republican Candidates

Incumbent **David Murphy**, 57, was appointed to the school board in March 2016.

As a planning manager for Stanley Black and Decker, Murphy said he brings an extensive background in business planning to help address financial challenges at the state and local level.

He cited capital improvements and preventative maintenance as a key area of focus.

"We keep kicking the can down the road as the needs keep growing. The town is more reactive than proactive. We need to be clear on the true needs of the school district and present a plan to the Board of Selectmen that will address current as well as future needs," he said.

Murphy said he will continue to push for transparency and accountability "within the current budget and the budget building process" as well as in the management of ongoing expenses and revenues.

Angela (Rusakowicz) Hammond recently retired from the State Department of Education, but said she is by no means ready to stop working.

Hammond, 53, brings experience from the state education department's Office of Early Childhood, where she said she saw successes and struggles in districts all over Connecticut. She also worked as an IT project manager at Aetna for 30 years.

Hammond now lives across the street from the house in which she grew up. She said her children, too, attended Portland schools and felt the same "small-town support" she felt as a student.

Amid an ongoing state budget crisis, Hammond said the school system will continue to face challenges over the next several years.

"There will be the reality of cost and compromise as the state wrestles with budget and allocation," she said. "Portland must continue to make smarter decisions to maintain the quality of education we have today."

Hammond said she will make sound and transparent decisions, bolstered by both her skills and love for Portland, that will improve outcomes for all students, regardless of background and ability.

Eric Peterson, a sales director with the children's book publisher Cottage Door Press, is married with two children. One is currently a junior at Portland High School.

A past Portland Little League president and board member, Peterson currently serves on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Peterson, 57, said he has enjoyed being active in the community where he's resided for

19 years – and wants to stay involved in "new and challenging" ways.

"Portland and the State of Connecticut face tough and difficult choices in these economic times. I want to ensure that we offer the children of Portland the best possible education we can, yet do so with keeping the Portland taxpayers in mind," he said.

The Democratic Candidates

Christopher Darby, a one-term incumbent on the school board, is a Middletown High School English teacher who said he would like to use his experience as an educator to continue supporting students and teachers and to foster life-long learning.

"I believe good public schools are the foundation of a strong community and I hope to support our schools to continue to function as an important part of why people live in our community," he said.

The town's most pressing needs include keeping school facilities clean and in good repair, according to Darby.

At a time when many municipalities throughout Connecticut are receiving less money from the state, he said it's important to use municipal aid, grant funding and local taxes "in the most cost effective manner possible."

"Most importantly, our schools vitally need support from the community so that they can continue to provide the skills and services our families and taxpayers have come to expect," he said.

Sharon A. Peters, an incumbent school board member and former selectman, filled the vacancy left by Ben Srb when he was elected to the Board of Selectman in 2015.

"I am running in my own right because I believe it is important to volunteer and serve my community," she said. "The skills I have developed in my professional life allow me to be a productive member of the Board of Education and assist in ensuring that Portland schools continue to provide a superior education for our children."

Peters, 54, is a private practice attorney representing children and adults in juvenile, family and criminal proceedings. She is a former selectman for six years who also has served on the Economic Development Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Juvenile Review Board and Board of Selectmen.

"Fiscal issues will be paramount in the coming years as our state faces some difficult decisions," she said. "The Board of Education will need to continue to be proactive and planful to meet these challenges. We have also begun working on some initiatives that are innovative and will ensure that our students are ready to move on to a productive future after graduation, whether continuing on to college or entering the workforce."

Victor Rivera, 46, is a newcomer to Portland politics.



Darby



Hammond



Murphy



Peters



Peterson



Rivera



Scata

A physical education teacher at Burr School in Hartford, Rivera has 12 years of teaching experience, a master's degree in educational technology from Post University and an administration certification from Sacred Heart University.

"My passion is education technology," he said. "It is ever-changing. A qualified candidate must stay abreast of changes and be able to implement them at the school level as is age appropriate."

Rivera said he's been at the forefront of using technology in the classroom, including apps to make it easier to give and take quizzes and to enhance communication with students and parents. He also piloted a text message program to remind students and parents about assignments.

With three children who are currently going through the Portland school system, Rivera said he has witnessed the passion for teaching and learning that makes the school district a success.

"The biggest issue facing Portland right now is a lack of state budget," he said. "With the budget in crisis we need to continue the great work that the BOE has done to keep our educational expectations high. Making sure students are able to thrive while facing possible cuts in staffing and programs is key."

Two-Term Vacancy

Meg Scata, a Democrat, is running unop-

posed to finish out the term she took over when former school board member Jim Tripp was appointed to the Board of Selectmen in May.

Scata, 69, first moved to Portland almost thirty years ago, where she said she had several children in the school system.

Scata worked as a librarian in Portland schools for more than 25 years, serving on the executive board of the union for administrative, office and media assistants and as steward for the Portland Education Secretaries Organization. She has been the recording secretary for the school board for more than three years and has taken minutes for other boards and commissions.

Scata described herself as an activist devoted to causes related to children, education, mental health, social justice and the arts.

She retired from the school district in 2016, which is when she purchased a home and moved back to town.

"The challenge facing the Board of Education will be to maintain the high standards that we have for our students and teachers, to ensure that we continue to provide rich learning experiences and opportunities for all our children, that our policies and programs are fully-funded and we continue to meet the needs of our community in the 21st century," she said.

The municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Portland Middle School, 93 High St.

Colchester School Board Chairman 'Retires' After Two Full Terms

by Julianna Roche

After publicly serving the Colchester community for nearly 24 years, Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein announced he will not be seeking re-election this year.

However, despite making the decision to move on from serving on the school board, the current chairman emphasized that his public service career is far from over.

"I'm not going anywhere," he laughed. "I intend to remain involved in things, including town things."

Goldstein, an attorney, furthered that his decision for leaving the board felt "natural" since the district is in a "time of transition" with the search of a new superintendent as well as the seven-member board electing four new candidates in November.

"It just seemed to make a lot of sense," he said, adding that while it was a "little melancholy" leaving, he felt the district has "a lot of momentum" right now with projects such as the William J. Johnston Middle School construction and the district-wide initiative, *Innovation Nation*.

"I like having new people coming around," Goldstein continued. "We have some great leadership ability on the board now [and] we've got some good people running [for election]."

Goldstein, 49, grew up in Colchester – "right behind Harry's on Fernwood Drive" – and graduated from Bacon Academy ('85) before attending Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., and Harvard Law School.

In 1992, however, his father fell ill which ultimately led him back home to Colchester.

When it "became apparent" that he "planned to stay in town for a while," Goldstein explained former First Selectwoman Jenny Contois – who died in 2015 – recruited him to start serving on a local board, with his first position as a member of the Charter Adoption Commission.

"We wrote [the town charter] from scratch," he said, adding he still has "all his notes" from his time spent on the commission.

Following that, Goldstein spent 16 years on the Board of Finance, while also acting as liaison to the school board, before becoming chairman of the Board of Education – a position he has held for the last eight years.

Looking back, Goldstein said that Contois played a "tremendous part" in his career serving the community and having worked with her 22 out of his 24 years of service, he would "certainly credit her a lot with what we've achieved together."

Among those achievements, Goldstein said he viewed "everything along the way, building

up to where [the school district] is now" as the "major source of pride I have."

"We do have a remarkable team of administrators and I hear that from a lot of different people. The teachers, the custodians, the para[professionals] – everybody," he furthered, adding that the "spirit, culture and the can-do attitude" of the district continues to be "remarkable."

"I'm very proud of all that," Goldstein said, adding that he will "tremendously" miss everyone in the district from the administrators to the students.

"There's something about the heart of an educator that really does grab me," he said. "And high school in particular. I had some amazing folks at Bacon, so that's always been an attraction for me."

For the future school board, Goldstein said he hoped that the new superintendent and board members will help "set the tone" and "keep the momentum alive despite the challenges, wherever they may come from with one constituency in mind – and that's the students."

"That's who we serve," he said. "Being a chairman and being a member of the Board of Ed is a tremendous responsibility, but it's also in some ways a job if you do it correctly."



After serving the Board of Education for two full terms, Chairman Ron Goldstein said he will not be seeking a third, but will remain active in the Colchester community.

Five School Board Candidates Running for Four Slots in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

All but one of the five people running for the four open slots on the Colchester Board of Education are newcomers. And all five agree that the biggest challenges facing the education board will be settling on a sound municipal budget once the state's spending package is approved, and hiring a new schools superintendent.

The one incumbent, Republican **Mitchell Koziol**, is seeking his third term on the board.

According to Koziol, 43 and an IT engineer, his reasons for returning are two-fold: his "love" of the town of Colchester and also of his three children, who all currently attend school in the district.

"I want them to get an education that allows them to succeed within our world," he said. "I have lived here for most of my life. I myself went through the Colchester school system [and] the schools are one of the things that make Colchester special."

Fellow Republican **Christopher McGlynn**, 33, a newcomer to town politics and a relationship manager at Prudential Financial, also has three children in the school system, with a fourth child on the way.

If elected to the board, McGlynn explained his goal is to "assist in making sure the excellent standards that have been set" by the school system are "maintained," and "where possible, enhanced."

The three Democrat candidates shared similar sentiments about their reasons for running.

Amy Cahill Domeika, 44, said she chose to run to become "part of the conversation about delivering excellence" in the school district.

"There are many constituencies in Colchester, [but] we all share a common goal: build the best community that we can," she said. "I want to be a part of that."

Domeika furthered that while this would be her "first foray into public service," she has been heavily involved in the community volunteering within the school district, for the Colchester Federated Church and with youth lacrosse. She is also a longtime resident of Colchester, moving away for college, but ultimately returning to town in 2005 with her husband and son.

Also new to the school board would be **Mary Bylone**, 62. Bylone spent two years on the Conservation Commission, and is a small business owner and retired regional vice president of patient care services at Hartford Healthcare.

"I am very proud of the schools in Colchester," she said. "I want to work to make sure we maintain the high quality of education, while we focus on the appropriate management of the human, financial and physical resources in making this education possible."

Bylone furthered that her career experience has also taught her the importance in including "all stakeholders in [the] decision-making" process and that if elected, she will use her relationship-building skills to build "trust" with her constituents.

"No one component of the stakeholders possesses everything to make the best decision," she added. "We need everyone – parents, community, teachers, school leadership and the Board of Education to come together to work toward the common goal. Our children are counting on us."

Nilda Negrón, who has a daughter currently attending Bacon Academy, said she believes her experience serving as an attorney handling juvenile and probate matters over the last five years will be an asset she can bring if she is elected.

"I have represented the minors, the indigent parents, the elderly and the mentally challenged



Bylone



Cahill Domeika



McGlynn



Negrón

– in general the population in our society that can't really represent themselves," she said. "I must advocate for them and be their voices by promoting their best interest. Similarly, I will advocate for the collective rights, interests and well-being of the students in Colchester."

"One area of importance for me will be to find a candidate with an eye on longevity," Domeika said. "For me, a successful candidate will be one who is in it for the long haul, offering continuity to both students and parents."

Koziol agreed, adding the task will be "daunting," not only because the new schools superintendent will be expected to "continue the amazing things we have going on within our schools," but will also "not have a large staff or budget, yet will need to achieve the high standards we desire."

In terms of the budget, Koziol said his prior experience serving on the board will be an asset if re-elected, as he understands "hard decisions may have to be made once everything is known."

"Back in my first term, federal funding was cut. The board at that time made the hard deci-

sions on things that needed to be cut," he said. "We may find ourselves in that same predicament."

McGlynn, who has a background as a project and relationship manager, with a focus in finance, said he can offer the board "immediate perspective" to "navigating the fiscally challenging landscape, while not eradicating line items in the budget that are purposeful and create value for our children."

Negrón shared similar sentiments with her Republican opponents, adding that "this has been a year of extremes" and the new board will "need to return to the mainstream and to working together."

"Since last year, there has been extreme polarization when we need moderation, and there has been extreme exclusiveness when we need inclusiveness," she said. "Everyone should become an active citizen either by voting, becoming informed or running for office ... as was stated by the former president [Barack] Obama: if you are angry, 'don't complain, but vote'."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7



A variety of creations are on display on the town green, as the annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest is underway. At left, "May the Floss be with You," a scarecrow display created by Lifelong Dental, features *Star Wars*-inspired characters, including Darth Vader, R2D2 and a Stormtrooper. At right, a display set up by Coneheads Ice Cream showed off two upside-down ice cream cones paddling in a "S.S. Yummy" boat and eating ice cream themselves.



Scarecrows Line Colchester Town Green for Decorating Contest

by Julianna Roche

A rush of fall-like weather came just in time for Colchester's 18th annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest, which is hosted and co-sponsored by the Colchester Business Association (CBA) and the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department, and features entries by businesses, families or individuals, youth groups and organizations from across the community.

Three rows of 25 various scarecrow displays – ranging from the funny to the scary – have taken over the town green until Oct. 29, when voting for the contest ends.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Cheryl Hancin, this year's contest has "gone very well" so far, beginning with the event's costume kick-off parade, which was held last Friday, Oct. 13, to help build up excitement.

"We have a great committee with enthusiastic and creative volunteers," she continued.

Several new businesses joined the contest this year, Hancin said, and there were also businesses "who we know absolutely love this tradition." Hancin described them as "true Halloween enthusiasts" whose scenes organizers look forward to seeing every year.

Hancin explained that with the event having "such a great format," no new changes were made to the contest this year, but following with

tradition, any Colchester organization, business, youth group, individual or family can enter the contest, with awards given to the first and second place winners for the scariest, funniest and most imaginative categories.

Among some of the stand-out scarecrows this year is "May the Floss Be with You," a *Star Wars*-inspired scene by Lifelong Dental's Colchester branch, complete with Darth Vader, R2D2 sitting atop a hay barrel, a Stormtrooper, and two giant teeth holding toothbrushes that mimic light sabers.

"We all came up with the idea actually last year," office manager Denise Belmont said this week, adding the branch's nine employees were inspired by one of the hygienist's sons, who "absolutely loves *Star Wars*."

"We didn't want to do anything scary because some people are scared of going to the dentist anyway," she added, noting the playful decision to use toothbrushes instead of lightsabers.

According to Belmont, Lifelong Dental continues to participate in the contest because it views the event as "a great thing for the community and for the CBA."

We had a great time putting it together this

year and we'll be out there again next year," she added.

A second eye-catching scarecrow display was "What's Cookin' at the Colchester Senior Center?" – an exhibit created by the senior center's seasonal crafting group, who begins work on the display in late August, according to senior center director Patty Watts.

The display features Chef Joe and Chef Patty dressed in white chef outfits holding spatulas next to a bowl of faux-spaghetti, a basket of fake sausage, and soup cans.

"These senior center members are really creative folks who brainstorm ideas [for the scarecrow display] ever year," Watts said. "It's such a neat celebration and a neat time for different aspects of the community to come together."

The director furthered that the decorating contest is "a really fun town wide event" and particularly important for businesses and community organizations such as the senior center because "it is a great time to promote fun things we have going on here."

Hancin agreed.

"Overall the response from people who attended the kick-off costume parade on Friday was that the quality of the scenes, the creativ-

ity and humor of the designs make the event a lot of fun for kids and for adults," she said. "This event is one more way for our community to come together, engage in the voting process, support local businesses and enjoy our town green during the fall."

Voting for the scarecrows can be conducted online or at local businesses. To vote online, readers can go to the CBA website, colchesterctbusiness.com, scroll to 'Upcoming Events' and click on the voting link.

Voting boxes will also be located at these Colchester locations: Dime Bank, 200 Salem Tpke.; Apple Rehab, 36 Broadway St.; United Bank, 99 Linwood Ave.; Colchester Eye Care, 163 Broadway St.; Escapes Hair Salon, 27 Lebanon Ave.; Skyview Realty, 35 Hayward Ave.; Subway, 31 Halls Hill Rd.; and the Colchester Parks and Recreation office at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

The last day to vote is Wednesday, Nov. 1, with winners anticipated to be announced the following week. Winners will be contacted personally and will be posted on the CBA website as well as the Parks and Recreation website, colchesterct.gov/parks.

Andover Teachers, School Days Eyed for Possible Cuts

by Lauren Yandow

In the face of potentially-steep cuts from the state, Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen has prepared a tentative list of potential reductions to the Andover Elementary School budget – cuts that range from eliminating teaching positions to trimming the academic calendar.

On Sept. 27, in a letter addressed to finance board chairman Dan Warren, Doyen outlined reductions the school board has made over the last two years and reductions for possible future action. Doyen noted in the letter, however, that none of the proposed reductions have been approved by the Board of Education.

Under an executive order by Gov. Dannel Malloy, the Town of Andover stands to lose approximately \$932,000 in education cost sharing (ECS) funding. Doyen said Thursday her suggestions of possible reductions total slightly less than what the town stands to lose at an approximate \$820,000, which is the amount budgeted for ECS in Andover's 2017-18 fiscal year budget. "We have to cover the amount the town

put into the town budget," she said.

According to Doyen's letter, the suggested cuts are as follows:

- Eliminate three days of school beyond the 180-day legal requirement for both students and staff.
- Reduce current school administration, which would be equivalent to a part-time position and could be more than one individual, Doyen said Thursday.
- Reduce current non-certified staff for a total fulltime equivalent (FTE) of two to three positions.
- Reduce non-classroom certified staff positions by an FTE of one to two positions.
- Reduce existing special subject positions to part-time by an FTE of one part-time to fulltime staff.
- Reduce number of classroom teachers by combining grade level sections and reducing an FTE of one to three positions.

Doyen stressed how undesirable these cuts

would be, writing that "any of these reductions could have a lasting negative impact on the quality of the educational system in Andover."

At the Wednesday, Oct. 11, school board meeting, the board voted 5-0 – board members Jay Linddy and Mike Russo were absent – for Doyen to continue budget talks with the Board of Finance. At that same meeting, when looking at the tentative reductions, Board of Education Chairwoman Shannon Loudon said "our primary goal is to keep [cuts] away from the classroom."

During the meeting, Doyen stressed the school board is in "no way proposing" the reductions – but added that, while she's hopeful the "dramatic cutback" in state funding doesn't actually come to pass, it's important to have a plan.

"My hope is that we're doing all this work for nothing," she said.

Doyen's letter to the finance board states the education board takes its fiduciary role "very

seriously," and that over the past two years, has reduced expenditures in various ways, including trimming one school bus; not replacing three certified staff members and one non-certified staff member who had all left the school; and replacing a full-time non-certified technology support position with a two-day-per-week contracted services agreement.

Doyen's letter also stressed savings administration has achieved through the use of "quantity purchasing" and entering into various state and regional contracts.

As of Thursday morning, Doyen said she has not had any additional conversations with the finance board, but plans to continue looking at the budget and follow the school board's practice of "eliminating nonessential spending." She added that, by doing this, she's hopeful the school board can have "a good handle" on its budget and a reference point for when a state budget is passed.

Marlborough Candidates Eye Local School Board Seats

by Julianna Roche

Five candidates – including both some recognizable faces and newcomers – will vie for the three open seats on Marlborough's nine-member local Board of Education at the upcoming municipal election this November.

Two incumbents from the Republican slate and three Democrats round out the ballot, with each candidate looking to secure the winning number of votes to help decide how to best manage balancing a fiscally-responsible budget with providing the best education possible to Marlborough's children.

The Republicans

Wes Skorski, who is registered unaffiliated, has been a Marlborough resident since 2003, deciding to move to town with his wife Audrey to raise his family "because of the excellent school, the lake, the wonderful neighborhoods and the community."

In addition to being heavily involved in community organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Little League, Skorski also currently owns and operates several companies, including a trucking company, a dog day care and boarding franchise, and a business brokerage.

With two children currently attending Marlborough Elementary School and having served on the local Board of Education for the last four years (three of which were served as vice chairman), Skorski said his experience will be an asset to the board should he be re-elected.

"It has been a difficult job to balance the needs of the entire community and all of its stakeholders, which will only get more difficult in the next several years," he said. "I believe these turbulent times need experienced board members that know the process and can get the job done."

Skorski furthered that his goal if re-elected

would be "to continue the work we [the board] have done over the past four years of keeping our school a gem of the state and town, while balancing the issues of declining enrollment and taxpayer concerns."

Sue Rapelye, 43, has worked with Fiserv, a banking software company, as director of program management for the last 19 years and has a bachelor's degree in accounting. She has served on both the local Board of Education and the RHAM Board of Education for the last two years and said she has "really enjoyed" both positions, "working with the administration to ensure our children receive the best education possible."

"I remain 100 percent committed and hope I will have the opportunity to service again for the next four years," she said. "My goal is to continue to be a part of the team researching facts necessary for our community to make the most informed decisions possible for our children's future."

Rapelye explained that the "biggest opportunity" in the coming years will be to work together with the community to "ensure our children's education remains current."

"The education of our children should not only consist of the core subjects, but programs and subjects that create diversity in thought so that our children become well-rounded and prepared for life," she continued. "Their youth is a time to experience a variety of things so they can begin to make their path in life."

Having four children of her own – two who attend Marlborough Elementary School and two at RHAM – Rapelye said "making a difference in the lives of Marlborough's children is a strong passion" of hers and she "hopes to receive the winning number of votes" to continue her "efforts in providing the best education possible" to students.



Skorski



Rapelye



Revaz

The Democrats

Three candidates make up the Democratic ticket for the upcoming election, including Michelle Padilla, Julie Revaz and Logan Tyler. Neither Padilla nor Tyler could be reached for this story.

Julie Revaz, a 50-year-old social worker, has worked for the Connecticut Judicial Branch for nearly 20 years and has had previous "direct service" experience, working as a therapist to children and adolescents and their families.

In addition to serving as a member of this year's Charter Revision Commission, Revaz has also served on the Economic Development Commission since June and previously on the AHM Youth Services Board of Directors.

"More than my professional background, my commitment to children and families is most shaped by being a Mom," she said, noting that she has a college-aged daughter.

"I have the right skill set, and the time and energy to invest in navigating the very difficult waters of the state (and local) budget crisis," Revaz furthered, adding it will take some "careful strategic planning" and "courage" to "pro-

tect the education system" while also "keeping taxes manageable."

While she explained that she viewed the current budget crisis as the "largest challenge" facing those elected to the school board, Revaz noted that "services to seniors, infrastructure, law enforcement and other services are also critically important."

She furthered that her experience overseeing contracts and budgets with "dozens of contractors" has provided her the experience needed to practice strategies such as listening carefully, actively seeking out diverse or opposing points of view, and then fairly applying a "strategy that considers the long-term best interests of most people."

"I am encouraged by the recent expressions of collaboration and compromise among the boards of selectmen, finance and education, and this is the kind of spirit that I'd want to maintain," Revaz said. "We are one community, and our whole is greater than the sum of our parts."

The municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7.

RHAM Teachers, Sports Among Possible Cuts

by Lauren Yandow

Superintendent of Schools Pat Law last week presented a proposal to make up for a potential decrease in education funding from the state by eliminating ten teaching positions and cutting all middle school sports and six high school sports.

Students, parents, and faculty filled the RHAM High School Auditorium Monday at the RHAM Board of Education's regular meeting to listen to Law as she proposed the supplemental budget plan.

The proposal will go to a public hearing on Oct. 23.

With no approved state budget as of press time, it is uncertain how much education aid the RHAM school district stands to lose as state lawmakers work to mitigate Connecticut's bleak financial situation.

Law's suggestions included letting go a total of 9.6 fulltime high school and middle school teaching positions, which she said would result in an approximate savings of \$98,600.

Those positions are a guidance counselor, Latin teacher, a technology teacher, a media center position, two family consumer science teachers, two fulltime and one part-time intervention teacher, a part-time music teacher, a part-time art teacher and a part-time physical education teacher.

Law said eliminating a fulltime family consumer science teacher at the middle school would increase class sizes. In addition, she said cutting a math intervention teacher, writing intervention teacher, and reading intervention teacher would require a different intervention model. Cutting a media center teacher would reduce services for students, she said.

Law also proposed reducing all middle school sports and six high school sports, which include gymnastics, golf, swimming, hockey, and both girls and boys lacrosse. By eliminating those six high school sports, the district would save about \$71,500.

Concerned students, parents and residents lined up for their turn to speak, asking the board to rethink the proposed cuts.

The biggest topic of discussion was the potential loss and reduction of sports.

Middle school student Maddy Murray was joined by her classmates as she approached the board Monday and said knowing sports could be taken away is "heartbreaking" because "it's

a way for us to put our mind to something" outside of the classroom.

Hebron resident John Collins addressed the room by saying RHAM is a "gem" that's done "great things" for his family, but "you don't have a high school, if you don't have spring sports."

Many were also worried about teachers losing their livelihood, with some speakers giving specific nods to instructors and programs they couldn't bear to see let go, including music teacher Eric Nunes and the middle school's Latin program.

Sue Thompson, of Amston, said her four children will be going through the district schools, and as a collegiate athlete herself, sports are important. But, she said "in my heart we're here to teach our students" to read, write, and learn math. "Please be careful" in removing programs that are foundational to student development, she said.

Law's proposal came as a response to requests received from the selectmen and finance boards in Hebron, Marlborough and Andover for the district to find ways to help offset an unexpected increase in special education costs and potential state cuts to Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds.

The proposed reductions discussed would be for January through June 2018.

ECS funds make up the bulk of the aid municipalities receive from the state.

Due to the absence of an approved state budget, however, it is not yet known how much ECS funding the district stands to lose this year.

Law said Thursday the district could receive nothing, the same amount it received last year or something in between.

"That's the hardest part of these conversations right now," she said.

RHAM Board of Education Chairman Danny Holtsclaw said Thursday there is "no doubt cuts this deep" will disrupt progress made at RHAM over the last decade that has made the district into a "nationally recognized academic powerhouse." The progress he added comes "at an extremely low cost per pupil," which is "lower than many districts that continually under perform academically" and "stand to benefit under the governor's executive order."

Other reductions Law proposed included eliminating curriculum writing for an approximate net savings of \$9,800. Her plan would get rid of the middle school On-line World Language licensing program, which would save about \$7,600, and would require students to use an alternative program, she added.

Law also proposed possible revenue sources. One source she said would be to implement a student parking charge of \$100 per student. If 246 students paid the parking charge, it would result in \$24,600 in revenue, she said – but it would limit parking and oversight both on campus and at Veterans Memorial Park.

For an approximate net savings of \$7,000, Law proposed eliminating both the middle and high school late bus.

Law said Thursday the proposal was made up of suggestions and is "not definite." There will be other proposals, she added.

At Monday's meeting, Judy Benson-Clarke approached the microphone and stated, although she is the RHAM Board of Education Chairwoman, she was speaking as a resident. She said many of the suggestions made her uncomfortable because they cut programs and "incredible" staff, when students and staff should be "put first."

RHAM sophomore Rebecca Ristow stepped up the microphone to support a passion of hers by saying, "how are people going to hear other people's voices without student journalism?"

She said the thought of cuts impacting the journalism program make her "really, really scared."

Meg Clifton, an English teacher at RHAM High School, told the board losing teaching positions in the district is "worrisome" and "appalling" to anyone who is a part of the community.

In addition to a possible decrease in ECS funding, the district is also looking at increased special education costs. As of Sept. 30, the projected special education budget deficit for the fiscal year is roughly \$370,000, Law said Thursday. That amount could change throughout the year, she added.

During the presentation, she noted the amount of excess cost funding for special education in the RHAM budget for the 2017-18 year is \$608,444.

When it comes to special education funds, Law said it's easier to predict a deficit number because it's something RHAM budgets for. But, she added, it is hard to stay within the budgeted number because the needs of special education students are constantly changing; to counter that, she said the district has recently put a structure in place to track month-to-month special education fluctuations.

Representing the Hebron selectmen board at Monday's meeting, Chairman Dan Larson commended Law for being able to "step up" and make "these kinds of cuts."

To everyone in the audience, he said budgets are started months prior to voting and are formed using information the state provides the school district and towns.

"In my opinion," Larson said, "the State of Connecticut and our governor have completely and totally abrogated their responsibilities" in forcing towns to make cuts.

The state government is trying to "do a broad swipe with a sword" to fix the state's fiscal problems on the backs of municipalities, he said.

Larson urged residents to reach out to state Rep. Robin Green (R-55) and state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19). To contact Osten go to senatedems.ct.gov and click on the "email and contact" tab; Green can be reached at cthousegop.com by clicking on the "contact me" tab.

"We must say, enough is enough," said Larson. Do not make our towns the "scapegoats" because the state can't budget, he added.

Holtsclaw on Thursday said Law and her team have done their due diligence.

Now, he added, "it's time for the board to do ours."

He said the decisions would not be easy but that students would remain the board's number one priority.

The RHAM Board of Education will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed supplemental budget Monday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the RHAM High School Auditorium, 85 Wall St.

Once the hearing is adjourned, Holtsclaw said the board will enter into a special meeting to "address whether or not it wants to send a supplemental budget to referendum."

Area Towns Face Possible Bond Rating Drops

by Elizabeth Regan

Wall Street this week weighed in on an issue that local leaders have been clamoring about for months: the negative effect of the state budget impasse on cities and towns.

Moody's Investors Service on Monday announced it is reviewing 26 municipalities and three school districts – including Colchester, Marlborough and RHAM – for possible rating downgrades.

Lower bond ratings mean higher interest rates when towns borrow money for large projects.

The credit rating agency assigned a negative outlook – an ominous sounding but less imminent warning – to another 25 municipalities and three school districts, including Portland.

The current advisory applies to local governments that stand to lose more in municipal aid than they have in their rainy day funds, or close to it.

The state has been operating without an approved budget since July 1, instead relying on an executive order from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy that reduces aid to municipalities by \$928 million.

The executive order remains in effect until the state legislature comes up with a budget Malloy will sign, or establishes enough bipartisan support to override a veto by the governor.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Moody's announcement comes as other organizations have been speaking up about the dangers of a prolonged budget stalemate. Groups include the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

Bransfield was elected as CCM president this past January for a one-year term.

"This is another warning, a statement by another organization, of what we've all been saying all along," Bransfield said.

The warnings were issued to almost half of the 121 cities, towns and school districts rated by Moody's, according to company spokesman David Jacobson.

Jacobson said the municipalities "under review for downgrade" will generally know the outcome within 90 days. A negative outlook means the affected municipalities stand "a better chance" of being downgraded in the next year or two, according to Jacobson.

Whether or not a state budget is approved within 90 days will make a difference in the bond ratings for the municipalities under review, Jacobson said.

Malloy's executive order stripped Portland and Marlborough of all education cost share funding and reduced Colchester's share by 70 percent. The education funding represents the bulk of the state's aid to municipalities.

RHAM's financial standing was evaluated based on the loss of funding to its sending towns under the executive order compared to available cash in those towns, according to Moody's advisory.

But Hebron and Andover, as well as the *Riverast* town of East Hampton, are not under Moody's jurisdiction when it comes to assigning ratings. They are rated by S&P Global Ratings, according to a report released by the agency last month titled "Connecticut Fiscal Pressures Could Weaken Local Government Credit Quality."

S&P Global Ratings had not announced any specific potential downgrades or outlook changes to *Riverast* towns as of press time, though it did put nine municipalities – most of them cities – on a negative credit watch on Sept. 28. The agency's report earlier that month warned in more general terms that lower credit ratings – possibly downgraded by multiple notches – will become more likely the longer the state goes without an approved budget.

Bransfield put the blame squarely on Malloy and the state legislature.

Portland, she said, has at least a nine-year history of "squeaky clean" financial audits going back as long as current Finance Director Tom Robinson has held the position. The town operates in a lean manner while providing good

services and maintaining a "very healthy" rainy day fund equal to 18 percent of the town's total budget, she added.

While Portland stands to lose \$4.36 million in municipal aid under Malloy's executive order, the town is likely to fare better when a state budget is finally approved. Proposals that have been floated by Republican and Democratic leadership in the General Assembly would reduce the town's funding by \$300,000 to \$500,000, according to Bransfield.

It is now – and has been – time for leaders in Hartford to act, she said.

Marlborough First Selectwoman Amy Traversa said she spoke with an analyst from Moody's last week after she received word that her town had been placed under review for a possible downgrade.

"What I wanted to know was if this is something Marlborough had control over [so] I could use it as a learning experience, but there's nothing Marlborough could have done to prevent this," she said. "We're completely at the mercy of what the state does."

Traversa said the warning from the credit rating agency didn't come as a surprise.

"We're already a quarter through the fiscal year [and] their job is to let the markets know when there's a change in credit risk," she said.

Colchester First Selectman Art Shilosky did not return a call for comment on the possible downgrade.

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Pat Law said Tuesday she planned to meet later in the week with the district's financial advisors to discuss any steps that might be taken based on the news of a possible credit rating downgrade.

"We are not being downgraded at this time," Law emphasized.

According to the Moody's advisory, cities, towns and districts under review could end up being downgraded by one or more notches.

Factors that could improve the outlook for affected municipalities include "sustainably balanced financial operations," improved finan-

cial reserves and tax base growth.

The lack of that kind of growth, as well as any material increase in local pension liabilities or annual pension contributions, could drive ratings down.

Bransfield said Portland has taken measures over the years to reduce its pension liabilities by going to a 401k-type plan instead of a defined benefit plan for its employees. Only the police union remains on a defined benefit plan, she said.

"We have taken these measures, and our employees have worked with us from day one," she said.

At the state level, retirement-related spending is one of the biggest drivers of a state budget deficit that is projected to grow to \$3.5 billion over the next two years.

CCM earlier this month issued a letter to Malloy asking for the formation of a Pension and Retirement Benefits Reform Commission that would examine funding strategies, tier levels and the sustainability of other post-employment benefits. CCM suggested a Feb. 1, 2018, deadline for the commission to report its findings.

Malloy has proposed shifting one-third of teachers' pension costs to municipalities, which has been roundly panned by local leaders.

"A matter that impacts such a huge part of the state's economy and large number of public employees deserves and commands this methodical approach, where empathy and compromise may meet," CCM Executive Director Joe DeLong wrote in the letter.

Meanwhile, local leaders are wringing their hands.

"We're doing everything we're supposed to do," Bransfield said. "This is totally due to the inaction of the legislature and the governor."

Traversa's lament was the same.

"We've done and are doing everything we can do," she said.

Reporters Julianna Roche and Lauren Yandow contributed to this story.

Obituaries

Portland

Diana Tine

Diana (Aleia) Tine, 87, of Portland, left this world peacefully Thursday, Oct. 5. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 56 years, Theodore Tine Sr. Born Oct. 26, 1929, she was the daughter of Luigi and Angelina Aleia of Southington.

After graduating from Lewis High School, The Connecticut Institute of Hairdressing, advanced classes in New York City, Diana fulfilled her dream of becoming a hairstylist. She immediately began working at the exclusive salon in G Fox in Hartford. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Diana established, owned and operated a successful Salon and Spa for over 40 years in Middletown.

Her generous spirit touched many lives. She was committed to volunteering for the "Look Good...Feel Better" program, speaking with groups and supporting individuals through their treatment and healing process. She was a yearly participant of "Warm the Children" and, along with her staff, a local fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital. Her most famous moment however, may have been as Mrs. Claus at the "Holiday on Main Street," sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, of which she was a member.

Diana received numerous awards, recognitions and honors. She was one of four salon owners in the country chosen by Redken Laboratories to serve on its advisory panel. Diana was also recognized by Dale Carnegie for outstanding performance in human relations, a Who's Who Honored Professional, and Woman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.

Diana was a loving and caring mother and grandmother. She will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her. She is survived by her children, Theodore Tine and Megan, Kim and Jim Snow, Robin Tine and Michael, Michele and Ettore Castelli; and her granddaughters Sara and Jordan Castelli. She was predeceased by her siblings Molly Stintson, Anthony Aleia, Samuel Aleia, Rose Ferrari and Edie Ramondetta. She was a parishioner of St. Sebastian Church.

Our family is very grateful to Hartford Health Care at Home Hospice for their staff, 24-hour care and availability. Special thanks to Kelly, Shirley, Wan and appreciation for Ganet and Elaine of Companions for Living of West Hartford.

Calling hours were held at D'Angelo Funeral Home Monday, Oct. 16. A Mass will be held Tuesday, Oct. 17, at St. Sebastian Church in Middletown at 10 a.m., followed by a burial at St. Sebastian Cemetery in Middletown.

In the spirit of Diana's commitment to helping those in need, in lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the organizations below that supported Diana and the elderly:

Hartford Health Care at Home Hospice: The IONA Fund helps those in any need, 1290 Silas Dean Highway, Suite 4B, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Contact Karen at 860-703-1710;

Mulberry Garden Adult Day Center, 58 Mulberry St., Plantsville, CT 06479. Contact Joanne Doner at 860-378-3902;

Alzheimer's Resource Center of Connecticut, 1261 South Main St., Plantsville, CT 06479. Contact Donations at 860-628-9000.

Haddam Neck

Peter Howard Nyman

Peter Howard Nyman, 49, of Haddam Neck, died Tuesday, Oct. 17, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born May 19, 1968, in Middletown, he was the son of Audrey (White) Nyman of Faribault, Minn., and the late Edward Nyman.

Peter was a graduate of Haddam Killingworth High School and had worked as a mason until his illness. Peter loved drag racing, old cars, the Minnesota Twins and his trips to Carlisle, Pa., car show.

Besides his mother, he is survived by a sister, Gretchen Kalet and her husband Jonathan of Beaufort, S.C.; cousins Tom and Cindy Siena of East Hampton; and many cousins and dear friends.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at 11 a.m., in Victory Christian Church, 191 Meriden Rd., Middlefield. Burial will follow in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck, where Peter will be buried alongside his father.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Program, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Amston

Eric Jay Hunter

Eric Jay Hunter, 31, of Amston, passed away suddenly from heart failure Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 10. Born in Beverly, Mass., on Sept. 29, 1986, he was a son of James and Deborah (Smith) Hunter. He graduated from Windham Tech in 2006 with a focus in culinary arts.

As a boy he did vaulting, baseball, cheerleading, track, and wrestling. He loved working with his hands and doing anything outdoors, always moving, never cooped up. He loved to fish, ride anything with wheels, climb rocks, cliffs, waterfalls, and sailing on his catamaran. Eric was a very big man with a very big heart. He will be remembered for his giving nature and endless love towards anyone he came in contact with. He was always happy to lend a hand or a shoulder to anyone in need. Most importantly, Eric held his family in the highest regard.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered by all who knew and loved him, including his beloved parents, James and Deborah Hunter of Amston; siblings, Michael Hunter of Hebron, Jessica S. Hunter of Amston, Shaun and his wife Jessica of Cape Coral, Fla., Derrick Riley and his wife Camill of North Carolina, Anna Riley of California and Haley Riley of Bristol, and numerous extended family and friends.

Calling hours were held Sunday, Oct. 15, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to gofundme.com/toysfromeric.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Maurice Coulombe

Maurice Coulombe, 87, beloved husband of Margaret (Ouellette) Coulombe, passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 13, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, surrounded by his loved ones. Born April 7, 1930 in New Bedford, Mass., he was the son of the late Origene and Leona (Ethier) Coulombe.

He was a proud veteran, having served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. Mr. Coulombe had worked as a tool and die maker throughout his career. After his military service, he and Margaret moved to Connecticut, where he went to work for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. He later went on to work for Glastonbury Gage and, finally, Alpha Q in Colchester until his retirement.

Maurice held an avid love of the sea and hunting. As a young man, Maurice worked as a commercial fisherman. Boating, fishing and lobstering were some of his favorite pastimes. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family as a hardworking family man who devoted his life and love to all of them.

He leaves to mourn his passing but cherish his memory his loving wife of 65 years, Margaret; three children, Bernard and his wife Sandra Coulombe of East Hampton, James Coulombe and his fiancée Sarah Dyer of Lebanon and Janine and her husband, Jimmy Atkins of North Carolina; two sons-in-law, Richard Lefebvre of Franklin and Ken Raczewski of Columbia; a brother, Donald Coulombe of Boston, Mass.; two sisters, Theresa Phenix and Anette Phenix, both of Fall River, MA; 10 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two daughters, Louise Coulombe and Christine Lefebvre; a grandson, Phillip Coulombe; and 15 siblings.

The family received guests Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service followed immediately at the funeral home, with full military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.



Portland

Robert A. Currier

Robert A. Currier, 79, of Portland, husband of the late Priscilla H. Currier, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 20, at Hartford Hospital. He was the son of the late Gardner and Gertrude (Wingren) Currier.

Born Aug. 1, 1938, in Melrose, Mass., he grew up in Clinton and moved to Portland when he married, and lived in Portland for the rest of his life. He graduated from Morgan High School in Clinton, served in the Army National Guard and attended the University of Connecticut. He owned and managed Henry's Time Recording for many years and retired as a Quality Control Inspector from Jarvis, Inc. of Middletown.

He was a lifelong fireman, starting as a youth in Clinton and was an active member of the Portland Fire Department for 47 years, serving as Company 3 lieutenant as well as company engineer. He was an active member of the Cellar Savers Fire Museum and the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA). He was also involved in the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. He enjoyed both modern and antique fire trucks. He was also a member of the First Congregational Church in Portland. For many years he and his wife enjoyed their cottage and boating on Long Lake in Bridgton, Maine.

Robert was predeceased by his wife, Priscilla Henry Currier, and his son, Scott Currier. He is survived by his brother, David Currier and his wife Kathie of Cincinnati, Ohio; his daughters, Beth Currier and her spouse Kathy Dougherty of Salem, Mass., and Judy Turgeon and her husband David of Hebron; nine grandchildren, Daniel Turgeon, Bree Currier, James Turgeon, Brenna Currier, Julia Turgeon, Kelsey Currier-Dougherty, Emma Currier-Dougherty, Thomas Henry Currier and Tess Currier; and two nephews, Jeffery Currier of Seattle, Wash., and Randy Currier of Sarasota, Fla.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m., at the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland, with the Rev. Jane Hawken officiating. All are invited and welcome in the church's fellowship hall for light refreshments following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's Memory to Portland Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Portland, CT 06480 or to Portland Congregational Church Memorial Fund, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland is in charge of arrangements.

East Hampton

Arnold Clifford Lapiene

Arnold Clifford Lapiene, 94, of East Hampton, widower of the late Lily (Weinberg), died peacefully Thursday, Oct. 12, at Middlesex Hospice. Born May 18, 1923, in East Hampton, he was the son of the late George and Hilda (Swanson) Lapiene.

Arnold was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and had been married to Lily for 47 years. Arnold proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a founding member of the East Hampton Fowler-Dix-Park Post 5095 of the VFW. He was a member of the East Hampton American Legion. Arnold was a self-employed stone mason and contractor all his life, having left his craft all over East Hampton and Middlesex County. He was retired from Connecticut Valley Hospital Mason Shop.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Jean (Jordan) Lapiene of East Hampton; his daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Ronald Musch of Narragansett, R.I.; grandchildren, Patrick Lapiene, Randall, Phillip and Veronica Musch; great-grandchildren Shaelyn, Ryder and Keiley Musch.

Besides his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his siblings, George and Norman Lapiene, Helen and Edith Hitriz and Edna Garafalo, and his special companion, Doris Philips.

A graveside service with military honors will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at 11:30 a.m., in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton VFW Fowler Dix Park Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

Scott R. Smedley

Scott R. Smedley, 54, of Andover, beloved husband of Melanie (Spencer) Smedley, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 10, at Hartford Hospital, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Scott was born in February 1963 at Selfridge Air Force Base in Harrison Township, Mich., to the late Barry Rodman and Mary (Robinson) Smedley. The family moved to Centerville, Mass., on Cape Cod soon thereafter and Scott grew up there exploring the beaches and woodlands.

From an early age, Scott displayed an affinity for the natural world and the sciences; by high school he was performing a detailed inventory of the moths and butterflies of Cape Cod for the natural history museum there. Scott attended Williams College in Williamstown, MA, graduating with a B.A. cum laude in 1985. He earned a Ph.D. in chemical ecology from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., in 1993, followed by four years of postdoctoral fellowship at the Cornell Institute for Research in Chemical Ecology.

He and Melanie were married in 1997 and moved to Bolton, as Scott started his job as a Professor of Biology at Trinity College, Hartford. They later moved to Andover and children Drew (13) and Lydia (10) were born.

Scott's teaching and research in the biological sciences has ranged from insect chemical ecology to invertebrate zoology, vertebrate animal visits to compost piles, and winter ecology. He was beloved by students and colleagues alike, and was enthusiastic about involving students in research and field work, such as nighttime forays for fireflies.

Scott has been active in their church, Avery Street Christian Reformed, and in the Andover Boy Scout troop with Drew. His greatest love was his family, including extended family. He was steadfast in his faith in Jesus and confident in his eternal security.

He is predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Melanie, his son Drew, and daughter Lydia. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Kent and Neucimari Smedley; his aunts, Patricia Turnbull and Nancy Morrell; and numerous cousins.

Scott's family will receive friends at the Avery St. Christian Reformed Church, 661 Avery St., South Windsor, Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9-11 a.m., with a funeral service to follow at 11 a.m. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: World Renew, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 or to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

Visit carmonfuneralhome.com for online condolences and a guestbook.

Colchester

Roseann Mary Demar

Roseann Mary Demar, 89, of Colchester, formerly of South Glastonbury, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 16, at home. Born Sept. 16, 1928, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Vito and Domenica "Minnie" (Bruno) Fontana.

She leaves her beloved husband of 62 years, Donald Demar; two sons and daughters-in-law, Peter and Jo-Ann and Patrick and Kathleen, all of Colchester; six grandchildren, Ryan, Danielle, Dominique, Matthew, James and Brandon; her brother, Anthony Fontana of Newington; and numerous extended family and friends. She also leaves her dedicated caregivers from "Your Extended Family," who enabled her to remain at home until her passing. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a son, Paul; and her two sisters, Josephine Reniewicz and Patricia Hiegel.

Mrs. Demar was a communicant of St. Andrew Parish in Colchester and had a special devotion to Our Lady and prayed the Rosary daily. Affectionately known as "Grandma Ro-Ro", she found her greatest joy in caring for her family.

The family will receive guests 4-7 p.m. today, Oct. 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Following Mass, she will be laid to rest in St. Augustine Cemetery, Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation, 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Phyllis Peterson

Phyllis Ray (née Smith) Peterson passed away Tuesday, Oct. 17, surrounded by her loving family, after bravely battling cancer for over 10 years. Phyllis was the daughter of the late Amy Schroll Smith and Raymond Alfred Smith.



Always proud of her New Jersey roots, she was born and raised in West Orange. Phyllis graduated West Orange High School in 1947 and Upsala College in 1951. She was a beautiful and accomplished student, having been elected Spring Queen of Upsala in 1950.

After graduating college, Phyllis married the love of her life, Ernest Frederick Peterson, with whom she went on to celebrate 66 years of wedded bliss. Ernie brought her to Portland, where they built their home, raised their family, and were valued members of the community. Phyllis had an impressive green thumb, and could often be found lovingly tending the beautiful gardens surrounding their home. She was a co-founder and past president of the Portland River Valley Garden Club and served on the Board of Directors of the Mattabesek Audubon Society. She was also a member of the Connecticut Horticulture Society and a Charter Member of the Portland Historical Society.

Phyllis was a proud and active member of Zion Lutheran Church, where she was a past council member, part of the Grace Guild, a chime choir member, and a former Sunday School teacher. Ever kind and compassionate, she was always giving back to others, volunteering at the Visiting Nurses' Association, the Food Bank, as a Brownie leader, and at the Gildersleeve School Library.

Phyllis will be remembered for her devotion to her family, unmatched organizational skills, beautiful handwritten notes, exceptional homemade brownies and Swedish meatballs, and most of all, for the way she created special memories with those she loved – tea with friends, birding and gardening trips, playing cards, Easter egg hunts for grandkids, holiday celebrations, and more. She and Ernie traveled the country and world, and they created a second home in Chatham, Cape Cod, where they gathered their family for years of fun and countless memories. She was a friend to so many and enjoyed over 40 years of gatherings with the Friday Night Group.

Phyllis' memory will be cherished by her family: her husband Ernie; her two daughters, Ann Linnea P. Gilmour and partner Judith Gleason of Lambertville, N.J., and Martha P. and husband Jay Swanson of Portland; seven grandchildren, Thomas J. Gilmour IV and wife Courtney of Easton, Penn., Amy Linnea Gilmour of Robbinsville, N.J., Daniel Peterson Gilmour and wife Bevin of Roswell, Ga., Dr. Christopher Elmer Swanson and wife Margaret of Jacksonville, Fla., Ingrid Emelia Swanson and husband William Moss of Glastonbury, Raymond William Peterson of Mansfield, Lauren Nicole Peterson and husband Shawn Kerr of Walpole, MA; four great-grandchildren, Mya Rae Peterson, Clara Louise Gilmour, Callum Elmer Moss, Emelia Mae Moss; and several nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was predeceased by her son, William Raymond Peterson; by two brothers-in-law, W. Arthur and J. Paul Peterson; and by two sisters-in-law, Pearle J. and Sherrill P. Peterson.

Phyllis and her family are so grateful for the compassionate care she received from Dr. Robert Levy and the staff of Connecticut Oncology Group, Dr. Ziedler and Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Homecare staff, particularly Emily Blyler, and those who lovingly cared for her, Linda, Nadine, Lillian, and Maria.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 Williams St., Portland, and burial will follow in the Swedish Cemetery. Friends may call Friday evening, Oct. 20, from 5-7 p.m., at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Zion Lutheran Church Organ Fund, P.O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480; or Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance, P.O.Box 32141, New York, NY 10087-2141; or Middlesex Hospital Hospice & Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Haddam Neck

Phyllis Anne Kruger

Phyllis Anne Kruger of Haddam Neck passed away peacefully at home, with family by her side, Saturday, Oct. 11, at the age of 75. She was born in Vermont, daughter of the late Beryl and Bernard (Duke) Lougee and is survived by two sisters and two brothers.



She is survived by her beloved husband John

L. Kruger of 42 years; her five children, Deborah Wood, Cynthia Naughton, Amy Grillo, John Shail and predeceased by Stephen Shail; her four stepchildren, Karen Kruger, Paul Kruger, Kirsten Kruger and Keri Milbrecht. She also leaves behind 18 grandchildren (one grandchild predeceased); 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Phyllis became a member of the Haddam Neck Fire Department in 1975, was named secretary for the newly-formed Department Board of Directors in 1977, was elected vice president and treasurer in 1983. She was the First Lady of the Haddam Neck Fire Department and in the State of Connecticut to hold a top administrative position on the Department Board of Directors when she was elected president in 1987. She drove a school bus in Haddam, worked for the Gelston House in East Haddam, Coon's Landscaping in East Hampton and then opened her own Merry Maids franchise in Rocky Hill.

She was a member of the Haddam Neck Congregational Church and helped with craft fairs, fundraisers and decorating the church each Christmas. She was always involved with the Haddam Neck Fire Department's Corn Beef dinners, Halloween and Christmas parties. Every year you could find her at the Haddam Neck Fair, either working the Fire Department food booth serving sausage grinders, helping the Ladies Auxiliary or working the Information Booth.

She enjoyed reading books, gardening, knitting, embroidering and spending time with her family. She was very well-known and respected in the community. A great deal of her time was spent in Vermont working on her family genealogy, holding annual family reunions, visiting family and friends. She will be greatly missed by all of her family, loved ones and all who knew her.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m., at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, CT 06424. Immediately following the service, there will be a Celebration of Life reception at the Haddam Neck Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made out to: Haddam Neck Fire Department, 50 Rock Landing Rd., Haddam Neck, CT 06424.

To share a memory or send condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Robert H. Lehman

Robert H. Lehman, "Bob," beloved husband of Patricia Sullivan Lehman for 33 years, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Oct. 18, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Johnstown, Pa., Oct. 24, 1946, a son of the late Robert Sherman Lehman and Dorothy Mae (Burnheimer) Lehman.

Besides his wife Patty, he leaves behind his cherished daughters Michele and Kelley Lehman, both of Portland; brother Barry Lehman and his partner Brenda of Boswell, Pa.; sister Barbara Weimer and her husband Gary of Johnstown, Pa. He also leaves behind brothers and sisters-in-law James and Maraide Sullivan of South Carolina, Catherine S. Rau of Portland, Mary and Earl Rand of Vermont, John Sullivan of Middletown, Lisa Sullivan of Portland, Ellen and Christopher Nolan of Portland, Margaret and Anthony DeLucia of Glastonbury, many nieces and nephews, close friends and beloved pets.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his mother- and father-in-law James and Catherine Sullivan; brothers-in-law Joseph, Michael, and Dr. Thomas Sullivan, and Christopher Rau Sr., all of Portland.

Bob will always be remembered as a friendly and caring man with an infectious smile and loving heart. In his spare time, he enjoyed going to car shows, both near and far, in his 1932 Ford Highboy Roadster. He also loved listening to music, and had recently taught himself to play guitar. He was a passionate man who always stopped to enjoy the simple things in life and will be truly missed.

We would like to thank Cobalt Lodge Health Care and Rehabilitation Center and Middlesex Hospice Home Care for all their care and support through this difficult time.

A memorial Mass will be held Monday, Oct. 23, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be at a later date. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Sunday, Oct. 22, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or Protectors of Animals, Inc. (East Hartford).