

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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History Preserved... A dedication ceremony last Saturday was the culmination of more than 5,000 hours of restoration work on a pergola at the former home of Indian Motorcycle Co-Founder Oscar Hedstrom in Portland. The project was undertaken by Charles M. Young and Susan Alyson Young, who brought the crumbling edifice back to its former glory as one of their last acts of historical preservation before the recent sale of the property. See story on page 25.

Belltown Budget Gets Belated Nod

by Allison Lazur

Four proved to be the magic number for the East Hampton budget.

The \$14.95 general government spending plan – a 5.15 percent increase over the current budget – passed at the fourth budget referendum Tuesday with 973 ‘yes’ votes and 864 ‘no’ votes.

The budget, which includes general government operations, capital spending and debt, came with the same bottom line brought to voters in September – but this time with an option for compromise.

After three failed referendums in May, June and September, an advisory ballot question crafted by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith allowed voters the option to approve a possible transfer of \$140,000 from the town’s capital reserve fund to the Board of Education operating budget to reinstate two teacher positions that were cut in the \$30.50 million school budget approved at its first referendum in May.

Residents voted in favor of the transfer Tuesday with 965 ‘yes’ votes and 823 ‘no’ votes.

Board of Finance Chairman Richard Brown said the compromise was appropriate.

“I am pleased,” he said. “It was a fair budget and it’s time to move on. The compromise I guess was appropriate because it worked.”

The option to transfer \$140,000 in funds came after education advocates pushed throughout the budget process to reinstate some of the eight lost teaching positions in the school budget.

An unexpected \$715,415 in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds from the state fueled their

arguments for bringing back some of the teaching positions based on a belief those funds should be applied to the education budget.

Although education advocates were in favor of reinstating two teaching positions, the difficult budget season left some dissatisfied.

Former Board of Education member Tania Sones told the *RiverEast* the budget passed despite dissatisfaction with the way the whole budget season has been handled this year.

“This budget was not a true win because it did not showcase how disappointed many of us are in how the town’s boards are making decisions,” she said.

But Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel defended the decision not to give the unexpected ECS funds to the school district.

She said the funds are “not money we can count on.”

The education grant is applied to the general government side of the budget to help fill in the gap between how much it costs to educate a student and how much local taxpayers can afford to pay. The amount the town receives annually has been declining over the past several years and, since the state does not approve its budget for municipal aid until May at the earliest, most towns are left to craft their own spending plans without knowing how much revenue to expect from the state.

Engel explained the town was supposed to receive the funds in three checks from the state beginning in October, but has yet to receive any of it.

“A lot of these mothers that were mad we

See **Belltown Budget** page 2

Popular Portland Food Drive in Jeopardy

By Sloan Brewster

After 26 years, the annual Portland Food Drive may be coming to an end.

This is the last year for Kelly Mainetti, who has organized it every year with her family. Mainetti’s husband, Larry Mainetti, got a new job in Florida so she’s going to be moving.

The food drive has always started on a Sunday in November, when volunteers deliver empty grocery bags to homes in town. The next week, they return and collect filled bags and bring them to the food bank. This year, the empty bags will be delivered on Nov. 4 and picked up the following Sunday, Nov. 11.

Mainetti said the drive has brought in as many as 700 bags of food in one year for the Portland Food Bank.

That leaves Ruth Maio, the food bank’s director, wondering where she’s going to find 700 bags of food in Mainetti’s absence. She said the long-time volunteer will be sorely missed.

“It’s been a real family tradition that they do this for us and they do a fantastic job,” Maio said. “We just heard [Kelly was moving], so I almost had a heart attack.”

During the holidays the food bank has dire

needs, and Maio and Mainetti are hoping someone will step forward and take over the drive.

Mainetti said she personally fills her bag with holiday fare every year, including stuffing, corn, green beans and gravy and adds daily needs, such as tuna.

Right now the food bank has a supply of canned vegetables and is specifically looking for yams, juices, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberries, brownie mix, cookie mixes and muffin mix.

When Mainetti’s children were still young, they eagerly rummaged through the cupboards in search of whatever they could find to add.

It was important for Mainetti that her children be a part of the process.

“I thought that it was something that my children should be involved with so that they knew that there were people out there that were less fortunate than them,” she said. “It just amazes me how generous the people of Portland are. It just amazes me when we get the bags back and I know that it could be me or someone in my family [that depends on that generosity].”

Getting the bags ready for delivery by sta-

pling the letter explaining the program was a family affair when her kids were young, Mainetti said. As they grew, high school and college friends joined the effort.

When it was time, everyone bundled into the car to deliver the bags. A big part of the fun was driving around town to see how many had been filled.

“It was pretty funny,” Mainetti said, explaining how the children would point to bags. “‘There’s one, there’s one,’” they would excitedly chant.

Later, they would return to pick them up. “And they would jump out like commandos and get them,” Mainetti recounted.

They would also go to the food bank to help make up baskets.

Maio said folks can bake some cookies, pastries, muffins or a pie and bring them directly to the food bank between 8 a.m. and noon on Nov. 20, when volunteers will be filling approximately 190 holiday baskets for local families.

In 2010, local Cub Scouts started to pitch in to help with the food drive, with about 12 families participating – but lately there are fewer

volunteers and only five families from the troop are involved.

When the food drive started, volunteers delivered about 200 bags to local neighborhoods, Mainetti said. In 2008 that number was up to 500. In 2009, Mainetti’s son, Josh Mainetti, set out to make it even bigger for his Eagle Scout project.

“He mapped out the different streets that he wanted to do,” she said. “He wanted to double it in size.”

Now, they give out 1,100 bags on 11 different routes and, on a good year, about 700 are filled.

Handing out the bags takes two to three hours.

The second weekend is the best weekend, Mainetti said.

“Because you get to see how many bags you get back,” she said. “It’s just amazing to see.”

Standing around Mainetti’s kitchen counter Monday afternoon, she and her sister, Colleen Kimball, reminisced about the fun the family has had doing the food drive.

See **Food Drive** page 2

Belltown Budget cont. from Front Page

wouldn't have teachers are overestimating what we will get from the state," she said. "Let's hope that under a new regime the state budget is a little clearer next year, which will make it easier for all the towns to set their budgets."

The approved spending package includes \$10.73 million in operating expenses, an increase of 1.11 percent over the current year budget; \$992,206 in capital and transfers, an increase of 21.7 percent over the current year; and \$3.23 million in debt, an increase of 15.74 percent over the current year.

The total approved budget will result in a 32.21 mill rate for residents, a projected increase of 0.89 mills over last year's mill rate. A resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,052.50 in property taxes, an increase of \$223.

The finance board will meet Nov. 19 to set the mill rate.

Tax bills were sent this summer based on last year's mill rate; Finance Director Jeff Jylkka said the tax increase associated with the newly approved budget will be reflected in the second installment of bills set to go out in December.

The 'Goldilocks' Advisory

The additional, so-called "Goldilocks" questions on the ballot revealed voters had differing opinions on whether the budgets were too high, too low or just right.

The town budget was described as too high by 800 voters, too low by 411 voters and just right by 546 voters. Feedback on the school spending plan revealed similar results, with 845 residents voting the budget was too high, 648 voting too low and 289 voting just right.

Shortly after learning the budget had passed, Maniscalco told the *Riverast* the town will now be able to move forward on several projects.

Those projects include cleaning catch basins at the lake, tree trimming, line striping for the roads and purchasing a playground for Memorial School, he said.

"I think we have a lot of work to do," he said. "We've been holding off on a lot of projects for quite a while and now that we have a budget and a direction for the town we have a lot of work to get done."

Smith also said the newly approved budget would allow the schools to move forward with

outstanding projects.

He said Wednesday there are several pending education projects included in the capital budget, such as the installation of interior classroom locks and purchasing Chromebooks for sixth-grade students, adding that for the first month of schools the sixth graders did not each have their own laptop.

He explained the \$140,000 approved transfer is a "huge benefit" to the schools.

The funds will allow the district to hire an English teacher at the high school – set to start mid-January – and a kindergarten teacher who would begin January 1.

"I hate to break up kindergarten classes since it's [the students'] first experience in school, so the additional hire will kind of be a floater between all kindergarten classes [and] offer additional reading and math help," Smith said.

Board of Finance member Barbara Moore told the *Riverast* she was "happy" two teachers would now be able to be hired, but was concerned the schools' capital budget would suffer because of the transfer.

In order to fund the two teaching positions, the compromise budget eliminated capital funding for asbestos abatement at Center School and security upgrades that in the past few years have included the purchase of radios, cameras and shatter-proof laminate for school windows. It also reduced funding for teacher laptops and Chromebooks by \$90,500 and HVAC-related expenses by \$5,000.

"Things are going to suffer, like the Chromebooks, and the things that the kids need. I feel those things are just as important," Moore said. "The capital budget is going to suffer; it's very hard to put all that money back and it takes a long time to get money back in those places, so it's too bad."

Engel told the *Riverast* she believes hefty, one-time expenditures in the budget – such as \$150,000 for interior classroom locks – "didn't help the [budget] process," adding that the one-time capital expense won't be there in future budget cycles.

Engel noted the goal for the 2019-2020 budget is to start as early as possible, with plans already in the works for the Boards of Finance, Education and town council to meet.

Hebron Selectmen Clear Brownfield Clean Up

by Sloan Brewster

The town is looking to clean a brownfield site on Church Street.

Last Thursday, the Board of Selectmen approved an application for a \$560,000 grant from the Connecticut Brownfield Task Force to clean contamination from the former Hebron Service Center at 501 Church Street.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson said the issue needs to be addressed due to the site's proximity to the aquifer. Built in the 1960s and in operation until the late 1980s, it was a gas and service station and an auto body center, according to Town Planner Mike O'Leary.

At about the same time the business closed, the sewer line was going in along Church Street, O'Leary said. During the project an odor was detected from the old gas station.

"There was the smell of petroleum products and come to find out the tanks for the underground gas had deteriorated," he said.

The owner of the property removed the underground tanks, which were leaking, and excavated some contaminated soil, but did not do a full clean up, O'Leary said. Sometime thereafter he died, leaving unpaid taxes.

For a time, the town dealt with his wife but she has since died as well.

"Anyone associated with the site has passed away at this point," O'Leary said.

He said the town took over ownership of the property last year through foreclosure.

Once the town had possession of the prop-

erty, it removed a building that was still standing from the foundation up, O'Leary said.

The project cost about \$10,000.

"So, at least we removed the eyesore, but (we did) nothing to do with remediation," he added.

In 2010, the town did a study to determine the extent of contamination on the site and drafted a remediation plan, O'Leary said. According to the report, a plume of 7,000 square feet of contaminated soils sits below the surface, along with spots here and there throughout the parcel.

Since the town did not own the property, it was unable to get a grant to clean it up, O'Leary said. Now that the town has possession of it, there's a better chance it will get the funds.

After the property is cleaned up, the town will issue a Request for Proposals in the hope of finding a developer interested in developing the site, O'Leary said. The Planning & Zoning Commission and Conservation Commission have approved the site for redevelopment as a mixed use building, with a business on the first floor and housing on the top level.

"It's just a conceptual plan," O'Leary said. "Ideally a developer would do it."

The hope is that the site will be developed and put back on the tax rolls, and provide services and employment for the town.

The grant application will be submitted at the end of the month.

Food Drive cont. from Front Page

Kimball recalled a time when she was driving with the trunk unlatched because it was full of grocery bags on the way to the food bank. Suddenly she heard sirens behind her and saw lights and pulled over.

"Okay, Ronnie what did I do?" she said she asked Portland Police Captain Ron Milardo.

She recounted his reply: "I just wanted to give you a bag."

Kimball also recalled the year before last when more than 700 bags were filled.

"It was amazing how much food we got," she said. "It just kept coming and coming and coming that year."

Kimball said she will miss doing the food drive and hopes someone in the community can take it over.

"This is the biggest food drive of the year," Mainetti said. "Every year I go and Ruth Maio says, 'Thank God, I didn't think you were doing it.'"

This year the letter explaining the program will thank everyone for all their offerings over the years and announce the end of an era.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Mainetti at 860-685-1985 or email kellar@snet.net.

Maio is also looking for early Christmas donations of clothing and toys, which can be dropped off at the food bank at 7 Waverly Ave. on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon.



After 26 years of organizing the Annual Portland Food Drive, Kelly Mainetti is moving to Florida and won't be able to do it anymore. She and Portland Food Bank Director Ruth Maio hope someone from the community will step up to take it over.

Portland Police News

10/16: Portland Police said Timothy Sherrick, 55, of 33 Terp Rd., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with DUI and making an improper turn.

East Hampton Police News

10/16: Police said Mark Adams, 24, of 24 Prospect St., Colchester, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

Also, from Oct. 8-14, officers responded to 14 medical calls, seven motor vehicle accidents, seven alarms and made 15 traffic stops.

Hedstrom's Legacy Alive in Portland's Restored Pergola

by Elizabeth Regan

The 110-year old pergola on the grounds of Indian Motorcycle co-founder Oscar Hedstrom's former residence has been restored as part of Portland's unique and well-preserved history.

While some of the deteriorating structure could not be saved, there are vestiges of its original opulence – of old motorcycle money – in the original terra cotta finial, portions of several grand cyprus columns, and the open yet intricate architecture.

The previous owners of the house, Charles M. Young and Susan Alyson Young, restored the pergola as one of their last acts of historic preservation before selling the property just this year.

"It's elegant. It's geometrically perfect," Charles said, standing Saturday at a dedication ceremony with the pergola to his back and a crowd of Portland residents in front.

Even some of the original tiger grass surrounding the pergola is original, Susan noted.

Charles, lithe and graying, said it's like his hair: "There's some left."

The same grass was waving in the breeze when Hedström, an emigrant from Sweden, and his wife, Julia, first bought the house on 533 Main Street in 1911. A bicycle racer turned famous motorcycle builder, Hedstrom died in 1960 at the age of 89 and is buried in the Swedish Cemetery.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield presented the Youngs with a certificate to mark the dedication.

"This brings us all to a very important historical place in Portland," Bransfield said. "It's a place that Portland is so very proud of."

Vehicles of all types whizzed by as the group stood up on the hill next to the elaborate outdoor garden fixture that has watched over the thoroughfare since the turn of the last century.

The structure had grown more worn and weather beaten each year – until, in 2015, one of the columns simply gave up.

"There were a lot of hours in this," Charles said. "I have in excess of 4,000 hours, and we had help as well that pitched in some 1,500."

He talked of removing all the rotted column bases and jacking up the rafters from the center so the whole thing looked like "a Polynesian parasol drink:" a beautiful, airy umbrella with a toothpick holding it up. Then he told a story of the woodpecker that threatened the pergola's renewed perfection.

Susan stepped in once or twice, whispered maybe he should cut to the chase so the guests could get to the prosecco toast.

"It's been my life," Charles said.

Standing next to her husband, Susan was teary eyed and smiling as she clutched a bouquet of flowers bestowed upon her by William and Ingrid Moss, the new owners of the house.

"I hope it stands for 200 years before such a restoration has to be tackled again," Susan said.

After the ceremony, the Moss's said they were eager to return to Ingrid's Portland roots. William and Ingrid – a U.S. Army Reserve major and an attorney, respectively – are in the process of moving from their Glastonbury residence with son Callum, 3, and daughter Emilia, 2.

Ingrid, who was a Swanson first, said her grandfather, Ernie Peterson, grew up the next street over.

As Peterson, the founder of Peterson Oil, caught up with Bransfield under the pergola, Ingrid talked about how she first learned of Oscar Hedstrom.

"My grandfather will talk about how, when he was lying in bed as a little boy, he could hear the parties Oscar Hedstrom threw," she said. "One time he actually fell off his horse right behind the property."



Susan Alyson Young welcomed well-known Portland businessman Ernie Peterson to the dedication ceremony for the pergola she and her husband restored on the grounds of Indian Motorcycle Co-Founder Oscar Hedstrom's former home. Peterson, who grew up the next street over, remembers from boyhood the lively sounds of parties being thrown at the Hedstrom home.

In an example of a small town, shared history, she said Hedstrom is buried in the Swedish Cemetery next to her own family's plot.

"We're excited about the community, the house, the history," she said.

She described the restored pergola as one of the property's many selling points.

"The first time we walked it, we said we can picture our kids going to the prom, getting mar-

ried here – the whole nine yards," she said.

She credited the Youngs for their dedication to preserving Hedstrom's history.

"To recognize what it took to get it back to its glory is so impressive," she said. "They've done wonderful things for the house and for the property. They're really poured their heart and soul. We're very indebted to them."

Colchester BOS Gives Green Light to Trail Connector

by Allison Lazur

The Planning and Zoning Department received the green light from the Board of Selectmen last Thursday to apply for a grant to construct a bike and pedestrian connection between the Airline and Richard Goodwin trails.

Wetlands Enforcement Agent Jay Gigliotti said construction will begin in the summer of 2019 if the town receives grant funding from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) through its Recreational Trails Program.

The proposed link trail would "result in a contiguous trail network" running from East Lyme to the Massachusetts border, connecting the 60-plus miles of Airline Trail to the 26-plus miles of Richard Goodwin Trail, a memo from Gigliotti to the selectmen states. The result would be about 90 miles of continuous trail.

The approximate \$60,000 grant request would fund a connector that travels via crosswalk across Route 16 then through Cemetery Road and Church Street, followed by a crosswalk across Route 149, Gigliotti explained.

Gigliotti said the 5700-linear-feet – or about one mile – it will take to link trails from East Lyme to Massachusetts is most exciting.

"It puts Colchester on the map," he said.

The Airline trail begins in East Hampton and travels through Thompson and the Massachusetts border, passing through Colchester mainly in the Salmon River State Forest.

There is also a portion of the trail which breaks from the main trail and brings users into the center of town, according to Gigliotti.

The Richard Goodwin trail begins in East Lyme and concludes in Colchester within the limits of the Babcock Pond Wildlife, he said.

Gigliotti said the link trail will most likely not be used by the daily walkers of the Airline

or Richard Goodwin Trails, but rather by "the enthusiast who wants to ride from East Lyme to the Massachusetts border."

The funds would include two crosswalks on Route 16 and Route 149, crosswalk signage, crosswalk and pedestrian pavement markings and pedestrian and link trail signage, he said.

The crosswalks have been "designed and preliminarily approved the Connecticut Department of Transportation," the memo states.

Town Planner Randall Benson said a "shoulder section" will be designated on Cemetery Road and Church Street.

The grant, if awarded, requires the town to cover 20 percent of the \$60,000 project. But Gigliotti said no actual town funds will be used; instead, in-kind services from staff members in the public works and planning and zoning departments will cover the match requirement.

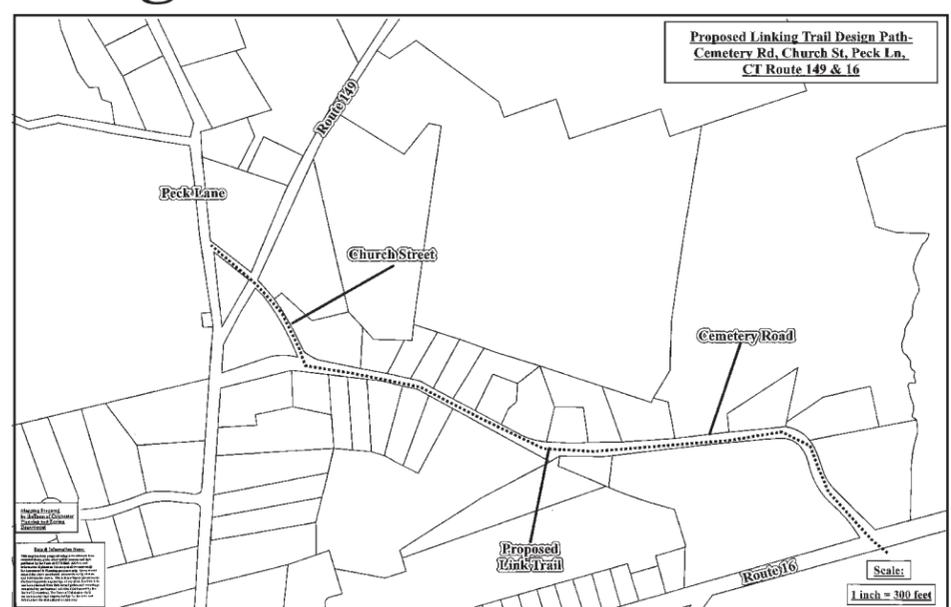
Gigliotti said the likelihood the town will receive the grant is "pretty good," considering a \$53,400 grant was awarded to the town in 2015 through the same grant program for the study of a possible link trail.

That grant was also an 80/20 match and the town covered its portion with staff time then as well, he explained.

The three-year study was administered by the town's planning and zoning department, with additional involvement from the public works department, the state's DOT and the outside engineering firm Dutch & Associates, he explained.

The study examined items such as the impact on private property and how a possible connection trail would meet the state's safety standards if constructed.

The results were positive and confirmed a link trail could exist, Gigliotti said.



The Planning and Zoning Department will submit an application next week for a state grant to construct a link trail between the Airline and Goodwin trails. If the funds are awarded, the connecting trail will run from Route 16, north/west on Cemetery Road, before turning north onto Church Street and ending at Route 149.

However, he explained that residents have been "vocal" about concerns regarding safety and impact to properties in the area.

Benson told the *Rivereast* Wednesday there are no impacts to private property and providing access across the road in the "safest manner possible and still staying in the trail area" is the goal.

"Anything we do does have to be approved by the state DOT," Benson said.

He said if the town is awarded the grant, there

will be another public informational session to address concerns by residents before moving forward.

According to the town charter, a town meeting is not required unless the town's contribution exceeds 3 percent of the town budget.

The proposed link trail would then be constructed by public works and hired outside contractors, Gigliotti said.

"It's great for the town, the state and the region," he said.

Hebron Seeks Public Input on \$390,000 Property Purchase

by Sloan Brewster

The town is looking to purchase a piece of land to add to a large swath of contiguous acreage surrounding the Air Line Trail.

Next Thursday, Nov. 1, at a special town meeting, voters will have a chance to weigh in on the \$390,000 purchase of open space from Donald Hibbert, referred to by the Board of Selectmen as the Hibbert Property.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said funds would come from the open space land acquisition fund, which currently totals \$858,609.

The 82-acre property has 650 feet of frontage on the south side of Raymond Brook and abuts the stretch of rail trail between Old Colchester Road and Grayville Road, according to Town Planner Mike O'Leary.

From trail parking on Old Colchester Road, walk south. The brook will be on the right of the trail, as will the property in question.

From parking on Grayville Road, walk north; the property will be near the trail intersection with Old Colchester Road.

"It abuts all of that stretch," O'Leary said. "It's a long stretch that's over 300 feet."

When they learned it was on the market, the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee walked the property and made the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to purchase it, O'Leary said.

"One of the things [members of the open space committee] always look for is anything that abuts open space (or) state property, particularly that abuts the Air Line Trail," he said. "This has frontage on both sides of Raymond Brook. The brook runs through parts of the property."

The property is also contiguous with the

Raymond Brook Greenway, one of several greenways identified in the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which consists of 3,000 feet of frontage along the brook and hundreds of acres in the Raymond Brook Marsh.

"This is connected to large areas along the brook," O'Leary said. "It's a significant purchase I think. It's one of the better purchases that the town's been looking at since I've been here."

Selectmen approved the purchase in August and the Planning & Zoning Commission did a favorable review, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said.

The land was appraised at \$390,000 and the property owners agreed to sell it for that price, which was slightly lower than they were originally asking, O'Leary said.

It could make a "really beautiful park" in the future, he said. "That's a unique piece of property."

Hibbert, a retired state trooper, offered the property to the town, Tierney said.

"He offered it to us first because he wanted to see it go into something more," Tierney said.

Hibbert and the town have signed a purchase agreement, which is contingent on voter approval, Tierney said. If the purchase is approved, Hibbert will clean some items from the property, including a backhoe and some trucks, and will remove an old structure.

* * *

In other open space news, selectmen approved an agreement with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program and will be getting the \$102,000 reim-



Raymond Brook, shown here, runs through the 82-acre Hibbert Property the town is looking to purchase. The property also abuts 300 feet of the Air Line Trail, which is visible through the trees.

bursement grant that was approved in January toward the purchase of the 48-acres Calvin Fish property.

Voters approved the \$175,000 purchase at a town meeting last December.

The property, which sits to the west of Gilead Hill School, abuts other parcels of open space and sits near the Milne property, a 50-acre property with a conservation easement.

Selectman Brian O'Connell said it's a valuable piece of land because it blocks off several pieces of open space and will be effective to-

ward building a contiguous piece of open space for protection of watercourses, quality of water for wildlife and for improving home values.

The property is located in the Fawn Brook Greenway, which is highlighted in the POCD as a high priority corridor for open space preservation, O'Leary said. Trails or old wood roads run through it. It will be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, which will determine how to make the trails accessible to the public and will make improvements, including signage and parking.

Roof Bids Come In Too High in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

After getting bids that were more than double the town's budget to replace a portion of the roof at the Museum of Andover History, the town asked for a second set of proposals from contractors interested in doing the job.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on Oct. 3, selectmen expressed outrage at the price contractors had put on proposals to replace the lower portion of the roof on the building that once housed town hall.

Town Administrator Joseph Higgins said the lowest bid in response to the town's initial Request for Proposals was \$21,360.

The board has slated \$10,000 for the project. Selectman Cathleen Desrosiers was vocal in her dismay.

"I'll tell you, did you look at these prices?" she said. "I just think these prices for the size of that roof, it's ridiculous."

One proposal in particular – bidding \$140,000 for the job – led Desrosiers to recommend asking for more proposals.

"I mean this is just a fishing expedition to see if the town would do this for \$140,000. This is crazy. I mean, it's crazy."

Selectman Julia Haverl was concerned that if the roof is not replaced, there will be a situation like the one at the Old Firehouse on Center Street – which selectmen later in the meeting voted to shut down to the public due to an infestation of mold.

"We're going to end up with a mold situation again," Haverl said.

The museum holds items with significance

to local history, such as coal stoves, looms, spinning wheels, a carriage, a sleigh, postcards and photos, according to town historian Scott Yeomans. A large mural painted by local artists depicts major events in Andover history from the 1600s to now.

"It's meant to help people understand the history of the area that became Andover and how people lived through the ages," Yeomans said of the museum.

The museum acquires most of its items through donations, though a few things have been purchased on an internet auction site, he said. The most recent acquisition was a toy bureau made at the Watrous Factory, which was owned by Andover residents.

"The factory was over the line and it's stamped Andover," Yeomans said.

As of now, none of the collection is in imminent threat of being damaged, Higgins said. He explained that the roof is at the end of its useful life, but he did not see any leaks.

The room in that part of the building is, however, actively used, according to Yeomans. If the roof starts leaking, he would have to move things.

"We've had things damaged the last time it was leaking," he said, referring to problems that occurred before the upper roof was replaced roughly 10 years ago.

In response to the high costs in the first set of proposals, the new request for bid proposals includes the town's \$10,000 budget.

The deadline to submit the proposals was Wednesday.



The Museum of Andover History, which is housed in the Old Town Hall, has a leaking roof and the town is looking to fix it.

Obituaries

Hebron

Kevin Wayne Kalama

Kevin Wayne "Lama" Kalama, 50, of Amston, passed away at Hartford Hospital Oct. 19 as a result of cardiac arrest. Born in Hartford on Dec. 29, 1967, he was the son of the late Richard and Mildred (Davis) Kalama.



Kevin was formerly a truck driver and paver, working in the construction industry throughout his career. As a result of his poor health, he was not able to return to his profession, but dreamed of a day that he would be well enough that he could get back on the road. Kevin also enjoyed competitive darts, shooting in both the Nutmeg Dart League and ECDA, for Greenleafs' Double In Stumble Out and Greenleaf All Stars respectively. While working with intake coordinators during his many short-term care stays, he never failed to ask if he could set up his dartboard in his room so he could practice. He never received a yes response, but that never stopped him from asking.

Kevin loved spending time with family and friends. If he knew you, he would yell out a greeting whether across the room or from a moving car – he gave little consideration to his surroundings. In addition to rooting for Nascar #88 Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kevin also enjoyed cheering on his beloved Red Sox and Dallas Cowboy teams – which often led to spirited conversations with his Yankee and Giants fan friends. In Kevin's memory, root for the Red Sox in the World Series this year, he would have loved that.

Kevin "Lama" will be remembered for lighting up a room with his signature big smile, huge wrap-you-up in his arms hugs and his kind and generous heart. Kevin will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his sister and brother-in-law, Luana and Andrew Stanulonis of Amston (with whom he made his home); his sister, Leilani Kalama of Netcong, NJ; foster brother, Julio Acosta of Hartford; nieces and nephews, Kawika Carden and Steven, Maile, Felicia and Douglas Melvin; great nieces and nephews, Zerasha-Rashan, Kawika Jr. and Alaska; his special friend, Sherry Verona; his biological mother, Yvonne; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He is predeceased by his sister, Marroan Carden, and his dog, Riker.

Not only was Kevin an organ recipient, but he also gave the gift of life to others through tissue donation after his passing.

Graveside Services will be observed Sunday, Nov. 11 at noon at the New Hebron Cemetery, Wall St. (Rte. 316), Hebron. A gathering celebrating his life will follow at Greenleaf Café, Rte. 66, Hebron.

The family is respectfully asking for donations to help defray expenses, which may be made to the "Kevin Kalama Memorial Fund," c/o The Savings Institute Bank and Trust, 115 Main Street, Hebron 06248.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Marcia R. Wroblinski

Marcia R. (Brothers) Wroblinski, 63, of North Windham, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 17. She was born July 16, 1955 in Norwich to the late Raymond and Betty (Miller) Brothers.



She grew up in Colchester and attended Bacon Academy; she was married to Stephen M. Wroblinski, who predeceased her in 2011. Marcia was a strong and independent woman, who worked hard her whole life. She was creative and enjoyed decorating and crafting; she loved camping and traveling with family and cherished the time she spent with her granddaughters, family and friends.

Marcia had a strong and loving commitment to her family. She is survived by her two sons, Stephen M. Wroblinski Jr. and Joshua Brothers and his wife Holly; three beautiful granddaughters, Nancy and Rose Davis and Isabella Brothers; her siblings, Bettie Churchill, Lornarae Aldrich, her husband Gary and JR Brothers and his wife Dawn, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation was Wednesday, Oct. 24 at Belmont Funeral Home in Colchester. Burial immediately followed at Linwood Cemetery.

Visit belmontfh.com to send condolences to the family.

East Hampton

Robert Butterfield

Robert Butterfield, 68, of East Hampton, passed midday Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Hartford Hospital. Robert was born Dec. 11, 1949, son of the late Robert Butterfield, Jr., and late Lorraine Butterfield. Robert was husband to Marie (Blazensky) Butterfield; father to John W. Hutson, Shelley M. Bodamer, and Kerry Bodamer; grandfather to Shannon and Sean Bodamer; and great grandfather to Skyler and Hayley Bodamer. He was an uncle to many nieces and nephews and a beloved cousin to many.



Robert served our country through the United States Navy on the 847 Robert L. Wilson Destroyer from 1968 to 1971 during the Vietnam War. After leaving the service, he worked as a diesel mechanic for 20 years at Airport Truck and Schuster Truck, co-establishing his own business, B&B Motors, for a short time before working for Electric Boat. He then went on to again open his own shop, Bob's Sandbox, until reaching his retirement. As a young adult he passed the time with playing football during his high school years as well as track and field.

Robert was generally a charismatic person who had a great sense of humor and took joy in making other people laugh. He was a member of the Elks Lodge in East Hartford, enjoyed helping orchestrate bingo and would travel with the Emblem Club of East Hartford. He loved the open road on his Harley Davidson and 55' Chevy Bel Air. He will be missed greatly.

Services will be Friday, Oct. 26. A gathering to pay respects will be held at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main Street, East Hampton at 11:30 a.m., followed by a military burial at the Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown. A reception will take place at the Elks Lodge, 44 Maynard St., Middletown.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Helen Karpowich

Helen Karpowich, 95, of Marlborough, left this world peacefully on Friday, Oct. 19. She was born June 17, 1923, to the late John and Anna (Gwozdz) Stepien. Her aunt and uncle, Agnes and John Otfinowski, raised her and she blossomed into a beautiful, caring, strong woman.



Helen was a gentle, sweet soul who loved to smile and laugh; she turned strangers into friends and was always willing to help those in need. Her greatest joy was her family; especially her grandchildren. She worked as a bookkeeper for Keeney Manufacturing in Newington and the Liner-Atwill Company. She was predeceased by her husband, Walter Karpowich, her brothers, Joseph, Peter and his wife Sophie, Frank and his wife Josephine, John and his wife Gertrude, Walter and Stanley. She leaves her daughter Anne Rinaldo and her husband John and her two grandchildren Matthew Rinaldo and Michaela Rinaldo. She also leaves her sister-in-law, Jadz Stepien, and many beloved family members and friends.

A special thanks to the wonderful staff at Marlborough Health Center, who gave Helen the best care and kept her happy and laughing, especially Yannie, who always brightened her day and made her smile.

Helen would encourage you to call or hug a friend, send a card, make someone laugh and tell the people in your life how much you love them. Her spirit will live on in these small gestures.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. She was laid to rest in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd., Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489.

To share a memory with her family, please visit newingtonmemorial.com.

East Hampton

Doris Mabel Barton

Doris Mabel (Ostergren) Barton, 94, of Cobalt, wife of the late Jarvis S. Barton, died Thursday, Oct. 4 at their home on the Connecticut River. She was born in Middletown on July 31, 1924, the daughter of the late Reuben Ostergren, a farmer, mechanic and state representative, and Nina (Anderson) Ostergren, a school teacher and church organist.



Doris attended North Park College in Chicago, and graduated with her B.S. degree from the University of Vermont. She married Jarvis Stewart Barton of East Hampton on March 27, 1945, prior to his leaving as a submariner machinist in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Following his return, they began building both a boatyard business and a family. After their children were in school, and while finishing her master's degree, Doris became a school teacher in the town of Cromwell. She also completed special assignments for the school system. Following her retirement from teaching, she worked for the American Red Cross in Middletown as a bookkeeper, and then as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service in Cobalt.

Until her passing, she was an avid reader and loved to discuss timely topics. She enjoyed watching wildlife and never ceased to marvel at the eagles soaring over the river. During her more active years, she served on the Inland Wetlands Commission for the Town of East Hampton. She was an active life-long member of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church on Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton. Besides participating in virtually every ministry of the local church, she served on the Boards of the East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the former Cromwell Children's Home (now Adelbrook) and the denomination's Board of Christian Education. Her family and the living ministry of the Church were her life's passion and joy.

She is survived by twin son, Gregory S. Barton and his wife, Virginia (McMahon) of West Winfield, NY; their children, Jennifer Barton, Ozark, AL, Jill Lapinel, Stamford, NY, Erin Barton (Marty Mickle) of West Winfield, NY, Curry DeCarlo (Fred) of Utica, NY, Megan Williams (Darrel) of West Winfield, NY, Benjamin Barton (Kirsten) of West Winfield, NY; and twin son, Paul A. Barton and his wife, Sharon (Goodrich) of Old Lyme; their children, Todd Barton (Jenny) of Ashton, MD and Tiffanie Jacobson (Fritz) of Fairfield; a daughter, Jean B. Meloney of East Hampton, and her husband, Carl; Jean's children, Jessica Sponseller (Brian) of Hartsville, SC and John A. Cosgrove of Moodus; and twenty-two great grandchildren.

A celebration of Doris's life will be held Saturday, Oct. 27 at 11 a.m. at the Haddam Neck Covenant Church, 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton. A reception will be held immediately following at the Barton home. Burial will be at the convenience of her family.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the ministries of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

George Michael King

George Michael King, 77, of East Hampton, passed away in his sleep on Tuesday, Oct. 9, from complications from a stroke.



A private funeral service will be held on Oct. 31 at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Spencer Funeral Home.

George was born in New Jersey on Sept. 4, 1941. Upon graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. Once honorably discharged, he received his bachelor's degree in computer science from Central Connecticut State College.

George worked as a computer programmer for various major corporations. He then went on to work the fair circuit making and selling jewelry in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Florida. His final job was working at BJ's.

George is survived by his four children, Debra Fengler, Sandra King, Mary Chenard, and Michael King, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Stroke Association. The family of George Michael King wishes to thank Attorney Brian Cunningham and the Cobalt Lodge Health Care and Rehabilitation Center for their support and care of George the last few years of his life.

Portland

Harry E. Hetrick

Harry (Dutch) E. Hetrick, 83 beloved husband of 56 years of Judith (Bryant) Hetrick, passed away on Monday, Oct. 22. They were married in May 1962 in St. Francis Church in Middletown, CT. Harry was born on Aug. 3, 1935 in Middletown, son of Harry B. Hetrick and Mary (Peg) O'Neil. He graduated Portland High School in 1954. He entered the Navy in 1954 and serviced thru 1958 on the USS Iowa and was a plank member of the Saratoga. He joined the Portland Fire Department in 1958 and was an active participant for 55 years plus in Company 2. He was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. He was employed at CL&P and retired in 1993 after 33 years of service.



He was an avid reader, enjoyed crossword puzzles and a lover of all things outdoors. He and Judith were lifetime members of St. Mary's Church in Portland.

He is survived by his daughter, Michele (Binke) Bryant and her husband Ronald of Unity, NH and by sons Master Sargent Paul Hetrick and his wife Diane of Clinton, Mass., and Edward Hetrick and his wife Tina of Portland, and also by his 2 granddaughters and 2 great grandchildren.

The funeral will be held Friday, Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial with full military honors will be in St. Mary's Cemetery. Friends called at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home on Thursday, Oct. 25.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the St. Mary's Church rebuilding fund or Portland Fire Engine Company Number 2 equipment fund.

Obituaries continued

East Hampton

Judy Ann Flemke

Judy Ann Flemke, 66, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Thomas Allen Flemke Sr., died unexpectedly at home on Thursday, Oct. 18. Judy was born July 22, 1952, in Middletown, daughter of the late Dorothy Galica and Godfrey Sandstrom.

Judy grew up in Portland and after marrying Tom moved to East Hampton, where they made their home and raised their family. Judy loved spending time with family and friends, particularly playing bingo and poker, and was famous for her bacon wrapped water chestnuts at picnics and parties. Judy also enjoyed watching UCONN women's basketball and the Boston Red Sox. Judy had a HUGE heart despite it being so damaged from years of cardiac issues and only having three-fourths of it.

In addition to her husband Tom, Judy is survived by the pride and joys of her life: her daughter Tina (Matthew) Lanzi and son Thomas (Marcy) Flemke Jr. of East Hampton, and grandchildren Patrick Callis, Madeline and Emma Lanzi, and Katelyn and Dale Flemke. Judy also leaves a void in the hearts of her sisters Cherie (John) Zabiski of Portland and Elaine Smith of Middletown, mother-in-law Ruth Flemke, sister-in-law Diane Humphrey, brother-in-law Leonard (Lisa) Flemke, special cousins Dr. Lewis (Maureen) Labbadia, Carl Labbadia, and Kathleen Labbadia, very special friends Cathie Slack and Linda DeFrancesco, and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Judy was predeceased by her aunt Mildred Labbadia and sister-in-law Sandra Peszynski.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 23 at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Calling hours were Monday, Oct. 22.

Special thanks to Dr. Michael Good, Dr. Kevin Tally, Dr. Jeffrey Kluger and their staffs.

Memorial contributions in Judy's name may be sent to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144 East Hampton, CT 06424 or the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation, 93 East High St. East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Virginia Wool

Virginia (Hawthorne) Wool, "Ginny," 101, of Amston Lake, Hebron, widow of the late Carl Wool, Jr., passed away Thursday, Oct. 18 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born Aug. 6, 1917, in Pelham, NY, she was the daughter of the late Daniel and Frances (Achetsen) Hawthorne.



She was ever devoted to her family and leaves her son, Carl and Joanne Wool, III of Amston; two grandchildren, Scott and Georgia Wool, and Jill and Sean Sisson; seven great grandchildren, Blake, Lucas, Jenna, Tara, Taylor, Alexandra and Sage; and her sister-in-law, Edith Wool; as well as numerous extended family.

Throughout her life, Ginny enjoyed crafting in her spare time and had a warm smile and strong character, thriving independently even in her last days.

The family will receive guests starting at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31 at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. A chapel service will follow at 11:30 a.m. Burial will be private in Forestville Cemetery, Bristol.

Donations in her memory may be made to Save the Children, 501 Kings Highway East, Ste. 400, Fairfield 06825 (savethechildren.org).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.