

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Hard at Work...** Hebron resident Dan Larson does some electrical work during the renovations of Phelps Hall at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The renovation project is moving more quickly than expected. See related story on page 18.

## Belltown Budget Takes Surprising Turn

by Elizabeth Regan

The first referendum on the \$45.64 million 2018-19 proposed East Hampton budget took an unusual turn Tuesday when voters approved the education spending plan and defeated the general government proposal by three votes.

Some education advocates subsequently emailed Town Manager Michael Maniscalco as well as members of the Town Council and Board of Finance to explain their role in the surprising outcome, according to multiple officials. The school supporters said their move to reject the general government proposal was a reaction to what they perceived as unwillingness by the finance board and council to direct an unexpected influx of state funding directly into the Board of Education coffers.

The close call on the general government budget proposal forces a recount, which is triggered when the difference between the 'yes' and 'no' votes is less than one-half of one percent of the total number of votes.

The \$30.50 million education budget was approved by a vote of 972 to 847, as announced by town meeting moderator Red McKinney after the polls closed. It represents an increase of 1.50 over the current budget.

The Board of Education had approved a higher budget back in February, but the Board of Finance shaved off \$670,000.

The \$15.14 million general government budget proposal failed 910 votes to 907, McKinney said. The rejected spending plan, which in-

cluded debt and capital, would have been a 6.53 percent increase over the current budget.

Voter turnout this year was 20.8 percent, according to Republican Registrar Lori Wilcox in a post on the "Let's Talk East Hampton" Facebook page Wednesday.

Wilcox declined to answer any questions from reporters Tuesday night.

The recount will be held today at 6 p.m. at the middle school, according to information available Thursday morning from the town clerk's office. State statute specifies the recount must be held within five business days of the referendum.

Finance board members will meet Monday. If the recount confirms the initial results of the general government vote, members will discuss and possibly recommend a revised budget figure to send back to the council for approval on its way to a second referendum.

This tense budget season pitted education advocates against proponents of lower taxes in the face of rising special education costs and the threat of reduced funding from the state. The situation was exacerbated last week with the passage of a state budget that restored \$716,415 of the \$1.2 million decrease in education aid that officials were expecting when they crafted the 2018-19 spending plan.

If both budgets had passed, it would have been up to the Board of Finance to set a mill See **Belltown Budget** page 2

## Spring is Here – and So are Ticks

by Allison Lazur

Spring is here which means warmer weather, blooming flowers, sun, fresh air – and ticks. While residents across the state are gearing up to spend time outdoors, these blood-thirsty arthropods are gearing up to feed.

Goudarz Molaei of the Department of Environmental Sciences, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, said peak activity for ticks occurs in May and June.

He explained that ticks go through a two-year life cycle, hatching from eggs into larvae and ending as adults.

The larvae feed on small mammals such as mice and birds, they then go through the winter and the following spring they develop into nymphs. These nymphs start feeding on small and large mammals, including humans, Molaei said. The nymphs go through the summer and then in the fall they become adults.

"The risk of infection [of tick borne diseases] is greatest in the nymph stage because they are very active and are very small, making them harder to locate," Molaei said. He added that the infection rate of nymphs with Lyme is lower – at 22 percent – than the 32 percent figure of infected adult ticks.

According to the Connecticut State Department of Public Health's (DPH) website, since

1998 the state has annually reported 3,000 cases of Lyme disease to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, the CDC estimates that the actual number is upwards of ten times the reported 3,000 cases.

Of the *Rivereast* towns, Colchester had the highest number of reported Lyme disease cases last year, totaling 24 – 16 confirmed and eight probable – according to DPH, while Marlborough had the lowest, seeing only two probable cases.

The ticks tested by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station last year revealed 32 percent were infected with Lyme disease, up from the 29 percent discovered in 2016.

The deer tick or blacklegged tick is the only type of tick in the state that is known to transmit Lyme disease, Molaei said.

He did however articulate that there is concern that the East Asian or longhorned tick – discovered last year in New Jersey – could be another transmitter of Lyme disease among other tick borne diseases.

"We haven't discovered any [longhorned ticks] here, but we are keeping a close watch on it," Molaei explained. He added that "having a single specimen introduced doesn't necessarily mean the tick population is established."

Lyme disease isn't the only illness residents should be worried about. Molaei told the *Rivereast* nearly 40 percent of ticks in Connecticut are infected with other diseases such as babesiosis and anaplasmosis, also transmitted by the deer tick.

Both these diseases resemble Lyme in their symptoms, but are less easily diagnosed, according to the CDC. These symptoms include headache, chills and muscle aches, but can vary between patients and are similar to the symptoms of several other diseases.

Chatham Health Director Don Mitchell said "there's a tendency for physicians to give an antibiotic [for Lyme disease] and perhaps a second disease might not be cured by this antibiotic and furthermore helps to create a resistance to this antibiotic."

Chatham Health District is the regional health department that serves Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

A rarer Powassan virus is also a concern, Mitchell said; it was first discovered in the state around this time last year.

A 5-month-old boy was the first case of the potentially-fatal Powassan after being bitten by a tick that traveled onto the child via his father's hunting clothes, according to the *Hart-*



**The deer tick, which transmits Lyme disease, is pictured in its nymph and adult states.**

Photo by American Lyme Disease Foundation. *ford Courant.*

"We've only had one case of the Powassan virus," said Mitchell. "It's much more serious and much different than Lyme and takes less See **Spring is Here** page 2

**Belltown Budget cont. from Front Page**

rate. They had several options, according to Maniscalco: setting the mill rate at the amount proposed when the council approved the budget; using the unexpected state funding to reduce the mill rate; making a supplemental appropriation to allocate the funds to the town or school budget; or both reducing the mill rate and allocating funds to the town or schools.

For the education supporters who plotted to vote down the general government budget, the choice was clear.

One of them explained the rationale this way in an email: “On a re-vote we will vote yes for the town budget as it [is], with no further reductions, if, and only if, the \$700,000 in education funds from the state are restored to the EDUCATION budget only. It is that simple.”

The message, obtained by the *Rivereast*, was sent to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and all members of the Town Council and Board of Finance.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said Wednesday that the state has unexpectedly reduced education funding mid-year on multiple occasions.

She said the town side of the budget – not the Board of Education – is responsible for picking up the slack when the check from the state doesn’t arrive.

“We find that money,” she said. “We eat that loss.”

East Hampton faced a dramatic \$1.27 million reduction in education aid late last year – several months after the local budget was approved – but officials were able to avoid sending out a supplemental tax bill thanks to what Maniscalco referred to as a tax mitigation package. It included a proactive 0.44 mill property tax increase factored into the budget approved by voters last spring and an aggressive policy on recouping back taxes.

Going forward, Engel said she’s unsure what kind of cuts will be made to the 2018-19 town spending plan based on its failure at referendum. She described it as an already lean budget.

Among the possibilities officials could consider are reductions in part time staff, parks and recreation programs and library hours, according to Engel.

“I would certainly not like to do any of those, but they are things we’ll have to look at,” she said.

Maniscalco described any layoffs as a last resort.

“I’ll work my darndest to make sure that doesn’t happen,” he said.

The general government proposal already includes a \$10,000 reduction to the \$442,551 library budget and a \$5,000 cut to the requested Middle Haddam library allocation of \$10,000.

On the capital side, the proposal was reduced

over the course of the budget planning process in several areas. A request for \$40,000 in sidewalk replacement funds was cut to \$20,000; a new vehicle for the police chief was put off for a future year; and \$25,000 in funding for the Air Line Trail was removed from the capital budget proposal.

Maniscalco said the Public Works department will perform “in-kind” work on the Air Line Trail project – instead of paying in cash – to fulfill the local match requirement that came with a grant from the state to connect the rail trail to Portland.

**One and Done on the Education Side**

Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith was at the middle school Tuesday night when the results were announced. It’s his third budget season in East Hampton; it’s also the third time the school district’s budget has passed at the first referendum under his watch.

He acknowledged there had been a move afoot by some parents to vote down the general government budget, but he said he thought it had died down. Then the state budget numbers were released.

“As of last weekend, I started seeing the conversation again when there was no commitment for that \$700,000 – or even a portion of it – going to education,” Smith said. “So who knows.”

He said he has supported both the education and general government spending plans all along – especially because there is capital funding for education on the town side of the budget.

He pointed to a \$150,000 line item in the capital budget that would fund interior door locks for all classrooms in the district. The safety mechanism is designed to prevent an intruder from getting into the classroom in the event of an emergency lockdown.

“Hopefully with the cuts they have to make, they’re not going to go directly for the school safety locks,” Smith said.

Engel on Wednesday said she’s not in favor of cutting the interior door locks.

“I’m hoping there’s some other things we can find that we can eliminate,” she said.

Smith has said the education budget will likely result in the reduction of eight teaching positions including high school math, science and English teachers, a health teacher covering middle and high school; a librarian and Spanish teacher in the middle school; and a fifth and third grade teacher. While some of those teachers will be moved elsewhere in their schools or the district, Smith said he anticipates three of them will lose their jobs.

Any cuts would have to be approved by the school board once high school course enrollments are complete and exact class sizes for the coming year are determined, Smith said.

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last week Marlborough held its first-ever budget referendum. It was a move I’d championed for a while, as I’d long thought the town’s previous format for passing budgets – gather townfolk in a crowded room on a Monday night – was woefully outdated. An all-day budget referendum would give people more opportunities to vote, more opportunities to weigh in on what they thought about town spending.

Turns out nobody really cared the town gave them more opportunities to vote.

The number of registered voters that showed up at the polls last week was pathetically low. Just 13 percent of the town’s 4,223 registered voters bothered to cast ballots.

Marlborough is hardly alone when it comes to poor turnouts for budget referendums. And I just don’t get it. This is, after all, your chance to indicate if you’re pleased where your tax dollars are going – heck, it’s your chance to indicate how you feel about your taxes possibly increasing.

Instead, in every town in *Rivereast*-land, folks opt to stay home. Turnout is typically best in East Hampton, which usually brings in around 30 percent. Better than Marlborough’s, sure, but it still means 7 in 10 registered voters couldn’t be bothered.

Anybody who has any interest at all in what’s going on in town should show up at the polls and cast a vote. This is your tax dollars that are being spent – don’t you want a say in it?

\* \* \*

Last week, I went with some friends over to Dunkin’ Donuts Park in Hartford to watch the Yard Goats play the Binghamton Rumble Ponies – the Double A affiliate of my beloved New York Mets. The stadium was jam-packed, as people came from all around to watch a certain Rumble Pony live and in person: leftfielder Tim Lincecum.

Lincecum, of course, is the former star college football quarterback who enjoyed a little bit of success in the NFL, leading the Denver Broncos to the postseason several years back, before falling out of favor. After bouncing around a few different teams – none of which gave him much, if any, playing time – Lincecum dallied briefly at a broadcast career before focusing on baseball.

Despite his NFL star burning out quickly, Lincecum has always been a big name in the sport – and it made sense that wattage would translate to baseball. Indeed, it has. Lincecum hasn’t put up tremendous numbers during his time in the Mets’ minor-league system, but he’s played respectably. Moreover, he seems like a heck of a nice guy – annually doing a ton for charity – so I have no problem at all rooting for him to succeed.

Alas, not everybody at the ballpark last Monday night seemed to feel the same.

There were a lot of cheers for him, which was nice, but I also caught several people heckling Lincecum for his Christianity. It’s been a point of derision among many since he first broke into the NFL all those years ago, and I was saddened to see it spread to the seats at Dunkin’ Donuts Park.

It was depressing to hear people mockingly call out to Lincecum that he better pray to God to get a hit, or that he should ask Jesus for help with a catch. Not only wasn’t it funny – but why mock someone for their religious beliefs? Yes, I’m a Christian myself, but I’d feel this way if the player were Jewish, or Muslim, or Hindu, or whatever. Do some people go too far, using their religion as an excuse to oppress others or conduct themselves in a way that’s not very Christian at all? Absolutely. But Lincecum isn’t hurting anybody. He’s trying to play a sport he loves – be it baseball or be it football – and he just

happens to be more outspoken about his religious beliefs than others in his situation. Why should anyone care?

\* \* \*

You’ve probably heard about that shockingly tasteless and horribly unfunny “joke” by a White House communications aide about John McCain. In case you missed it: last Thursday, communications aide Kelly Sadler reportedly said McCain’s opposition to CIA Gina Haspel “doesn’t matter” because McCain, who has brain cancer, is “dying anyway.”

It was an awful joke about a celebrated war hero who has served this country well in the U.S. Senate. While I haven’t always agreed with McCain politically – in fact, I often have disagreed – the man is a class act and highly respected. His prognosis is grim, and that saddens me. To make a joke about his death – even if it is behind closed doors – is extremely tasteless.

Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders didn’t help matters by focusing more on the fact that Sadler’s comment was leaked than what it was Sadler actually said. According to CNN, Sanders refused to publicly criticize the joke, even though sources said she privately told White House press staff it was inappropriate.

Why not say that publicly? Yes, Sadler’s comment was leaked, and maybe it shouldn’t have been, but the fact is it makes the entire administration look bad. The reaction to that joke getting out shouldn’t be “how did that get out?” but rather “holy cow, that’s an awful thing to say.”

According to CNN, White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told Fox News over the weekend, while discussing this matter, “You have to have freedom to speak in a private meeting, to speak candidly.” This may be true – but just because you can joke about a gravely ill senator dying doesn’t mean you should.

\* \* \*

Over the weekend I was going through the cable guide on TV and turned to C-Span when I learned the channel was showing a President Trump speech. I like to peek in on C-Span from time to time, particularly when they’re showing speeches like that. It’s a chance to get a completely unfiltered view at what’s going on – without all the talking heads to tell you how to interpret what you just saw.

Trump was campaigning in Indiana for Republican Mike Braun, who’s looking to unseat Democrat Joe Donnelly in the U.S. Senate this fall. Within 30 seconds of turning the channel to C-Span – no exaggeration – Trump was calling Donnelly “Sleepin’ Joe.” He really does love those derogatory nicknames for those he disagrees with, doesn’t he? It doesn’t strike me as very presidential, and never has.

I wound up lasting all of I think two minutes with the speech. About a minute and a half after his “Sleepin’ Joe” crack, Trump took credit for the fact that people are saying “Merry Christmas” again instead of “Happy Holidays.” The only thing more tiresome than the so-called “War on Christmas” is reliving it in the middle of May.

\* \* \*

I’ve been hard on Trump in this space, no doubt. But I’ll give credit where credit is due – he had a good week last week, getting the release of three Americans being held hostage in North Korea. I’m hoping his meeting with Kim Jong Un is productive – and peaceful.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

**Spring is Here cont. from Front Page**

than an hour to transmit.” The CDC states that, in most cases, a tick must be attached to a host for 36 to 48 hours before the Lyme disease bacterium is transmitted.

According to the CDC, symptoms of the Powassan virus include fever, headache, vomiting, weakness, confusion, seizures and memory loss. In some cases, long-term neurologic problems may occur. “There is no specific treatment, but people with severe Powassan virus often need to be hospitalized to receive respiratory support, intravenous fluids, or medications to reduce swelling in the brain.”

The good news is this tick season will not be nearly as bad as last year, Molaie said.

He attributed this silver lining to several factors.

“We had a few weeks of harsh weather this past winter, as well as a longer winter,” he said. Molaie explained that the winters of 2015 and 2016 were unusually warm with no frost, as well as having longer springs and summers resulting in an increased tick population last year.

Because ticks are cold-blooded, Molaie explained that if there is a gradual decrease in cold temperatures rather than a sudden cold shock, the ticks have a better chance of surviving.

Molaie could not provide a definite temperature of where ticks die off because he said his research reveals that some ticks die at one cold temperature while others continue to survive.

“We are finding that they are surviving northern regions all the way to Maine even though

it’s colder,” he said.

**Protect Yourself**

The CDC recommends several precautionary measures to protect yourself, yard and pets from these bloodthirsty organisms.

On its website, the CDC advises using “Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone.” The centers also encourage daily tick checks, creating a tick-free yard and protecting pets with veterinary-approved tick medications.

“Keep patios, play areas, and playground equipment away from shrubs, bushes, and other vegetation,” the website said. “Regularly remove leaves, clear tall grasses and brush around your home, and place wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to keep ticks away from recreational areas [and away from you].”

The CDC also advises taking a shower soon after coming in from outdoors and drying clothes on high heat. In the event that a tick is found attached to your body, the CDC says to remove it with fine-tipped tweezers as soon as you can.

Although other disease are transmitted more quickly, the website stresses that “if a tick is attached to your skin for less than 24 hours, your chance of getting Lyme disease is extremely small.”

# St. Peter's Renovation Work Ahead of Schedule in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Expanding the kitchen at St. Peter's Episcopal Church is a step toward achieving a long-term dream of the congregation.

The idea behind the expansion is to transform the church hall – Phelps Hall – into a community resource.

"So we're not only thinking of our church," Rob Mangiafico, church co-warden, said. "We're looking at the community at large."

The plan is to partner with local organizations, which will use the hall for functions and receive a portion of donations from church functions. In addition, the organizations will be able to set up tables and introduce themselves to folks during church events.

"We're really trying to make it a partnership," Mangiafico said. "The ultimate goal would be to donate all [proceeds from church functions] to the outreach."

Currently, it's a balancing act between donating funds raised through events and using them for the church, he said. The long term goal is to use all funds from fund raisers toward outside organizations and fund the church through donations, pledges and weekly collections.

"That's been a long-term dream, but it will take a while," said the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, pastor of the church.

In the meantime, functions support both the church and outside organizations, such as a recent dinner that helped out the Windham No-Freezer Center, a homeless shelter in Windham, said Kolanowski. He pointed out that it's all part of following the Bible.

"I think that it's basically the message of the Gospel, that's what we're here for; it isn't just worrying about ourselves," he said. "We are stewards for all that is given to us."

He explained he meant that everything, including people, comes from God.

"We're stewards of that," he said "We're trying more and more to live into that."

It's about becoming a resource for organizations that are themselves resources for the community, Mangiafico said.

"We're called to be a part of the community and give the light of Jesus onto others," he said. "How do we become a resource, kind of a bea-

con of light to resources and organization that need help?"

In addition, it's about building relationships and welcoming the community into the church, Kolanowski said.

"Extending hospitality is a core, I think, value and that has been a value here at St. Peter's, to invite people in and extending hospitality and this is kind of stepping that up," he said.

The church may also open the kitchen to small businesses, though it has yet to decide if it's a doable option.

"We got an email from a local farmer who asked if she could use our kitchen on a regular basis as part of her business," Kolanowski said.

The woman had baked bread when she lived out of state but in Connecticut she would need to use a commercial kitchen, which she does not have, he explained.

"We're really in a period of discernment, as well, about how best to use [the kitchen]," he said.

A committee of the church is working on how to use the hall once the expansion is complete.

Another idea is to allow people to use it for funeral receptions for people who utilize the cemetery behind the church.

"Because we have such great cooks here we could actually do the catering ourselves because we have done huge, huge lunches for our own members who have loved ones who have died," Kolanowski said. "We do it for our members so how might we extend it to people who are not part of our organization?"

The project is being done in two phases. Phase 2, which is currently underway, includes ripping out the old kitchen to expand the gathering area and increase seating capacity, renovating the bathrooms and installing a set of French doors leading to a new deck where grilling and outside fun will take place.

Work on phase 2 started Sunday, April 22.

"Right after church we had 10 to 15 guys here with sledge hammers and they were going to town," Mangiafico said.

"We gave them four days to knock down the walls and ceiling, get it all out hauled and swept for a session with members from other churches," Kolanowski said.



Ron Churney paints a wall during Phase 2 of renovations of Phelps Hall at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

They completed their task, built a temporary wall, put up plastic and cleaned the kitchen in time for the function.

Phase 1, which started in 2016 and was completed last year, included an addition with a basement and a brand-new kitchen with a dishwasher, commercial stove, convection oven and four sinks, one of which is a separate food prep sink, Mangiafico said.

Phase 1 took much less time than anticipated, according to Mangiafico and Kolanowski.

"What we thought was a two- to five-year project; it was much quicker," Mangiafico said. "The parish was very generous."

The church raised \$185,000 toward Phase 1 – 95 percent of which was from parish members and small donations, "which was amazing because we had just finished replacing our windows... kind of blew us away," Mangiafico said.

Fundraising for the estimated \$50,000 to complete phase 2 is ongoing.

In addition to donating money to the project,

church members have also donated time and talent to the endeavor.

"We're fortunate to have some construction people in the parish," the pastor said.

The launch of the kitchen and the church's concept of partnering with the larger community will take place in Nov. 10. Entitled "A Celebration of Community Giving," the event will take place in Phelps Hall. The evening will include a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner, dancing with music by the RHAM jazz group, and speakers.

The Historical Society, AHM and the No Freeze Shelter will be invited to celebrate and consider partnering with the church and using its resources, Mangiafico said.

Sponsorships to tables are being sold and ticket sales have begun.

St. Peter's serves the communities of Andover, Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, East Hampton, Lebanon and Marlborough.

## Lead Still Bothering Hebron Elementary

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Education has agreed to continue to test for lead in water at Hebron Elementary School.

An administrative agreement between the board and the State of Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) details how the district will continue to address the lead issue – namely by regular testing. Last Thursday, the board authorized schools superintendent Timothy Van Tassel to sign the document.

It means the board is no longer under an administrative order regarding the lead.

"We removed ourselves from the administrative order," Van Tassel said in a phone call Tuesday.

In February, DPH representatives attended a school board meeting and presented Van Tassel with an administrative order regarding the lead problem. The district had complied with the initial order, which expired in November.

The order indicated the district had to continue monitoring the lead by sampling the water at the school, submitting samples to DPH every six months and giving DPH monthly reports regarding the injector system installed last year. The system treats the water with zinc orthophosphate, a corrosion inhibitor.

"It's important to note that [the lead is] not coming from the source," Van Tassel said.

Specifically, it's coming from lead solder, in older pipes, breaking down, which is evidenced by lead levels in different areas of the school, the superintendent said.

"It's very noticeable," he said. "When we do

the lead testing we test different points – at the oldest points it's higher."

The problem is not unique to Hebron, Van Tassel added. The lead solder was used in pipes in a lot of older schools in past.

Since February, lead levels have decreased enough to knock the district off the order but are not at the DPH threshold, Van Tassel said. The agreement is the next step.

"We're hoping that in the near future we'll be able to be off the agreement," he said. "Ultimately our goal is that we're going to be able to mitigate [the lead]."

With back-to-back samplings, six months apart, below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lead/Copper Rule thresholds, the district will be removed from the agreement.

"It will be a long process," Van Tassel said.

The district's ability to mitigate the lead will depend on whether the treatment system is working effectively to address the levels of lead, Van Tassel said. So far it has not proven to be as effective as anticipated.

"We've gone through this potential fix, but unfortunately it's not as good as we had hoped," Van Tassel said.

With the treatment system not as effective as hoped, the district will establish protocols to assure water is constantly running at strong enough rates that lead levels don't become larger, Van Tassel said.

"It's a flushing protocol, making sure that the water is running through the pipes as opposed

to sitting there. That's difficult when school is not in session," he added. "In summer there's going to be a tendency for the lead to be increased."

Keeping the public informed of the situation continues to be of utmost importance, and Van Tassel said, the district does monthly testing and sends results to families. Those reports have continued to state the district is still experiencing lead issues.

Lead was first discovered in the school's water in November of 2016, according to a timeline Van Tassel presented at the February school board meeting.

"Nov. 7, 2016, DPH notified us that we had high levels of lead at Hebron Elementary School," he said. "When we learned about that we immediately discontinued the use of water for drinking at the school instantly."

A sample taken in June of last year was negative, indicating the fix the district had made was working ahead of schedule, Van Tassel said. Then, a sample taken in September was positive and two rounds of samples in December were also positive.

"Since then, we continue to do our water monitoring," he said. "We're still on bottled water."

When lead was originally detected, the district notified parents, Van Tassel said.

Since that time, the only drinking water at the school has been bottled water, a measure that will continue until the lead issue is resolved.

Van Tassel said.

Due to the situation involving high volumes of lead found in drinking water in Flint, Mich., in 2014, Connecticut has been vigilant in making sure everyone in a community is informed if lead is detected in its water supply, Brendan Rowley, Certified Water Operator from Hungerford's Pump Service, said at the February meeting.

"Flint, Mich., is quite the story; there are many issues today that remain," Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief for the Drinking Water Section of the DPH, said.

The problem in Flint occurred when water for the city was taken from the Flint River rather than from the city of Detroit, where it was previously sourced, Mathieu said.

"As soon as they turned that water on and let that into the system, the water changed," Mathieu said.

Residents of the city reported health issues, including among children, that they said were caused by the water, Mathieu said. High levels of lead were ultimately blamed.

A number of people lost their jobs and there are state employees who have been charged with negligence, she added.

"Lead has a real impact to developing brains in young children; especially at an elementary school it's a severe issue that has to be dealt with and has to be dealt with instantly," Mathieu said. "Flint really changed the way every state looks at water."

# Is Portland Project ‘Site Work’ or ‘Excavation’?

by Elizabeth Regan

Local developer and selectman Ben Srb is again looking to use a loophole in zoning regulations to get approval for an extensive excavation project on the eastern end of Route 66 that would allow him to operate outside the town’s excavation regulations.

A site plan, filed with the land use department last month, details the construction of an 8,200-square foot retail shop and storage building that would be constructed on several acres – after a projected five-year excavation period.

The site plan application was submitted by 1600 Portland Cobalt Road LLC and received by the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 26. A database maintained by the Secretary of the State’s office identifies the company’s principals as Thomas R. Clausi and Benjamin Srb.

It appears the project, if approved as submitted, would not be subject to earth material removal regulations designed to “prevent damage to other property and to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public.” That’s because excavation work approved as part of a site plan – instead of through a special permit – is exempt from those regulations.

A May 14 engineering review by town engineer Geoffrey Jacobson, of Nathan L. Jacobson and Associates, said members of the Planning and Zoning Commission should be aware the project will require “substantial” earth cuts up to almost 50 feet in depth.

The proposed Route 66 site work will cover about 5.4 acres of the 26.85-acre parcel, according to Jacobson.

Documentation provided with the application does not specify how much material Srb and Clausi expect to remove from the site. Land use staff said Jacobson has asked the applicants’ engineer, Frank Magnotta, to provide those details.

Srb did not return multiple calls and an email asking for comment on this story.

Srb is currently doing site work on the corner of Sage Hollow Road and Cornwall Street, where he has a zoning permit for a single-family home. He is about three-and-a-half years into clearing an unspecified amount of earth material from the 1.18-acre, residentially-zoned property. The project has been opposed by some residents who wonder how he can conduct extensive excavation operations with only a minimal level of local zoning oversight.

Srb’s Sage Hollow sand pit last year led the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider revising zoning regulations to close loopholes allowing the existence of largely-unregulated sand pits. Nothing ever came of those discussions.

Land Use Administrator Ashley Majorowski indicated in land use documents that she may ask for the site plan application to be changed to a special permit application once she has a

more solid understanding of the quantity of material to be removed from the site.

Documents produced by the applicants’ engineer, Frank Magnotta, show plans for both a 4,000-square-foot and a 4,200-square-foot building. The application states one will contain office and retail space, while the structure in the rear will be used for the storage of motor vehicles and assembly space for on-site sale.

The commission last July approved a zone change from residential to business at the applicants’ request. But Jacobson noted at the beginning of his memo that the town has not yet filed the zone change in the Portland land records and on the zoning map – which he indicated needs to be addressed in order for the application to proceed.

Majorowski said it’s unclear if the application will be discussed at the Planning and Zoning Commission’s upcoming May 24 meeting or if it will be continued while the applicant addresses five pages of concerns outlined in Jacobson’s engineering review.

## Excavation Examples

Large-scale excavations or fill projects are typically approved as part of a special permit, according to land use staff. An example is 1561 Portland Cobalt Road, across from Srb’s proposed site, which is being excavated via a 2012 special permit that has been renewed every two years since.

The property sits between Morin Diesel and the Riverside Inn and Suites.

The most recent renewal was submitted by David Erlandson, of Riverside Equities LLC, who was approved to remove up to 249,860 cubic yards of earth material.

Land use staff said the owner ultimately plans to build there, but is currently operating as an excavation site.

Erlandson confirmed this week that his long-term plans for the site include a commercial use.

Another example is prominent local developer Wayne Rand’s fill project on Route 66, across from Middle Haddam Road, where he has been hauling in 63,000 cubic yards of material to fill 2.4 acres of his 9.39-acre property. Rand’s special permit application specified he was doing the work “to produce a usable site platform.”

Srb and Clausi, however, are able to avoid the kind of conditions and oversight that come with special permit approval – such as prescribed hours of operation and a two-year renewal requirement – by instead tying the proposed excavation work directly to the construction of the two commercial buildings through a site plan application.

A significant condition that comes with special permits for excavation is the posting of site restoration bonds, which require applicants to put down a sum of money that is returned to

them once the site is stabilized and planted. If the restoration work isn’t done by the applicant, the town itself may use the funds to undertake the stabilization effort.

The bond is required to make sure an applicant doesn’t walk away from an excavation project without returning the surface to acceptable conditions. There is no such provision in site plan regulations, according to the land use department.

Land Use staff said this week they were not aware of excavation or fill projects of similar scope that have been submitted as site plan applications.

One application also introduced to the Planning and Zoning Commission last month would include some filling and grading for a new Dairy Queen across the street from the current one on the corner of routes 17 and 66, according to meeting minutes. But Majorowski said the project “is nothing like” the amount of excavation being proposed for 1600 Portland Cobalt Road.

A previous site plan application from Srb approved by the commission in April 2012 resulted in the construction of Chris Cote’s Golf Shop at 750 Portland Cobalt Rd., which received its certificate of occupancy in December 2013.

The project included excavation to remove ledge that took up most of the property, according to the land use department.

Staff said the 2012 approval differs from Srb’s current site plan application because the golf shop property was smaller. And since an old house on the site didn’t fit into the business-zoned area, getting rid of it and opening up a shop was more compatible with zoning.

Land use staff said they are still uncertain if either the department or the commission is allowed to ask Srb and Clausi to submit a special permit application instead of a site plan application.

Majorowski said she was still trying to go through case precedent to determine how the courts have treated similar cases.

When asked if she had sought out advice from town counsel, she said the department prefers not “to do things like that if we don’t have to.”

Both Majorowski and Zoning Enforcement Officer Dan Bourret have about two years in their current positions.

During a budget discussion at a Board of Selectmen meeting last month, Srb railed against what he felt was excessive use of legal fees. Selectmen ultimately agreed to cut First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield’s \$97,000 recommended budget for town counsel by \$12,000.

## Emerging Issues

Jacobson’s review included several pages of issues he said should be addressed. Items include the need for more detailed narrative about

how the excavation would be structured and sequenced, more information about the impact of stormwater runoff, and the submission of a list of all adjacent property owners.

While the property includes wetlands, the project was given the go-ahead by Portland Wetland Agent James Sipperly. He described the excavation area as “well over 200’ from any potential wetland areas” on the parcel.

“No permits are required and I will inspect regularly,” Sipperly wrote.

According to a Nov. 6 letter from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) environmental analyst Dawn M. McKay to Magnotta, the property contains a “significant natural community” of wetlands known as medium fen. McKay said such wetlands can be destroyed by direct stormwater discharge and by groundwater diversion activities conducted in the vicinity of the fen. Any road construction or development activities should strive to avoid those practices, she concluded.

There is also a natural gas pipeline running through the site, which prompted Majorowski last week to reach out to Enbridge Inc., the company behind Algonquin Gas Transmission, to find out if there were any comments or concerns about the project. An Enbridge employee responded the next day to say the applicants must ensure that the slope down from the company’s right of way remain stable for any work the company may do in the area. He asked to review any drawing sets approved by the commission.

According to an email from Majorowski to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield obtained through a Freedom of Information request, Srb and Clausi visited the land use office last week to find out who had reached out to the gas company. Srb told Majorowski she could get fired for doing such a thing, she said.

Majorowski told Bransfield she was writing to make her aware of the situation.

“Since the gas line is a public utility that is regulated by PURA [Public Utilities Regulatory Authority] I do believe that I was correct in notifying them. To me it is a public health and safety issue since it could impact the entire town and surrounding area,” Majorowski wrote.

She said Srb told her and building inspector Lincoln White that he is not conducting a sand and gravel excavation and that he will be done in less than five years.

In the case of the Sage Hollow sand pit, Srb has adamantly maintained he is doing “site work” for the single-family home as opposed to “excavating” the property.

Majorowski told Bransfield she wanted to make her aware of the situation “since this may become a bigger issue if it is determined that he is planning to do a sand and gravel excavation.”

# Scant Turnout Passes Portland Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

A typically light turnout of about 9.1 percent of the town’s registered voters went to the polls Monday, narrowly approving a \$34.04 million 2018-19 spending plan.

The budget passed by 54 votes, according to Town Clerk Ryan Curley. There were 305 votes in favor of the budget and 251 against it.

Selectmen on Wednesday addressed the revenue side of the picture when they set the mill rate at 33.81 mills. The calculation takes into account \$479,216 in unexpected revenue from the state that was announced last week as part of the newly approved state budget.

What officials thought would be a 1.42 mill increase as a result of the reduced state funding has become a 0.83 mill increase, now that selectmen have used the unanticipated funds to lower the property tax burden on residents.

State lawmakers restored education funding in most towns to the amount originally promised in the two-year state budget approved in October.

Portland officials originally estimated a total \$1.16 million cut to education funding when

they put together the town’s 2018-19 budget proposal, based on reductions to municipal aid made by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy in November and revised budget recommendations announced in February.

Selectman Jim Tripp made the motion to use the \$479,216 to drive down the mill rate increase. It was approved unanimously.

Tripp said voters approved a certain amount of spending when they passed the budget this week. He described it as appropriate to give the additional funding back to taxpayers.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the town maintains a “healthy” fund balance – otherwise known as a rainy-day fund – that amounts to 17 percent of the total operating budget.

A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Based on a potential mill rate of 33.81, taxes paid on a home assessed at \$200,000 for the 2017-18 fiscal year would be \$6,762. That’s an increase of \$166 over the current year.

The total \$34.04 million spending plan for

2018-19 is an increase of 389,166, or 1.16 percent, over the current budget.

The \$20.68 million 2018-19 education budget is flat compared to the current year.

The \$13.36 general government numbers – including debt and capital expenses – represent an increase of 3.00 percent over the current budget.

The education spending plan is the result of efforts to mitigate the effect of increased medical insurance premiums and escalating special education costs, according to officials.

The budget cuts one teaching position each in kindergarten, first grade, third grade and fourth grade. A special education teaching position, a full-time custodian and a full-time library assistant position were eliminated through attrition.

Superintendent of Schools Philip O’Reilly said the elementary school teaching cuts will result in class sizes in the low 20s, with 16-17 students projected for each of the kindergarten classes.

The budget proposal reduces the technology

department, athletic department and building budget line items by 10 percent each, while the special education is cut by \$12,000. A plan to purchase an \$18,000 floor scrubber that has been requested for years was scrapped again.

The proposed capital budget, which is up \$278,500 over the current year, funds the third phase of a window project at Brownstone Elementary School, a dump truck body and a new reporting system for the police department

## Voter Turnout

With 542 votes cast for the proposed budget, voter turnout of 9.1 percent was in line with data going back to the start of this decade.

Curley said the total number of votes includes 14 absentee ballots.

There are 6,141 registered voters in Portland, according to Curley.

Turnout for budget referendums in town ranged from lows of 7.68 percent in 2014 and 8.26 percent in 2013 to highs of 12.1 and 12.4 percent in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

The number of voters came in at 588 last year, 495 in 2016 and 482 in 2015.



# \$55.37M Colchester Budget Heads to Town Meeting

by Allison Lazur

The Board of Finance Wednesday unanimously decided to move the proposed 2018-19 town and school budgets, totaling \$55.37 million to a town meeting with no changes. This decision was made after the budget – presented at a public hearing – revealed residents were in agreement with what was brought forth by the town.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov stated the board started its budget planning a month late in hopes that revenue numbers would be released from the state.

These numbers were released May 9 as projected, and revealed favorable results for Colchester.

Under Governor Daniel P. Malloy's original numbers released in February, the town was on track for a 3 percent tax increase. However, the newly-agreed-upon state budget restored education funding and municipal aid to towns that were planning for the worst. The additional revenue revealed an additional \$1.33 million for Colchester when compared to the governor's figures.

"Anything that is coming in as revenue, including the state aid is used to offset taxes," Tarlov told the *Rivereast*.

First Selectman Art Shilosky began the public hearing by presenting the town's proposed \$14.82 million budget, a \$113,227 increase over current year spending.

His approach was short and sweet from the start, offering residents the choice to request a line by line presentation or to jump straight to questions.

"If you want me to go through the whole thing, I'm more than happy to, Shilosky said." "But the bottom line is where our budget stands now – working with the Board of Finance and

everybody else – we came in at a negative increase in taxes."

The proposed budget would leave residents with a .25 percent decrease in taxes.

"I don't know the last time we had a decrease in taxes," Shilosky said. "The Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Selectmen worked hard to get where we are. It's important we keep it this way because next year we don't know what the legislature is going to do."

If passed the proposed budget would also result in a decrease of 0.09 mills, producing a 32.28 mill rate.

One mill is equivalent to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property, meaning a 36.28 mill rate would result in a resident paying \$9,070 in taxes on a home assessed at \$250,000.

The proposed budget includes general government totaling \$3.65 million, an increase of \$72,223; \$2.93 million for public safety, an increase of \$66,344; and Public Works totaling \$3.55 million or a \$29,571 increase over current year spending.

Shilosky touched on some items of interest including the increase in fire marshal hours from 32.5 to 40, resulting in a \$14,790 increase.

Shilosky rationalized the increase in hours by explaining that it's the responsibility of the fire marshal to inspect every restaurant, business and three family home. "If we don't and something happens, the town is negligible," Shilosky said.

Other personnel changes that impacted the budget proposal included the resident state trooper, who will be 100 percent funded by the town, resulting in an \$18,482 increase.

The increased proposed budget also saw increased revenues.

The overall grand list increase of \$15.03 mil-

lion or 1.2 percent equates to an additional \$486,582 in tax dollars when based upon the current year's mill rate of 32.37 mills.

The Grand List represents the net value of assessed real estate, personal property and motor vehicles in town.

Interest on delinquent taxes also helped increase the town's revenue by an additional \$50,000.

Interim schools superintendent Mary Conway showcased the school's \$40.55 million budget – a \$87,061 decrease over current year spending.

Conway's presentation included \$25.50 million in salaries, an increase of \$426,177; benefits – totaling 6.41 million, a \$266,150 decrease, as well as transportation contributing \$2.40 million – a \$17,549 decrease.

Throughout the numbers and figures, Conway made sure to always place the importance on what was best for the students by emphasizing three factors: Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) and technology "to support personalized learning."

SEL is the support provided to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, Conway explained.

In her original budget presentation last month, Conway placed the same emphasis on SEL articulating that it "helps our children grow" adding "we are partners with all of our parents."

The proposed budget reflected an additional 1.0 special education teacher at the elementary school as well as at the middle school, as an example of SEL.

Conway encompassed SRBI by stating, "We

are providing intervention to kids prior to identifying them as special education. In fact, you can't be identified as a student in need of special education unless you go through this intensive intervention process."

Conway noted that the unfilled positions of a reading specialist at the elementary school and an early paraprofessional had now been filled. She emphasized that this did not mean an increase as those positions already existed in the current year's budget.

Conway explained that technology – her final budget priority – is "not the end-all, be-all, but it certainly supports our learning."

She referenced various additions to all Colchester schools, including Chromebooks, iPads and projectors.

"We build the program for the needs of the kids," she said.

It was apparent Conway and school board chairman Bradley Bernier were proud of the budget they presented.

Bernier was excited to present the District Accountability Index, which ranked the district in comparison to other districts similar in size and socioeconomic status. He showed a graph that illustrates what Colchester received as a score from the state while taking into account the cost per student.

Bernier explained that the graph revealed "we are performing very well for low cost."

\* \* \*

The town meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall, where residents will have a final opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions on the proposed budget before the referendum vote – also at Town Hall – on Tuesday, June 19, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

## Andover Budget Moves Forward After Contentious Town Meeting

by Sloan Brewster

After being tweaked at the annual budget meeting, an \$11.21 million budget proposal has been approved for referendum; but one resident thinks the charter was violated at the meeting.

The \$11.21 million proposed budget represents a \$518,129, or 9.05 percent, increase in expenses. The spending plan translates to a 1.69 mill increase and, if approved, will bring the mill rate to 34.19, a 5.2 percent increase.

At last Thursday's annual budget meeting, voters eliminated \$100,000 for bathrooms and concession facilities at Riverside Drive Recreational Field. Since then, Board of Finance member Jeffrey Murray has asked Town Administrator Joseph Higgins to have the town attorney look into the legality of the vote.

On Wednesday, Higgins said he had not brought the matter to the town's legal counsel for scrutiny as he takes direction from the Board of Selectmen. He said he would discuss it with selectmen at their next meeting on June 6.

Murray claims some residents were denied their charter-given eligibility to vote.

During the meeting, some parents were down the hall in the gymnasium at a talent show. Moderator Wally Barton said they had asked to be informed when the budget came to a vote and that he would send them a text when the time came.

When a resident made a motion to remove the \$100,000, Barton did not inform the absent parents.

Board of Finance Chairman Daniel Warren asked him if the parents should be notified and Barton replied that they only wanted to know when the final vote was taken, not of votes on smaller line items.

When folks from the audience became disgruntled, Barton said the meeting could be adjourned.

"If you want them to participate in the de-

bate, then we should adjourn this meeting and come back next week," he said. "No one told us there was conflict."

He also apprised the crowd that, per town charter, the meeting must take place seven days after the one held the week before, at which the budget was not approved.

"It was made known that evening there was a conflict," Murray said.

Warren sent a letter to the town attorney asking to reschedule, Murray said. Warren said the same thing earlier in the meeting.

As discussion on the \$100,000 in funding for the facilities proceeded, Murray cut in with a motion to adjourn, which, by a show of hands, was defeated.

There was also disagreement about how the line item ended up in the budget. Earlier in the meeting, First Selectman Robert Burbank said it was not recommended by selectmen.

Board of Finance member Adrian Mandeville later stated that it was a recommendation of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee.

"Bob made a comment that this didn't come from the Board of Selectmen, but the Board of Selectmen put together the CIP committee, who put this before us," Mandeville said.

At that point voices became raised with some folks accusing Mandeville of attacking the first selectman.

"Stop attacking the first selectman!" someone from the audience shouted.

Barton told one resident to "Sit down!" before everyone grew calm.

Despite the commotion, the motion was called to a vote. By a show of hands, it passed and the \$100,000 was cut.

At the end of the meeting, Murray approached the *Rivereast* to express dissatisfaction with the proceedings, saying that the town was disproportionately represented when those

parents were not given the opportunity to participate in the process and that the meeting should not have taken place.

"They should've called (the parents) for the vote on the fields," he said. "The parents - the people with children - were excluded from the decision of removing the athletic field improvements and in turn their only recourse was to vote 'yes' or 'no' on the [overall] budget."

On Sunday, Murray sent a letter to Higgins, forwarding a copy to the *Rivereast*. In it, he explained that parents attending the talent show were told they could not register to vote in the meeting and then leave. Rather, they could attend the talent show and would be notified when the vote was taking place, at which point they could register and, subsequently, vote.

Murray also described entering the meeting at an opportune moment.

"What I witnessed when I arrived was a group of people voting to remove the soccer field improvements while the parents were at the gym expecting a notification from the moderator for any vote on the budget which includes votes to change budget items," he wrote. "While the [Andover Elementary School] parents were attending the talent show, a group of mostly seniors and people without children were voting to remove line items in the budget that parents with children should have been present to participate and vote on because they were granted that opportunity per the charter."

Because the town agreed to inform the parents when voting would take place, Murray stated it therefore had the obligation to do so. He requested the town attorney be asked to review Barton's actions in not letting folks know about the vote to determine if there was a charter violation.

In a phone call Wednesday, Murray said his

concern was not about whether or not he agreed with spending the money on the facilities, but rather that everyone should be given the chance to vote.

If people were told they would be informed of a vote, they should have been informed, he said. He said he would be fighting the same battle if a group of senior citizens were denied their voting eligibility.

Another bone of contention was a reduction of the first selectman's and selectmen's salaries. It was a "punitive measure," according to Warren, taken the previous week by the Board of Finance because the Board of Selectmen was late in handing in its budget.

Burbank pointed out that the Board of Selectmen has always been the legislative body of the town and said the \$2,500 the first selectmen makes does not cover all he does and that he also has out of pocket expenses.

"This [salary cut], I believe was done because the Board of Selectmen did not agree with the Board of Finance," he said. "It is very disingenuous."

Barton told him not to attack others boards, to which Burbank argued it was not an attack.

Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire said the 10 percent reduction was not enough.

"I don't do this job for money," he said. "It should be zero."

He made a motion to "confirm" the salary cut in principle by taking out an additional \$1. The motion failed.

Resident Bill Desrosiers then attempted to make a motion to restore the salaries but was informed that during the meeting only cuts to the budget could be made, not increases.

The referendum on the budget will take place May 22 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Town Hall community room.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Mary Labbadia

Mary Labbadia, 93, of Portland, beloved wife of the late Louis F. Labbadia, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family Friday, May 11. She was born Aug. 28, 1924, and was the daughter of the late Joseph and Julia Marrocco of Lenola, Italy, and Farmington.



Mary grew up in Farmington. She graduated as salutatorian of her class from Farmington High School in 1943 and went on to work at Aetna Insurance and as a volunteer World War II plane spotter. In 1946, she married the love of her life, Louis. They made their home in Portland, where together they raised a family and owned and operated Lakeland Restaurant and Superior Concrete Products until his death in 1972. At that time, Mary devoted the rest of her life to her three children and seven grandchildren. She was an avid gardener and enjoyed trips to the casino. Mary was well-known for her extraordinary cooking and baking, her independent spirit, and her selfless generosity.

Her beautiful life will forever be remembered by her cherished children, Marie Buggie and her husband, William; Joseph Labbadia and his wife, Karen (McAuliffe); and Patricia Woronoff and her husband, Kenneth, all of Portland. She also leaves seven grandchildren, who were the lights of her life: William Buggie (Tara), Shaun Buggie (Erica), Joseph Labbadia (Joey), David Labbadia (Jessica), Kristin Woronoff, Scott Woronoff (Helen), and Michael Woronoff (Ashley); 16 great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy; and her devoted sister and best friend, Dolores Harrington. She also leaves many nieces, nephews and cousins, who each held a special place in her heart.

Mary was predeceased by her brother, Angela Marrocco, and her sisters, Madge D'Appollonio and Gertrude Serani.

The family would like to thank staff of Middlesex Hospital Hospice for their exceptional care and compassion.

Friends paid their respects at Portland Memorial Funeral Home Tuesday, May 15. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at St. Mary Catholic Church, followed by burial in the family plot at St. Sebastian's Cemetery in Middlefield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children Research, P.O. Box 50, Memphis, TN 38105 and Middlesex Hospice Unit, c/o Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

## East Hampton

### Clifford R. Canfield Jr.

Clifford Raymond Canfield Jr., of East Hampton, passed away Monday, May 14, at his home. Born in Rockingham County, N.H., he was the son of the late Clifford and Dorothy (Collins) Canfield.

Cliff lived in Wethersfield prior to moving to East Hampton in 2002. He was self-employed as an artist doing custom painting on Harley Davidson motorcycles. In addition to his own business, Cliff Design, he also spent many years as the "artist in residence" for Thomas Engel at Highway Service in East Hampton. His incredibly detailed, award-winning work was featured on motorcycles, truck tailgates, pick-up trucks, boats and tractor trailers in Connecticut and throughout New England. Following the death of Cliff's best friend Engel, he continued painting custom artwork on golf carts for Route 66 Motorsports in Portland. Cliff was very close to his family, especially his nephew and nieces.

Cliff is survived by his brother, David M. Canfield and his wife, Deborah of Hamburg, N.Y.; his nephew, David Canfield Jr.; two nieces, Rachel McCann and Alicia Wicka and six great nieces and nephews.

Along with his parents, Cliff was predeceased by his sister, Elaine Ricci.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, May 19, at 10 a.m., in Cromwell Hillside Cemetery East, 24 Hillside Rd., Cromwell. On Sunday, May 20, there will be a celebration of Cliff's life and work at Markham Meadows Campground, 9 Markham Rd. in East Hampton, from 1-4 p.m., where friends are encouraged to gather.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Cliff's memory may be made to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## Marlborough

### Dorothy Foley

Dorothy Foley of Marlborough, beloved wife, mother and daughter of the late John and Lydia Bagot, passed away peacefully Friday, May 11, after a long, courageous battle with multiple myeloma. She was 78 years young.

Dorothy was born in Hartford Oct. 23, 1939. She was a graduate of East Hartford High School in 1955. In November 1960 she married her long-time partner and husband William (Bill) Foley and eventually moved to Marlborough in 1972 where they settled down to raise their five children (and a whole ton of animals).

Dorothy enjoyed cooking and baking so much; the family will miss her super-yummy cupcakes and her unbelievable homemade apple pies. It was that passion that led her and Bill to open up an ice cream shop (Sweets and Treats) in the early '80s and eventually two food establishments to follow, Foley Place, and Country Chicken and Ribs.

Not surprisingly, Dorothy later took a job to care for people who were in need; she enjoyed helping others so much. Dorothy spent her spare time gardening, chit-chatting with the locals, and serving on many boards and commissions, including the Marlborough Ambulance, Parks and Recreation and the Democratic Town Committee. She was a faithful member of Saint John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Her real joys in life were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The memories she shared with them will last their lifetimes.

She is survived by her brother, Edward Bagot of Glastonbury; four children, Denise Vashalifski of Marlborough, Patricia Zaino of East Hampton, Timothy Foley and his wife Cheryl of Marlborough, James Foley and his wife Jennifer of Colchester; grandchildren, Scott, Heather, David, Wesley, Racheal, Connor, Ryan, Kyle, Ethan, Kevin, Kayleigh, Justin, Carolyn and Jesse; great-grandchildren, Hanna, Emilie Rival, Gage, Ryker, Cason and Memphis.

She was predeceased by her husband William (Bill) Foley, son David Foley, twin brothers Michael and John and her sister Peggy Bagot.

The family would like to give thanks to Mom's many friends from the community, including her community housing pals and all who gave their best to care for Mom during her time of need, especially Karan and Dr. Alekshun of Starling Physicians.

Visitation was held at Spencer Funeral Home Wednesday, May 16. A funeral service was held at Spencer Funeral Home, Thursday, May 17. Following the service, friends and family gathered at the American Legion hall in Marlborough for food, beverage and to remember Dorothy (our gift from God).

Donations can be made to the Marlborough Ambulance Association.

## Courant

## Colchester

### Jacqueline Louise Becker

Jacqueline "Jackie" Louise (Frink) Becker, 80, of Uncasville, born April 30, 1938, in Norwich, to the late Mildred Whittemore and the late Harold Frink, passed away Sunday, May 6.

She was in the law industry as a paralegal at Cotter, Greenfield, Manfredi and Lenas. Jacqueline was the beloved wife of the late Karl E. Becker.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Lawrence Thompson; and dogs, Sherlock and Scooter.

Jacqueline is survived by her son, Mark Becker; daughters, Laurie Parcak and Cheryl Wiech; sister, Anita Stockton; grandchildren, Kristy Tardif, Brittany Parcak, Ashley Wiech, Nicole Ostrowski, Shaina Alexis Hileman, Ryan Wiech, Douglas Wiech, and Mikayla Becker; and great-grandchildren, William Tardif, Edward Tardif, Gabriel Meyer, Jacquelyn Meyer, Kataryna Hileman, Christopher Hileman, and Dominick Ostrowski.

She loved the New York Yankees, New York Giants and UConn. She especially loved her grandkids. She was a member of the Lion's Club International for 42 years as well as the VFW Women's Auxiliary.

Donations in Jacqueline's name to Montville-Mohegan-Pequot Lions Club are welcome and appreciated.

Friends and family paid their respects at the celebration of life Wednesday, May 16, at the VFW, Raymond Hill Road, Uncasville.

## Colchester

### Vann Reynolds

Vann Reynolds, 95, of Colchester, died Wednesday, May 9, at Vitas Healthcare in Waterbury. He was born in North Carolina Nov. 24, 1922, to the late VanNess and Mabel (McDonald) Reynolds.



Vann was a very kind and gentle soul; he was a loving husband and an extraordinary father who will be sorely missed. Vann graduated from Haare High School in New York City in 1941 and he proudly served his country as a member of the 781st Bombardment Squadron as a navigator with the B-24 Liberator during World War II while in the Army-Air Force. He married Barbara J. Skowronek June 26, 1948, and raised their family in Colchester. Vann studied aviation in college and worked as a parts control clerk at Pratt & Whitney, from where he retired. He was a founding member and former secretary of the Colchester Fish & Game Club, an avid outdoorsman and a violinist.

Vann is survived by his children Michael V. Reynolds and his wife Gail of Kensington, Vanessa L. Reynolds of Colchester with whom he made his home, Margaret M. Snyder and husband Steve of Essex and Andrew VanNess and wife Marti of Hiensburg, Vt., and "daughter-in-law" Linda Mattice of Branford; five grandchildren, Kristin VanNess, Eric Bergenn, Christopher Snyder, Anna VanNess and Colin VanNess.

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his wife Barbara J. Reynolds, son William "Bill" Reynolds and his sister Lilly Dinsmoore.

Calling hours were held Monday, May 14, at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, May 15, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Burial immediately followed at Linwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Vann's memory, may be made to the American Cancer society or the charity of your choice.

Visit [belmontfh.com](http://belmontfh.com) to leave condolences to the family.

## Marlborough

### Lois O. Hawran

Lois O. Hawran of Melbourne, Fla., formerly of East Hartford and Marlborough, joined her Heavenly Father Wednesday, Nov. 22.

She was a devoted wife of Michael Hawran for 61 years and the daughter of the late Joseph and Bertha Mayer, born June 25, 1935.

Lois was a proud graduate of Hartford Public High School, Class of 1953. She attended Manchester Community College and the University of Connecticut. She was a minister of Holy Communion and a lector in both Connecticut and Florida since 1977, first at St. Rose Catholic Church, East Hartford, St. Mary's Catholic Community in Rockledge, Fla., and St. John the Evangelist Church in Melbourne, Fla. She also served on the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary.

She and Michael were longtime members of the Martin Andersen Senior Chorus of Rockledge, and they brought so much joy to many with their singing, especially, "Today is a birthday, I wonder for whom?" as well as many other duet love songs. They were ushers for the Merritt Island Playhouse and volunteers for many years at Wuesthoff.

Besides her husband, she leaves her brother, Joseph Mayer and his family; her brothers/sisters-in-law, Sophia Sharkevich of Wethersfield, Frederick and Judith Hawran of Windsor, Mary and Edward Michaels of Southington and Harriet Hawran of East Windsor. Lois leaves her loving godchildren, Robert Sharkevich of Wethersfield, Bernice Dixon of Bolton and Kate Kaczowska of Toronto, Canada. She was a loving and caring aunt to numerous nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews. She also leaves her best friend of 70 years, Helen Kurys of Bolton.

Family and friends may gather at a Mass of Resurrection at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, 55 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, Tuesday, May 22, at 10 a.m., followed by internment at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Felician Sisters in Enfield, the Southeast Tissue Alliance at 321-733-1233, the American Heart Association or Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford.

## Courant

## Portland

### Loraine Alice Taylor

Loraine Alice Buerger Taylor, 90, of Eustis, Fla., formerly of Portland, wife of the late Robert G. Taylor, died peacefully in Florida Sunday, May 6.



Loraine was born to William and Josephine Williams Buerger March 13, 1928, in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and was baptized into the Christian faith on March 25, 1928. On Aug. 13, 1949, Loraine and Bob were united in marriage for 35 years until Bob's death.

She will be dearly missed by her two daughters, Bonnine Labbadia and her husband Vincent of Eustis, FL and Virginia Duffy and her husband Steven of Hanover, N.H.; granddaughters, Wendy Violissi (husband Frank), Heather Hetrick (husband Robert), Taylor Leeser (husband Jonathan), Tamara Engler (husband Brian), Deanna Welsch (husband James), and Ilene Olson; four great-grandchildren, Thomas, Shelby, Alex, Chloe and her loving and dear friends. She is also survived by her brother William E. Buerger (wife Helen) of Sanborn, N.Y., and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her mother, father, sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Gordon Voelker.

Loraine cherished her faith and was a devoted member of Zion Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday School, was an active member of Women of the Church, Grace Guild, and sang in the choir for over 50 years. In addition to helping at the church whenever needed, she was a familiar face in the Portland community and a dedicated volunteer for many years at every election and at the Portland Food Bank. She loved meeting new people and treasured all her friendships. An avid gardener, she was a longtime member of the Portland River Valley Garden Club and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed her time working at Middlesex Eye Physicians for 33 years and considered them her second family.

Loraine will always be remembered for her warm smile, caring and thoughtful ways, helping and giving back to others and sharing her potato soup and German potato salad.

Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, Monday, May 14. Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 15, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, with burial immediately following at the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church or Zion Lutheran Church Organ Fund, P.O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480.

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

## Courant

## East Hampton

### Vera H. Rees

Vera H. Rees, 92, of East Hampton, died Monday, May 7. Vera was the daughter of the late Phyllis and Joseph Harris. She was the beloved wife of the late Leslie H. Rees.



She was the loving mother of her son, Richard H. Rees of Killingworth, and daughter, Janet Rees of North Branford. She is also survived by grandnephews Evan and Edward and grandniece Olivia.

Vera was born in Wales and came to the United States when she was 12 years old. She lived in New York and then settled in East Hampton.

Services were at Swan Funeral Home, 825 Boston Post Rd., Madison. The wake was Monday, May 14, and the funeral was Tuesday, May 15. Interment was at Evergreen Cemetery Association, Killingworth.

## East Hampton Police News

4/28: Michael Pelton, 56, of 277 Paley Farm Rd., Portland, was issued a summons for driving under suspension and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

5/1: A 14-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for first-degree threatening and disorderly conduct, police said.

5/3: Kenneth Miner, 64, of 12 Mohican Trl., was issued a summons for improper use of reg-

istration plate and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

5/10: Vasil Jovcev, 51, of 9 Oxford Tr., Wallingford, was arrested and charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear, stemming from two separate incidents, police said.

Also, from April 30-May 6, officers responded to 16 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and 13 alarms, and made 27 traffic stops, police said.

## Colchester Police News

5/6: Colchester Police said Bobby Mcmeans, 39, of 12 Esther Lane was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, third-degree robbery, disorderly conduct, violating a protective order and third-degree assault.

Police said Mcmeans was located at his residence and after a struggle was taken into custody. He was additionally charged with resisting arrest and assault of a police officer.

5/7: Colchester Police said Rory Demars, 56, of 5 Stanavage Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault

and third-degree strangulation/suffocation.

5/11: State Police said between the hours of 10 p.m. and 12:15 a.m. a white Ford Ranger with license plate number C085476 was vandalized. This incident is currently under investigation and anyone with information about suspicious activity in the area should contact Trooper Lovell at 860-465-5400, ext. 4018.

5/11: State Police said Joshua Taylor, 21, of 272 Prospect Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with violating a protective order.

## Two-Vehicle Collision in Colchester, One with Minor Injuries

Colchester Police said a two-vehicle crash on Middletown Road at Bulkeley Road left one woman with minor injuries.

At approximately 9:05 a.m. on May 5, Rosemary K. Boerenko, 75, of 829 Old Hartford Rd., was driving a Ford Edge Limited when she entered Middletown Rd. from

Bulkeley Hill Rd. directly in front of a Volkswagen Passat driven by Lauren N. Inglis, 18, of 207 E. Cotton Hill Rd., Portland.

Inglis was transported by the Colchester Fire Department for minor injuries and Boerenko was found at fault for failing to grant the right of way, police said.

## One Injured After Collision with Wall in Colchester

Colchester Police said a single-vehicle crash with a stone wall on Windham Avenue left one man with possible injuries.

At approximately 6:44 p.m. last Friday, a Chevy Silverado driven by Mark P. Doroshevich, 59, of 160 Deepwood Dr., Amston, traveling on Windham Ave., veered

off the left shoulder and struck a stone wall. According to police, a few boulders were dislodged by the Chevy.

Doroshevich was transported by the Colchester Fire Department to Marlborough Clinic for a precautionary evaluation.

## Drunk Driver Arrested After Crashing into Mailbox in Andover

State Police said a drunk driver is to blame for a damaged mailbox.

At approximately 3:11 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, Jeremy R. Raymond, 31, of 238 Burnt Hill Rd., Hebron, was traveling south on Hebron Road, driving a Honda Accord when he failed to successfully handle a curve to the right in the roadway. The Honda Accord subsequently ran off the left side of the road col-

liding with a mailbox, police said.

Raymond left the scene of the accident and traveled about a half of a mile further on Hebron Rd. before parking off the side of the roadway.

Raymond was not injured, but was arrested and charged with DUI, evading responsibility and failure to maintain lane.

## Hebron Police News

5/10: State Police said Hunter L. Massey, 18, of 3 Maple Ave., Amston, was arrested and charged with DUI, improper turns, drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.

## Andover Police News

5/5: State Police said sometime between 9:30 p.m. on May 4 and 8 a.m. on May 5 two unlocked vehicles parked in a driveway on Hebron Road were entered. Several items were taken from the vehicle totaling \$1,400.

## East Hampton Police News

5/9: State Police said Trevor Foster, 23, of 1 Main St., Apt. 7 was arrested and charged with violation of probation.