

RIVEREAST

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The East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt was held April 14. Pictured are two of the winners, Marlborough residents Lani and Ty Asklar, holding their prizes and checking out the candy they had found.

Easter Egg Hunt Results

On April 14, the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club in Marlborough held its annual Easter Egg Hunt, drawing kids from all over the area. The winners were:

Ages 6 and Under: Madison Kimball of Hebron, Ella Etheridge of Glastonbury, Colton Bangham of Marlborough and Eli Ponticell of Coventry.

Ages 7-9: Ty Asklar of Marlborough,

Zachary Cramer of Colchester, Jason Cramer of Colchester, Jovanni Decampos of East Hampton and Kevin Johnson of Coventry.

Ages 10 and Over: Lani Asklar of Marlborough, Amy Pike of East Windsor, Gabby Wiesner of East Hampton, Madison Hall of East Hampton and Gabby England of Glastonbury.

Learning to Reverse Opioid Overdoses

by Elizabeth Regan

Drug prevention advocates this week trained East Hampton residents how to use the overdose antidote naloxone as part of ongoing efforts to ward off the deadly effects of the opioid epidemic.

Naloxone, most commonly known as Narcan, can be prescribed by a doctor or certified pharmacist for use by anyone – including family members, friends, caregivers and even passers-by – who witness a suspected overdose.

The roughly 20 residents who attended the Monday afternoon training at the East Hampton Public Library were given the opportunity to take home a free Narcan kit. The nasal spray can range from \$75-150 for two doses.

Eight East Hampton residents died of accidental drug overdoses in 2018, according to recently released data from the state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. That's up from five overdose deaths in 2015, two in 2016 and five in 2017.

State medical examiner Dr. James R. Gill told state lawmakers last month that the number of accidental drug overdoses statewide has nearly tripled since 2013.

"In the past two years, more Connecticut residents have died from accidental drug intoxications than the combined totals of all homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle collision fatalities," he said.

The free local training event was held as a collaboration between the East Hampton Pre-

vention Partnership and the national service organization AmeriCorps. The grant-funded session built on a series of laws passed in the state General Assembly over the past several years to expand access to naloxone.

State law has evolved to make the overdose-reversal drug available at licensed pharmacies and to grant civil and criminal immunity to those who use it in an attempt to save someone's life. That opened the door for anyone – not just paramedics who'd been carrying it for decades – to administer the antidote.

The East Hampton Police Department began carrying Narcan in early 2016.

While Police Chief Dennis Woessner said he could not by press time provide the number of times Narcan has been used to revive overdose victims, he said everyone who received the drug survived.

"Narcan has proven to be very successful for law enforcement," he said.

Taylor Quijano, of the Ansonia-based Alliance for Prevention and Wellness, told participants the first wave of the opioid epidemic began in the late 1990s with the over-prescription of opioid painkillers. About 10 years later, many users switched over from the prescription drugs – which Quijano said can cost about \$80 for three pills – to the much-cheaper heroin alternative.

"Depending where you are in the state, you

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New Exhibit Revives Forgotten Colchester History

by Allison Lazur

A 14-foot by 18-foot exhibit housed at the Colchester History Museum traces the history of the town's School for Colored Children dating back to its establishment in 1803.

A number of plaques that line the walls of the modestly-sized room are interspersed with rare original documents, telling the story of the town's rich past.

The "Emerging from the Shadows: The Story of Colchester's School for Colored Children" exhibit opened April 6 and features a history that is often forgotten in the state's African-American history.

"Prior to 20 years ago nobody really knew anything about [the school] and it was really lost completely," said Historical Society Board of Governors member Brian Smith.

The one-room schoolhouse, built in 1803, and also part of the Connecticut Freedom Trail, became the first school in the state to educate African-Americans and Native Americans and was located just off the town green, in the center of the community.

Colchester Historical Society President Gigi Liverant said research reveals the school predates Prudence Crandall's school by 30 years.

In 1831, Crandall, a schoolteacher, had opened her own private school in Canterbury. Two years later, she was met with controversy

and backlash after she began offering African-American girls an education in a private setting.

However, Kazmiera Kozlowski, former director of the Prudence Crandall Museum and one of the content professionals for the "Emerging from the Shadows" exhibit, said the two can't necessarily be equated to one another.

Students of color were actually being educated in district schools in Colchester with white students as early as the colonial period.

"They were enslaved, but they were being educated," Kozlowski said.

The School for Colored Children was precipitated by the founding of Bacon Academy after Pierpont Bacon died in 1800, leaving \$35,000 to establish a school.

Bacon in his will called for the emancipation of all the slaves he owned, but made no mention of the creation of a school specifically for colored children.

Despite not addressing students of color in his will, mention of the separate school was addressed in the Bacon Academy by-laws.

The 1803 by-laws state "Negroes and persons of colour applying for instruction shall be provided in a separate building."

Why the separate school was established is unclear. The goal of the Bacon Academy trust-

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A new exhibit at the Colchester History Museum traces the history of the town's School for Colored Children. A replica of the one-room schoolhouse can be viewed around the corner from the museum on South Main Street.



Kits like these were given to the participants in this week’s Narcan training at the East Hampton Public Library. The drug is used to reverse the effects of overdoses from substances like prescription opioid painkillers, heroin and fentanyl. The opioid epidemic has hit the country, state and region hard, with eight overdose deaths reported in East Hampton last year.

Overdoses cont. from Front Page

can get a bag for as low as \$3,” she said. The third wave of the epidemic hit in 2013, when potent synthetic opioids like fentanyl began to infiltrate the illegal drug market. Fentanyl is becoming the dominant drug in fatal drug overdoses, according to Gill. “And we’re seeing it in about 75% of all these accidental drug deaths in Connecticut,” he told lawmakers.

Gill’s data shows the eight fatal overdoses in East Hampton last year all involved fentanyl.

Gill noted the increase in fentanyl deaths is occurring amid a decrease in heroin deaths and a “leveling off” of fatal overdoses overall.

A total of 1,017 people died from drug overdoses in Connecticut in 2018. That’s 21 deaths fewer deaths than reported the previous year.

“Not a tremendous decrease, but certainly not an increase,” Gill said.

Six residents from Colchester and six from Portland died of overdoses last year; Hebron and Andover lost one resident each. No overdose deaths were reported in Marlborough.

Quijano and AmeriCorps member Ronak Mistry touted Narcan as a safe way to reverse opioid overdoses. They said Narcan “steals the spot” of the opioid in the overdose victim’s

brain receptor sites so the automatic drive to breathe is restored for 30-90 minutes. If the opioids causing the overdose are extremely potent, the victim could stop breathing again once the Narcan wears off. In some cases, two doses of Narcan are recommended.

Quijano said Narcan is a safe drug with minimal adverse effects that has been used on children as young as 2 years old in Connecticut. It can also be used on police dogs.

The local prevention partnership, in addition to promoting access to Narcan, is asking residents to dispose of their unwanted prescription medication to help keep the pills out of circulation.

Prescription drugs can be handed in as part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the East Hampton Town Hall parking lot, 20 E. High St.

The prevention partnership has also collaborated with the East Hampton Police Department to provide a drug take back box in the police station lobby, where residents can stop during regular business hours to get rid of unused prescription drugs.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I’ve never been to France, so obviously I’d never stepped foot in Notre Dame Cathedral, but a first-hand look at it wasn’t required for you to be just devastated by the horrific fire Monday that destroyed so much of the legendary structure.

All that history, all that beautiful architecture, just gone. When word of the fire first floated across my phone Monday, the description made it sound fairly insignificant. It would quickly be put out, I figured, and that would be that. But as the minutes passed, the news alerts kept getting worse and worse. Then the photos started showing up. And before I knew it, I was watching video, with my jaw dropped, of the 750-ton spire collapsing to the ground.

As tragic as it was, Monday’s fire was not France’s equivalent of 9/11. Nobody died. At the end of the day, a building was severely damaged. A beautiful, majestic building – but a building. It cannot compare in the slightest to the loss of 3,000 lives. All that being said, though, I couldn’t help but watch the video of the spire falling and think of the World Trade Center collapsing on that awful day 18 years ago.

Those Sept. 11 attacks led to us launching major wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – with the latter continuing to this very day. It’s far too soon to say what the Notre Dame fire will lead to. Hopefully, nothing. As I write this Tuesday night, there’s no word on the cause of the blaze. There’s still the chance this could all be an accident, related to the massive restoration project that was being undertaken at the cathedral.

That, in my opinion, would be the desired answer – that this horrific blaze wasn’t borne out of malice, that it wasn’t an attack by a terrorist of some kind. That, instead, it was simply an accident. That no one claims responsibility except perhaps some careless workers.

But the lack of a cause hasn’t stopped some folks from politicizing this, to try to score points with their base. Rush Limbaugh, for example, repeatedly speculated arson, related to the “War on Christianity” that’s allegedly taking place both in the U.S. and abroad.

Until a cause is determined, I’m sure people like Rush will continue to try to spin the fire to fit whatever agenda they want to push. Like I said, the best answer would be if this were an accident – nothing more. There’s far, far too much ugliness in the world as it is; let’s

not add to it.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see Barack Obama and Donald Trump aren’t exactly bosom buddies. Obama I’m sure wishes just about anyone had succeeded him in the White House, and Trump, more than two years into his term, rarely lets a day go by where he’s not attacking Obama on Twitter for one reason or another.

But there is one thing, it turns out, that brings them together: Tiger Woods.

Woods, as you may have heard, won the Masters golf tournament last weekend for the fifth time his career – but the first time in 14 years.

Woods, 43, has been beset by scandal as well as physical woes over the past decade. He’s had a total of four surgeries on his back – including spinal fusion just two years ago. A comeback like what happened over the weekend wasn’t supposed to be in the cards.

Oh, but it definitely was – and Obama and Trump both took notice on Twitter Sunday.

Obama wrote, “Congratulations, Tiger! To come back and win the Masters after all the highs and lows is a testament to excellence, grit, and determination.”

Trump said, “Congratulations to @TigerWoods, a truly Great Champion!”

Tiger Woods – the great uniter.

I received word this week that the state Department of Transportation is developing plans to replace LED lamps at state-owned traffic signals located at approximately 500 state road intersections in various towns throughout Connecticut.

The life expectancy of a LED lamp is approximately eight years, DOT said, so this project will proactively replace lamps in order to keep traffic signals functioning. This project will also replace circular red LED lamps with red arrow LED lamps.

The DOT said it expects design plans to be completed in September, with a tentative advertising date for construction of December.

The DOT said it doesn’t think an informational meeting or formal public hearing will be necessary. However, anyone interested in requesting information on the project should contact project manager Colin R. Baummer at 860-594-2733 or Colin.Baummer@ct.gov. Refer to Project No. 0172-0480, the DOT said.

See you next week.

New Exhibit cont. from Front Page

ees was to establish a school that would attract tuition-paying students from Colchester and outside of the state. Historians speculate the separate school for colored children was established because rich, white, southern families would have refused to send their students to an integrated school.

While she stressed segregation is negative, Kazlowski said it’s possible black parents actually viewed the separated school as positive because of the stability and quality education students received at the school. Furthermore, in integrated schools people of color were often bullied and discriminated against, Liverant said.

The first documented teacher at the school was Prince Saunders, a prominent figure who attended Moor’s Charity School, which was affiliated with Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Moor’s Charity School “provided advanced educational opportunities to Native Americans and students of color,” the exhibit reveals.

“Prince Saunders goes on to have a career and is renowned and that shows perseverance in difficult situations,” Kozlowski said.

James Quash, believed to have possibly been one of Saunders’ students at the School for Colored Children, became a teacher at the school himself and had the longest tenure as a teacher, from 1823-1840.

The exhibit states a Colchester resident in 1850 recalled upon the school’s opening 30 to

40 students were enrolled.

The school eventually closed in 1840 for reasons that are unclear.

“Because of the marginalized people that were involved there’s not a lot of documentation so really you’re following little crumbs,” Liverant said.

The exhibit is a collection of work of a number of contributors including Kolowski and Diana McCain, both exhibit content professionals.

Two grants totaling \$8,500 covered research and the implementation of the exhibit, Liverant said.

A replica of the one-room schoolhouse, constructed in 2017, can be viewed just around the corner from the exhibit on South Main Street and is open the same hours as the Colchester History Museum from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Kozlowski and Liverant said they hope this exhibit sparks interest from the community and more questions can be answered and connections made.

A second new exhibit titled “Colchester’s Roots in Agriculture: Then and Now” can be viewed upstairs in the museum and outlines the history of farming from 1698 to the present.

The Colchester History Museum is located at 24 Linwood Ave. and is free and open to the public. The museum is open through Dec. 7.

East Hampton Finance Board Approves \$47.15M Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

The Republican-dominated Board of Finance last week approved a \$47.15 million budget proposal with an emphasis on education, public safety and infrastructure – including two new police officers.

The finance board's proposed budget represents an increase \$1.70 million, or 3.75%, over the current budget.

Despite a recommendation from Town Manager Michael Maniscalco to bring on only one police officer midway through the upcoming fiscal year, finance board members decided to authorize an additional hire to start at the same time. That means there will be two police officers coming on board in January if all goes according to the finance board's plan – which would bring the force to 17 sworn officers.

The decision to hire the new officers mid-year gives Police Chief Dennis Woessner time to carry out the lengthy selection process while allowing the town to bring in both officers for the roughly \$105,120 price tag of one full-year hire.

The \$15.89 million general government proposed budget – composed of town operations, debt and capital projects – is an increase of \$1.09 million, or 6.21 percent, over the current budget.

Factors driving the increase include \$1.26 million in capital spending. The finance board – after cutting \$37,500 from the Capital Improvement Committee's recommended budget for interior improvements at the schools – allocated \$455,000 for public works infrastructure projects, \$373,000 for public safety improvements, \$300,000 for school computer technology and \$170,000 for school safety enhancements and building repairs.

Other factors driving the increase include salary and benefit costs related to two additional police officers and a custodian for the town hall being constructed on Route 66.

The education side of the finance board's proposal comes in at \$30.05 million, a 3.41 percent increase over the current budget.

The projected mill rate associated with the budget proposal would raise the mill rate by 1.73 mills – or 5.37 percent – over the current mill rate of 33.94 mills.

A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. A property owner with a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$6,788 in taxes based on the finance board's budget proposal. That's an increase of \$346 for the year, or \$29

per month.

The finance board's budget proposal now goes to the Town Council on April 23 for approval. Councilors have the authority, granted in the town charter, to make any cuts or changes – as long as they don't add money back in.

The finance board budget comes on the heels of a compromise brokered by Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith and finance board Chairman Richard Brown that requires the general government side of the proposed budget to absorb a possible \$151,185 increase related to a proposal from Gov. Ned Lamont for municipalities to pay a portion of teacher retirement costs. In exchange, the school board agreed to a \$322,000 reduction to its proposed budget, bringing the spending plan to a 2.00% increase over the current year.

Board of Education members earlier in the week had arrived at what their chairman, Christopher Goff, described to the finance board as a "majority consensus" to support the compromise. Four of the seven members at the April 8 school board meeting agreed with the plan.

Another option the board considered would have also reduced spending to 2.00% over the current budget, but would have left the school board responsible for funding the teachers' pension payment if Lamont's plan were approved by lawmakers.

Some detractors of the compromise plan endorsed by the finance board had argued that retaining control of the potential pension expense as a contingency in the education budget would be beneficial if the governor's recommendation doesn't make it through the state legislature this year. That way, the local funds could possibly be used to restore a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) coordinator eliminated to bring the education increase to a more palatable 2.00%.

But school board members in favor of putting the possible pension payment on the general government side of the budget feared that keeping it under the school board's control would set an expensive precedent.

Based on the governor's budget proposal, the town's \$151,185 contribution in the coming year would grow to an approximate payment of \$600,000 in fiscal year 2023.

Emergencies and Elections

In addition to reducing the school board's budget, the Board of Finance cut \$13,500 from the general government budget in the areas of

emergency management and elections.

The finance board took out \$500 from the \$2,165 recommended training budget for the registrars of voters despite a warning from Maniscalco.

Connecticut's Office of the Secretary of the State requires each registrar of voters to complete a certification program and to complete at least eight hours of training per year to maintain certification.

Members of the finance board asked Maniscalco why the department only spent \$185 of its \$2,240 training budget during the last fiscal year.

"Because I think some of our registrars did not go to those trainings, in which case we were probably not in compliance with the state," Maniscalco said.

He added the lack of training might not be noticed when things are going smoothly, but it leaves the town open to criticism when things go wrong.

"If we end up with a scenario like Bridgeport or Hartford where people are questioning those elections, they're going to be looking at that training line item and they're going to be saying 'was the funding there,' and if the funding was there, why wasn't it used," Maniscalco said.

Maniscalco did not mention that questions arose right in East Hampton following the 2017 municipal election. That's when a recount triggered by close votes in two races revealed an unspecified number of ballots had inadvertently been counted twice on Election Day. It remains unclear how the error affected the vote totals for the \$18.98 million referendum question for a new town hall complex, which passed by only 30 votes.

The ballots were destroyed last August under the guidance of the secretary of the state's office despite the *Riverest's* pending Freedom of Information request to inspect the documents.

The finance board also took out \$3,000 from a line item for election expenses. The department asked for the increase this year after so far spending \$7,395 of its \$7,728 budget for purchased services due to numerous referendums, primaries, and a gubernatorial election.

Finance board member Alannah Coshow said the current situation shouldn't dictate the budget for next year.

"It was a very unusual year, and I don't think it's necessary to increase the line item for an

aberration," she said, leading the push to bring the line item down to \$7,000.

Republican Registrar of Voters Lori Wilcox said this week that she was certified in 2017. She took a training class last fall to maintain certification and was scheduled to fulfill this year's training requirements at a registrars' conference this week.

The certification costs \$1,600 per registrar, according to a press release from the Secretary of the State's office. Registrars must become certified within two years of their first day in office.

Wilcox said former Democratic Registrar Stephanie Lee – who served for less than two years – had not taken the certification training during her time as an election official. Wilcox added that current Democratic Registrar Charlene Marquis-O'Brien, elected in November, is in process of becoming certified.

During a discussion of the emergency management budget, the finance board wiped out line items for both communications and supplies.

East Hampton emergency preparedness director Richard Klotzbier is responsible for activating the local Emergency Operations Center as needed, keeping the town's emergency preparedness plan current, and providing documentation related to state grant applications and requests for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Budget documents show the department used \$542 of its \$6,120 supplies budget in the last fiscal year.

Klotzbier during a March budget workshop told the finance board the supplies line item includes the cost of providing shelter for residents in extreme weather or other emergencies.

Finance board member Layne McLennan said money for such operations could be taken from the general fund if the need arises.

"I don't think we need it in the budget, because that's affecting the mill rate and we may never use it. Or it gets used for something else," she said.

The Town Council will discuss the finance board's budget proposal on Tuesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Once adopted, the council's proposed budget goes to a town meeting on May 6 and an all-day referendum from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. on May 14 at East Hampton Middle School.

Hamilton Stepping Down as AHM Executive Director

by Sloan Brewster

AHM Youth and Family Services executive director Michelle Hamilton has given her notice to step down from the position in early summer.

In a phone call with the *Riverest* Tuesday, Hamilton, a Pawtucket resident who has been with AHM for about four and a half years, said she will be departing from her position on June 27. She said the decision to leave was difficult, but that she and her husband would be moving to Pennsylvania to be closer to his job.

"My husband's job was increasingly taking him away from the home," she said. "We're going to head to Scranton, a little town outside of called Clark Summit."

While admitting to being "a little anxious" about the move, Hamilton said it would "be an adventure, a journey."

She said she would miss AHM, though.

"When I was announcing this to the staff last Wednesday I gave them my speech and said, 'I will miss every single one of you because of the memories and the things we've done together,'" Hamilton said.

Memories she holds dear over her time with the youth service bureau include work she and staff did to improve the space at KinderRHAMa, a preschool located at RHAM High School, including installing stones and woodchips for the school's playscape and sand box.

"As an executive director, that's the kind of work we did as a staff," Hamilton said.

Other projects, she has found rewarding in-



Michelle Hamilton

clude working on the St. Peter's Preserve and AHM Trail, which is located behind the center on Pendleton Drive. Programs, such as the Little Tree Hugger Program, which takes place on the preserve, bring children between the ages of two and a half and five and their parents out on the trail for a class on science and nature.

Getting people outside, and off their phones, devices and social media, is a plus, Hamilton said.

"It's been a hit," she said. "We had parents come out in the winter with their children outside."

According to a press release, Hamilton said she was proud to have served as "only the second executive director in this agency's history."

"I have enjoyed the dedication and the support of the AHM board, staff, town and school leaders," she said, according to the press release. "I will miss the regional community, the AHM board and staff and all of the many community partners we work with on behalf of local children, teens, and their families."

Peter Yorio, president of the AHM Board of Directors, said Hamilton had done an "outstanding job."

"Michelle was first our director of programs before becoming our executive director [in 2015]," he said, according to the press release. "In both roles, she has done an outstanding job furthering our many roles in the regional community as a youth service bureau and family resource center."

Steve Fish, vice president of the AHM Board of Directors, said in the press release he would miss Hamilton, and wished her well "as she embarks on a new stage in her life and career."

"For the past four and half years Michelle Hamilton has provided outstanding leadership and management to AHM Youth and Family Services," Fish said. "Her qualities as a strong and thoughtful leader for our agency have been

demonstrated time and again through her work with school and community leaders, her staff and with members of the board of directors."

AHM's former executive director and its current director of fund development, Joel Rosenberg, said one of the major strengths Hamilton brought to the agency was in the prevention arena with drugs, vaping and alcohol.

Hamilton introduced the Self-Management and Recovery Training Program, or SMART Recovery, which, according to Rosenberg, is a national model for a recovery program to support kids dealing with or moving toward addiction.

To start SMART Recovery, Hamilton got a \$10,000 grant from the Connecticut Clearing House and the Department of Children and Families.

"In May, we're taking some kids out and about to celebrate their recovery and the work they've been doing with their counselors," she said.

Hamilton also applied for and received a Drug-Free Communities \$125,000 federal grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration, she said. AHM has continued to receive the funding for the past five years.

According to the press release, Drug-Free Communities is AHM's single largest ever federally-funded program.

AHM uses the funds to address issues of need and reduce abuse of alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs and e-cigs in the community, Hamilton said.

"That's been a huge project," she said. "[We're] making huge strides."

As part of the project, she hired a prevention coordinator, Brendan Grimm. Grimm, a former teacher, told the *Riverest* Tuesday Hamilton helped him make an "amazing transition" into a new profession by always making sure he was

learning and challenged.

"I was switching careers so I was excited but also obviously nervous and timid about starting a career I had no teeth in," he said. "It was kind of stepping into the unknown."

Grimm said that while he's sure AHM will find a good replacement for Hamilton, he is nervous about her departure and hopes he can take what she has taught him and run with it.

Nella Stelzner, AHM's chief financial officer, said Hamilton has done a lot of work with the AHM Summer Youth Theatre and other programs in the schools and the towns supported by AHM – Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

"From day one when she came aboard she worked closely with school administrators to recognize and address and implement programs for the needs of the tri-town community," Stelzner said. "[She is always] talking to administrators about what's going on in schools and putting in place services."

Hamilton also reinforces school-based student support services already in place at the schools, Stelzner said.

According to the press release, during her time with AHM, Hamilton has implemented new program best practices for staff, new training opportunities, new evidence-based programs and has worked with school and town leaders to further AHM's role in helping children and families through prevention, mental health, juvenile justice, youth and family development programs.

Rosenberg said there will be a formal process to replace Hamilton that will include members of the board of directors and AHM staff and that community leaders would likely participate in interviews.

"We are going to miss her terribly and she did a great job in the time she was here," Rosenberg said. "She is going to be missed terribly."

Search is On for New Superintendent in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Education last week appointed a committee to look for a new superintendent despite a call from the town manager to hold off on the search.

Schools Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel, who read his letter of resignation to the board at its April 11 meeting, had informed the community in an email the week before that he accepted a position as superintendent of Suffield Public Schools.

School board chairman Erica Bromley said in a phone call Wednesday that a search committee consisting of the entire board will hire a consultant to help guide the process. While the hope is that the search will take as little time as possible, the committee has not yet established timeframes, Bromley said.

A letter from Town Manager Andrew Tierney addressed last Wednesday to Bromley and the rest of the board encouraged them to consider alternative approaches to Van Tassel's replacement. Bromley read it into the record at last week's meeting as requested by Tierney.

"Due to pending state of Connecticut legislation regarding school regionalization this may be an opportune time for Hebron to review its structure," Tierney wrote. "At this crossroad, it may be time to meet with area schools and town officials to explore all options including but not limited to, a fully regionalized district, a part-time superintendent or a variety of scenarios."

He "strongly" encouraged the school board not to establish a search committee; instead, he said they should appoint an interim superintendent and consider a temporary regional

school study committee.

Regionalization has become a hot topic in the state, with people on both sides of the debate speaking out. School consolidation bills proposed this year by state lawmakers brought an angry reaction from opponents who view forced regionalization as a violation of local authority. Proponents, on the other hand, have lauded it as a way of saving money.

While middle and high school functions in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough are consolidated through the RHAM school district, the elementary schools in the three towns remain under local control with their own superintendents. Local officials have said the three towns consolidated elementary schools from the 1970s to the 1990s, when they reverted to local oversight amid complaints from the smaller towns that their needs were not being met by the central office.

Bromley told school board members Tierney's letter was meant to be something for the board to discuss and consider.

"I will let everybody know that the superintendent and I did have a conversation with the town manager after this letter was received," Bromley said "His message was that it was just something he wanted to have read to the Board of Education."

In the Wednesday phone call, Bromley reiterated that the letter was meant only for consideration and that Tierney realizes any decisions to change the structure of the superintendent's position are up to the board.

"That letter just was more his thoughts in

terms of things to think about," she said.

On Monday, Tierney also said to the *RiverEast* that the letter was only meant for consideration and that he had no decision making authority in the matter.

Bromley said the board has not moved forward one way or another on changes to the structure of the position as it is something that must first be discussed at the committee level.

"There can't be discussion about full-time or part-time, that's actually the job of the search committee," she said. "Establishing the search committee allows us [as a committee] to have conversations."

Before making any recommendations, the committee would get feedback from staff and the community and look at the superintendent's duties as they now stand and going forward, she said.

The school board at last week's meeting also authorized Bromley and Van Tassel to discuss the appointment of an interim superintendent with legal counsel. The attorney would then suggest a few candidates, whom the board in turn would interview before making a decision on the appointment.

Bromley said the board does not yet have ideas on who will fill the interim slot, but that legal counsel would establish who is available and willing to take on the role.

Bromley said it's not unusual for legal counsel to vet out interim candidates for boards to then interview.

The board's goal is to have someone in the role on July 1 when Van Tassel will be starting

his new job in Suffield, Bromley said. The hope, however, is that someone will step up sooner so they have a few weeks of training with Van Tassel.

Bromley also said the board had not yet discussed whether it would be looking for a full-time replacement for Van Tassel or a part-timer.

At the meeting, the board "reluctantly" accepted Van Tassel's resignation, in which he stated that he had mixed emotions about taking the new job and was leaving with a "heavy heart."

Board members spoke about the challenges and successes Van Tassel has had during his tenure and offered their gratitude for a job well done.

"It's rare to find a superintendent who has as amazingly powerful relationship as you've had with the staff here, with your board, with the community, to be able to relate to all of those people, all of those dynamics in a way that truly reflects what I think is your inner nature of just wanting to make their lives better," school board secretary Kevin Williams said. "You just don't find that often and I think that is the biggest piece that I am going to miss."

Bromley said Van Tassel had done amazing things and "left some very large shoes to fill."

"We have made a pretty good team," she said. "It's going to be a big loss."

Van Tassel, a resident of Ellington, said he would miss everyone and that it had been a pleasure to work with them.

"You rock," board vice chairman Heather Petit said. "There's no better superintendent."

Town Center Project in Hebron to Receive Award

by Sloan Brewster

The Town Center Project (TTCP), a nonprofit initiative dedicated to "reinventing the heart of Hebron," is set to receive an Award of Excellence from a state group that has a similar focus.

Judith Podell, founder of the Town Center Project, said the group will receive the award in June from the Connecticut Main Street Center, an organization that, according to its website, is "committed to bringing Connecticut's commercial districts back to life socially and economically."

Podell said it's nice to be recognized, especially given since TTCP is just one year young.

Podell only applied for the award at the behest of a member of Connecticut Main Street Center, who felt her group should be honored. Created in 2003, the awards, according to Connecticut Main Street Center's website, "recognize outstanding projects, individuals and partnerships in community efforts to bring traditional downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts back to life, socially and economically."

Nominations come from member towns and affiliates. Staff goes through them, looking for innovation, replication, representation, sustainability and outcomes.

"What we were really struck by this year was the range of nominations from communities large and small," said Christine Schilke, marketing & development director for Connecticut Main Street. "It's not always apples to apples."

Officially launched last April, TTCP was something Podell said she'd been working on for about a year prior to that. It's about "reinventing the heart of Hebron and working toward a more beautiful town center," she said, and is a means to bring more people to the center through events and activities, she said.

Last year, the project received a \$3,500 Livable Community Challenge Grant from AARP to improve the quality of life in the downtown. Podell used the grant for lumber, materials and prizes for a chair-painting venture over the summer. Local artists painted modified Adirondack-style chairs with colorful designs, which now grace the center of town.

The project also brought summer concerts to town and several activities and events including Harvest Moon Happenings, which took place in the fall and was attended by more than 3,000 people, local police told Podell, she said.

With a "Bark Run" – where people could run with dogs – as well as trick-or-treating, vendors, arts and crafts and pumpkin-painting, the event was a fun time and will return this year, Podell said.

"It went into the evening," she said of Harvest Moon Happenings. "The most astonishing thing was how many adults were dressed up and looked silly. ... People were just in a great mood."

The first TTCP event of this year will be a tag sale on Saturday June 1 and is also a repeat of an event held last year.

New this year will be Make Music Day. Started in France 24 years ago – where it is known as Fête de la Musique – the annual music celebration will take place on the Summer Solstice, Friday, June 21, said Town Clerk Carla Pomprovicz, who is organizing the event.

The free event encourages musicians – who may take donations – to come play music, Pomprovicz said. The idea is to have a mile of music running through the downtown area, with musicians at several indoor and outdoor locations on Main Street and Pendleton Drive.

"The idea is that people all over the world will get out and make music," Podell said. "I think it's a fabulous idea."

The music will take place from 4-9 p.m. and earlier in the day there will be a kiddie parade.

Podell is planning a summer concert series on Thursday nights this summer in two downtown locations – the green space across from Something Simple Café and the field behind the Company One Firehouse on Main Street.

There will be festivities on the Fourth of July and a fundraiser in the fall, though the planning for those events is still in the works, Podell said. She said she is also trying to get a grant for a sound system for the downtown area and is applying for a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to bring some winter



After the long winter, sets of brightly painted chairs have come out to adorn the center of town. The chair painting undertaking was an endeavor of the Town Center Project last summer.

fun to the downtown area.

"I'm hoping for a portable ice rink," she said. "I think we should have ice skating in Hebron."

When asked if she was surprised that the project has taken off so quickly in its inaugural year, Podell flatly replied no.

"I don't think I was mistaken at all thinking that this is a town that can do great things," she added.

Podell also singled out Town Planner Michael O'Leary, saying he has been "invaluable" in helping get things off the ground.

The project was among 10 initiatives from nine communities across the state to be named for Awards of Excellence from Connecticut Main Street, according to a press release. Organizations and initiatives from Canton, Hartford, Meriden, Newtown, Norfolk, Putnam, Waterbury, and Westville Village in New Haven will also receive awards.

The awards will be presented at Connecticut Main Street Center's Vibrant Main Streets awards celebration in downtown Willimantic on Monday, June 3.



The town is hoping to receive state funds to pay for the next phase of renovation work at Stonecroft Village (left), a 32-unit senior living community located off of Church Street. The work would include such things as new appliances, bathroom fixtures and faucets. Meanwhile, the town is also hoping to find volunteers to construct a walking bridge connecting Pendleton Drive and the Douglas Library parking lot. The area, shown at right, is currently overrun with limbs and brush.

Hebron Hopeful for Footbridge, Stonecroft Repairs

by Sloan Brewster

The town is applying for a \$700,000 Small Cities Block Grant from the state, with plans of completing phase two of repairs at Stonecroft Village, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, he said, the town won't be applying for funds for a walk bridge connecting Pendleton Drive and Douglas Library – and instead will take on the project locally.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved a motion to apply for the \$700,000 Small Cities Block Grant at a meeting on April 5.

Stonecroft Village, according to apartment-homeliving.com, is a senior living community built in 1990 and consists of 32 units. The community is located off of Church Street, right next to the Russell Mercier Senior Center.

At a hearing before the April 5 meeting, Florence O'Sullivan, chairperson of the Hebron Housing Authority, spoke about the renovations included in phase I and the need for additional funds to complete phase II.

The first phase – paid for with a similar \$700,000 Small Cities Block Grant secured in 2017 – included roof repairs and improvements to bring Stonecroft in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Tierney said. In the second round, some work that wasn't done in the first phase, such as putting in new walkways, installing new doors and fixing plumbing issues, will be addressed.

According to a list forwarded to the *Rivereast* by director of administrative services Donna Lanza, projects that would be funded by the grant include installing a sidewalk for \$30,706; upgrading kitchens and bathrooms at \$17,000 per unit or \$85,000 total; replacing kitchen appliances for \$1,200 per unit or \$30,000 total; replacing exterior doors for \$700 per unit or \$17,500 total; replacing hot water heaters in

units for \$425 per unit or \$10,635 total; installing exterior security cameras for \$15,000; installing new kitchen and bathroom faucets and fixtures for \$500 per unit or \$12,500; replacing windows for \$125,000; adding exterior lighting for \$15,000; replacing the flooring in common halls for \$15,000 per building or \$90,000 total; and replacing the floor in the community room for \$5,000.

The list also includes \$50,000 for architectural design and \$75,000 for a grant writer.

With an aging population – and already 27 percent of the town's residents are over 60 – the repairs are necessary, Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson said at the April 5 hearing.

Tierney, told selectmen the grant application was a "huge undertaking" and recognized his staff for the hard work it would have to do to submit it in time. He said Tuesday that the application was submitted last week.

Tierney also said Tuesday a walk bridge that would cross a stream behind the Douglas Library and go to Pendleton Drive – a desire some had discussed at the April 5 hearing – will be built by local people.

A few speakers on April 5 had requested that the town apply for a Small Cities Block Grant to get the bridge installed, Tierney said, explaining that the grants include a category for public improvements.

"They were hoping that we could apply for this," Tierney said, adding that selectmen did not think it would be wise, since the town would already be applying for the \$700,000 grant for Stonecroft. "We didn't think we'd fare well for that; we'd be kind of competing with ourselves."

Instead, the town will take on the task itself.

"We're going to see if we can come up with a design and some volunteers and build the bridge ourselves," Tierney said.

The town was awarded a grant for the footbridge a few years ago, Tierney said, but the state pulled it due to economic issues.

According to documents from the state Department of Housing, in October 2016, the town was awarded a \$229,420 grant from the Main Street Investment Fund Program for the Main Street Enhancement Plan Project – a proposal that would've included not just the bridge but also colonial streetlights with banners on Main Street to announce town events.

The grant was pulled a year later, in November 2017, according to a letter from Dimple Desai, community development director for the Department of Housing, when the General Assembly reduced the housing department's bond authorization for the Main Street Investment Fund from \$8 million to \$2 million.

Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz started the conversation at the April 5 hearing. She said Monday that she brought it up because she didn't want the matter "to fall through the cracks."

The footbridge, which would be installed over the stream at the corner of the library parking lot where it crosses to Pendleton Drive, would add ease to people – especially children and youth – walking between the two areas and increase walkability in the center of town, Pomproicz said.

"There's a lot of connections that could be made by foot," she said. "Students from RHAM could cross to AHM [Youth and Family Services]. AHM has a trail that teens will be able to access, they have programs for kids at the middle school and high school. It just would

be a great connection to keep people off the street."

Pomproicz, who lives in the center of town, described crossing through brambles and brush to get from AHM back to the library when she used to volunteer at the center.

She also favors enhancing walkability downtown because she is a part of the Town Center Project, which hosts activities and events in the center, Pomproicz said. The bridge would make it easier for folks to get to the St. Peter's Preserve and AHM Trail behind the center, where a lot of activities take place.

"It's a nature trail; it's beautiful," she said of the trail, which comes out on Church Street directly across from St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

AHM Youth and Family Services Executive Director Michelle Hamilton said the footbridge would create an ease of access to Pendleton Drive for events at AHM.

"I completely support that and hope to see that get completed," she said. Hamilton is departing AHM at the end of June, as she is moving out of state.

Hamilton recalled the 400 people who participated in nature activities that took place at AHM and on the preserve and trails during the Maple Fest last month. The majority of festival activities were in the library parking lot.

Tierney, who said he designed and built footbridges on the Air Line Trail, said he will probably design the bridge and will get out there with a hammer and nails to participate in the building as well.

"I don't think it's going to be that hard to design a walking bridge," he said, adding that all it takes is putting in a structure and pouring concrete.

Paper Mill Road Bridge in Colchester To Be Replaced This Summer

by Allison Lazur

The State Bond Commission earlier this month approved \$150,000 toward the replacement of the Paper Mill Road Bridge.

The matching grant through the Local Bridge Program requires the town to fund the same amount being paid by the state.

The town has put aside \$150,000 over the last two years for the reconstruction.

Public Works Director Jim Paggioli said construction is expected to begin in August and take six weeks, with bridge closure expected for roughly three of those weeks.

The single-lane bridge that crosses over the Jeremy River spans 14 feet and is approximately 50-feet long, according to Paggioli. The new bridge will remain a single lane of the same length and width.

The bridge is supported by steel beams, topped with a wood deck and then a layer of pavement, he said.

"Eventually all steel rusts," he said.

Data from the state Department of Transporta-

tion shows the bridge was built in 1987.

A weight restriction was placed on the bridge after deterioration of the beams was evident, according to Paggioli.

About three years ago, the DOT lowered the weight limit and informed town officials they should start looking into funding the reconstruction of the bridge, Town Engineer Salvatore Tassone said.

First Selectman Art Shilosky said the bridge is the only way to access the Colchester Fish and Game Club.

"If [the fish and game club] didn't own the land on the other side of the bridge, the bridge probably wouldn't be replaced," he said. "But we are responsible to maintain the bridges."

State Senator Norm Needleman (D-33) said in a press release last month the bridge replacement project has been delayed several years due to questions about how to pay for it.

"I'm happy we will be able to answer those questions with this funding approval," he said.

The replacement is part of nearly \$250 million in transportation infrastructure repairs approved by the State Bond Commission, the press release said.

Paper Mill Park Plan

Paper Mill Road provides access to Westchester and the former Norton Paper Mill, which is also benefiting from state funding.

The 1.5 acre parcel was purchased in December 2013 by the town from Nan Norton Wasniewski for \$1, with the stipulation that the property be developed into a public park.

The Norton Paper Mill site – which sits along Jeremy River – had been abandoned for 25 years and was subsequently destroyed by a fire in July 2012.

The town received state grants totaling \$867,000 to demolish, clean up and develop the site, with \$357,000 remaining to finish up the project, Paggioli said.

Wasniewski earlier this year submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen questioning the

status of the site's development.

Shilosky this week said the site will likely be completed by Spring 2020.

Currently, the site needs to be "capped" with concrete after any final contaminants are identified, Shilosky said. From there, top soil will be laid and seeded and a park committee, with input from Wasniewski, will be established to determine the park's design.

"It's not going to be an elaborate park with baseball fields," Shilosky said. "It's going to be a casual park."

Wasniewski agreed with the vision of a "casual" park when she spoke with the *Rivereast* this week.

She said her two daughters, who are both artists, would like to be involved with the future park committee.

"We certainly hope to be [involved] and I think the town is more than happy to have us do so," she said.



A clogged drain on private property is causing overflow problems addressed this winter by a temporary drainage ditch (pictured left), according to public works director Robert Shea. With the arrival of spring, he said the clogged drain and the resulting high water levels (pictured right) must now be fixed by the property owner before town highway crews can repair the road and make improvements to safeguard the road in case it floods again.

Swelling, Smelly Swamp in Portland Causes Concern

by Elizabeth Regan

A swelling swamp is the subject of concern on William Street Extension near the intersection with Route 66.

Reginald Farrington, of 648 William St. Ext., described the wetlands across the road from his house as dangerous and odorous.

Water on Wednesday could be seen gurgling its way through a trench extending from a wooded area to a nearby storm drain surrounded by cones and orange and white traffic barricades.

Public works director Robert Shea said town highway crews dug the temporary drainage ditch this winter to keep water from crossing the road and freezing.

Farrington noted the runoff caused serious problems at the intersection.

"They had to close Route 66 because it was actually ice. Not a little coating, but ice, ice," Farrington said.

Shea credited excessive rainfall over the fall

and winter with exacerbating issues related to a clogged drain immersed on private property nearby.

The overflow needed to be mitigated by the town right away due to the safety concerns, Shea said – and it was. His goal now is to work with the property owner whose nonfunctioning drain is expanding the swampy area.

Shea said the drain sits on land belonging to Steve Farrelly of DRVN Enterprises Inc. on Gospel Lane, but was installed by a previous owner. He added Farrelly has been responsive to the town's concerns and has been checking in regularly.

The property owner is responsible for locating the drain and unclogging it, according to Shea.

Farrelly provided a brief statement Thursday morning saying he planned to remedy the problem that day or the next day by cleaning the

storm drain.

Shea said public works crews might add a curb to the road after the drainage issue is addressed.

"We will repair that area and work to make improvements to safeguard the road in the event it happens again," Shea said.

Farrington said there was only "a little bit of water" in the wetland area prior to the recent rainy season. He described it as enough wetness to ensure people couldn't build there, but not so much that it looked like a pond – or a swamp.

He said the town's effort to install the trench and line it with cones to get rid of one safety issue has created another.

"This can get exciting when traffic is happening in both directions because the road isn't as wide as it used to be. One of these days, somebody's going to go off the road into the

ditch," he said.

He said the utility pole at the end of his driveway has been hit twice since he's been there.

He said other problems include a rotten stench and the imminent arrival of biting insects.

"There's going to be mosquitoes in a couple weeks, and it's going to be horrendous," Farrington said.

Shea reiterated the area has been underwater to some degree "for a long time" and that mosquitoes can be present near any water body.

The public works director attributed the smell to degraded leaves and foliage debris.

He said now that the nearby roads have been made safe by directing the runoff into the storm drain, the key is to address the remaining issues without compromising the wetlands.

"What we don't want to do is stop it. We want it to do its natural thing," Shea said.



A fire last Saturday killed two dogs and left a two-story home uninhabitable, according to Colchester Fire Chief Walter Cox.

Cause of House Fire in Colchester Remains Undetermined

by Allison Lazur

The cause of an April 13 house fire at 5 Deer Run Drive that killed two dogs has been labeled undetermined.

Land records list the home as being owned by Carlos and Sara Estevez.

At approximately 4:55 a.m., the Colchester Fire Department responded to a structure fire that rendered the two-story colonial home "uninhabitable," Colchester Fire Chief Walt Cox said in an email to the *Rivereast*.

The family was away at the time of the fire, but two dogs that were being cared for at the home were killed, the Colchester Fire Department said.

The fire was knocked down at 5:57 a.m. and

the scene was turned over to the fire marshal's office at 8:24 a.m., the department said.

Cox said, "Due to the amount of fire involvement and damage, the official cause of the fire will remain undetermined."

He said because there were no fire hydrants in that area of town, water supply was provided by multiple water tankers at the scene.

The Marlborough, Hebron, Glastonbury and East Hampton Fire Departments all provided mutual aid.

A Go Fund Me page has been set up to support the Estevez family. Anyone interested in donating can visit gofundme.com/the-estevez-family-house-fire-relief.

East Hampton Police News

4/10: Christopher Robert Olszowy, 24, of 96 Buena Vista Ave., New Britain was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with sixth-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit fraudulent use of an automated teller, conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit third-degree forgery, East Hampton Police said.

4/13: Ashley Hoffman, 45, of 21B Little

Fawn Trl., Higganum, was issued a summons for traveling at slow speed and operating under suspension, police said.

4/15: Bruce Heller, 42, of 11 Brook Hill Dr., was arrested and charged with violation of a restraining order, police said.

Also, from April 8-14, officers responded to 17 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 24 tr

Colchester Police News

4/6: Colchester Police said Michael Belisle, 32, of 145 Mill Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with failure to renew registration, failure to carry registration/insurance card and DUI.

4/7: Colchester Police said Michael J. Fiondella, 37, of 7 Windham Ave. Apt. B, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

4/14: Colchester Police said Daniel C. Omara, 29, of 26 Berry Rd., East Haddam, was arrested and charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, improper use of license/registration, operating a motor vehicle without

minimum insurance and possession of a controlled substance greater than ½ ounce of cannabis.

4/15: State Police said Paul J. Albert, 42, of 97 Weaver Rd., Manchester, was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance greater than half an ounce of cannabis and second-degree breach of peace.

4/15: State Police said Marc Gallant, 32, of 153 Tunxis Rd., Bristol, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, credit card theft and second-degree breach of peace.

Truck Collides with Guardrail in Colchester

State Police said a truck that collided with a wire rope guardrail and then overturning down an embankment, left the driver and passenger with possible injuries.

At approximately 5:05 p.m. on April 13, a Ford truck driven by Timothy W. Corcoran, 54, of 10th Avenue, Waterford, was traveling east on Route 2, prior to exit 16, when the vehicle collided with a wire rope guardrail along the right shoulder and subsequently

overturned down an embankment and collided with a tree, police said.

Corcoran and his passenger Mary B. Montesi, 52, of 104 East Pattagansett Rd., Niantic, were both transported to Middlesex Hospital Marlborough Medical Center by the Colchester Fire Department with possible injuries.

Police said Corcoran was issued a ticket for failure to maintain proper lane.

Single-Vehicle Collision with Guardrail in Marlborough

State Police said a woman was later stopped in Glastonbury for colliding with a guardrail while driving in Marlborough.

At approximately 6:45 a.m. on April 13, police said, Christine Ferrell, 55, of 23 Eric Way, East Hartford, was driving a Chevrolet

Cavalier on North Main Street in Marlborough when the vehicle struck a guardrail.

Ferrell was later stopped on Route 2 in Glastonbury for the collision and was transported to Hartford Hospital by the Glastonbury Ambulance and released later the same day.

Obituaries

Colchester

Richard Paul Baldi Sr.

Richard Paul Baldi Sr., 88, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home Friday, April 12, with his loving family by his side. Born in New London Oct. 4, 1930, he was a son of the late Lazerous and Dorothy (Menghi) Baldi.

Richard attended school at St. Joseph's, Buckley High School and he received a BA in accounting through an accelerated program at Bryant College. Richard was a proud veteran, having served with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He married his beloved wife Anna Rose Denora on Aug. 9, 1958. The couple built their home and raised their family in Colchester. They were communicants of St. Andrew Church.

Richard retired several years ago after a 38-year career as an accountant for Kaman Aircraft. In addition to his accounting career, more notably starting from the age of 6, Richard developed his gift as a pianist and began playing professionally from the age of 13. As an accomplished pianist, he had his own country western band and made many recordings and records of his own music. He played professionally all around eastern Connecticut. His talent was such that he was sought after to play live at events such as the Governors Ball. Music was a very important part of his life and his gift was enjoyed by countless people who listened to his performances.

Richard was a devoted family man. His greatest joy came from being a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife, Anna of 60 years; children and their spouses, Richard (Nancy) Baldi Jr. of Colchester, Dorothy Seitz of Colchester, Michael (Susan) Baldi of Lebanon, Stephen (Yvonne) Baldi of Colchester; brother Roy (Mary) Baldi of New London; grandchildren, Michael (Brittany) Baldi Jr., Christine Baldi, Clayton (Ashley) Baldi, Kaitlin (Mark) Waterfield, Matthew Baldi, Jessica Seitz, Nathaniel Baldi, Nicholas Baldi, Vincenzo Baldi; great-grandchildren, Grace and Jake Waterfield, Emily Baldi; and numerous extended family and friends.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, April 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew Church. Burial followed in New St. Andrew Cemetery, with full military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, arthritis.org.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Gary E. Glass

Gary E. Glass of Gardner, Mass., passed away Sunday, March 31, at the age of 65. Gary was born March 30, 1954, to the late Elwood (Mac) and Shirley (Glass) McKusick. He grew up in Portland and graduated from Portland High School, Class of 1972.

Gary was drafted into the Army right out of high school, and following basic training, went on to serve in the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, DC. In 1974, he was chosen to serve as a sentinel at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, an honor only a select few are nominated for. Upon his discharge from service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, as well as achieving his Sharpshooter Qualification Badge.

Gary was an excellent baseball player and was scouted by, and tried out for, the St. Louis Cardinals as an infielder, falling just short of the cut. He was an avid outdoorsman, spending many hours fishing the secluded streams of Great Hill Mountain in Portland and hunting in Maine with his stepdad, Mac McKusick. He was also an accomplished musician, playing in various bands over the years with his friends in Portland.

Gary is survived by his son, Christopher Glass of Portland; his brother, Greg Glass of Portland; his stepsister, Janice Braun of Jupiter, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his stepsister, Cindy Stafford, and stepbrothers, Martin McKusick and Roger McKusick.

A burial with full military honors will take place at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon, Mass., at the convenience of the family.



East Hampton

Theresa Owens

Theresa "Terri" Owens of East Hampton died unexpectedly at home Thursday, April 11. She was born Nov. 1, 1946, to the late Robert and Ann "Bunny" (Barteaux) Gesner.

Terri raised seven children; they were her everything and they will miss her greatly. Mommy, we all love you so much! Thank you for always giving us your time, compassion and most of all your love each and every day. You raised seven children on your own. We are all grateful for all the wonderful things you taught us throughout the years.

Even though you just left us, you are dearly missed. We all understand that it was time for you to get some rest and meet up with your mom, dad, Pop, Grammy, Uncle, Lee and John. Every day you will be remembered by all of us in our hearts, minds and prayers. Until we meet again, we all love you so much Mom.

Terri sadly leaves behind her children, Beth Esposito and her husband Gerald of Tennessee, Richard Donnelly Jr. of Meriden, Robin Greco of East Hampton, William Donnelly and wife Jolie of Marlborough, David Owens and wife Susan of Terryville, Kristy Patton of New Britain and Kevin Owens and wife Melissa of Portland; special niece, Courtney Schatzman of Middletown; her brother, Bobby Gesner and sister Sue Miller, both of Florida; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents Robert and Bunny, Theresa was predeceased by her brothers Leon Gesner and John Gesner.

Visitation with Theresa's family will be held Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Belmont Funeral Home LLC, 144 S. Main St., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Theresa's memory may be made to a charity of choice.

Visit belmontfh.com to offer condolence to the family.

Amston

Kim A. Karanian

Kim A. Karanian, 55, of Amston, wife of Randolph (Randy) Franklin, passed away Saturday, April 13, at home, with husband and family by her side. Born in New Britain, she was the youngest daughter of the late Lois J. Karanian and Attorney Charles G. Karanian. Kim attended Mooreland Hill School, Suffield Academy and the University of Miami.

Kim's business career was managerial and entrepreneurial in nature, having worked in family businesses, spending 20 years at the former lumberyard in Hebron, as well as owning her own business, Winners Circle in Amston, for 10 years. She and her husband enjoyed riding their Quarter Horses, which they raised for over 25 years. After coming home from a day's work, she would enjoy the tranquility of her log cabin home with the wildlife that sought sanctuary there. Her beloved pets were her children and she gave them much love and affection through the years.

Kim was a down-to-earth, back-to-basics type of girl who recognized the importance and value of family and drew strength from her faith and Armenian heritage. The memories of her strong will, quick wit and sense of humor will continue to make us smile and our love for each other will remain forever connected.

She is survived by her beloved husband and partner of 30 years, Randolph Franklin; her loving sisters, Charlene Karanian and partner Keith Patterson of New Britain, Sabra Karanian and husband Thomas Brunstetter of Weston, Fla.; and her much loved nephew and niece, Kyle and Lyndsay Brunstetter of Weston, Fla. Numerous cousins, aunts, uncles and extended family also survive her.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, April 17, at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, 411 S. Main St., New Britain. A private burial was held in Fairview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Pancreatic Cancer Network Organization, pancan.org.

Please share a memory of Kim with the family in the online guest book at ericksonhansen.com.



Andover

William G. Maltzan

William G. Maltzan, "Bill," 85, of Andover, formerly of Marlborough, beloved husband of 60 years to Jacqueline (Cain) Maltzan, passed away at home Monday, April 15. Bill was born on June 6, 1933, in Suffern, N.Y., the son of the late Fred and Catherine (Schmidt) Maltzan. He attended Hartwick College on a basketball/baseball scholarship and graduated in 1956.

Bill was a member of the 3rd Infantry, which serves as the President's Honor Guard and is the Army's ceremonial detachment. An avid golfer, Bill was a longtime member of Tallwood CC Men's Club and a devoted fan of the New York Giants and Mets. He retired in 1999 as an investigator for the State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services.

In addition to his wife Jackie, Bill is survived by his children, Michael and Amy Murphy Maltzan, Patty and Tracy Matthews, Jane and Chris Watson, Beth and Matt Olenski, Mary Kate and Charles Triponez; his loving grandchildren, Hannah and Gus Maltzan, Kailey and Zack Matthews, Tim and wife Natalie, Kevin and Ryan Watson, Henry and Audrey Olenski, Dylan Meyerhoffer and Tom and Balian Triponez; in addition to many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his son, Kevin John; his sister, Marion Tobar; and his brother, Fred Maltzan.

Bill's family would like to thank the visiting nurses of VNHSC, in particular Stephanie LaPointe, for their excellent care and compassion.

Families and friends may call Monday, April 22, from 4-7 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, at St. James Roman Catholic Church, 896 Main St., Manchester. Burial will be at Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y., on Wednesday, April 24.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Andover Fire Department, 11 School St., Andover, CT 06232 or St. James Parish Building Fund, 896 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040.

Visit mulryanfh.com to leave online condolences.

East Hampton

Frederick A. Hebebrand

Frederick "Fred" A. Hebebrand, 76, of East Hampton, formerly of Windsor, died Friday, April 12, at Marlborough Health Care. Born June 29, 1942, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Anthony and Mary (Manning) Hebebrand.

Fred grew up on Sinclair Street in Windsor and at a very young age working at the side of his father in their family business, A.F. Hebebrand and Welding, where he would learn to weld. The family, like many, spent their summers at the cottage on Lake Pocotopaug, and a few years later made East Hampton "home."

In his younger days, Fred enjoyed tinkering around his yard, nights out bowling, and was a longtime member of Marlborough Moose Lodge. Fred grew up at his father's side at "The Shop," where he learned to weld. He loved spending time in his garage putting all those tricks and tools his father had taught him over the years to use. If you had a vision of something, anything, Fred could make it for you. But of all the things that "Uncle Freddie" loved, the time spent with his nephew Steven on the water casting a line was the happiest of his days.

Fred is survived by his sister, Gladys Yeager Griswold of East Hampton; his nephew, Steven Peterson of Ormond Beach, Fla.; his niece, Kamey Cavanaugh and her husband Thomas of East Hampton; and his two great-nieces Bailee and Emilee Ahrens. Fred also leaves behind a very special friend for more than 70 years, Bobby Galler.

He was predeceased by both his parents and his brother in law Dennis Griswold.

The family would like to thank the nurses and care givers of Marlborough Health Care for the amazing care they took of Fred during his stay and a very special thank you to the hospice team, who went above and beyond for him in his final days.

Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424 on Friday, April 26, from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to "The Captain Grizzly Poker Run" at 70 North Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.



Colchester

Debra Ellen Kemmett

Debra Ellen Kemmett, 62, of Bushnell, Fla., formerly of Colchester, passed away Sunday, April 14. Born June 4, 1956, in Derby, she was the daughter of Helen (Zimolag) Greco and the late John Greco.

Debra was employed by the Aetna Insurance Company, where she worked as a commissions analyst until the birth of her children. She was later employed by Products of Nature located in Glastonbury, and with Filene's where she performed cosmetic counseling specifically with Clinique cosmetics. She attended Manchester Community College, majoring in business. She recently completed a medical billing and coding certification course.

Debra loved the water and was a strong swimmer. She was an avid tennis player. She taught religious education classes at St. Andrew Catholic Church, where she also volunteered as a greeter at the 11 a.m. Mass. Debbie was always full of energy, a peaceful woman with a strong passion and conviction. Her green eyes and beautiful smile brightened every room she walked into. Debra believed in helping others. For several years, she participated in research studies in New Haven for the treatment of Alzheimer's.

She bravely fought early-onset Alzheimer's disease for the past 10 years. Though she struggled each day, she always wore a smile and never complained. Ever.

Debra was anxiously awaiting the birth of her first grandchild, which is expected in September.

Debbie is survived by her husband of 34 years, Richard L. Kemmett Jr. They were married in Wethersfield Sept. 8, 1984. In addition to her mother, she leaves their two daughters, Larissa Raymond and husband Kurt, and Samantha Kemmett; two sisters, Karen Dellorso and her husband, John and Lori Leclerc and husband, David; a brother: John Greco Jr.; and numerous extended nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

The family will receive guests from 4-6 p.m. Monday, April 22, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 23, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Those who wish may make donations to the church.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

