

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**First Day of School...** The Bacon Academy Bobcat Preschoolers are shown here taking a break for snack time during their first day of school on Feb. 4 at Bacon Academy. The play-based preschool program is a collaborative community experience which is operated by Bacon Academy's Advanced Child Development High School students under the direction of Family and Consumer Science teacher Joanie DuBois. The program operates one session of 10 preschooler students two mornings per week and their classes run from January through June. High school students are awarded three credits from Three Rivers Community College for their work and experience in the program.

## Officials Discuss Opioid Crisis

by Jack Lakowsky

Members of Portland Youth Services and Portland Public Schools, as well as state officials, gave an overview of the state's opioid crisis in a presentation to the public on Thursday, Feb. 6.

Presenters included Robert Lawlor, drug intelligence officer with the organization New England High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and Sarah Ali, drug intelligence officer and public health analyst for HIDTA. They were joined by psychotherapist and substance abuse counselor Joanna Cromwell.

"These are the things that don't get talked about," said state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), who attended the meeting, along with state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

Carpino represents Portland and Cromwell. Needleman's district includes the *RiverEast* towns of Portland, East Hampton and Colchester.

Lawlor emphasized that drug manufacturers have shifted their production processes from creating plant-based drugs, such as opium extracted from the poppy plant, to synthesizing chemically made drugs, like fentanyl. An especially detrimental-and profitable- method recently adopted by illicit drug laboratories is the making of synthetic pills containing fentanyl and other substances.

"People tend to think that drug dealers are stupid," Lawlor said. "The truth is that, once you get above street level, you start dealing with some very smart people. These are businessmen. Say all drugs were legalized – the cartels would be in the top Fortune 20 companies. There are a lot of smart people involved."

Lawlor said that, in the past – especially during the crack epidemic of the 1980s – enforcement against dealers and manufacturers was impeded by a lack of cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement.

"We've learned that incarceration isn't effective," Ali said. "There has to be communication across different sectors."

Lawlor explained that, more and more frequently, cartels recruit expert chemists from leading universities to help them manufacture synthetic drugs. These synthetics have lower overhead costs and increased potency.

Using crop, Lawlor said, requires land, labor and security. Producing synthetic drugs eliminates these costs to manufacturers.

"They can turn out metric tons," Lawlor said.

Synthetically produced opioids are extremely profitable, according to Lawlor. They are more dangerous than drugs derived from plants because their makers can cut them with any material or chemical they want.

"Everything is cut nowadays," Lawlor said. "Unless you're buying weed, you have no idea what you're getting."

Lawlor said that this opioid naiveté makes people vulnerable to taking drugs of unknown contents. He said he knows of instances wherein, after their genuinely prescribed painkiller supply runs out, unaffordable healthcare costs have led people without any addiction history to seek illegally made street pills due to their physical or emotional dependency on a prescription pain medication. He detailed that people have died from overdoses of these pills because they were unaware of the dosage of

See Opioid Crisis page 2

## Andover School Board Scrambling to Slash Budget

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Education is grappling with a request from town selectmen that would cut the proposed 2020-21 school budget by a whopping \$800,000.

The board is looking at a variety of options, including laying off teachers, to get down to the Board of Selectmen's requested \$3.6 million budget.

That \$3.6 million would be a \$400,000 decrease from the current year's \$4.07 million spending package – and \$800,000 less than the \$4.39 million budget Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen has proposed for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The Board of Selectmen first made the request at a January meeting, and the school board discussed it at a Feb. 5 budget workshop. However, prior to that workshop, some on the board had felt the selectmen were actually seeking a \$400,000 cut – not \$800,000.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson said that incorrect assumption was made by "a lot of people" who attended the Jan. 13 selectmen meeting and that the confusion may have been

caused by the way the motion for the request was worded.

But Board of Selectmen member Adrian Mandeville was clear this week – the idea was for the budget to go down, not up.

"There's no way their budget goes up when the kids go down," he said. "That's not happening."

For several years, enrollment numbers at the school have been decreasing.

Cuts Doyen proposed included eliminating two new classrooms proposed for next year, two current teachers and a paraprofessional and reducing four non-classroom teachers.

The reductions calculated to slightly more than \$700,000, she said.

"We still are not at \$800,000. As you can see, we just ran out of things that were reasonable," Doyen told board members. "The only way to come up with \$100,000 [more] would be to cut another teacher."

The conversation circled round to ways to save money in the pre-kindergarten program, including knocking it down to two classrooms

from the current three. Principal John Briody said doing that would alter the way students are accepted into the program and would mean they would no longer accept non-residents and would have to give families within certain income guidelines priority.

The board also discussed a proposal to share a financial department with the town – another idea from the Board of Selectmen. At the same meeting in which they asked the education board to cut its budget, selectmen agreed to consider the shared department.

Laura Webb, the school district's business manager, said making that transition this year would not be wise.

"I feel like that the timeline is extremely short," she said. "I think that there needs to be an understanding of what the current positions are currently doing and I feel that there needs to be a plan."

Webb said she works four days and barely gets through her workload.

Louden suggested taking "some of the nuts away" and giving some work to the town, if it

would be better served in the hands of a bookkeeper.

"My gut reaction was it's an idea we actually talked about two years ago," Webb said. "So it's not a surprise to me, but I do feel like it's being rammed down a lot of throats."

The board will invite Anderson to speak at its regular meeting next month to get more information on the shared department. It will resume budget discussions at a special meeting on Feb. 27.

The Board of Education is to transmit its budget proposal to the Board of Selectmen by March 3, but Doyen said Thursday morning that Board of Education Chairman Shannon Loudon will ask for an extension to give the board more time to grapple with the budget.

Louden did not return a call for comment for this story.

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Meanwhile, a member of the school board has resigned.

As the board began its meeting Wednesday, See Slash Budget page 2

**Opioid Crisis cont. from Front Page**

opiates, fentanyl or other substances that was in the makeup of that pill.

Lawlor added that manufacturers are able to make illegal fentanyl-based pills resemble anything, from the distinctive sky-blue color of Oxycotin (Oxycodone) to characters from SpongeBob SquarePants.

“There’s less of a stigma about pills,” Lawlor said. “People tend to think that, because it’s in a pill shape, it’s safe.”

Lawlor said that these synthesized pills are a major issue faced by law enforcement that has arisen within the last five years. Drug factories make them in an illegal pill press.

“Pill presses used to be extremely rare,” Lawlor said. “Now, we’re seizing multiple presses a month in Connecticut.”

Lawlor added that seizure of pill presses was so rare that higher-ups within federal law enforcement agencies would ask to pose for pictures with formerly seldom-seized equipment.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration’s website, 666,666 pills can be made from one kilogram of fentanyl.

The DEA stated in a press release that the rise of counterfeit pills that contain fentanyl in the illicit drug market will likely result in more opioid-dependent people, overdoses and deaths.

According to Lawlor, large amounts of fentanyl pills are manufactured in and imported from China.

Fentanyl is illegal in China. However, according to the DEA, many Chinese laboratories illicitly manufacturing synthetic drugs like fentanyl also make legitimate chemicals for purchase by U.S. companies. This means that labs responsible for supplying fentanyl-based counterfeit pills often run legitimate businesses as well.

He said that, using the press to make synthesized opioid pills and cutting the drugs with other substances, an enterprising drug dealer can flip a kilogram of fentanyl or other opioids to profits ranging between \$4 and \$10 million. Lawlor said that numbers this large aren’t common in Connecticut, but even smaller scale dealers and factories still often profit around \$1 million.

“There’s great wealth above street level,” Lawlor said. “The market changes so rapidly. It’s a deadly, illegal business and is treated as such. The whole motivation is money. Dealers don’t care about their customers, except as far as avoiding the cops goes.”

Ali stated that fentanyl use continues to rise in Connecticut. She said that fentanyl was present in 75% of fatal overdoses in the state.

“Connecticut is very high in its number of deaths,” Ali said. “It’s amongst the top in the country.”

Ali said that Connecticut has excellent toxicology laboratories, allowing for proper research on the chemicals present in the bloodstream of a deceased overdose victim.

Ali detailed the demographic patterns identified among overdoses. She said that the mortality rate among white males is the highest of all groups by three-fold. The amount of white female users aged between 25 and 54 is increasing.

“We see the same increasing rates in every race,” Ali said. Ali advised the attending state and local officials to ensure that any program planning addresses the needs of the diverse

demographics of people suffering from addiction disorders.

Ali said that, because addiction disorder and its symptoms can often manifest in a person’s teenage years, that communication within the family unit is one of the best defenses against the opioid epidemic. Ali stressed that these conversations are imperative due to the wide availability of drugs to young people.

“You need to communicate without condemning,” Ali said.

Cromwell affirmed Ali’s statement, stating that 25% of adolescents said they have used an illegal drug in the past month.

“It’s about getting past those barriers and stigmas and communicating honestly,” Cromwell said. “It won’t be a comfortable conversation. We need to increase our understanding of trauma. I always say that the opposite of addiction is connection.”

Cromwell said that these intimate conversations, and those she herself shares with patients suffering or recovering from addiction disorders, are often centered on trauma. She said that 99.99% of people who devolve from recreational drug use to compulsory, dependent abuse have experienced trauma.

“I’ve never sat with someone who became addicted on purpose,” Cromwell said. “It became a maladaptive coping skill.”

Cromwell continued to say that identifying an opioid abuser is difficult. There is no scent, like the distinctive smell of marijuana, and rarely are motor skills and behavior overtly inhibited.

Cromwell detailed some signs of opioid use, including, but not limited to: dilated or shrunken pupils; slow speech; apathy and; secretive interactions with new people unknown to parents, especially behind a locked bedroom door.

She also said to be wary of use of more “benign” drugs, like tobacco. She said that any and all drug use should be cause for discussion, but that tobacco is more of a “gateway drug” than marijuana.

Cromwell discussed another drug that is consumed in epidemic proportions: alcohol. She said the rate of binge drinking among Connecticut’s residents ranks 15th out of the 50 states, compared to the Nutmeg State’s rank of 29th in population.

According to the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, drunk driving costs the U.S. \$132 billion every year.

Cromwell said that, during a binge or blackout, people suffering from alcoholism can experience severe changes in mood and personality. She said she has spoken to people who don’t remember a suicide attempted during a blackout and who, when sober, experience no suicidal thoughts or actions.

Cromwell reiterated the need for community and connection in battling any addiction.

Cromwell described a study wherein a series of lone mice were placed in a small space containing one bowl of pure water and another of cocaine-laced water. In each instance, the single mouse drank cocaine water until it died. Next, she said, a group of mice were placed into a similar space with one control bowl and another containing cocaine water. In this second study, not a single mouse died.

“Addiction is a disease of isolation,” Cromwell said.

**Slash Budget cont. from Front Page**

Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville crouched beside Board of Education Chairwoman Shannon Loudon’s seat and showed her a message on his cell phone.

Louden then announced she had just learned that board member Brandon Lorentz, who was not present, was giving up his seat.

“Adrian has just showed me that Brandon is resigning from the Board of Education,” she said, adding that it was not an official announcement as she was yet to receive a correspondence in the matter.

No one on the board commented.

**Schools Chief to Retire**

by Sloan Brewster

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen is moving on.

Doyen announced Thursday she is retiring from the part-time role, with her last day June 30.

Doyen has served as Andover’s schools chief for the past five years. Prior to that, she served stints as superintendent for the Portland, Lebanon and Manchester school systems.

Doyen said she has no special plans for her retirement but may do some travelling and see some places she has wanted to visit but has not yet had the opportunity.

Doyen said she has appreciated everyone she has worked with in Andover.

“It’s been a wonderful five years here and it’s time for the board to find a new person,” she said. “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed. It’s a great place.”

# East Hampton Library Survey Yields Nearly 300 Responses

by Jack Lakowsky

Amy Ordonez, chair of East Hampton's Library Advisory Board, was nearly moved to tears when she first saw the East Hampton Public Library's new ceiling tiles.

"The space was really transformed," Ordonez said. "I have to give so much credit to Ellen [Paul, the library's director]."

Replacing the library's 34-year-old ceiling tiles was another of the many efforts to further improve service to patrons and the community at large, according to Paul.

To gauge what further steps the board and the library staff should take, Paul and the board distributed a survey to the public, asking for input on improvements, updates and projects to undertake in the future.

The survey closed on Feb. 10. Paul said that 273 residents, a number largely representing regular patrons, but also a significant amount of irregular library-goers participated in it. The survey was intentionally written with open-ended questions to allow for thoughtful replies describing the wants and needs of patrons, and improvements that can be made to library operations and to the building itself. Paul said she

did not want to "proscribe" responses. This method makes analysis a bit more difficult, she said, but far more rewarding.

"That was really our jumping-off point," Paul said. "I'm so impressed with the response, and so appreciative."

Paul said she was amazed at both the depth and breadth of the comments made by the community, and that responses contained both compliments and critique.

"It's amazing that people took such time to comment," Paul said.

Paul, Ordonez, library staff, board members, the Friends of the East Hampton Library and the Board of Education will pour through results to determine priorities and future steps.

Paul and Ordonez both described the tremendous growth experienced in recent months by the library, its services and its operations.

"Last summer, the board decided to be forward thinking and proactively plan for the future," Paul said.

In the year since Paul and the board began their reformations, borrowing at the library has increased 28%, jumping from 72,000 checkouts

to more than 90,000. Borrowing continues to grow monthly. Paul said the library's goal is to reach more than 100,000 borrows by the end of this current fiscal year.

Paul said the library offers 14 after school programs. When registration for these programs went live, she said, these programs were full with waiting lists within an hour of their announcement.

"Kids' attendance is through the roof," Paul said.

Ordonez said that the success of the afterschool programs is a testament to the library's growth.

Paul said she and the board will meet with the town council to ensure any plans align with overall town goals. A strategic three-year plan, based on the results of the survey, will be developed with the objective of best serving East Hampton's residents. She said she hopes to have this document ready in April. It will describe plans stretching from July of this year until July 2023.

All these accomplishments have not quieted Paul's ambition to help create the best library

experience for Belltown.

"This is all really, really positive, but we can't let this growth stall," Paul said. "This only works if we're listening to the community. There's so much more to do."

Ordonez said that the library was built in the 1980's and was not constructed to suit current technology. She also said that the library board will advocate for the introduction of a reference librarian position to lighten the load of serving 13,000 people carried by the town's four librarians, who are divided between the town's libraries and the school facilities.

"In the age of misinformation, we need someone who can steer people to the right knowledge," Ordonez said.

"Our library is really becoming what a library should be," she added. "A community gathering place, a place for people to connect. We'll be doing that in a way that the community wants."

Paul said that updates on the library's efforts will be posted to their Facebook page.

"It's going to be a very busy spring," Paul said.

## East Hampton Council Mulls Future Use of Current School Board Building

by Jack Lakowsky

With the opening of the municipal hub coming this spring, the Town Council and Town Manager David Cox Tuesday began discussion of possible future use of the current Board of Education building.

Many factors must still be determined, like the cost of maintenance and utilities, should the town retain ownership of the structure, or if it would be more cost-effective and efficient to sell it to the private market, council member Mark Philhower observed.

Cox said in the meeting that Chatham Health District officials had expressed interest in using the Main Street building, moving from their existing Middletown Avenue home.

"We should explore all options," council member Derek Johnson said in the meeting. "We can explore Chatham Health. If it goes to market, it should be sold with conditions."

Johnson added that an appraisal should be performed.

The current Board of Education building at 94 Main St. was assessed in 2015 at \$286,270

with an appraisal of \$408,950, according to town assessor data. It was built in 1866, according to the assessor.

Council member Tim Feegel said that, because the building was once used as Center School and is so antiquated, that it is part of East Hampton's historic makeup. He said that, if the building were to be sold to a private entity, the buyer must preserve its current aesthetic.

Town Council Vice Chairman Dean Markham agreed that provisions must be included to keep the building's historic character. The building is located at 94 Main St.

"I would hate to see them change direction and tear the building down, or something," Markham said.

Councilor Kevin Reich advised the council that, in the evening when the BOE office is closed, nearby businesses use the parking lot. He said that, were the building to enter private hands, this extra parking would likely be lost.

East Hampton Superintendent of Schools

Paul Smith said that, were the town to transfer the building to private use rather than continue its ownership, then his office and the Parks and Recreation Department would have to relocate a large amount of supplies and equipment stored in a pair of garages on the current property, such as risers used for the high school's graduation.

"We'd have to rent space somewhere in town," Smith said.

Smith said that he would be able to fill the second-floor space emptied by the school offices with East Hampton schools' information technology (IT) department. He added that the facilities director, Don Harwood, could remain in the current building. Other town departments, he said, could potentially use the first-floor space.

"I can still utilize the space if the town makes it available," Smith said. "If they're interested, it would be a nice IT space."

Smith went on to say that the IT department has outgrown its current space. Moving this department into 94 Main St. would allow them

more space to keep equipment, such as the school's Chromebooks.

"I love that it's the original school in town," Smith said. "It's been the library and the town hall – it's been everything. It's a historic building."

Smith said ascending the 17 steps that lead to the building's second floor is difficult for visitors of limited mobility. He believes that IT and facilities would be well suited to working on the second floor because they do not receive a high volume of foot traffic. He suggested that a department that receives more visits from the public could occupy the first floor.

He said he does not think the town will want to alter the building's historic aesthetic by adding handicapped accessible infrastructure, like an elevator.

Cox told the council that the slated opening for the new building housing town offices, including those in the town hall and the police department, is slated to begin operations by April 13, a slight extension from his previous estimation dated for the beginning of March.

## EHHS Students, Staff Support Presence of Armed Officer

by Jack Lakowsky

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith revealed in a Board of Education meeting Monday night that both students and staff at East Hampton High School are in support of continuing the use of an armed security officer (ASO) at the school.

According to a survey of local students and staff, data presented in the meeting, about 86% of staff support use of the ASO with 82% of students also voting in the affirmative.

"Ultimately, the board will decide on using the ASO" at a future meeting, Smith said.

Smith said the board will decide on whether or not to continue use of the ASO at their meeting at the end of the month.

Smith anticipates board approval.

Last year, he said, the board approved a 6-month trial period for the use of the armed officer after a well-attended public forum. At that time, student and staff approval of the introduction was around 70%.

"The security guard at the school is a retired state police officer," Smith said. "He's a great role model."

Smith said that state policy requires school officers to be retired from a local or state police department.

According to the board's policy, the function of the ASO is to assist the school and its staff in promoting a safe school environment, including assisting in the prevention of school violence. At the discretion of the board, the ASO is authorized to carry a firearm in the perfor-

mance of their duties consistent with state and federal law, as well as board policy.

According to a 2018 report by the National Center for Education Statistics, the use of armed officers in U.S. schools is on the rise, with roughly 72% of secondary and 45% of primary schools reporting the use of armed security staff, up from 63% and 26%, respectively, a decade ago.

The Morningside Center, a nonprofit organization that works with educators to teach social responsibility and enhance community contribution, reported that increasing demand has made school policing the fastest growing job in law enforcement.

The New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) conducted research on the effectiveness of armed security officers in schools. NYSSBA said that proponents of armed officers argue that the guards add an extra layer of protection and safety and can respond faster in a crisis than local law enforcement and emergency personnel.

Detractors argue that firearms in schools are dangerous and create a militaristic environment that makes schools less welcoming, the presence of guns can exacerbate situations and students can access guns even with established safeguards.

Overall, NYSSBA reports that research regarding whether armed security officers deter shootings or reduce violence is inconclusive.

# Annual Girl Scout Dance is Tomorrow in Colchester

by Karla Santos

Tomorrow, Feb. 15, young girls will have the opportunity to create memories with someone special in their lives while dancing, creating crafts and taking pictures in a photo booth at the annual “Winter Wonderland – My Someone Special and Me Dance.”

The event will be held at St. Andrew Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The dance is hosted by Girl Scouts of Connecticut of the Massapaug Service Unit, which incorporates a variety of Girl Scout troops including those from the Colchester and Salem area.

Gail Dalton, a leader of one of the senior Girl Scout troops in Colchester, said the dance is being organized by a combination of Girl Scout troops and leaders.

Dalton’s troop is one of the troops involved in putting the event together. Dalton’s troop is in charge of running the event’s photo booth.

“We always have a booth where the girl and their special someone can come and take a picture,” Dalton said.

The booth will also have a printer, enabling event attendees to print their photos and take them home as a memory to remember the dance.

The event has been hosted annually for about 10 years during the month of February, Dalton said.

The dance serves as a fundraiser in benefit

of the Girl Scouts, Dalton added. She said the funds normally go to a scholarship or a particular project the Girl Scouts may be working on. It has not yet been determined where this year’s funds will go.

The event is not only for Girl Scouts – it is open to the public.

“It’s open to any girl that wants to bring a special someone,” Dalton said. “We just say special someone so that everybody is included. It’s just a way for these girls to go out and have a nice night out and not at an expensive cost.”

Christina Burke, service unit manager of the Massapaug Service Unit of Salem and Colchester, said her daughter was able to participate in the event last year.

“She had a good time,” Burke said. “She participated with her father. She got her picture taken; she did some of the craft activities.”

Last year’s theme was “Dancing Under the Stars.”

“Gail Dalton’s troop did the decorations last year and they did a fabulous job,” Burke added.

According to Dalton, one of the fun parts of the event is that girls take advantage of it to dress up in a fancy outfit or to wear a custom that goes with the theme of the event.

“We have girls that come dressed in really fancy party dresses,” Dalton said.

Because this year’s theme is “Winter Won-

derland,” Dalton said they might see a lot of girls dressed up as Elsa from the movie Frozen.

“We certainly say if you want to come in your fanciest party dress or if you want to put on your Elsa costume, by all means that’s something that we love,” Dalton said. “It’s nice to see these girls be able to take advantage of that.”

The event is an opportunity for the girls to dance, talk with friends and spend quality time with their special someone.

“It’s a nice night to get out and you can’t always do that,” Dalton said. “We really try to make it affordable and make it so that it’s something that anybody can come to. You can bring a grandpa, a dad, a mom, a sister. We open it up to everybody.”

Dalton said so far the event is expecting about 25 to 50 attendees, which is the amount of people that normally attends every year.

When Dalton was asked in which ways the Girl Scouts benefit from the event, she said they learn to work as a team.

“I think the older girls really enjoy being able to work with the younger girls in terms of just putting on the dance itself,” Dalton said.

The dance will include refreshments such as cupcakes, cookies, brownies and punch.

Girls automatically receive a patch for attend-

ing the event.

“For Girl Scouts, that’s a big thing because the patches are fun patches that they are able to put on their uniform,” Dalton said.

For those attendees who are not Girl Scouts, Dalton said they can use the patch on any jacket or piece of clothing. The patch will match the winter wonderland theme. The hall will also be decorated to match theme.

“I predict lots of snowflakes and fun winter things in the hall this year,” Dalton said.

The event will also include a craft booth for the girls to do some craft work.

Dalton said the two-hour event gives “just enough time for the little ones to be out, have a good time and it’s not too long, but it’s not too short so it’s nice,” she said.

The event has always taken place at the same hall, Dalton said, adding that organizers like the hall because it’s big and they don’t have to worry about not having enough space for everybody.

“Plenty of space to dance, plenty of space to hang out,” she said. “It’s just a nice place to do it. St. Andrew’s has been really great about working with us. They’ve been really accommodating to us.”

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.

# Natural Gas Plan Moving Forward in Colchester

by Karla Santos

The Colchester Board of Selectmen last week granted an easement to Yankee Gas for the installation, operations and maintenance of underground natural gas facilities in town, a project that could open the doors to more heating options for residents.

Colchester does not have natural gas, but things will be subject to change as Yankee Gas, doing business as Eversource Energy, is in the process of installing gas lines in town.

According to Colchester Public Works Director James Paggioli, the work started last year from the Montville town line. Gas lines are now being installed in areas of Route 354. The easement area that the town has granted to Eversource is on a Mill Street town property.

Paggioli said the easement area will take the transmission line through released valves that will be able to be brought down the street pressure or distribution line.

The focus of these gas lines is not only centered on giving residents a new alternative, but it is a vital part of the fuel cell project that was

approved by the town last year.

“This project is necessary,” Paggioli said. “One because you are bringing in a brand-new utility into town to give people a better alternative in the future from just propane or heating oil for heating purposes.”

The second reason why Paggioli said gas lines are important is Bloom Energy’s fuel cell on Old Amston Road.

Paggioli said the 10-megawatts fuel cell generation facility requires natural gas in order to run.

The portions of the gas lines that will serve the fuel cell “should be up and operational” by December, Paggioli said.

According to a memo from Paggioli to First Selectman Mary Bylone, the proposed natural gas service line that will feed the project will possibly travel from South Main Street to Norwich Avenue and Mill Street.

“From this point, low pressure distribution lines will travel along Mill Street to Lebanon Avenue, then along the Air Line Trail Spur to

Old Amston Road and along Old Amston Road to the site,” the memo says.

In addition, the distribution lines will be installed in a way that could allow a future expansion of the system, the memo says.

The easement area “is less than the size of a house,” Paggioli said.

“It makes sense to put it in that location because once it goes through those pressure reducing valves at that location, it means distribution can start at that point,” he added.

Paggioli said the installation of gas lines in town will be “ongoing” even after the lines feeding the fuel cell are installed.

Because it is an Eversource project taking place in town, the town is not involved in the actual construction portion of it.

“The town itself has a project at some point in the future about removing an underground fuel tank here at town hall,” Paggioli said. “This would be an opportunity because the valves are at that location and street distribution is at that location. We may be able to convert this build-

ing to natural gas and save money and get out of underground storage tank regulations.”

In addition, a “major manufacturer” in town has the potential to be able to convert from either propane or heating oil to natural gas, Paggioli said.

Eversource spokesman, Mitch Gross said the easement is part of the standard operational procedures that are often secured when installing gas lines.

“Quite often easements are necessary in order for us to install the gas lines in the most efficient way possible,” Gross said.

In addition, Gross said that 74 towns and cities and about 237,000 customers in Connecticut receive natural gas services from Eversource.

In terms of the fuel cell, Natalia Blank of Bloom Energy said the project is still in the pre-construction planning phase. The project is progressing as scheduled. Construction is expected to start in the second quarter of 2020.

## Colchester Woman Dies in Crash

by Karla Santos

A Colchester woman was killed in a two-vehicle crash on Lebanon Avenue last Friday, state police said.

According to police, Diane Wallis, 70, of 24 C Dogwood Ln., was pronounced dead after being transported to the Middlesex Medical Clinic in Marlborough. Wallis was the driver of one of the two vehicles involved in the crash, police said.

The driver of the other vehicle, Philip Selavka, 61, of 50 Colchester Commons, was transported to Backus Hospital for treatment

to suspected serious injuries to his lower body, police said.

The crash occurred shortly before 1:30 p.m. near the intersection with Northern Boulevard, police said. Police said Wallis, who was traveling west, crossed over the double-yellow center line on Route 16 and struck Selavka’s vehicle, which was traveling east, in the front end.

The crash is still under investigation and any witnesses are asked to contact Troop K at 860-465-5400.

# Portland School Board Selects New Superintendent

by Jack Lakowsky

The Portland Board of Education wound up not having to go far to find a new superintendent of schools.

The board Tuesday appointed Charles Britton, the current director of curriculum, instruction and technology for Portland Public Schools, as the new superintendent. He replaces Philip O'Reilly, who will retire at the end of the school year.

Britton will start his new role July 3.

"I am truly excited to lead the Portland Public Schools," Britton said in a press release. "Portland is blessed with a committed Board of Education, dynamic leadership team, talented teachers, parents who respect and support the work of our schools, and, most importantly, a hard-working and caring group of students."

Britton received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hartwick College, according to the press release. He earned a master's degree in teaching from Quinnipiac University, a sixth-year degree in educational leadership from Southern Connecticut State University and a Doctorate of Educational Leadership from the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education.

Britton has worked in education for more than two decades. According to the press release announcing his appointment, he has served as a teacher, high school principal and professor of educational leadership. Britton has

served in his current role for three years.

The release reads that, since starting in Portland, Britton has helped to implement research-based programming, new math and English curricula, introduced an online curriculum-mapping platform and designed instructional practices to maximize the efficacy of the "one-to-one" student-to-device ratio initiative.

"We are proud of the work Dr. Britton has done as a school leader in Portland and we feel fully confident that his present performance will transition to the role of Superintendent of Schools in a seamless manner," Board of Education Chairwoman Sharon Peters said in the press release. "The appointment of Dr. Britton is a very positive day for the Portland school community."

Britton said he plans to continue O'Reilly's work engaging the entire Portland community in the development of a Vision of the Graduate.

"Dr. Britton's dedication to the Portland Public Schools will help the district move forward and build on the district's longstanding commitment to excellence," O'Reilly said in the press release.

Britton and his wife Jennifer live in Wallingford with their two children, Chase and Cassidy.

Neither Britton nor Peters replied to requests for comment on this story.



Portland Board of Education Chairman Sharon Peters is shown here with newly-appointed Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton.

## \$11.56M School Budget Heads to Hebron Town Officials

by Sloan Brewster

The \$11.56 million 2020-2021 budget proposal for Hebron Public Schools has been delivered to town officials.

In a phone call yesterday, Board of Education Chair Heather Petit said she emailed the budget to the town.

Hard copies will be made available, according to Schools Superintendent Thomas Baird.

The education board approved the 1.95% or \$220,892 increase over the current year's budget last month, after Baird, who is new to the superintendent's position, made some of his own tweaks to the \$11.61 million budget proposal given by Interim Schools Superintendent Lynne Pierson in December.

In contrast to Pierson's \$269,568 or 2.38% increase, Baird recommended a 1.53% increase. The board made some more tweaks before coming to the final numbers.

Pierson's budget had included hiring a part-time human resources staffer for \$32,625 to take over HR work, which she said is currently spread between several central office employees.

Baird kept that position in the budget but cut the district-level curriculum specialist already on staff as, he said, the skills in that position are part of his wheelhouse.

"When the board was hiring the new superintendent – me – they were really looking for someone to focus on teaching and learning," Baird said. "With my background in teaching and learning, I don't need a curriculum specialist. I need more assistance with business office and personnel functions. The HR specialist position allows me not to have my time taken up by an inordinate – a lot – of personnel work. I will be doing teaching and learning."

Baird also restored the positions for the Academic Support Team, which Pierson had cut.

The board in turn, restored a \$7,000 stipend for substitutes.

At the January meeting when Baird presented his tweaks he said he had concerns about the \$7,000 impact to the budget and "needs more time to explore" and "to come up with a more robust proposal around substitutes."

The board also added a half-time special education position, the funding for which will be matched by a state grant, Baird said.

Overall, that puts central office up by a half-time staffer, Baird said.

The board also took some excess funds found in the current year's budget because four staff members are on leave and put them toward new text books for next year and to pay off a computer lease, Baird said.

"We didn't know that when the original budget was created, so there was saving in the current year's budget," Baird said by way of explanation.

Baird said two of the staffers would return next year, but that it is still unclear if the other two will come back.

"We didn't budget next year for the full cost of everyone returning," he said.

Baird also said it was important to note that there's a reason the budget is going up this year.

"Historically the budget has been a zero or decrease; that was over a period of time when student enrollment was declining," he said. "At this point we are not projecting anymore declines."

In fact, he said, next year's kindergarten enrollment is already five above earlier projections.

"So our student enrollment is very stable and that will grow," he said. "All the other grades are stable."

## Andover Grand List Up 1.1 Percent

by Sloan Brewster

Andover's 2019 grand list is up by about 1.1% over the previous year.

According to the Oct. 1, 2019 list, which Assessor John Chaponis forwarded to Town Manager Eric Anderson and Board of Finance Chairman Marc Brinker on Jan. 30, there is \$2.83 million in additional assessment value, bringing \$99,000 more in tax revenue to the town, based on the current 33.95 mill rate.

The 1.1% hike "is pretty good actually compared to a lot of our peers," Anderson said in a phone call Monday.

Anderson pointed to new houses and remodeling as the reason for the increase, which is primarily in real estate values.

"There are no new commercial increases in the grand list, other than we had a slight bump because the tree trimming service had parked trucks on town property for an extended amount of time," Anderson said. "It kind of increased by a 1,000 small things."

All told, the 2019 list comes in at \$266.10 million compared to 2018's \$263.27 million.

According to the list, real estate went from \$226.31 million to \$227.40 million. Motor vehicle assessment went from \$27.89 million to \$28.29 million. Personal property went from \$9.06 million to \$10.41 million.

According to the list of top ten taxpayers, the number one real estate taxpayer is Whispering Hills LLC. The assessment for the apartment complex on Kingsley Drive comes in a \$1.30 million.

Number two, Marita LLC, rolls in at \$971,100.

At \$780,300, Eastern Connecticut Housing Organization is number three. According to online descriptions on Buzzfile and Great Nonprofits, the organization, also operates under the name Hop River Homes and owns and operates two apartment complexes that provide low income housing for the elderly in Andover and Danielson under sec. 515 of the National Housing Act. The organization, which has been operating for approximately nine years, generates an estimated \$425,781 in annual revenues, and employs approxi-

mately nine people.

Number four, at \$765,600, is 84 Route Six LLC. Known as Scott Electrocrafts Inc., according to the website, the contract manufacturer has supplied electromechanical and electronic assemblies, pc board assemblies, cables and control chassis to commercial and military original equipment manufacturers in the region since 1967.

Hillside Self Storage Center LLC comes in fifth at \$654,000.

Nicholas and Anna Glowacki come in sixth at \$582,600. According to a description on Zillow, their unique Lakeside Drive home, which is not currently for sale, offers panoramic lake views.

Robert Beering comes in seventh at \$551,700. His home is also on Lakeside Drive.

Keith and Sarah Pedro, whose home is on Bear Swamp Road, come in eighth at \$547,600.

Andover Plaza LLC is number nine at \$526,100.

Number 10 goes to Pamela Hatem for a \$516,500 assessment. Her home is on Lake Road.

For taxes on personal property, Connecticut Light & Power Co is number one at \$7.18 million.

Number two goes to Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC at \$528,030.

Scott Electrocrafts Inc. comes in third at \$337,640.

Asplundh is fourth at \$336,670.

Mkpm Andover LLC takes fifth with an assessment of \$177,500.

Cellco Partnership is sixth with a \$151,440 assessment.

Sprint Spectrum LP is seventh with an \$117,010 assessment

At \$110,890, Slater Tim is eighth.

Drake Petroleum Co Inc. is number nine with an assessed personal property value of \$105,270.

Andover Landscaping LLC is number 10, with an \$80,510 assessment.

# O'Connell Aims to Stay on Hebron Open Space Committee

by Sloan Brewster

To keep an "instrumental" member on the Open Space/Land Acquisition Committee, the Board of Selectmen is looking to make an ordinance change.

Brian O'Connell served as chairman of the committee for 15 to 20 years and understands the nuances of what it takes to protect land for the town, he said in a phone call Wednesday. He was also a member of the Capital Improvement Plan Committee.

In November, after three terms and 12 years, O'Connell stepped down from the Board of Selectmen, deciding not to run for another term. No longer on that board, he is also no longer a member of Open Space/Land Acquisition or Capital Improvement Plan Committees.

While ready to let go of his selectman's seat, O'Connell said he would still like to be on the open space committee.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney endorses that idea and has included a change in the wording of the ordinance allowing for the committee to increase the number of members and allow for an additional citizen-at-large. The wording change will be included in a public hearing next Thursday on other proposed tweaks to the makeup of some boards and commissions.

"He was so instrumental on that board," Tierney said of O'Connell. "He would like to continue in some capacity so it's in the best interest of the town, whether he be an alternate or citizen-at-large."

O'Connell was first appointed to the open space committee when he was on the Park & Recreation Commission, which he was on from the mid-1990s until he became a selectman.

The open space committee is a group of non-partisan residents looking toward the town's future, according to O'Connell. Being on the committee has been one of the most important things he has done

"It's totally non-partisan; it's people planning for down the road and really protecting certain pieces of property that will really benefit the

town of Hebron in perpetuity, whether for open space, water protection or recreation," he said.

Now that O'Connell is off the Board of Selectmen, he is looking forward to free nights as daylight lingers later and later, he said.

"Brian was a mainstay and he saw the town go through many changes with his long tenure on the Board of Selectmen," Tierney said.

O'Connell was one of three people honored for their service to town at last Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting. The selectmen presented gifts to O'Connell, Clara O'Brien, who also stepped down from her seat on the Board of Selectmen last November, and John Soderberg, retiring wetlands agent, were all given gifts at the meeting.

O'Brien has been on different boards and commissions since 1997, when she was appointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority, a board on which she remains. She has also been an elected member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, serving three terms from 2003 to 2015. She served one term as a selectman – from November 2015 to November 2019 – and was also on the Capital Improvement Plan Committee.

The demands of meetings three or four nights a week, her fulltime job and a second weekend job that helps with her daughter's college tuition as she studies her way to becoming a veterinarian were "too much," O'Brien said.

"I wanted to take a break," she said. "I mean I enjoyed it, but I wanted some free nights."

Now that O'Brien has some free time, she said one of the things she will do is care for her elderly mother, who lives with her.

All her nights will not be free, however. O'Brien remains on the WPCA and will spend a good deal of effort on the upcoming \$7.6 million sewer upgrade project that was approved by voters at a referendum in November.

Phase 1 will begin this spring and phase 2 will take place in seven years.

"That's where I'm going to put most of my focus," she said.

In her term as a selectman, O'Brien "focused on the town business" with "no hidden agenda," Tierney said.

"It was a pleasure to work with them both," he said of O'Brien and O'Connell.

\* \* \*

Soderberg, who was the town's wetlands agent for 30 years and resident state trooper for 20 years prior to that, clocked his last day of work yesterday, Thursday.

He retired as resident state trooper in 1989. When he saw that the town was advertising for someone to handle the everyday workload of the wetlands agent, he thought that would be a nice part-time gig.

"I was 50 years old, I said, I got to do something," he said. "If you had told me then I'd be working 30 more years I'd have told you, you were nuts. I'm going to be 80 this year and the body tells you when it's time to go."

Soderberg said he has appreciated working with the town and people and that the job has brought "minimal stress, if any."

Over the years he has not encountered any unusual situations on the job.

"What I did enjoy was educating people as far as the value of wetlands," he said. "The community, per se, really doesn't know the value of wetlands. All they know is it smells and has mosquitoes."

Soderberg was also a founding member of AHM Youth and Family Services.

"He was instrumental in so many different ways in the early days, starting with helping to clear the path for the creation of, at that time, one of the state's newest youth service bureaus," Joel Rosenberg, AHM director of fund development and former executive director, said.

Rosenberg added that, with 36 years under his belt, Soderberg is also AHM's longest-serving volunteer and a "champion" of helping young people.

In his spare time, Soderberg makes bird, bat and butterfly houses in his workshop. When he started doing it, he would give them away. Later, he decided to donate them to AHM.

The organization sells the little houses to raise money for its children's trust fund, according to Rosenberg. Soderberg was also a founding member of the Children's Trust Fund endowment.

"One project in particular through John's personal efforts has raised thousands of dollars for the children's trust fund, which was through building bird, bat and butterfly houses, which have been sold to hundreds of Connecticut residents over the years and has raised thousands of dollars for AHM programs," Rosenberg said.

Soderberg was also a founding member the AHM Juvenile Review Board. His experience in law enforcement enriched the board, according to Rosenberg.

"He brought instant credibility to the original group of founders," Rosenberg said. "Even years after retiring as the Town of Hebron's resident trooper, John continued to serve as a volunteer year after year helping AHM staff and volunteers help the youth of our communities."

Soderberg still makes the houses, which the Senior Friends of Hebron also sell in fundraising efforts.

When Tierney realized he would need to hire someone to take over for Soderberg, he decided to enhance the job with expanded duties and increase the agent's hours from 15 to 21. The new description, which the Board of Selectmen approved last month, includes empowering the wetland agent to assist the zoning enforcement agent in enforcing local zoning regulations.

"We don't have a blight ordinance. It's enforcement of the zoning regulations," Tierney said, adding that some residents want a blight ordinance. "The enhanced hours to this position were to further enforce the zoning regulations that we have in place."

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Richard William Basso

Richard William Basso, 63, of Portland, died Friday, Feb. 7, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born in Middletown, the son of Donald J. Basso of Portland and the late Barbara (Joubert) Basso.

Rich was a lifetime resident of Portland, graduated from Portland Public Schools and later earned his associate's degree in mortuary science from New England Institute of Anatomy, Sanitary Science and Embalming, Boston. He had a long career in building and facility maintenance, including serving as the sexton at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church for 21 years and St. Mary Cemetery for 10 years.

Rich volunteered and served on many public organizations, boards and commissions. He had been with the Portland Volunteer Fire Department Company No. 2 since 1979, a member of Knights of Columbus since 2010, attaining 4th Degree status, past Chairman of the annual Red, White and Blue Mass at St. Mary Church, a member of the Portland Agricultural Fair Committee and Board of Directors, the Portland Fire Department Company No. 2 Building Committee, Civil Preparedness Advisory Board, Fourth Charter Revision Board, Parks and Rec, Route 17 Recreation Steering Committee, member of Zoning Board of Appeals.

Rich was a commissioner of the men's and women's softball league as well as a softball umpire in Middlesex County for many years. He will be remembered for being an avid and loyal Boston Red Sox fan.

In addition to his father, Rich is survived by his sisters, Joanne Basso-Misenti and her husband Sal of Naples, Fla., and Donna Basso-Quintero and her husband Modesto of Pembroke Pines, Fla.; and nieces Danielle Quintero, Nicole and her husband Clayton Ilioff of Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Feb. 12, at St. Mary Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial will be St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Pallbearers were Michael Lastrina, Peter LaVoie, Erik Meadors, John Nadeau, David Opuszynski, Jeff Robinson, Kevin Supinski and William Unikewicz. Honorary pallbearers were Tim Barrett, Justin Bengston, Richard Brown, William Caffrey, Sabian Colon, Richard Cote, Ryan Curley, Bruce Gustafson, Clayton Ilioff, James Keser, Bruce Morrison, Stephen Opuszynski, Austin Personette, Michael Rascati, Matthew Siegrist, Thomas Sienkiewicz, Craig Vincelette and Kurt Vogt Sr.

Those who wish may send memorial donations to Church of St. Mary Parish, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, Portland Fire Department, Gildersleeve Engine Co. 2, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480, Portland Agricultural Fair Assoc., P.O. Box 862, Portland, CT 06480, Knights of Columbus, Freestone Council 7, P.O. Box 7, Portland, CT 06480, Jimmy Fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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

## Portland

### Frances Maggiore

Frances Maggiore of Portland passed away on the morning of Friday, Feb. 7, at Middlesex Hospital. She was 92 years old.

She is survived by her son, Paul D. Maggiore and his wife Terri; her daughter, Leslie Martinelli and her husband Jim; and her son David Maggiore and his wife Linda. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Angela Maggiore, Alexander Martinelli and his wife Caroline, Amanda Martinelli and Nick Maggiore. Other survivors include her sister, Cynthia Jordan, and her brother, Melvin DesJarlais and his wife Claire.

Born in Providence, R.I., in 1927, Frances moved to Middletown in 1950 when she married her late husband, Paul L. Maggiore, who predeceased her in 2004. She worked for over 40 years as a long-distance operator for Southern New England Telephone Company. She was an avid reader and enjoyed volunteering her time at Portland Public Library.

A viewing was held at D'Angelo Funeral Home Wednesday, Feb. 12, with a funeral service following.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Animal Welfare Institute.

## East Hampton

### John A. Peterson

John A. Peterson, 100, of East Hampton, beloved husband of the late Alice "Margie" Peterson, died Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Apple Rehab in Middletown. Born Nov. 16, 1919 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Raymond and Elizabeth "Jenny" Peterson.

John was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and attended Middletown and East Hampton schools. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII as a Sergeant in the 43rd Infantry Division. John worked as a mechanic and owned his own service station in East Hampton for many years. He was an avid collector of antique cars and had one of the largest Packard Car collections. He was a member of the Belltown Antique Car Club, Eastern Packard Club, American Legion Post 64 in East Hampton and the VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton.

He is survived by his two brothers and their spouses, James and Bonnie Peterson and Terrence and Karen Peterson, all of East Hampton, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, and his four sisters Mildred Moon, Dorothy Moon, Jean Rose and Pauline Sobolewski.

The family wishes to thank the nursing staff of Apple Rehab for their special care to John and the special doggie visits he enjoyed so much.

Funeral Services will be held Monday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Friends may call at the funeral home on Monday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be at a later date in the Connecticut State Veteran's Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Legion Post 64, 55 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Dianne M. Wallis

Dianne M. Wallis, 70, of Colchester, formerly of South Windham, died Friday, Feb. 7, after a motor vehicle accident. Dianne was born Dec. 22, 1949, in Windham and was predeceased by her parents, Francis Clark and Esther Dominique, her stepfather, George Dominique, as well as her brother, Ernest Gesner.

Initially, Dianne worked as a licensed practical nurse, and after raising her family enjoyed a long a career working with children in area Montessori schools. Dianne appreciated gardening and was passionate about child advocacy.

She is survived by her two children, Wendy Bayer and spouse Bryan Bayer of Mount Airy, Md., and Heather Massicotte and spouse Marc Massicotte of Lebanon; grandchildren, Shaelyn and Anya Bayer; Ella, Victoria and Cuyler Massicotte; sisters, Kathleen Clark, Gail Creed, Shirley Ogazalek, and Paula Dominique; brothers, Richard Gesner, Irving Gesner and Mitchell Dominique; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Calling hours were Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic, with a service to follow that afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made in Dianne's memory to the Gift of Adoption Fund, [giftofadoption.org](http://giftofadoption.org).

For an online memorial guestbook, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Sharon E. Haslam

Sharon E. Haslam, 57, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by her family and friends. She was born in Hartford, daughter of the late William and Sylvia (McCloskey) Haslam.



Sharon lived in Wethersfield most of her life, graduating Wethersfield High in 1981. She went on to attend Hartford Secretarial School, and spent her career as an accomplished admin in financial, mental health, and educational services. Sharon enjoyed frequent trips to Las Vegas. She was also an avid Patriots fan.

Sharon leaves her son, Philip Ogorzalek of Vermont. She also leaves her partner, Dom Burba of Colchester; a sister, Pam Tedone and her husband Michael of Wethersfield; her three brothers, Dale Haslam and his wife Jo-Anne of Newington, Bruce Haslam and his wife Jean of Rocky Hill, and Bob Haslam and his wife Meegan of Glastonbury. She was also predeceased by her brother Wayne and sister Michele. Sharon also leaves special friends Tat Strycharz-Hays, Bobby Smith, Macey Cwikla and her daughter Leanna; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Feb. 7, at The Church of The Incarnation, 544 Prospect St. Wethersfield. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Visiting hours were held Thursday, Feb. 6, at the Dillon Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Tpk. Wethersfield.

To share a memory with the family, visit [dillonbaxter.com](http://dillonbaxter.com).