



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Night to Shine...Close to 100 promgoers – ranging in age from 14 to 79 – were given the red carpet treatment earlier this month as part of the *Night to Shine* event for people with special needs at Hope Church in East Hampton. Kate Bove, 31, of Burlington, Vt. (front) and Taylor Hood, 33, of Manchester, were among those who made their grand entrance in front of a throng of volunteers and paparazzi. Prom guests representing all ages and levels of ability experienced a full range of prom preparations and festivities including hair and makeup appointments, shoe shining, limousine rides, dinner and dancing. The international event is sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Photo by Jennifer Fiereck of J. Fiereck Photography.

Empowered Woman Breaking Records

by Sloan Brewster

Ayla Thurston has won gold medals in powerlifting and broken an American bench press record, and now she has her sights on breaking a world record.

In June, the 21-year-old Hebron resident will compete in the International Powerlifting Federation Classic World Championships in Minsk, Belarus.

Thurston, a 2016 RHAM High School graduate, began lifting when she was on RHAM's cross country team. After the season ended, she turned to body building, intent on getting stronger.

"I grew up on a farm and riding horses so I just always loved being strong and throwing around hay barrels and water buckets," she said.

Ultimately, she transitioned from body building to powerlifting to capitalize even more on strength.

"Body building is more vanity, you get in a bikini and spray tanned," she said. "Judges look at you more."

Thurston, who has a great deal of upper body strength, said the bench press is where she has the most talent. She broke an American bench record when she was in the 72-kilo weight class, which is equivalent to about 159 pounds.

She also holds three American records in 84-kilo class as a collegiate lifter.

Last April, she took home gold medals in the junior – 19 to 23 year old – 84-kilo weight class at the International Powerlifting Federation

World Women's Classic Championships in Helsingborg, Sweden, in bench press, deadlift and total lifted. She was also best nation's lifter for the U.S. and received a silver medal in squat.

Her personal best for squat is 175 kilos, or 385 pounds; for best bench, it's 135 kilos, or 297 pounds; and the most she has deadlifted is 210 kilos, or 463 pounds.

In Belarus, she aims to break the world bench press record.

"I don't have any specific numbers in mind, but I know that this is going to be a big championship because this is my first time competing with this particular coach," she said.

Thurston trains five days a week at Lightning Fitness in South Windsor. She communicates with coach Zac Cooper, of Coconut Creek, Florida, online and via text.

Cooper sends her training videos and workout tips.

Thurston's typical workout usually begins with squats, she said. Next, she does the bench press or deadlifts. Then, she adds accessory exercises, such as barbell rows.

In a phone call Tuesday, Cooper, who has bachelor's and master's degrees in exercise physiology and exercise kinesiology, said his business is entirely remote and that he and staff have clients from all over the country. They have also coached internationally.

Cooper has worked with Thurston for about a year and a half.

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Portland Library Closes Doors for Renovations

by Jack Lakowsky

The Portland Public Library announced that it will be closed to the public for up to eight weeks while the building is undergoing renovations, according to library director Janet Nocek.

The project will begin on March 9. The purpose is to improve accessibility and provide better use of technology, and to update the infrastructure and ambiance of the 38-year-old building.

The improvements are funded by a combined \$358,452 from the library's endowment fund and a state grant.

Nocek said residents will still be able to borrow books from area libraries. According to the library's press release, fines will not accrue during construction and all borrowed items will be due April 30.

"A public library card in Connecticut is good at any library in the state," Nocek said. She added that nearby libraries have been made aware of the closing.

Nocek said that library cards set to expire during the renovation period can have them renewed at other facilities.

Nocek said there are patrons who already use more than just the Portland facility. Portland patrons also frequent the Russell Library in Middletown and the East Hampton Public Li-

brary.

The Portland Library, Nocek said, is a member of the Connecticut Library Consortium, a statewide membership collaborative serving a large number of the state's libraries by helping them improve services to their patrons.

Consortium members in Middlesex County include the Cromwell-Belden Public Library in Cromwell, the East Hampton Public Library and the Russell Library.

Nocek said the library must still determine if it can accommodate interlibrary loans during the renovation period.

Nocek said she will provide updates on a regular basis to the public about the project's progress. Updates will be posted to the Portland town website and the library's Facebook page. Patrons can also sign up for monthly email updates on the town's website as well, according to Nocek. Email updates will also be sent as needed regarding any major developments during construction.

Patrons can also call a hotline with any questions or concerns about the renovation. Portland Library tech services manager and librarian Gloria Schultz said the phone number to reach the hotline is still to be determined as of this writing.

Money for the project is coming from a Con-

See Portland Library page 2



The Portland Library, pictured here, will soon be closed for an extended period as construction crews embark on eight weeks of renovations.



Ayla Thurston, of Hebron, makes a personal best record – deadlifting 210-kilos or 463-pounds – at the USA Powerlifting Raw Nationals in 2019 in Lombard, Illinois. Thurston aims at breaking world records at the International Powerlifting Federation [IPF] Classic World Championships in Minsk, Belarus in June.

Breaking Records cont. from Front Page

“First and foremost, there is nobody that out-works Ayla,” he said. “She is a fierce, relentless source to be reckoned with.”

He said Thurston’s arrival on the powerlifting scene “took everyone by storm” in terms of how fast she grew strong.

A drug free sport, powerlifters are drug tested frequently.

“Of course they tested Ayla a lot and she’s just a very gifted athlete,” Cooper said. “Not only is she a gifted athlete, she’s an extraordinary woman inside and out.”

Describing her as a quiet thinker, Cooper said Thurston’s “wheels are always turning.”

“She is driven and relentless and when she puts her mind to something she is unstoppable,” he said.

Cooper said he sends Thurston written workout protocols each week that include the number of reps and sets as well as weights, intensity and frequency of rest periods.

Individual workouts can last between an hour and 45 minutes to three hours. Thurston follows his directions “to the tee from start to finish,” according to the coach.

He also gives her exact directions on how to set up a tripod and cell phone to record the workouts at various angles so he can analyze them and give her feedback for the next week.

“This past week I asked her to modify her foot position when she does her deadlift,” he said. “The angle of her toes and width of her feet, when she does her workout this week, she knows how to change her workout.”

If she has a quick question during a workout, she can send him a video and he’ll give immediate feedback that she can apply then and there.

Going for the Gold

To keep her body fit, Thurston eats whole foods, such as veggies, meats, fruits, rice and potatoes, drinks lots of protein shakes and stays away from processed foods.

“It keeps it very simple,” she said.

While travelling overseas, she sometimes has to be creative, such as when her mother boiled eggs for her in a tea kettle in their hotel room in Sweden or helped her find grilled chicken while overcoming the language barrier.

She said it would be fun to do that in Belarus.

“That’s in Russian,” she said. “It’s a whole new alphabet.”

She plans to be there for about a week and a half and said she will need time to get over jet lag and the time change before competing.

“Airplanes change your red blood cell count,” she said. “It takes 24 to 48 hours for it to change back to normal.”

Cooper and Thurston are looking forward to the world championship, Cooper said, adding that Thurston faces strict competition.

“That doesn’t really scare her or worry her

at all. She doesn’t scare easily; she doesn’t shake easily,” he said. “I think she’s going to exceed everyone’s expectations. This is just the beginning for her.”

When Thurston is at a meet, she focuses solely on the barbell.

“The way I try to overcome the nervousness, is looking at it sort of like any other training day, because I do it every single day,” she said. “If it’s just me and the barbell, everything else disappears.”

After she completes the lift, she said, she starts “hearing sounds and seeing things again.”

The last time she was working on breaking a record, it took 10 seconds to finish, or “lock-out,” which she said was a long stretch. All the while her two well-known national record coaches – Cooper and Jeremy Hartman, of Indiana – kept watch.

“After I finished the lift I started crying and I didn’t know where the tears were coming from. I just started crying and then my two coaches carried me off the platform,” she said. “It was like having two proud dads carrying me off the platform. It was so cool.”

Thurston said she is rewarded through powerlifting, has made “some of the most incredible memories” and met people from all over the world.

Empowering Women

Thurston gets jazzed spreading the message of the formerly male-dominated sport that is getting more and more popular among females.

“It has a message that a lot of people don’t realize, which is that women can do pretty much anything,” she said. “They’re breaking world records. It’s amazing because every year they’re writing history and it’s so cool to be a part of that.”

Currently taking a break from college to figure out where she’s going next, Thurston studied psychology at Southern Connecticut State University and Midland University, in Nebraska, where she went on a powerlifting scholarship after the coach discovered her at a meet.

Though she is still thinking through the details about her future plans, Thurston said she would like to attend the University of Germany, in Berlin, where one of her friends from Connecticut lives. She would like to explore languages and learn German. She is interested in healthcare, equine studies or engineering and healthcare, which, she said, is a focus in Germany.

When she’s not busy training or working at Something Simple Café in Hebron, Thurston said she enjoys traveling, playing the piano, spending time with the animals on the farm and training her cat Wally.

Thurston has set up a crowdfunding site to raise \$3,000 toward the cost of her trip to Belarus at [tinyurl.com/s7tp3rn](https://www.tinyurl.com/s7tp3rn).

Portland Library cont. from Front Page

necticut State Library building grant and the Portland Library Endowment Fund.

“There are no local taxes involved,” Nocek said in an interview with the *Rivereast* earlier this month.

According to minutes from the Feb. 5 Board of Selectmen meeting, Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said the project will not impact the town’s mill rate.

The Portland Library Endowment Fund is an account used by the library that is funded by donations and fundraisers.

In November, the Portland Library Board of Directors approved the use of \$134,400 to be drawn from the endowment fund as a match to the State of Connecticut Library grant of \$108,452, meaning the original total sum available to the project was \$242,852.

The original estimate proved insufficient, according to Nocek.

“Estimates are estimates,” she said earlier this month.

At their Feb. 5 meeting, the Portland selectmen unanimously approved a motion allowing the library to withdraw an additional \$115,600 from the endowment. Adding these monies increased the draw from the endowment to \$250,000, according to the library board resolution. With state money added, the renovation has a sum authorization not to exceed \$358,452.

The project contract was awarded to Sarazin General Contractors, of Windham. Local projects listed in their online portfolio include work on Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough and construction of the East Hampton Ambulance Facility.

“They’re eager to get this done on time,” Nocek said.

A letter to the Board of Selectmen from Nocek listed several of the improvements that will be made to the space.

The interior portion of the library’s entryway will be improved for energy efficiency, ambience and connectivity. Accommodations will be included for people with physical or mental disabilities.

New carpet will be installed in public areas, which will improve sound absorption.

“That carpeting is about 30 years old,” Nocek said. New carpet will be color-coded to help guide patrons to the sections they seek.

The project will provide more accommodating seating for older adults and seniors, and for people with joint issues. Additionally, in order to comply with International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) standards for accommodation of physically disabled people, tables of adjustable height will be installed.

Another effort to improve the library’s energy efficiency will be the installation of less-energy consumptive automatic doors.

The renovation will allow for the arrangement of two new quiet areas for studying and reading, according to Nocek’s letter.

The library director emphasized the project will also address uncomfortable seating at the library that has been the most frequent complaint heard from patrons.

“I’ve been here 18 years,” Nocek said. “Most of the chairs were here when I started. Some have been replaced, but others are about to turn 30 years old.”

Nocek said she decided which improvements to submit based on her own observations and from suggestions made by library staff and the public.

While the construction is going on, Nocek and the other library staff will engage in vocational workshops, discuss new services to offer and visit other facilities, along with other daily “behind-the-scenes” tasks.

“Spring is always a busy time for meetings,” Nocek said.

Nocek said the library has not had an extended closing in some time, and never for this amount of time.

“Quite a few years ago, there was some damage from vandalism,” Nocek said, adding that the library closed to repair damages, but it was only for several days, she said.

East Hampton Police News

2/14: Michelle Nesbitt, 29, of 77 Lookout Rd., Westbrook, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal storage of drugs in an improper container, East Hampton Police said.

2/19: Michael Slade, 19, of 9 Curry Ln., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with second-degree assault and second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

Also, from Feb. 10-16, officers responded to nine medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 15 traffic stops.

Colchester Police News

2/14: State Police said George Grillo, 51, of Old Saybrook, was arrested and charged with second-degree larceny.

2/18: State Police said Braden Alexander Santo, 23, of Waterbury, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, failure to drive in proper lane, driving without a license and second-degree failure to appear.

2/19: State Police said Dean Molinari, 33, of 116 Broadway St. 4 Apt. # 4, Colchester, was arrested and charged with second-degree breach of peace and second-degree threatening.

Marlborough Police News

2/22: State Police said Brandon Cory Kennedy, 36, of Taftville, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

2/22: State Police said James Baker, 34, of Norwich, was arrested and charged with drug paraphernalia.

Police: Man Charged with Interfering with Colchester Officers

by Karla Santos

Colchester Police, who last month used a taser on an “agitated” New London man, have now arrested him and charged him with interfering with officers.

Jacob Kniska, 31, of 25 Wightan St., New London, was arrested Feb. 22 on a warrant for the misdemeanor charge. He was processed at the Colchester state police barracks and released.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit by Colchester Police Officer Craig Scheel, police reported to a Carli Boulevard address on Jan. 23 after a witness called to report that Kniska had experienced a possible drug overdose.

The warrant said Kniska was “obviously agitated” in the upstairs kitchen as Scheel approached from the stairs below. Kniska became increasingly irate and started to retreat to a back room despite Scheel’s request for him to remain in the kitchen.

Scheel in the warrant said he followed Kniska into the rear room and attempted to grab Kniska’s wrist in order to gain control of his hands. When Kniska pulled and spun away while screaming, the officer drew his taser.

Both a Connecticut state trooper with a police canine and another Colchester officer arrived on the scene to find Scheel with his taser drawn and Kniska sitting on a couch refusing to follow Scheel’s commands to kneel on the ground, according to the warrant.

Scheel wrote in the warrant that he deployed his taser after Kniska pulled away “in an aggressive manner” from an attempt by the second Colchester officer to gain control of the man’s hands.

“As he pulled away I deployed my taser into his upper left shoulder then followed with a drive stun to his right calf area,” Scheel wrote in the warrant. “At that point we were able to detain Jacob in handcuffs until the ambulance arrived.”

The Connecticut state trooper in a supplemental report said she observed both Colchester officers speaking and acting calmly as they tried to deescalate the situation before Scheel deployed the taser, according to the warrant.

The warrant also cited records from William W. Backus Hospital, where Kniska was transported, that said Kniska continued to be aggressive with the emergency room staff. No other injuries or complaints other than the taser barb were noted in the records. A drug screen and bloodwork was ordered, but Kniska was discharged from the emergency room before the tests were done.

Kniska was arrested in 2016 and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with officers for a similar incident, the warrant.

Police said Kniska is scheduled to appear at the Norwich courthouse on March 5 to answer to the misdemeanor charge.

Main Street Sidewalk Improvements One Step Closer to Completion in Portland

by Jack Lakowsky

The Portland Board of Selectmen last week unanimously approved a motion authorizing

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield to enter into contract with D & P Morais Contractors, Inc. for the grant funded Main Street Connectivity Sidewalk Improvements project.

The selected bid was for \$99,630, the lowest quoted to the town, according to Public Works director Robert Shea. According to documentation provided by Shea, the closest bid to that of D & P Morais was from Costa & Son, LLC for about \$162,000.

A \$200,000 grant administered through the state Department of Transportation will cover costs of the work, including the contractor’s. The State Bond Commission approved this funding in July 2018.

Shea said the state must approve the awarded contract for the company to move forward with their work. Work is anticipated to begin in the early spring.

The grant is from the Community Connectivity Grant Program, an infrastructure improvement program seeking to provide construction funding for local initiatives to improve safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians, according to the transportation department website.

The town will ask the state for the full grant amount even though the D & P Morais bid came in lower, according to documentation provided by Shea. The difference would be used to replace additional sidewalks along Main Street.

The approved project will cover the costs of replacing sidewalks along the east side of Main Street from Fairview Street north to Spring Street and the west side of Main Street from Middlesex Avenue north to Russell Avenue,

according to Shea.

“This will be a huge benefit. [Sidewalk] construction can be very cost-prohibitive,” Shea said. “We’re ready to move forward.”

Shea said the town and the contractor will now discuss the finer details of the construction. A work schedule will be created during these upcoming discussions. Shea said this group would also coordinate on aligning their work the renovation of the Arrigoni Bridge to minimize intrusion and disruption of traffic.

Shea said in the selectmen’s meeting that the company is eager to begin the improvements.

“There will be huge safety improvements,” Shea said. “That’s the key thing. We’ll have a safe walking area.”

The town’s efforts to improve Portland’s accessibility were recognized late last year with a “Sustainable CT” award from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Work by the Board of Selectmen and local volunteers began in 2015. Volunteers formed the Complete Streets group, a grassroots effort improving Portland’s accessibility.

Bransfield said in a December interview with the *Rivereast* that Complete Streets was not a formal committee of the Board of Selectmen, but a group of “hard-working volunteers.”

In November 2016, a bond authorization for \$1 million to pay for at least four sidewalk replacement projects was passed. Additional sidewalk work was done in 2017 using Local Capital Improvement Project funding from the state, according to the Complete Streets group. The bonded work started in the fall of 2018.

“We’ve received a lot of good comments,” Bransfield said. “Streets and sidewalks are safer. This is great for people’s health, too.”

Hebron Grand List Going ‘In the Right Direction’

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron’s 2019 Grand List has come in and the numbers signify a 1.10% increase over 2018.

The net grand list came in at \$787,123,490, an \$8,560,410 increase over 2018, according to a memo by Assessor Debra Gernhardt.

Real estate went up by \$4.163 million, or .61%, to \$686.10 million, according to the memo. Personal Property hiked by \$1.685 million, or 8.6%, to \$21.26 million. Motor Vehicles increased by \$2.71 million, or 3.52%, to \$79.76 million.

“Last year we were higher than a lot of towns, this year we’re back to normal,” Town Manager Andrew Tierney said in a phone call Monday. “It could always be higher but it’s going in the right direction.”

The 2018 net grand list reflected a 2.34% increase over the previous year.

According to Tierney, the grand list will translate to revenue in the upcoming budget season. He will present his 2020-2021 budget proposal to the Board of Selectmen in March.

“It’s always a help when [the grand list is] more than the previous year but there’s many other moving targets,” he said. “We’re not making up any deficits. We’re happy [but] it could be bigger.”

The budget, in turn, will help selectmen determine next year’s mill rate.

The mill rate is used to calculate property taxes. A mill is equal to \$1 of tax for each \$1,000 of the assessed value of a property.

Based on the 2019 Grand List, one mill will represent \$787,123.49.

The current mill rate is 37.05 mills. Gernhardt said the increases were not really different from other years.

Real estate is up due to new construction, she said.

“There are no new neighborhoods but they are starting to do new construction on Grayville Road in the south end of town,” she said.

Personal property increases are mostly due to purchases of equipment, primarily at Colebrook Village LLC or Hebron Senior Assisted Living facility, Connecticut Light & Power Co., and the Connecticut Water Company.

Gernhardt attributed motor vehicle increases mostly to new vehicles.

Exemptions

Not included in the \$787.12 million Grand List figure are the property tax exemptions for Colebrook Village or for several properties in town with crumbling foundations.

The Colebrook Village tax exemption is the result of an incentive that cuts taxes on the 113-unit 113,630 square-foot senior living facility for five years.

Colebrook Village, which opened in May of 2018, is fully operational and in the third year the tax break, which was an initiative of the Economic Development Commission, Gernhardt said. The tax break goes down by 20% each year and the facility pays that much more in taxes.

This year the facility will pay taxes on 40% of the assessed value of the property.

The reductions for crumbling foundations are due to Public Act 16-45, which allows individuals with crumbling foundations, who provide an engineer’s report at inspection, to have their assessments reduced for up to five years, Gernhardt said. The amount of the reduction depends on the severity of the crumbling foundation.

The exemptions on the properties with the defective foundations increased to \$436,610 for 2019. In 2018, they were \$341,670.

In total, six properties have had reduced assessments due to crumbling foundations since 2016; two have been repaired and are back to a full assessment this year and two more are in the process of being repaired, Gernhardt said. The remaining two could still qualify for reduced assessments for 2020, unless they are repaired before October 1.

According to the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection’s website, concrete aggre-

gate from Becker’s Quarry, in Willington, containing more than trace amounts of pyrrhotite was the source of the problem.

The mineral was affected by moisture and water, causing the foundations to fail, Gerhardt said. Some of the buildings with the defects have even been condemned.

Top Ten Taxpayers

At \$12.43 million, the number one assessment goes to the senior living facility, according to the top 10 tax payer list. Connecticut Light & Power Co, with an assessed value of \$11.85 million, comes in second. The Connecticut Water Company is number three with a \$2.55 million assessment. Hebron Lincoln LLC, with a \$2.45 million assessment, is number four. Village Shoppes LLC, with an assessed value of \$1.84 million, is number five. Country Manor LLC is number six and comes in with a \$1.81 million assessment. Amirzai Property Trust LLC, with an assessed value of \$1.51 million, is in seventh place. Blackledge Country Club Inc., at \$1.44 million in assessed value, takes eighth place. 41-61 Main Street LLC, with a \$1.31 million assessment, is number nine. Genco Olde Hartford Road LLC, with a \$1.25 million assessment, is number 10.

All told, the top ten taxpayers, bring \$38.42 million in assessed property value to the town.

Marlborough Charter Revision Panel Mulls Town Manager

by Karla Santos

The Charter Revision Commission had its first public hearing last Thursday and while many suggestions were raised, the hot topics of the night were whether or not to go from a three to five-member Board of Selectmen and if the town should transition to a town manager from a first selectman.

Former selectman Cliff Denniss weighed in on bringing in a town manager, saying in the 17 or 18 years he has been in town there have been a variety of first selectmen and no one questioned the form of government.

Two days after Amy Traversa became first selectman, the conversation about a town manager started, he said. It continued for four years.

“Do we need a town manager?” Denniss asked. “Should we have one? Please look it over, but I don’t see the insistence of having one.”

Denniss said he assumed a town manager would be doing the same job of a first selectman and questioned the cost of the proposed change.

In addition, Denniss said he agrees with having a five-member Board of Selectmen to allow for more meeting flexibility, but added he was in favor of upping the Board of Finance from six to seven members.

Resident John Stimpson said he would like a five-member Board of Selectmen and suggested if the town brings on a town manager, the person in the role should live in town.

Stimpson also spoke about school enrollment and budget increases, suggesting that the charter should include a set percentage increase that the Board of Education may not exceed in drafting its budget. Stimpson also suggested that tax increases should be tied to grand list increases.

Furthermore, he asked the commission to examine cost effective options, such as merging the town’s police department with East Hampton’s, and to consider a policy that would

protect seniors and how much taxes they pay.

“Because it gets real hard if you are retired and you don’t have a pension and all you’re on is social security,” Stimpson said. “You have to choose from eating in or being cold or paying taxes. It’s a tough one.”

Ken Hjulstrom, Board of Finance member who spoke as an individual, said he agreed with having a five-person Board of Selectmen.

He said one of the big problems of the current three selectmen system is “you have two people of the same party; you can’t meet; you can’t talk.” He also wants the charter to allow for no more than three selectmen from the same political party.

Hjulstrom said he was in favor of a town manager as it would take “a lot of the politics” out of the town government.

Hjulstrom said the planning commission is currently the only commission that appoints its own members to fill vacancies and suggested other boards and commissions should be allowed to do the same.

Other suggestions Hjulstrom brought up included the consolidation of the planning and zoning commissions, his opposition to eliminating the Board of Finance and appointing versus electing the town clerk and tax collector.

Resident John Grasso suggested the commission should examine the form of government and the costs of having a town manager versus a first selectman. He said some people want a town manager to remove politics from the town, but he said that’s speculative.

“I think folks that enjoy politics will always enjoy politics,” Grasso said. “It’s a sport that’s loved by many and changing the number of selectmen isn’t going to change that.”

Resident Matthew Warner asked about the charter revision process. He spoke about the

cost of a town manager and suggested the commission look at other towns to see what works and what doesn’t.

Resident Donna Koropatkin wants the members of the commission to consider changing the language in the charter to gender neutral, using words such as selectperson and firefighter.

Selectman Joe Asklar asked the commission to educate the public on the charter revision process.

“The public has to have as much information as you can get it to them, how ever you think is best,” Asklar said. “That is very, very important either to your success or failure.”

Jennifer Pietrzak, finance board alternate who spoke as an individual, said if the form of government is changed, the commission should focus on the qualifications of the town manager role and if the town – being a small one – can attract people with such qualifications. Pietrzak also said having more members on the Board of Selectmen is not necessarily a political issue but an issue concerning the ability for members of the board to meet informally.

Selectman Amy Traversa suggested the charter should include definitions of the boards of finance and selectmen and expectations for these boards.

Other issues, such as the time frame for the charter revision were brought up to the commission. About 13 members of the public spoke during the meeting, some more than once.

Robert Ragusa, chair of the Charter Revision Commission, addressed the room before opening the meeting to public comment. He gave a brief presentation and explained that a charter is a legal document defining the powers and functions of elected officials and the organization and essential procedures of town government.

“The charter is therefore the most important

legal document of any town,” Ragusa said. “I like to think of it as our constitution in Marlborough.”

One of the reasons the town is looking at charter revision is because the document is not often updated, Ragusa said. The last few revision attempts were only partial.

“The last complete charter review occurred in 2002, but the recommended changes failed at referendum so, essentially, there were no revisions made to the charter,” Ragusa said.

Before that, the charter was last revised in 1985.

“We are working with a charter that’s had very limited changes to it and so that’s why we are here, we think that we need to change the charter more extensively,” he added.

The commission was given three charges when it was established by the Board of Selectman – to review the number of selectmen on the board, examine other forms of government and provide a draft report to the Board of Selectmen by Aug. 18.

Ragusa said that the commission also wants to identify potential changes that “will improve the clarity or eliminate ambiguity in the charter.”

Before the public comments portion of the meeting started, Julie Revaz, vice-chair of the commission, explained that the commission was mainly there to listen, not to give feedback, with the goal being an objective process.

Revaz wrote a summary of the public comments on a visible board as each person spoke.

Robert Santy is serving as a facilitator in the process.

Another Charter Revision Commission public hearing is expected after the draft is completed. Additional comments can be sent to firstoffice@marlboroughct.net with the subject line “CRC Public Hearing Feedback.”

Marlborough Board of Selectmen Discuss Budget

by Karla Santos

As the budget season is in progress, the Board of Selectman last week discussed the RHAM and Marlborough school district budgets, showing concern for the preliminary numbers that have been presented by their respective superintendents.

Both budgets affect the town, but while the board can influence the local schools, it can’t do much with RHAM’s budget.

Neither the RHAM Board of Education nor the Marlborough school board has approved a budget yet.

RHAM’s \$30.82 million operating budget proposal for the 2020-21 school year represents a 4.01% increase over the 2019-20 school year. The separate \$448.23 million capital budget proposal represents a \$68,744 decrease from the current year.

“I think it’s high, I hope it’s very preliminary,” Selectman Amy Traversa said of the RHAM budget during the meeting. “It’s scary as far as I’m concerned with the population drops. They still have to sell it not only to us but to the voters, to the tax payers.”

First Selectman Greg Lowrey said part of the concern is that RHAM has a reduction of 42 students.

“I think there’s one more for Marlborough, nine more from Andover and 52 fewer from Hebron,” Lowrey said.

In addition, there are five fewer paraprofessional educators, and extra-curricular activities have increased, he said.

He also said that a \$164,000 revenue source is discontinued in the proposal.

Lowrey urges residents to examine how they will vote for the budgets and pointed out that the votes on the town and RHAM budget would take place the same night.

Lowrey said that those who are not satisfied with the RHAM budget should be cautious about voting for the town budget, which in-

cludes the placeholder number for RHAM.

“Don’t vote no on RHAM and yes on the town budget,” Lowrey said. “That’s not necessarily the way to go.”

In a phone call with the *Rivereast* last week, Lowrey explained that there are three components to a budget - operating, capital and debt.

He said the elementary school budget was a little less developed because it doesn’t include capital numbers, which are still in the works. The Board of Education was scheduled to go over that portion of the budget after press time on Thursday.

In a phone call this week, Superintendent of the Marlborough School District David Sklarz said some changes have been made to the budget since he initially presented it, including a \$30,000 decrease mainly due to changes in insurance rates.

He said that could change again before the budget vote.

“That’s continuous process,” Sklarz said. “If the insurance rates change again, we’ll adjust the budget to that.”

Sklarz said the paraprofessionals were also slightly adjusted in the budget.

Sklarz said this budget is seeing a unique situation and it has to be looked at in two parts - the first one being the general operating budget, which is normally reflected as a whole, he said. The second is an additional out-of-district placement and an extra kindergarten teacher.

He called the more than \$100,000 out-of-district placement “a very expensive item” and said there will be two total out of district placements included in the 2020-21 school budget.

“\$100,000 is almost a one and a half percent increase,” Sklarz said.

Approximately \$80,000 of the total cost of the two out of district placements will be reimbursed.

Also in a phone call this week, Ruth Kelly,

chairperson of the Board of Education said she was worried about having a very difficult budget year due to the out of district placement costs.

The total cost of the out of district placements to the Marlborough School District is \$156,833.

Another major component in the budget is an additional kindergarten teacher, something that must be done to meet class size guidelines.

Sklarz said the school may or may not need that extra teacher depending on final enrollment numbers and recommended that the board keep it in the budget until those numbers are known.

Kelly agreed.

“If the number goes down and we can maintain the three kindergartens, then that would save us some money and that would be reflected in the budget,” she said. “But if the number rises, then we will need that extra kindergarten teacher and that’s about a percent increase when you add a teacher. It’s kind of a wait and see thing.”

Sklarz said these procedures and changes are typical after the budget is presented.

“We’ve had quite a process, we’ve been transparent and I’ll reach out to parents and the community to be involved in the process,” Sklarz said. “Now ultimately I present the budget and then we discuss it line item by line item as long as it takes and so that at the end of it, it becomes the board’s budget and something that we all can say really funds public education the way we want it to be and yet being fiscally responsible.”

The town budget is also being worked on and while the numbers haven’t yet solidified, Lowrey said that the operating piece is up by \$170,000, that capital is down by about \$68,000 and debt service is down mainly because the town paid off a bond.

“I’d like to see the overall budget come down

and I’m optimistic that that can happen,” he said.

Lowrey said the town budget is on a good path because a bond was paid off, freeing up about \$254,000 in interest and principal payments.

“We have nine million dollars additional on the grand list and we are thinking we are going to end the current year with a small surplus,” he said. “Those three things combined are favorable and they give us a little bit of room for the future, for FY 21.”

While the Board of Selectmen doesn’t have much influence over the school budgets, the Board of Finance does have a bit more pull.

“The Board of Finance has a little bit more say in how the local Board of Ed budget is finalized,” Lowrey said. “I understand the town and I have some influence, I should say, over the school budget because I can, sort of, cooperate with them on cost a little bit more closely, but RHAM is something that the town’s people choose, sort of, up or down.”

Lowrey said that when the town goes to the budget referendum there will be at least two questions, one of them is whether or not to accept the RHAM budget and each of the RHAM towns has this question. The second question is whether or not to accept the town budget.

“What I want to point out is the town budget includes the RHAM budget and so if someone doesn’t approve of the RHAM budget, they want to be super cautious about how they vote for the town budget.”

Lowrey said the result of that situation could be that the town has an approved budget that has a place holder for RHAM that’s subject to change.

“People could vote down the RHAM budget, which would have to go to a future referendum,” Lowrey said.

EH School Board Proposes \$1.22 Million Budget Increase

by Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton Board of Education on Monday unanimously approved a \$32.40 million education spending plan that adds four teaching positions to the original proposal submitted by Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith in January.

The vote came amid an outcry from the school community about the detrimental effects of numerous staff cuts that have been made since 2018.

The newly approved \$32,399,300 proposed budget represents an increase of 3.92% - or \$1.22 million - over the current budget. It is \$54,000 more than Smith's initial recommendation.

The education proposal also restores a grade four classroom teacher and a sixth-grade world language teacher. Those positions were included in Smith's January recommendation.

The four additional positions added by the school board were made possible by an anticipated savings of roughly \$250,000 in health insurance costs compared to initial estimates, according to Smith.

The school board's proposal estimates each teaching position will cost about \$76,000. The difference between the four combined teaching positions and the \$250,000 in insurance savings accounts for the \$54,000 increase to Smith's initial proposal.

Eight full-time certified classroom teaching positions have been cut since the 2018-19 school year, according to documentation provided by Smith. The cuts have led to larger class sizes that have prompted teachers, staff, administrators and residents to come out in support of restoring the positions this budget season.

The Board of Education budget proposal will restore a kindergarten teacher, a fifth grade teacher, a middle school health teacher and a high school math teacher.

According to Smith, the \$250,000 savings in health insurance was made possible because the Connecticut Partnership Plan, which the town joined in 2017, switched to a different provider. The partnership plan allows municipi-

pal employees to become part of the same plan offered to state employees.

Originally, Smith had budgeted for a 10.5% increase in insurance costs - but the latest figures bring the increase down to about 3.5%.

"That's a preliminary figure," Smith said. "But it's a significant drop."

Next, the proposed budget will go to the Board of Finance for review. The finance board can make changes to the education budget's bottom line, but must let the school decide how the changes are itemized. After that, it will go to the town council for a vote before being sent to the public at referendum.

East Hampton schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mary Clark detailed in the meeting the positions that have been tagged for recovery.

At Memorial School, Clark said a reinstated kindergarten teacher will bring the number of kindergarten teachers to seven.

Clark said this will benefit students by allowing for smaller class sizes. East Hampton kindergarten classes average about 22 students. She said districts of similar size often try to keep kindergarten classes at an average of about 18 learners.

Clark went on to explain how kindergarten learners are more demanding than older age groups.

"They're not independent with their habits at that age," Clark said. "It's very challenging to meet both their needs as young people, as well as their academic needs."

Clark added that there is no paraeducator position in East Hampton's kindergarten classrooms, compounding the challenges faced by the teachers of the young learners.

At Center School, Clark explained the need for a restored fifth grade teacher to reduce class size, which currently averages about 26 students. Adding a seventh section would allow for more appropriate and attentive instruction, according to Clark.

Clark said an additional health teacher at the

middle school is necessary due to new state requirements. This, she said, would also benefit the high school. She explained that, currently, the middle and high school share a health teacher.

"Both buildings have a need to meet the requirements for P.E. and health," Clark said in the meeting. "This would allow us to maintain those services at the middle school, and add services to the high school, which is understaffed in this area."

Clark added this health and wellness position would reduce study hall time at the middle school.

"There is a tremendous body of research detailing the importance of health education [being taught] in middle school," Clark said.

At the high school, a restored classroom math teaching position was requested. Clark said the high school's math department is staffed with five teachers, a number lower than the seven classroom teachers populating the other departments.

"We need to have adequate staffing in high school mathematics," Clark said.

Clark said this new position would allow the high school to diversify its math offerings.

"This is proactive because, when we had to make difficult choices in the past, we did so based on class population," Clark said. "The class that's expected to be arriving on the shores of the high school next year, our ninth-grade class, will be substantially larger than at that time, and we need adequate staffing."

Board of Education Vice Chair Nancy Oakley, a Republican, said a disservice is being done to students by not providing an adequately staffed math-teaching department. Oakley, who is a parent to a middle school student, also called the extra non-instructional study hall time a disservice.

"Middle school [students] don't need all that study hall," Oakley said in the meeting.

Oakley also advocated for future restoration of electives, like the culinary arts, that can in-

spire students to pursue a career not necessarily requiring a four-year degree.

"We need to consider all students," Oakley said.

Republican Board of Education member Marc Lambert said despite the challenges faced by local educators, students receive a "very good" education in East Hampton.

"We can certainly do better, but to say we've short-changed our students is a mischaracterization," Lambert said.

Republican Board member Jim Radavich, Jr., cited the state's recent declining population when questioning the need for increasing the number of classroom teaching positions. He asked if this was reflected in East Hampton.

Smith and several other members said that no, East Hampton's student population trends have not paralleled those of Connecticut's.

"In the last three days, we had three families move in," Smith said. "We lost 5% staff without losing 5% of our students."

Lambert added that, during his service on East Hampton's Board of Finance, he saw predictions typically anticipating a decline in student enrollment. He said this turned out not to be the trend in East Hampton.

Board member Amanda Amtmanis said the student population in Middletown, where she is a teacher, is going down. She affirmed that this decline is not true for East Hampton.

Lambert expressed concern about the board's increase to the superintendent's proposal, saying he was worried about how the public will perceive the increase.

"I'm having reservations about perception," Lambert said. "This [budget] was put together based on a significant increase already. I can't say I'm 100% on board."

Lambert ended up voting in favor of the proposed education budget.

Goff reiterated the insurance savings as justification the restoration of students.

"The insurance is an opportunity to provide more," Goff said.

East Hampton Grand List Creeps Up Less than 1 Percent

by Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton's 2019 Grand List reflected growth of 0.87%, a difference of \$10.02 million from the 2018 Grand List.

The net total of East Hampton's 2019 Grand List is \$1.16 billion.

The sharpest increases were in the personal property and motor vehicle tax categories. Personal property assessments saw a 2.05%, or \$746,870, increase, while motor vehicle assessments climbed 3.46%, or \$3.61 million, from the 2018 Grand List.

Total net assessment for personal property is \$37.11 million. Motor vehicle tax figures stand at \$108 million. Real estate taxes were assessed as totaling \$1.01 billion.

East Hampton town manager David Cox said he hasn't been told the specific factors that caused the increases, but that the 2019 change is consistent with prior Grand Lists.

"It could be that people are better at paying taxes this year," Cox said. "People might have more cash."

This year, Cox said, the town assessor will conduct a revaluation of the town, a process performed every 5 years.

"The revaluation is more significant," Cox said. He added that he expects changes to the Grand List when this revaluation is completed.

The revaluation will measure growth and value accumulated since the 2015 analysis, according to Cox. A press release from the tax assessor said a revaluation determines the current fair market value of every property in town, which equalizes property values to ensure fair distribution of the tax burden.

"It's a big deal," Cox said. "There will be site visits for nearly every property in town."

According to a November press release from East Hampton's Assessor Gail Gwiazdowski, about 900 properties will be visited.

Cox said this revaluation will be conducted throughout the summer months.

The new numbers will be effective for the Oct. 1 Grand List, according to the release.

The revaluation will be completed with Vision Government Solutions, who will mail data verification letters to all residential property owners, according to the release. Questions as to the identity of a data collector can be directed to the East Hampton Police Department or the town assessor's office.

In a Board of Education meeting held Monday, board member Marc Lambert described the growth as "anemic."

East Hampton's top taxpayer was Connecticut Light & Power Co., or Eversource, whose combined assessment totaled \$18.3 million.

Eversource was followed by Landmark East Hampton, LLC, at \$7.5 million; Hampton 66 LLC, \$3.5 million; Connecticut Light and Power Co., \$3.4 million; Connecticut Natural Gas Corp, \$3.3 million; Global Self Storage, LLC, \$2.5 million; East High St. Realty LLC, \$2.4 million; American Equities I LLC, \$2.2 million; Edgewater Hill Properties, LLC, \$2.17 million; and Paul's and Sandy's Too, Inc., \$2.1 million.

In total, East Hampton's top 10 taxpayers have a total assessed value of \$47.4 million.

East Hampton Coronavirus Information Session

Chatham Health District will present information on the coronavirus Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m., at the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St.

The virus, first identified in Wuhan, China in January, has now been documented in many different countries, including in the United States.

Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed and Public Health Nurse Vickie Han will cover the basics of what we know about the virus, the disease it causes, what is being done now to prevent it from spreading in Con-

necticut, and what we can do as a community to prepare. There will be a question and answer session after the presentation.

This information session is open to any resident in the Chatham Health District which covers East Hampton, Colchester, East Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

Attendees should pre-register for this event online at EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org or by calling the East Hampton Public Library at 860-267-6621.

Andover False Fire Call Spurs Multiple-Town Response

by Sloan Brewster

A couple local schoolkids called 911 to report a non-existent fire and triggered a multi-town response, according to officials.

Town Manager Eric Anderson said the two eight-year old Andover Elementary School students were on the school bus when they made the call.

"They were dialing 911, but they had it all pre-planned out," he said. "They listed the house. They made a call, it triggered a pretty big emergency call."

Anderson said Darrell Tetreault, Andover resident state trooper, managed to track the children down "rather quickly."

School Principal John Briody said both he and Tetreault would not comment on the story.

Anderson said multiple towns responded to the call.

"Because of the nature of the call immediately it was a multi-town response," he said.

Andover Fire Chief Ron Mike chose not to comment on the false fire call but did say that every structure fire results in a response from fire departments in surrounding towns.

"We send out mutual aid for any report on a fire," he said.

In addition to departments from towns such as Columbia and Bolton, the Willimantic Rapid Intervention Team, a crew designed for firefighter rescue, answers the calls, the chief

said.

Mike could not estimate the costs of bringing so many emergency responders out to a call but said there were personal costs based when firefighters leave work to go out on a call.

The amount spent on fuel depends on how long fire trucks are out on a call, Mike said.

"It's definitely not inexpensive by the time you mobilize that number of people," Anderson said.

Briody refused to comment about the incident.

"Unfortunately, this is a situation where it's all been taken care of," Briody said. "There's no story."

Known as "swatting," the act of making false report to initiate an emergency response to a specific address has become more commonplace in recent years, according to an October 2018 article on wired.com.

Most of the cases written about online resulted in armed police officers, and in some cases SWAT teams, arriving at homes under the assumption they were responding to violent or dangerous crime scenes.

While those who commit the acts consider them pranks, they can escalate and have led to officers and victims being shot.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Rosemary Aiello

Rosemary (Feeney) Aiello, 67, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Robert Aiello, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by her family. Born Oct. 18, 1952, in New Britain, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Rose (Koziatek) Feeney.



Rosemary grew up in New Britain and lived in East Hampton for 45 years. She worked as a registered nurse at Hartford Hospital until her passing.

During her career at the hospital, which began in 1973, she held several positions including evening shift supervisor, nurse manager in the operating room, and most recently as a consulting analyst. She left behind a legacy of expertise, dedication, and hard work. She was a leader in the peri-operative nursing specialty at Hartford Hospital, where her commitment to patient care and to her profession was evident. She provided guidance for many nurses new to the specialty and was relied upon by her nursing and medical colleagues. She was instrumental in adapting new technologies for the advancement of patient care, including the electronic health record. Rosemary earned the continued admiration of colleagues as she mastered the elements of the electronic medical record and provided outstanding support for the team. Rosemary's contribution to others went beyond peri-operative services to the community. For over 20 years, Rosemary led the Nurses Week Basket Raffle, a fundraising initiative that raised thousands of dollars each year for the Hartford Hospital Employee's Disaster Fund and the Hartford Public High School Nursing Academy.

When she wasn't at work, Rosemary could be found relaxing with her husband Bob at the beach, a book in her hand, or taking a ride on the boat on the lake, or reading her paper on the back porch catching up on the week's events. Rosemary was a member of her local bowling league for many years, and she enjoyed being with her friends while the kids played together in the back of the bowling alley.

Besides her husband Robert, she is survived by three sons, Matthew Aiello and wife Kara, Daniel Aiello and wife Jezinia, and Patrick Aiello, all of East Hampton; two brothers, Thomas Feeney of North Carolina and Timothy Feeney of New Britain; two sisters, Patricia Feeney of New Britain and Maureen Feeney of North Carolina; brother-in-law John Aiello and wife Susan; aunt Constance Mazzarella; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved grandchildren, Ian, Nathan, and Lailah.

Friends and family called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St. East Hampton, on Sunday, Feb. 23, and Monday, Feb. 24. Funeral services were held Monday in the funeral home followed by burial in Lakeview Cemetery.

Rosemary was a driving force behind a Nursing Basket Raffle during Nurses Week at Hartford Hospital. Gifts in her memory may be made to support this project and its impact.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hartford Hospital, c/o Philanthropy, Hartford Hospital, 80 Seymour Street Hartford, CT 06102 or online at giving.hartfordhospital.org/tribute/gifts (select "Areas of Greatest Need" in her name). To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Edward P. Hendrickson Jr.

Edward P. Hendrickson Jr., 95, of East Hampton, husband of the late Jean Hendrickson, passed away January 25 at Chestelm Health and Rehab in Moodus. Edward was the son of the late Edward and Pauline Hodge Hendrickson. They had no children.

Edward proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII and received a Purple Heart. Edward was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and had worked for the town of East Hampton until retirement. He was predeceased by his sister Ella H. Cummings Rosano and his brothers Leslie, Louis and Alfred Hendrickson. He leaves many cousins, nieces and nephews of the Anderson, Hendrickson, Hodge and Loos families. He leaves a special cousin Leslie "Bubba" Anderson.

Funeral services will take place at a later date in the spring.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Patricia Ann Judge

Patricia Ann Judge, 84, of Colchester, passed away on February 19 at Marlborough Rehab Center, with her beloved family by her side. Born on March 15, 1935, she was a daughter of the late Arson and Leona (Monette) Potvin.



Pat graduated from Jefferson Village High School in 1953 and went on to work for the University of Vermont Forestry Department. She married her beloved husband, Robert "Bob" Judge, on September 1, 1956, in Underhill, Vt. The couple moved to Connecticut where Patricia worked for the city of Manchester as the recreation organizer for the Senior Center. They later settled in Colchester, where they raised their family and Pat worked at Bacon Academy in Food Services for forty years. She was a communicant of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church. Pat loved to travel home to Vermont whenever an opportunity arose. She loved to cook, bake and entertain but, most importantly, she was devoted to her family and time spent with them was her greatest joy.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband Bob of 63 years; her children, Kim Judge and her husband Tim Lazuk of Colchester, Dawn Esak and her husband Gary of S. Glastonbury, and Mark Judge of Colchester; two brothers, Reginald Potvin and Timothy Potvin; two sisters, Grace Swan and Jean Dubois; grandchildren, Ashley and husband Matt Daudish, Katie Lazuk and fiancé Josh Burke, and William Judge and Caraline Judge; great granddaughter Quinn Duadish; and numerous extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by brothers Donald, Ronald, and Paul.

Funeral services will be held privately, according to her wishes. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Anthony "Tony" Munson

Anthony "Tony" Robert Munson, of Portland, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loved ones.



He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 42 years, Mary Munson, his son Patrick Munson and his love Michelle Richards, and his daughter Emily Spearin. Along with his wife and children, he is survived by his three "dollies," Cassandra, Sophia and Morgan, his granddaughters who were the loves of his life. He also leaves behind his mother, Jean Munson, his uncle, Sal Santacroce, two brothers and their wives, Robert & Linda Munson and Steven & Emily Munson, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends, who were all a wonderful support throughout his life.

Tony graduated from Saint Paul Catholic High School and went on to pursue a major in finance and marketing at Stonehill College. He spent his career working in construction equipment sales at various companies, most recently at Rapid Prep of Rhode Island. In years past, he served on the Portland Republican Town Committee, as a CYO basketball coach and as a Little League coach. Tony enjoyed spending his time with his family and working outside perfecting his landscaping. He also appreciated good cuisine and dining out and was often referred to by those closest to him as "James Beard." Tony and Mary have spent the past years traveling the country to explore the many wonders of what our country has to offer.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Hospital of Central Connecticut Cancer Center, Masonicare Home Health and Hartford Healthcare at Home for their dedicated, compassionate care.

A memorial celebration will be held on Saturday, February 29 at 2 p.m. in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be private. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hospital of Central Connecticut Cancer Institute, 201 North Mountain Rd., Plainville, Connecticut 06062.

Hebron

Alveda "Jane" Cranick

Alveda "Jane" Cranick, 96, of Lebanon and formerly of Hebron, passed away on Friday, Feb. 21 at Windham Hospital after a brief illness. She was born in Hartford on September 24, 1923. Her given name at birth was Jadwiga Janina Zukowski, daughter of the late John and Helena (Andruszkiewicz) Zukowski.



Jane attended schools in Windsor and was a graduate of John Fitch High School. She married her husband, Clifford Allen Cranick, on January 1, 1945. The couple made their home and raised their family in Hebron. They shared 30 years together before he predeceased her on August 22, 1975.

Jane retired several years ago after a long and successful career as a data processing technician at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford. She was involved with her community volunteering for Easter Seals, as well as the Hebron and Lebanon historical societies. Jane spent 25 years wintering in Estero, Fla. She was a world traveler visiting Russia, China, India, South Africa, Poland, England, Germany, Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, France, Tahiti and Fiji, and she went on numerous cruises in the Caribbean as well as Hawaii. Jane was an avid reader, a crossword enthusiast, a talented seamstress, with an interest in genealogy, and a computer fan.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her daughter, Donna Koenig, with whom she made her home most recently; her son, Clifford Jr. and his wife Irene; granddaughter, Janis McLaughlin and her husband Kevin; grandsons, Paul Cranick and his wife Julie, Bohdan Cranick and his partner, Penny Black; great grandchildren, Erin McLaughlin, William McLaughlin, Mikayla Cranick, Justus Hopkins; and many nieces and nephews, extended family members and friends. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by sisters, Helen Oullette and Jadwiga Zukowski, and her brothers, Joseph, Chester and John Zukowski.

Calling hours were held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester, on Tuesday, February 25. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 328 Village Hill Rd., Lebanon 06249. Burial followed in the New Hebron Cemetery.

Donations in Jane's memory may be made to the Redeemer Lutheran Church or to the Lebanon Historical Society, P.O. Box 151, Lebanon 06249.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Richard Joseph Julian

Richard Joseph Julian, 50, died on Sunday, February 23 at Hartford Hospital from flu complications. Richard was born on January 1, 1970 to Richard John and Jacqueline A. (O'Connell) Julian.



Richie had a big heart and was dedicated to helping others; not only did he care for his parents, he selflessly gave to St. Jude's Children Hospital, the ASPCA and supported the CT State Police as a member of their 100 Club. He graduated from Bacon Academy and was a self-employed handyman who enjoyed hanging out with his friends.

Richie is survived by his father Richard John Julian of Colchester; his brother Steven Julian and wife Sandy of Summerville, SC; his sister Lisa Slade and husband Jeff of Oakdale; his nieces and nephews, Shauna Julian who was more like a sister to him, Nathan and Carina Julian, and Emily and Tanner Slade. He was predeceased by his mother Jacqueline Julian.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time and will be posted at a later date. Belmont Funeral Home LLC has been entrusted with Richie's care. Visit belmontfh.com to leave condolences and for updated service information.

Portland

Margaret Whitley Rau

Margaret Whitley Rau, 86, of Portland, wife of John Irving Rau, passed away peacefully Feb. 19 surrounded by family. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Margaret (Lown) Whitley of Portland.



She leaves behind her husband of 63 years, daughter Lynnette Rau Milleville of Portland; son Jeffrey Rau of Southington; grandsons Mark Milleville of Oakland, Calif., Matthew Milleville of Portland, and Justin Rau of Farmington; sister Mary Ann Jacobs of Middletown; nieces and nephew Patricia Jacobs Selinsky and husband Robert of Summerville, S.C., Cynthia Jacobs Fernandez and husband Henry of Middletown, and the late Raymond Jacobs and wife Norma of Middletown. She also leaves behind several great and great-great nephews.

Peggy was a lifelong resident of Portland, growing up "downtown" and then after getting married living in "the country." She worked for many years at Standard Knapp in the administrative offices, and then for the family business Rau Sheet Metal Heating and Air Conditioning in Middletown.

Peggy was avid traveler. She and John enjoyed numerous cruise ship vacations all over the world and traveled extensively throughout the United States. She also spent time sailing their boat "Penney Candy" along the Connecticut River and southern New England sea coast.

Peggy's other interests included reading, gardening, crossword puzzles, card games and shopping. But her biggest love was the Connecticut Husky Women's Basketball Team and the Boston Red Sox.

There will be a graveside service on Saturday, Feb. 29 at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

Portland

David Arthur Werblow

After 84 wonderful years, David Arthur Werblow, of Portland, a gentle, easy going, and inquisitive man, has departed this plain on February 20. He leaves behind his loving wife, Virginia H. Werblow, his two sons, Benjamin and Jacob Werblow (Kristen), grandchildren Jade, Stella, Lillian; step-children Douglas



Ewing, Katie Niccolletta, Laura O'Brien; step-grandchildren Meghan, Zachary, Torrey, Emma, Abby, Paige and former wife Anne Cassidy.

David spent his formative years on a farm in Shaftsbury, Vt. before graduating from Westminster School, NYU, and Columbia University. He first taught in Australia and then spent multiple years teaching in the Connecticut Community College system, first at Norwalk Community and then at Middlesex Community College in Middletown. Much as he enjoyed teaching, his real pleasure was working with his hands. He built sailboats and restored cars. He was a two-term president of the Connecticut MG Club. David was smitten by wanderlust, having traveled extensively into his eighties. As David would say, "It's been a fantastic run."

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, March 6 in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main Street, from 10-11:30 a.m. with a service to follow at the funeral home. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in David's name to any food bank or dog shelter close to one's heart.

More Obituaries on Following Page

Obituaries continued

Portland

Stuart F. Bevis

Stuart Francis Bevis, 86, of Portland, husband of the late Natalie (Field) Bevis, passed away on Wednesday, February 19, at Portland Care & Rehab. Stuart is originally from Keene, N.H. and served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He began his teaching career in Springfield, Vt. before moving to



Connecticut where he taught in the Portland school system for over thirty years. He was active in the Portland Lion's Club for years, the Portland Grange, volunteered at the Portland Food Bank and served on the Board at Seasons Federal Credit Union. Stuart coached Middlesex Youth hockey and the Wesleyan Women's Hockey Team and also enjoyed woodworking.

Stuart is survived by his daughter, Susanna; daughter-in-law; six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Along with his wife and parents, Stuart was predeceased by his son, Jon S. Bevis.

A graveside service will be held for Stuart and Natalie on Saturday, March 28 at 11 a.m. in the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Stuart's memory may be made to the Portland Food Bank, 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, CT 06480.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Albert P. Revicki

Albert P. Revicki, 92, of Portland and Venice, Fla., husband of the late Delores (Gade) Revicki, died on Thursday, Feb. 20. He was born December 15, 1927, in New Britain, son of the late Paul and Helen (Joscak) Revicki. He had been retired from Standard Knapp.



Albert was a World War II Veteran serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and a member of St. Mary Church in Portland. He is survived by his loving family: four sons, Dennis and daughter-in-law Mary Lou Revicki of Sarasota, Fla., Gary Revicki of East Windsor, Peter and daughter-in-law Carol Revicki of Portland, and Kenny and daughter-in-law Patty Revicki of Portland; two daughters, Debbie and son-in-law Edward Horan of Newington and Gail and son-in-law Gene Goldberg of Santa Fe, N.M.; brother Robert and sister-in-law Diane Revicki of Pennsylvania; and 11 grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 24 at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary Church in Portland. Burial with full military honors was in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain.

Andover

Karen Cszasz

Karen Leigh Person Cszasz, 66, of Nokonis, Florida, wife of Charles Cszasz, passed away on February 6. She was the daughter of Jeanne Person of Andover and Richard Person.

Karen was born in Manchester on October 13, 1953. She graduated from RHAM High School in 1971. In her youth she was actively involved in 4-H and the Tolland County 4-H Fair Association. While living in Florida she attained a bachelor's degree. Karen worked part time at Publix for 17 years and retired from Sarasota Memorial hospital after 30 years of service. She enjoyed visits to Disney World, Sea World and Busch Gardens.

Besides her husband, Charles, Karen is survived by her mother, Jeanne Person, her brothers Ross (Becky), Jessee (Nickie), Scott (Lauren), and Steven, and her sisters Kim, Stacey (David) and Kristin. She was predeceased by her father, Richard Person.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, March 1, at the First Congregational Church of Andover at 2 p.m.

Donations in Karen's memory can be made to the First Congregational Church of Andover, 359 Route 6, Andover, CT 06232; the Andover Food Pantry (same address); or a charity of your choice.