

WATER: Line will replace tainted wells

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James R. Stewart said. But Maureen and Michael Bonnard, of 68 Ramsey Ave., who live outside the corridor, contend that their home also should be included. Borough and DEP officials say their well has not tested positive for PCE, a chemical shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals. The chemical, which is used to degrease metal parts and dry-clean clothes, was first discovered on David Street and surrounding neighborhoods in 2003. Since then, the DEP has provided bottled water and filtration systems as a temporary solution to residents whose wells are contaminated. Borough officials believe the chemical seeped into the

ground from Karo Manufacturing Plant, a now-defunct company in the Naugatuck Industrial Park. In 2007, the DEP requested \$111,729 through the State Bond Commission to fund a study that would look at the best way to fix the problem. The commission has yet to approve the allocation. Instead of waiting for the state money, the borough has pushed ahead to help homeowners with wells that have tested positive for the volatile chemical, Mayor Robert A. Mezzo said. At no cost to the residents, the borough is installing the line and hookups for \$120,000, he said. Once that work is done and private wells are capped, the borough will continue with sampling, Mezzo said. Naugatuck had planned to hold a

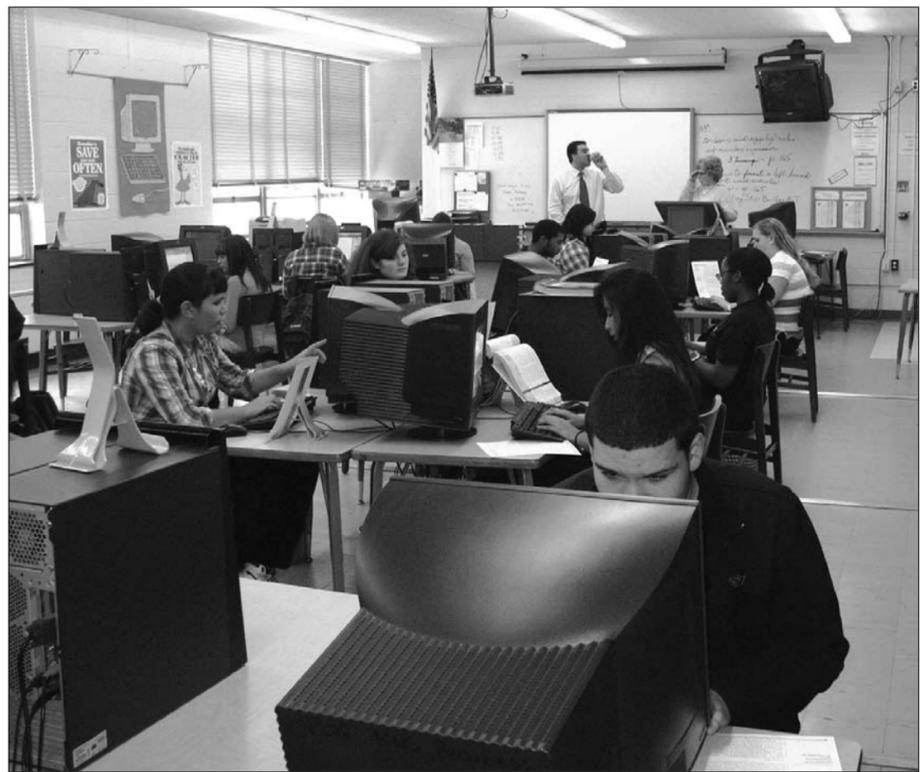
public forum with state agencies in September, but was delayed due to the line installation, he said. Now it will be set sometime in January. Stewart said the borough will conduct sampling of homes, either one or two in from the David Street corridor, which would likely include the Bonnard home at 68 Ramsey Ave. The DEP ordered the borough to address the problem in 2005, but the DEP has been performing sampling until the borough could find the money for the project, said Camille Fontanella, an environmental analyst with the DEP. The DEP has been monitoring the plume of contamination for the past seven years, and over that time, the PCE has decreased in concentration, she said. She said the Bonnards have

lodged their concerns with the DEP, which then responded with a letter explaining the process. Their residence was tested five times in 2003 and 2004. In all those times, no PCE was detected, Fontanella said. It tested their home a sixth time in March 2010, and still didn't find PCE, she said. Michael Bonnard contends that his property should be hooked up to the borough's water line because their address is listed in the 2005 DEP order. "We want the same thing that everyone is getting," Bonnard said. "Because we're part of the order." Mezzo said the borough has been working diligently to address those impacted by the PCE, and will have the informational forum to discuss any concerns residents have.

TECHNOLOGY: Police refrain from arrests

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The small number of problems encountered by Morgan break into two categories, bullying over social media, like Facebook.com, and "seating," the practice of sharing sexual images of oneself using a cellular telephone. So far, police have opted not to press charges with the children they've encountered. Instead, they've met with parents and students at police headquarters, giving warnings of dangers and possible penalties. "We're a law-enforcement agency, but not everything has to be an arrest," Morgan said. For school disciplinarians, it can be hard to keep up with the latest technology trends. Some districts have also found it difficult to respond to problems that are generated outside the school. Nick Caruso, senior staff associate for field services with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, said districts across the state are calling for policy advice on cyberbullying. "Kids have always been mean to on another," Caruso said. "I guess the thing that's different is there is a level of anonymity. And it can be widespread. People who don't even know the person (being bullied) can be involved." Several Waterbury high school students interviewed this week said they haven't heard of intense problems with technology.



Kennedy High School students work on computers Friday at the Waterbury school. MICHAEL PUFFER REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

"I hear teachers making a big issue about it, but I never encountered cyberbullying or seating at this school," Kennedy sophomore Dimitrius Haddad said. Kennedy staff won't say much about the recent incident, as it involves minors and police

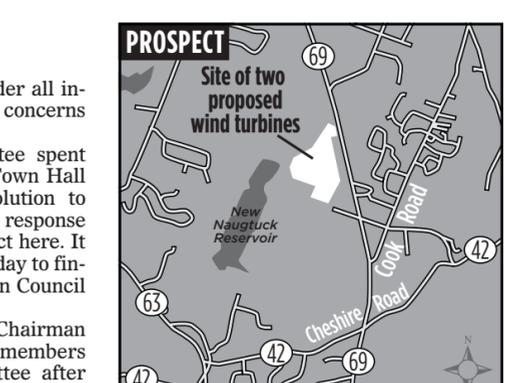
are investigating. They did arrange to have one of the involved students remove the offending material. Staff say their biggest problem is students taking online beefs into the real world. Ten years ago, staff could overhear building arguments

before they boiled over, Kennedy Principal Michael Yamin said. "Now, with texting, kids are having their verbal altercations via technology, so by the time we get wind of it, there's already been an altercation," Yamin said.

RESOLUTION: Hold on wind farms proposed

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ing council to take time to consider all information and give residents' concerns maximum weight. The four-member subcommittee spent nearly three hours Saturday at Town Hall deciding to recommend a resolution to Town Council for an official town response to a proposed wind turbine project here. It will meet again at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to finish the resolution before the Town Council meeting. On Dec. 7, Town Council Chairman Thomas J. Galvin asked council members to volunteer for the subcommittee after several residents from a recently formed group, Save Prospect Corp., voiced concern about BNE Energy Inc.'s proposal to erect two wind turbines at 178 New Haven Road. Last month, the West Hartford-based company filed an application with the siting council. BNE Energy is proposing two turbines, each measuring 462 feet from the base to the tip of the blade, company officials said. The Republican-American's tower in Waterbury is about 240 feet tall. BNE Energy also has filed an application to build three wind turbines on Flagg Hill Road in Colebrook. It is also proposing to construct three turbines on Rock Hall Road in Colebrook and plans to file that application this week, company officials said. Connecticut does not have any commercial wind farms. The siting council can



PROSPECT Site of two proposed wind turbines. REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN ARCHIVE

override any order that the town enacts by a vote of six of nine members. About 12 people attended the meeting. Both members of Save Prospect and representatives of BNE Energy provided input. Jeffrey B. Slapikas, who was elected subcommittee chairman, said the subcommittee is trying to look at both sides. A lot of residents are concerned, and while the subcommittee is all for renewable energy, it has to work for citizens' concerns. Patricia Sullivan Geary, who lives on the corner of Cooke and Lee roads, not far from the proposed wind project, said the most bothersome issue to her is that there are no state or town regulations for wind energy projects, not even standards for setbacks.

Gregory J. Zupkus, of Prospect, the company president and chief executive officer, and Paul J. Corey, of West Hartford, the company chairman, attended with their attorney, Carrie L. Larson of Hartford. Larson said the company has done more than is legally required for this project, including meeting air and water quality state standards. Corey asked the subcommittee for a chance to respond to the draft recommendation Tuesday. He said the company agrees with most of the points, but has an issue with the moratorium. He would not elaborate until the company has reviewed the draft. Tim Reilly, of Woodcrest Drive and president of Save Prospect, said he was pleased with the subcommittee's work, and believes the town is fighting on behalf of residents. "It's a great start," he said. Concerns about noise, safety, wildlife, property values and quality of life have been raised by residents in Prospect and Colebrook. Last month, the town sponsored a bus trip to Falmouth, Mass., where residents and town officials heard wind turbines and spoke to homeowners who live by them. "They're huge," said Calvin Goodwin, a member of Save Prospect. "That's my first impression." The ones in Falmouth were 392 feet to the tip of the blade, he said. They also made a funny noise, he said. But his biggest concern is the lack of state regulations.

model, with manufacturers — and ultimately consumers — footing the bill for safe disposal or recycling. Metzner said the paint industry has supported product stewardship legislation, but the bill has yet to pass. Brian D. Bartram, manager of the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station and a member of the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council, said there has also been talk of extending this model to mattresses, though there are several complicating factors involved, including bedbugs, and manufacturers have yet to be approached. Meanwhile, companies are jostling for market share in the electronics recycling market. Schum and Kate Schmid, WeRecycle's environmental health and safety manager, detailed several steps taken by the firm to ensure circuit boards and cathode ray tubes do not wind up on the proverbial slow boat to China. A combination of paper audits and site visits to buyers of the disassembled components are part of that effort. Cathode ray tubes, among the most toxic forms of electronic waste because of the lead they contain, are shipped directly to a company in New Brunswick, Canada, that melts them down. Other components disassembled in Meriden are shipped to a WeRecycle plant in Mount Vernon, N.Y., where powerful shredders break the material apart and machines sort the metal and plastic for reuse. Documents will track where each piece goes. "That, I think, is something that really distinguishes responsible recyclers," Schmid said.

Fire razes home in New Hartford; occupant rescued

BY JIM MOORE REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

NEW HARTFORD — Firefighters found a Southeast Road home in flames late Friday night, with one of the home's three occupants critically injured but pulled to safety by a fellow occupant of the home. Conrad Vienot, 71, clung to life in Bridgeport Hospital's burn unit Saturday night, with a combination of second- and

third-degree burns. The fire completely destroyed the home at 135 Southeast Road owned by Middletown resident Mary Vienot, according to local land records. Fire Marshal William Baldwin said the two-story home on 77 acres in the town's south end, has been in the family for many years. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. "We're leaning toward accidental in nature," Baldwin said,

noting Deputy Fire Marshal Robert Upton, who interviewed the home's occupants at the scene, and personnel from the state fire marshal's office are collaborating on the investigation. Baldwin said Cole was known to be a heavy smoker, and "there were extension cords everywhere" inside the cluttered home. South End Fire Chief John Shaw said the second floor,

where Vienot lived, was full of flames when the first crews arrived. Windows began blowing out soon after, venting columns of orange flame into the sky. Firefighters attempted to attack the fire from the inside, but were quickly turned back, Shaw said. Fire officials and American Red Cross Emergency Services Director Sandi Cole said Vienot would have perished if not for the effort of a fellow resident.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DATA SECURITY

While many electronic recycling firms offer data protection services, using computer software to erase hard drives and other digital storage devices, industry and state officials alike say there's no substitute for a consumer taking matters into their own hands. There are various software programs available, many available online free of charge, that erase hard drives using a sophisticated method that meets the standards of the Department of Defense. Erasing the drive using one of these programs renders it nearly impossible to recover any data, though many prefer to take it one step further. Torrington Public Works Director Gerald C. Rollett uses a drill press, for example, physically grinding a hole through the hard drive before disposal. Mike Schum, president of WeRecycle, a firm that specializes in safe disposal and recycling of electronics, agrees. Schum said that while his company employs sophisticated methods to erase incoming hard drives, "residents need to take their own measures." Some towns maintain collection points that are not secured or attended around the clock. "I can only account for (data security) once we have possession of the equipment," Schum said.

WASTE: Some towns not ready to recycle

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and drinking water was trucked in because of rampant pollution. Backyard "recycling" of electronic waste in this fashion has become the environmental (and public health) scourge of many developing countries, as well as a profit center. Metzner detailed several precautions the state has taken to ensure Connecticut's electronic waste does not follow this path, including audits and on-site inspections. "We probably went as far, or farther than any other state in terms of the overseas requirement," Metzner said. "We really wanted to find out who their vendors were." The answers were not always satisfactory. "We have come across some things that are suspicious," Metzner said. He declined to name names, or specify what violations may have been uncovered. "I can't say that they're definitely engaged in something illegal, I'm not saying that," Metzner said, adding that whether willful or simply ignorant, the state has learned of some practices that are "not protective of the environment." Metzner said some cases may be referred to federal officials. Paint may be the next product included in the "product stewardship" model, with manufacturers — and ultimately consumers — footing the bill for safe disposal or recycling. Metzner said the paint industry has supported product stewardship legislation, but the bill has yet to pass.

Waste collection trailer here. This much is certain: the small white appliance will soon be picked up by WeRecycle, one of several firms that have applied to be state-approved electronics recycling contractors. Like the computers, monitors, printers and televisions that will soon be banned from the state's trash disposal system, the microwave will be disassembled at a Meriden facility. The lead-soldered circuit boards and other hazardous components will be shipped out of state to be melted down, or reused. Under the state law, based on a model dubbed "product stewardship," registered manufacturers of computers, monitors, printers and televisions will cover the cost of the recycling and disposal of those components. Some manufacturers have begun subsidizing safe disposal already. But state-approved recycling firms will not have the option of billing producers of fax machines, digital image scanners, and gaming systems such as Sony's PlayStation 3 or Microsoft's X Box, all devices that bear a striking resemblance to computers. All of these devices contain circuit boards and magnetic data storage systems. WeRecycle President Mick Schum said it remains to be seen who will pay for recycling microwave ovens and game systems after Jan. 1. The answer will be determined, at least in part, by the volume of incoming devices and availability of subsidies, he said. Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Analyst Tom Metzner said the apparent loophole exists because manufacturers of game systems, and other electronic components not included in the 2007 law or subsequent regulations, were not invited to the table as the regulations were crafted. Adding such devices to the list "brings in some new players who didn't have the chance to comment on their inclusion in Connecticut," Metzner said. "If we add it in the future, we will be clear and give these manufacturers a chance to comment." The list of companies approved to handle the recycling and disposal remained under wraps Friday, though the state had planned to release it a week before. Metzner said fewer than 10 companies were expected to win approval; he declined to specify how many had applied, though he did confirm some did not make the cut. Each applicant had to prove they would not practice the kind of electronics "recycling" documented by CBS News in 2008, when "60 Minutes" followed discarded electronics from Colorado to the third world. CBS called a town in southern China named Guiyu, where circuit boards were heated over open fires,

ON THE WEB

To see a list of the region's electronic waste drop off sites, visit www.rep-am.com.

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