

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Anna Filosa (left) reads her essay aloud at Wednesday night's DARE graduation in Marlborough. Holding the microphone is Resident State Trooper Manny Acosta. Anna's essay was chosen from 100 entries as the best in the grade.

Role Models Are People You See Every Day

by Sarah McCoy

Wearing bright red shirts and with certificates in hand, the 6th grade classes at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School recently celebrated the completion of the D.A.R.E. program.

D.A.R.E., which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education, is a program geared to inform students about the dangers of drugs and violence. It is run by local law enforcement. In Marlborough, that local law enforcement representative is Resident State Trooper Manny Acosta.

Acosta is on-hand throughout the program to answer questions, discuss the effects of drug use, and offer strategies to "say no" to pressures to use drugs.

At Wednesday night's graduation, boxes were passed around with questions students had anonymously submitted. Questions included things like "Why do people waste their money on cigarettes?" and "How do you make

sure a person doesn't do marijuana again?"

Acosta has done his best to answer questions, but Wednesday night signaled the passing of the baton to the parents. "Parents, you are the key to keeping your children drug and violence free," he said.

State Police Sergeant Stephen Ostroski echoed Acosta. "Role models aren't faces you see on TV. Role models are people you see every day, Manny, your teachers, your principal, and especially your parents."

Principal Lorraine Giannini has been part of D.A.R.E. for 16 years between her previous tenure in Wallingford and current position as elementary school principal in Marlborough. She observed that the program has only gotten better through the years.

"The experience has allowed me to see the evolution of the program," she remarked. "It has continued to improve and be updated with the changing

world."

D.A.R.E. began in 1983 in Los Angeles as a way to deter students from becoming involved with drugs and gangs. It is now taught in 75% of schools across the nation. The program has gone through ten revisions since its inception to offer the best training to students.

Wednesday night marked the culmination of this year's program at Marlborough Elementary School and the celebration of a job well-done.

Members from each of the five 6th grade classes were awarded special shirts for winning poster and essay contests.

Anna Filosa, a member of Mrs. Weiss' class, won the school's overall essay contest about what D.A.R.E. has meant to her. "The most important thing I have learned," she read to the audience, "Is that not everyone is doing it."

Annual AHM Telethon Sets \$60,000 Goal

The 17th Annual AHM Youth Services Telethon—scheduled to take place in about a month—may prove to be the most important fundraiser in the history of the regional youth service bureau, according to AHM Director Joel Rosenberg.

With grant money ever harder to come by, the next several months will be a critical period for the local non-profit, which provides a broad range of community and mental health services for the citizens of Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough.

The Telethon is one of five major fundraisers that the AHM Board of Directors sponsors each year. During the Telethon, volunteer callers phone residents and ask for pledges. This year's goal is \$60,000.

In the next few days local residents will be receiving the 2007 annual AHM appeal letter in advance of the Telethon.

Telethon calling dates are as follows: The Andover Telethon for AHM will take place on May 1, 2 and 3; the Hebron Telethon for AHM will take place on April 30, May 1, 2 and 3; and the Marlborough Telethon for AHM will take place on April 26 and 30 and then again on May 2 and 3.

Volunteers will be calling from each one of the three town halls. For more information about Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth Services, Inc. visit www.AHMYouth.org or call 228-9488. Volunteer callers are also still needed for the Telethon.

The Telethon is one of five major AHM annual fundraisers. Other AHM fundraisers this year will include a summer golf tournament and a fall auction. The annual birds of prey exhibition and bird house sale during the winter Hebron Maple Festival has already taken

place. Also planned is a soon to be announced spring and summer car wash event.

Each of these fundraisers is necessary in order to help maintain a wide range of services and activities provided to local children, teens and adults, said Rosenberg.

AHM is one of 99 youth service bureaus in Connecticut. The regional non-profit bureau was formed by a group of citizens in 1983. The agency was formerly incorporated as a private non-profit bureau in 1984 and presently serves as the municipal agent for youth and family programs in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

Each year more than 6,000 citizens use AHM services or participate in one or more of the bureau's activities. These include youth and family counseling, school-based social work services, juvenile review board, crisis intervention services, adult grief support group, child and teen support groups, peer helpers program, peer mediation programs, Lanterns mentoring program, FRC pre-school program, play and learn groups, home visits, professional training opportunities for childcare providers, social gatherings for parents of preschool children, daily teen center programs, after school homework club, after school cooking club, Jazz for Juniors music ensemble, after school young artists collaborative, RHAM project graduation, summer youth employment, summer teen camp, school vacation teen camps, summer youth theater and more.

AHM is also responsible for securing grant funds for the recently created elementary after school club program in Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough.

Portland Driver Gives New Meaning to Term 'Carpool'

by Michael McCoy

At 9:49 pm on Wednesday night, Joseph McBrien and his wife were watching television. The next thing they knew, a 2002 Toyota 4-Runner drove into their yard, past the window, and around the corner of the house.

McBrien and his wife darted out of their home, just in time to see the vehicle drive into their 32'x16' Grecian-style pool.

"I didn't know what to think," said McBrien. The car only made it partly into the water initially, but McBrien remembers, "When the front wheels went in the pool, she actually gunned it." This resulted in the entire vehicle plopping forward into the water.

Fortunately, the car initially remained surprisingly buoyant, which allowed the driver—Joan Draghi, 51, of 160 Cox Rd., Portland—to climb out of the already-opened passenger window fairly quickly, said McBrien.

"The level of anxiety on both of our parts was very high," remarked McBrien. "She was completely confused and disoriented."

The McBriens called 911 and warmed Draghi up with a blanket and attempted to calm her down, while emergency personnel responded.

Draghi was taken to Hartford Hospital. Fortunately, she did not suffer any serious injury in the accident and she was soon released from the hospital.

Portland Fire Department personnel rescued a dog that had been in the car when it plummeted into the pool. The dog also appeared unharmed, said police.

McBrien praised the response of the Police and Fire Departments. Firemen remained in cold waters of the pool for quite a while during the lengthy process of removing the vehicle,

he said.

The Toyota was eventually pulled out by a tow-truck, aided by considerable manual wedging and lifting on the part of the firefighters.

Sgt. James Kelly estimated that somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 emergency personnel did their part in the night's effort. They did not leave the 459 Cox Road residence, which is located next to an entrance to the Meshomasic State Forest, until about 1 a.m.

Among other damages, McBrien said that the pool's steps and lining would have to be replaced. Furthermore, the water will need to be tested, and eventually drained.

The McBrien pool is set about 150 feet from the road. Draghi had to negotiate a 90-degree turn around the house to actually drive into the pool. The water is four feet in the shallow end, and 8.5 feet in the deep end.

"If she would have gone into the deep end, then this would have been a little more hectic," said McBrien. He added, "By the grace of God, she's still alive today."

Sgt. Kelly said, "The residents were very helpful." He admitted that, to his knowledge, this incident was the first of its kind in Portland.

It was certainly a novelty for the McBriens. "It's the first time that a car has driven into the pool," remarked Joseph.

Officers Peter Paranzino and James Capello were the first officers to arrive on the scene, and Paranzino is leading the investigation. While the official cause of Draghi's unusual detour has not yet been determined, Sgt. Kelly said, "We have probable cause to apply for a search warrant."

Reiki Offers a Healing Path to Longtime Andover Practitioner

by Jim Salemi

Reiki, the Japanese practice of spiritual healing, has gained widespread popularity among the holistic healing set over the past few years. Andover resident Eaglemoon Raes is among those who practice—as well as teach—the methods.

Well-known and regarded the world over as a master of the practice, Raes is no newcomer to Reiki. She began practicing the art long before Reiki became "cool."

Reiki is a Japanese meditative technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. The practice is based on the idea that an unseen "life force energy" flows through us and is what causes us to be alive, according to information provided on the Reiki.org website, suggested by Raes.

Raes is a certified hypnotherapist with the National Guild of Hypnotists. She is also a Usui and Karuna Reiki master and teacher, a Guided Self Healing practitioner and a holographic healer. She teaches out of her clinic at 197B Route 87 in the Liberty Hill section of Lebanon.

Despite her existing and mounting credentials, Raes considers herself first and foremost a student. "Life has been my greatest teacher," Raes said at her clinic recently.

And that holds true for her "students"—if they can be called that. She considers herself more of a spiritual guide. "It's not my job to lead my students down the path of life, but merely to show them the path," she says.

That, she said, is the essence of her teachings, using love as a healing source throughout the journey down that path.

Raes has been practicing spiritual healing for 15 years, enrolling in a Reiki class after seeing a number of "signs," or "Avatars," she said were arranged by her spiritual guides.

"Fifteen years ago it was like it was only me (studying Reiki). Now, there is a huge commu-

nity; it's gigantic," she said.

She recently released four "journey" CDs and she is expanding her services to include teenage group sessions as well as group sessions for families.

She is clearly enjoying the popularity of the practice.

To the skeptic, the word "enjoy" is more often than not translated as "cashing-in." Not in this case, apparently. Asked where interested readers might find her CDs, she doesn't rattle off a sales site—she says the CDs can be found in the Colchester and Andover Public libraries.

She follows by praising the Colchester Library for how they re-packaged the CD and accompanying literature in protective sleeves.

"They really did a wonderful job. You don't have to worry about trying to read from worn pages by others who checked out the CD before you did," she said.

(As it turns out, her CDs can be purchased through Amazon.com, CDbaby.com, bought at Landmark CD stores and at her clinic—though the writer had to specifically ask if they could actually be purchased.)

While the practice of Reiki in itself is widespread and popular, Raes also uses the meditative practice as a tool to relieve stress and expunge the soul—a tool that prepares the student for their life journey.

"It can best be described as floating in healing water, and the spirit brings it in like a sponge. Then the 'ick' is let out, whatever the 'ick' is—anger, fear anything that's negative and an obstacle to spiritual wellness," she said.

The practice of spiritual or holistic healing is not for everyone, Raes has no problem admitting that, and she is hardly evangelical when it comes to trying to persuade skeptics to try her healing methods. Nor does she aggressively promote the sale of her hypnotherapy CDs. Instead, she makes them available to anyone will-



Andover resident Eagle Moon Raes studies and teaches the healing arts, including the Japanese practice of spiritual healing known as Reiki.

ing or curious to learn her methods.

Fifteen years ago the stress of being a mother and having a career was causing her a bit of consternation. She had only a passing interest in Reiki at the time.

"We (she and her family) were on a friend's boat and I thought that would be therapeutic. Instead, I could not shake the stress from work and the kids were driving me crazy. I wanted to jump onboard. Then a yacht passed us, and it was named 'The Avatar.' I took it as a sign. It was then I surrendered to my life guides," she said.

It was also her life guides who told her to take the name Eaglemoon, after watching a number of eagles fly over a lake near her home at a time of year they aren't ordinarily around.

"It was only me and my son who saw them. None of my neighbors did. It was such a strong sign. I eventually had my name changed legally," she said.

Raes can be reached at (860)402-8116 or emailed at Eaglemoon@snet.net for more information or to set up a session. Her CDs can be heard at: www.cdbaby.com Search for 'Raes' from the site's home page.

RHAM Board Hammering Out Proposed Budget

by Sarah McCoy

"We're on a, seemingly, never-ending quest to get to the bottom line," RHAM Board of Education Chairman Al Covino said Monday night.

While it certainly might feel never-ending at times, the Board of Education (BOE) is closing in on a final budget recommendation for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The proposed increase stands at 5.1% after Monday night's meeting.

Special education was the first department targeted for reductions. Covino made a motion to cut one of the three requested special education positions. This would remove almost \$54,000 between salary and benefits.

Special Education Director Brian Morin had requested two additional teachers and an additional school psychologist. Covino made a motion to remove one of those positions, but let Morin pick which one.

Urging the board not to cut the position, Morin firmly stated he would be back to the BOE requesting the position again. "I don't see how I can meet the needs of students without the staff," he said. "If the board is intent on reducing the special ed budget, reduce the placeholder."

The motion to cut the position failed 9-0, but the board took Morin up on his compromise and \$46,813 was removed from the special education placeholder account. This leaves the dis-

trict with no placeholders—i.e., reserve—for students who may come into the region needing to be out-placed for services.

"We are trying to approach the budget in a responsible manner," Covino explained. "Special education has been one area that has traditionally come under budget. It's a risk but at some point you have to try it."

A separate motion to remove one of the two requested special education instructional assistants was defeated 7-3.

Monday the Board of Education also made cuts to the supplies line items, reducing instructional supplies by \$5,000 and office supplies by \$1,000.

They also approved the pre-purchase of roofing supplies and furniture totaling \$25,512. This will be purchased using the expected surplus from this year's budget in an attempt to reduce next year's budget.

The BOE also made an addition to next year's budget. By a vote of 8-2, a .4 athletic director position was added to RHAM middle school. Currently a .6 position has handled both the middle and high schools.

The \$20,000 expenditure would allow one individual to focus strictly on the high school and another on the middle school.

The BOE opted for two part-time positions instead of one full-time position because state

regulations dictate the full-timer would require a special 092 certification. Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski worried that such a person would be difficult to find and costly for the district.

Andover-elected board member Ken Mosher saw a series of his motions shot down Monday night. He proposed a \$2,000 reduction to remove the dance team and unified arts coaching positions; a \$7,600 reduction for discretionary magnet school tuition assistance; and a \$40,000 cut to remove the alternative diploma program at RHAM.

The dance team and unified arts program have been operating on volunteer support for the past several years. RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said it has been tradition to begin a program using volunteers and, if it is successful, include a stipend.

In the current budget, \$418 is allotted for each student who attends a magnet school as a way to defray costs for the parents of these students. That amount totals \$7,600. "It is the parents' responsibility to educate their kids and unfortunately it is the taxpayers' burden to pay for it. I don't understand why we're giving them \$418 just because they're swell," said Mosher obviously frustrated.

The motion was defeated 9-1.

Mosher's motion to cut the alternative di-

ploma program at RHAM was also defeated.

The district is planning on offering an after-school program for students not on track to graduate. The program would be offered Monday-Thursday with each day dedicated to either Math, English, Social Studies or Science.

Board member Maryanne Leichter voiced her support for the program Monday night. "This is an opportunity to connect with kids who might be square pegs trying to fit in a round hole," she explained.

Mosher did not share those sentiments. "This is just a way to coddle another small group of children who have made a choice not to get a diploma through on of the vast options we already offer," he declared.

After his motions failed, Mosher made one final statement. "I propose we add \$18 million to the budget to individualize education for every student," he said sarcastically.

His motion failed to garner a second.

The BOE will hold a public hearing on the budget next Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the RHAM High School auditorium. The board will meet after the public hearing and again on April 23. A final recommended budget must be made on, or before April 23.

The budget district meeting is scheduled for May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

These Big Losers are Actually Big Winners in Portland

by Michael McCoy

A group of 27 people, all linked to Magic Mirror Unisex Salon on Main Street in Portland, have become a little bit lighter...272 lbs. lighter, to be exact.

Late last year, Sonia Johnson, Rosemary Spada, and Dina Taylor, all employees of the salon, along with owner Debbie Carle, decided to band together and try to lose some weight. They decided to pursue their quest in the form of a competition, similar to that of the popular NBC program "The Biggest Loser." They invited friends, family and customers to join in.

The competition began on January 7, with the first weigh-in. Subsequent weigh-ins, which were officially overseen by Bonnie Primmer, followed every Sunday at 2 p.m. inside the salon. The buy-in was \$10, plus an additional \$5 at each weigh-in. The 27 participants were divided into three teams: Blue, Red and Yellow.

The time frame for the contest was not arbitrary. "During the months of January and February, everybody turns into a couch potato," remarked Spada.

The "losers" encouraged each other throughout the event by sharing healthy recipes and exercising together. Many would take group hikes on the weekend. Then of course there was the food (Spada and her daughter Karli both favored angel food cake with strawberries and whipped cream as an alternative to "far less

healthy" confections.)

The crew held their final weigh-in last Sunday, followed by a party/award ceremony at Farrell's Restaurant.

The yellow team won, losing a total 115 lbs. The red and blue teams followed with 91 and 66 lbs. respectively. The individual champion, was Karleen Kapitzke, 40, of Higganum. She ended up 26 lbs. lighter than she was three months earlier.

Kapitzke's cousin, Kurt Vogt, talked her into joining the competition. "I just followed the Weight Watchers plan and exercised daily," said Kapitzke. This included walking two-miles on the treadmill each day.

Kapitzke, who is a patron of Magic Mirror, said, "It was easier than I thought it would be," but when asked what the hardest sacrifice during the 12-week ordeal was, she did not hesitate to say, "Chocolate." Though the winner had tried Weight Watchers before, she had never been as successful as she was this time. Kapitzke plans to keep at it, and continue her daily two-mile walks.

Spada said that the whole group hopes to stay the course and keep each other accountable. In fact, they plan to meet in the fall for a weigh-in, designed to pressure themselves into not putting the weight back on.

The Sunday wrap party was filled with laughter, as well as reminiscences of the past three



Twenty-seven people lost a total of 272 pounds in their very own Biggest Loser contest held this winter. The contest, which opened Jan. 7, ended last week with a weigh-in.

months. Friendships were forged in addition to healthier lifestyles. The party also included the cash prizes. The Yellow Team split \$810, while the Red and Blue teams each split \$405. Kapitzke took home \$135 for her victory, as

well as her fair share from her role on the Yellow Team.

With the probability of a few changes, such as the weekly weigh-in time, the group looks forward to doing it all over again in January.

Portland Police News

3/25 – A 14-year-old male was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of evading responsibility, said Portland police.

4/1 – Dallas M. Bossort, 20, of Room 106, Clark Hill, Wesleyan University, was charged with criminal trespass 3rd degree and criminal attempt to commit larceny 6th degree, said police.

Colchester Police News

4/1—Jonathan D. Noels, 24, of Manchester, was arrested for burglary, criminal mischief and criminal trespassing after allegedly breaking into a house on Cabin Road, police said.

4/2—Police are investigating the theft of \$35 in cash from a vending machine at the Dollar Heaven store on the corner of Wall Street and Old Hartford Road.

4/3—Alan Gaumond, 45, of 47 Route 87, Andover, was arrested on a warrant for burglary and larceny, according to reports.

Hebron Police News

4/2—Thomas Guay, 21, of 45 Bass Lake Rd., was arrested on a warrant for violation of probation, police said.



Arthur Standish Named Parade Grand Marshal in Colchester

by Jim Salemi

World War II-era veteran Arthur “Art” Standish has been selected by the Memorial Day Parade Committee to be Grand Marshal for this year’s event.

Standish, a fourth-generation, lifelong resident of Colchester served as a mechanics instructor in the Army Air Force.

The Memorial Day parade will be held Sunday, May 27, beginning at 11:30 from the middle school on Norwich Avenue.

This year’s parade will be in honor of Sgt. Richard Ford, a rifleman with the elite White Falcons regiment who was killed in a battle outside of Baghdad on Feb. 20. Ford grew up in Colchester.

“I was always proud of my service,” Standish said at his home last Wednesday. “I wouldn’t take a million dollars for the experience and I wouldn’t give two cents for more!”

Standish served for about a year, when his father suffered a heart attack and passed away. A temporary furlough to return to Colchester became permanent when there was no one else to work the family farm.

Standish was stationed for a part of his short military career in Lincoln, NE, then was transferred to Colorado to instruct in arctic fleet maintenance.

He still recalls an incident where a number of planes were parked in Alaska for an extended period of time. Fluids such as oil and grease that flow freely in moderate temperatures turn almost solid in extremely cold weather.

“We set up these huge ducts and heated everything with hot air until we got to a point where we could drain everything and put in fresh oil. What a job that was,” he said.

When Standish was discharged to work the family farm, he had advanced to the rank of corporal. He was slated for promotion to staff sergeant, but left the service before that occurred.

“In order to be an instructor, you’re supposed to be a staff sergeant. They were in such a rush (to train mechanics to maintain the air fleet during the war), so I was in line for promotion. Standish said he went from private straight to corporal, bypassing private first class so he

would be in line to fulfill the criterion to be an instructor.

That may be part of it, but the modest 89-year-old didn’t mention a progress report submitted by his superiors, which was among some photographs and paperwork from his service days. The report showed that he excelled in both mechanics and mechanic instruction.

Standish said he tried to get into flight training to become a pilot after being drafted in 1942.

“I went to the physical and I learned I was color blind. I never knew it, but it explained why my mother got after me for wearing some of the things I did,” he chuckled.

“So, I decided to become a mechanic instead.”

Standish was working at Pratt and Whitney as a machinist when he was drafted. After returning home later in the 1940s, Standish ran the family farm—which has been in his family since 1851—for 19 years. He later opened the “On the Run” service station on Route 16 and another station after that.

He also served as a state representative for one term after being elected in 1956.

On the local level, he served on the Board of Tax Review and as an alternate trial justice when municipalities had local jails.

Standish and his wife Minnette Nelkin, have been married for 64 or 65 years (depending on which one you ask) and have lived at the homestead on the family farm since they were married.

“Oh we’ve been married 64 or 65 years. We’re not sure which. I’m pretty sure it’s 64,” he said.

Minnette, who was on the telephone, was quick to set the record straight.

“There’s no ‘we’re-not-sure’ about it. We’ve been married 65 years, and you’ve never been so lucky,” she said matter-of-factly, before resuming her phone conversation.

Standish’s great-grandfather settled in Colchester in 1851 after moving from Lebanon. The Nelkin family also has deep roots in Colchester, and had a large farm near Lake Hayward.

RHAM Student’s Essay Catches State Legislature’s Attention

by Sarah McCoy

What would you do to change the world?

That was the question recently posed to students in Civics classes across the state by their state senators. Students were encouraged to write their answer in an essay contest sponsored by the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

RHAM High School senior Jessica Adelson had a answer that took her all the way to Hartford after she won the essay contest for the 19th District.

As a result of her effort, the Hebron native won a \$500 scholarship and a chance to present her ideas to the State’s Public Health Committee last month.

“A little intimidating, to say the least,” Adelson said of the experience.

But the 17-year-old didn’t show any signs of intimidation as she asked a room full of politicians to raise the age requirement to purchase cigarettes from 18 to 21. “How can smoking be justified for younger children when drinking isn’t?” Adelson questioned in her essay. “Logically, they are both harmful to a person’s body... However, it is socially accepted that when one turns the golden age of eighteen, he is now old enough to begin the process of getting lung cancer.”

That is something Adelson wants to change. Her grandparents both died from smoking. And, although they know the risks, many of

her friends smoke. This, Adelson believes, is completely preventable.

“As a teenager there is peer pressure to smoke,” she explained. “But, if the smoking age were to be increased to 21, teenagers would have a lot less accessibility.”

Adelson argued that most 15-17 year olds know an 18-year-old. This is there “in” to the tobacco world. But that same age bracket probably wouldn’t have 21-year-old friends.

State Senator Edith Prague, who first came to Adelson’s class to introduce the essay contest, agrees. “It is a great idea,” she said. “Maybe by the time the individual is 21 they would realize how detrimental [smoking] is to your health.”

Adelson’s idea has since been turned into a bill. Number 661 is currently on the table of the Public Health Committee. While the future of the bill has yet to be determined, Adelson has a lot to be proud of.

“The whole point of the contest is to encourage young people to think about state government, to expose them to the process, and to get them involved,” Prague said.

Jessica Adelson has done that. “Just the other day I was listening to the radio and the DJs were discussing my idea,” she said. “I heard it and thought to myself, ‘Wow, look at the power that a 17 year old can have.’”

Obituaries

East Hampton

Carol Stark

Carole Stark of East Hampton passed away on Wednesday, March 21, in Tucson, AZ after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

Carole was born and raised in Burlington, VT, graduating from Burlington High School in 1962. She worked most of her professional life as a legal secretary at various law firms in the Burlington area. Her most coveted job was working for the legal department at Green Mountain Power which she left when she moved to Arizona.

Later in life, her time was spent between Arizona and Connecticut. She was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post 5095 East Hampton.

Carole and her husband Mike traveled extensively, making many friends along the way and lasting memories. Their most recent trips were to Spain and Savannah. She enjoyed music, movies, I Love Lucy and cherished any time that she spent with her grandchildren. Carole could always be seen with a book or crossword puzzle in hand. Carole had a genuine love of life and was always there to lend a hand or comfort someone, most importantly, her family.

Carole is survived by her husband Mike Stark; sons Christopher Adams and his wife Nicole of South Burlington, VT and Derek Adams and his wife Jen of Vershire, VT; two beloved grandchildren, Katherine and Jakob; stepsons John Stark and his wife Lisa and Jason Stark. Carole is also survived by her siblings, Robert Lavoie, Barbara Hill, Patricia Dominski, James Lavoie and Elizabeth Crosby and many nieces, nephews and wonderful friends. She was predeceased by her parents Leo and Violet Lavoie; great nephew Ryan Veters; brother-in-law Lyman “Chick” Hill and dear friend Eleanor Murphy.

Portland

Valentine Waz

Valentine Waz, 90, of Barry Ave., Portland, died Sunday, April 1, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born in Moodus, the son of the late John and Mary (Czapiga) Waz.

A veteran of World War II, he served with the U.S. Army Air Corps. Prior to his retirement, he was employed with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

He is survived by a sister, Cecilia Waz of Durham; also several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two sisters, Catherine Waz and Roberta Ricca; and a brother, Edmund Waz.

Funeral services were held Thursday at the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial, with military honors, was in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Portland. Calling hours were at the funeral home Thursday afternoon. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary’s Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06457.

East Hampton

Thomas M. Garrett Jr.

Tom Garrett, father of Rianne Lee Miner-Garrett, passed away on March 28, 2007, at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain.

Tom lived a valiant life, well-respected and well loved. Peace be with him.

Tom was a brave man who faced the daily challenges and battles of quadriplegia, suffering critical injury sustained in a car crash 23 years ago. His daughter then, was only 3 years old.

Tom’s life, Rianne’s life, and the lives of her family, have all been hurt and devastated by the selfishness of a drunken driver.

Kind words and condolences can be forwarded to his daughter, at 3 Bevin Avenue, East Hampton, Ct. 06424.

Tom is survived by his daughter Rianne Lee, and her family, Marla and Leah Miner and Craig and Kat Robinson, his sisters Teri and Vicky, his brother Nick and his dad, Tom Sr.

Tom is predeceased by his loving mother Joan and his youngest brother Rod.

A donation will be made in his memory to a local D.A.R.E. chapter. Services will be private.

East Hampton

Wayne R. Skinner

Wayne R. Skinner, 60, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Judith “Judie” (Salonia) Skinner, died suddenly Tuesday, April 3, at his home. Born Dec. 30, 1946, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Fred and Florence (Nichols) Skinner.

Wayne had lived his whole life in East Hampton. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served his country during the Vietnam War. At the time of his death he was employed as a Buyer for the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics.

Besides his wife Judie, Wayne is survived by his three sons, Michael Skinner of East Hampton, Mark Skinner and his wife Nina of Glastonbury, and Todd Skinner of San Francisco; two sisters, Doreen Benoit and her husband Jerry of Florida, and Donna Mitchell of East Haddam; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Lou and Bob Drewry. He also leaves his only granddaughter Sarah, who was the love of his life; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held this Saturday, April 7, at 10 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Doug Ryniewicz, Associate Pastor of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Glastonbury, officiating. Burial will follow with full military honors in the Connecticut State Veterans’ Cemetery in Middletown. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home on Friday, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, PO Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.