

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem

Volume 32, Number 20

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 27, 2007



From left, Ana, Jonmichael, Michael, Adam, Kate, Rose, and Nicholas Saxton are getting ready to make another addition to their family. The Marlborough residents are planning to travel to Russia this fall to adopt at least one more child. This would give Rose and Michael three biological children and three adopted children.

Marlborough Family Continues to Grow

by Sarah McCoy

The Saxtons are expanding their family. Again.

Last year the *Rivereast* reported on the Marlborough family that decided to adopt two children from Russia. And now the Saxtons are at it again. They plan to travel back to Russia this fall to adopt at least one more child.

The Saxton bunch is currently up to seven members. Michael and Rose have three biological children: Nicholas, 16; Kate, 13; and Adam, 11. But in 2004, things started to change.

That year, Michael heard on the radio about the need of parents for orphans, specifically in Russia. He broached the subject with his wife, and before they knew it the couple was knee-deep in paperwork, getting ready for their first adoption.

Jonmichael, now 14, came to live with the family in January 2006. But, by the time the Saxtons picked him up in Russia, they had already set in motion the process of adopting their second child, Anastasia. The Saxtons officially adopted her last summer.

Interestingly, when they were at Jonmichael's orphanage in Russia, Michael and Rose met Katya, 13, and Dennis, 16, two siblings who also lived at the orphanage. The two had another sister, Ana, who was at an orphanage 100 miles away. This girl turned out to be the

same child the Saxtons had agreed to adopt months prior.

This coincidence led the Saxtons to a realization. "We knew the Lord was calling us to adopt more children," said Michael.

But for Ana, now 12, the transition to life in America hasn't always been an easy one. There were feelings of anger, hostility and mistrust, Michael said. Putting her to bed became a nightly struggle, and having an honest discussion has been even more of one.

Ana had never had a family until now. Her father died when she was young, and her mother was deemed an unfit parent by the government. "It was too much, at times," Michael recalled. "She was overwhelmed, and sometimes, we were too."

In March, time came to adopt Katya and Dennis, the two siblings the Saxtons had met earlier. But they had a decision to make. They could go ahead and bring two more children into a family environment that had become unstable, or they could forego the court date and pray for the Russian government to grant them another date later.

After much deliberation the family sent a letter to Russia explaining the situation and asking for a later date. "At that point, we were told it was either now or never," Rose said. "We had faith that if this was what God truly wanted for us, that he'd

open doors later on, but, at the same time, all the signs we were getting from Russia were that this would be our only chance."

But the Saxtons asked for the delay anyway – and soon, positive changes began taking place.

First, Ana showed signs of trusting her new family. Rose and Michael said they noticed a change on Easter Sunday. After a particularly surly morning, Ana sat in the Colchester Bible Baptist Church with a scowl. But then the pastor at church asked anyone who felt led to commit him or herself to the Lord to come to the front of the church, Michael said.

Without any prompting, Michael said, Ana stood, walked up to the front, prayed, and returned to her seat with a smile on her face. "That was her new beginning," Michael said.

Since then, Ana has flourished. She said loves playing with her new siblings and the family dog, and riding horses, things she never could do in Russia. Ana likes school, especially math. And her face lights up at the mention of pizza.

So things at the Saxton house had settled down and the family had begun to gel. Then, at the end of June, just as Michael and Rose were getting used to this calmer family life, an e-mail came. The Russian government had sent notice that the

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Front Page

Saxtons’ request for an extension to adopt Dennis and Katya had been granted.

“What a feeling,” Rose said. “Now was the time where we could handle adding more to our family. This time it just feels right.”

This month has been a busy one for Rose, as she attempts to gather all the necessary forms and fill out all of the paperwork for the coming adoption. If all goes according to schedule the Saxtons will be in Russia late this fall to bring Katya home.

“There are no guarantees when it comes to adoption in Russia,” Rose added. “We could get there and the government could deny our request. That’s a reality that we have to be prepared for.”

And the couple might come back with only Katya, and Dennis has opted out of the adoption. But the Saxtons said they will still go through the necessary steps in case he changes his mind.

But whether they come home with one child or two, the Saxtons are still looking for financial support. The adoption process costs more than \$30,000, and the Saxtons said they need \$10,000 before their fall trip. To aid the family, The Foundation for Orphans has announced they will match up to \$1,000 in donations. Those interested in helping can mail donations to P.O. Box 222, East Glastonbury, CT 06025. Donations can also be made online at foundationfororphans.org.

Motorist Sentenced to Six Years in Jail Following East Hampton Fatal Accident

A Portland woman is currently behind bars, having been sentenced last week to six years in jail in connection with a 2006 car accident that claimed the life of an East Hampton mother.

Jennifer Mazzotta, 20, was sentenced July 17 to 10 years in prison, suspended after six years, and three years’ probation, according to Middletown Superior Court. The sentence stemmed from an Aug. 12, 2006, accident on Route 151 in Middle Haddam which resulted in the death of Mary Heidel, 40, of East Hampton.

Police have said Mazzotta, then 19, was drinking blackberry brandy and hard lemonade she had bought at a Middletown package store about an hour before her Chevrolet Blazer swerved across the center line on a curve on Route 151, striking another Blazer operated by Heidel.

Police said Heidel died at the scene, while Mazzotta and three teenaged passengers, also from Portland, were all severely injured. Mazzotta suffered two broken legs, her 15-year-old brother Joseph suffered internal injuries which required the removal of his spleen and segments of his intestines. Kathryn Visone, 15, broke her left wrist and left leg, and Kyle Day, 14, injured his spine and suf-

fered fractured ribs.

Mazzotta was charged last December with second-degree manslaughter, three counts of second-degree assault, driving while intoxicated and failure to drive right. In May, she pled no contest to those charges, and was sentenced last week.

According to the Middletown Superior Court clerk’s office, Mazzotta is serving her jail term at the York Correctional Institution in Niantic.

“This is probably the strictest sentence possible in today’s society,” Heidel’s husband, Tom Heidel, said this week.

Still, he added, “whatever happens to [Mazzotta] cannot compare with what happened to my wife Mary and my family.”

Tom Heidel described his wife as a “full-time homemaker, a full-time mother and absolutely devoted to her family.” Heidel’s son Ryan, 15, will be a sophomore at East Hampton High School in the fall, while daughter Nora, 13, will be entering her freshman year at EHHS.

It’s been nearly a year since that fatal accident that changed their lives and “it’s rough,” Tom Heidel said. “It’s a very, very rough period for my family, and we’re all doing the best that we can.”



Skin Deep Beauty and Health Center recently opened in Colchester. Pictured, clockwise from top left, are owner Adrienne Davis, hypnotist Evelyn Kennedy, dietitian Amy King, esthetician/makeup artist Sarah Hayn and yoga teacher Erin McGuire-Lytle.

Beauty and Health Center Opens in Colchester

A new business in town offers a host of opportunities for people to, the owner says, “improve their health and well-being.”

Skin Deep Beauty and Health Center recently opened at 79C Norwich Ave. It offers skin and body treatments, energy healing sessions, massage, hypnotherapy, yoga, nutrition consulting, and other treatments.

“We want to offer our clients integrated options for how they can improve their health and well-being,” owner Adrienne Davis said, “whether it’s feeling more beautiful by getting a facial, or making lifestyle changes through nutrition.”

One of the offerings of the new business is an oxygen bar, where clients choose an aroma to infuse into 90 percent oxygen.

“People may not realize how important oxygen is to their bodies,” Davis said. “It boosts immune system, aids in circulation, helps fight anaerobic infectious bacteria, most of all it helps fine lines and wrinkles.”

There are also several classes and workshops offered at Skin Deep. These include: Yoga, Nutrition, Reiki, Hypnosis, Natural Soap Making, Meditation and Skin Care. Call the center at

537-5344 to find out dates and times for these classes.

Every Thursday, Davis donates the sales of five percent of sales of each hour treatment to a Colchester charity. Davis, who has previously raised funds for Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, United Way and other nonprofit charities, said she would like to incorporate her creative ideas on promoting community service, to the Colchester area, as she opens her business.

In addition to Davis, who is a certified esthetician and makeup artist, Skin Deep’s team of beauty and wellness professionals includes: Gail Popoff, a retired registered nurse who is also a licensed massage therapist and certified esthetician; Erin McGuire-Lytle, who teaches yoga; Amy King, a registered dietitian and state-certified dietitian-nutritionist; Monica Johansson, who studied in Stockholm and has experience in various spa treatments; Melissa Ryan, a Reiki Master; Evelyn Kennedy, a certified hypnotist; and Sarah Hayn, a certified esthetician and makeup artist.

Skin Deep is open Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call 537-5344.

Marlborough Republicans Endorse Hjulstrom

Marlborough Republicans geared up for the November elections Monday night (July 23), as they endorsed Ken Hjulstrom for First Selectman at their annual caucus.

Sixty Republicans attended the caucus. Moderator Gordon Isleib presented the slate of nominees, which had been endorsed by the Republican Town Committee (RTC). There were no further nominations made at the caucus, so the entire slate was accepted by simple voice vote without dissent.

Hjulstrom has been active in politics since moving to town in 1986. He served on the Marlborough Board of Education for five years. He has been a member of the RTC since 1998, and is currently its chair. Hjulstrom also serves as secretary of the Marlborough Lions Club and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Florence Lord Senior Housing Center.

Joining Hjulstrom on the Republican ticket is Riva Clark, who is campaigning for the Board of Selectmen. Clark, who is also running for the Board of Assessment Appeals, has worked on the Bicentennial Commission and is also a board clerk for several town boards and commissions. She has also worked with the Junior Women’s Club and the Marlborough Arts Cen-

ter & Museum.

Other Republican candidates approved at the caucus were: Cathi Gaudinski and Mike Quincy the for Board of Finance; Joe Farrell, Louise Concodello, and Ruth Kelly for the Board of Education; Bob Gaudinski and John Larensen for the Planning Board; Kevin Asklar for the Zoning Board; Chris Lawson and Bob Jackson for the Zoning Board of Appeals; Al Covino and Mike Turner for the RHAM Board of Education; Wendy Nichols for Planning Board Alternate; and Jack Murray for Zoning Board Alternate.

Three other Republicans are running for reelection: Treasurer Robert Hannon, Town Clerk Nancy Dickson and Tax Collector Barbara Murray.

Hjulstrom said the large turnout of Republican electors at the caucus is a good indication that the party is strong, and that interest is high in “moving the community forward.”

The next regular RTC meeting is on Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the elementary school library. All Republicans are invited to get involved in the campaign. For more information, visit MarlboroughRepublicans.com.



The Marlborough Republicans endorsed slate was approved at a July 23 caucus. Pictured from left are: Ken Hjulstrom (First Selectman candidate), Riva Clark (Board of Selectmen candidate) and incumbent candidates Nancy Dickson (Town Clerk), Bob Hannon (Town Treasurer) and Barbara Murray (Tax Collector).

Portland Volunteer Charged with Giving Beer to Teens

by Michael McCoy

A Main Street woman who volunteered with the town’s Parks and Recreation Department was arrested last week on charges of providing beer to local teenagers, according to Portland Police.

Jean Graham, 35, of 576 Main St., was arrested July 15 and charged with risk of injury to a minor and delivery of alcohol to a minor, police said.

Graham had been volunteering as a supervisor at Parks and Rec.’s new skate park, in front of Brownstone Intermediate School. In June, the park was closed for safety issues, after a light fixture fell, and it hasn’t been reopened to the public.

However, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said that she began receiving calls early this month from parents and children claiming that Graham had been providing teens alcohol and was also selling them marijuana. Graham also had allegedly let kids drink alcohol at her residence.

Bransfield said she passed this information onto police, who began an investigation.

But around midnight on July 15, police said, Officer James Capello was on routine patrol on Cox Road, heading to the state forest, when he noticed a stationary car with several people around it, who told the officer they were looking for someone who was to be attending a party at a nearby cottage in the area.

Capello, police said, went to the cottage and, while many there fled the scene, he found several underage teens and a large amount of alcohol.

Some of the minors who remained at the cottage told Capello that Graham had supplied the alcohol, police said, and that she would be returning in a while. The cottage did not belong to Graham but rather, Sgt. James Kelly said, to a local family that had allowed teens to visit. But, Kelly said, the family was not present at the time of the party and “we believe they had absolutely no idea this was going on.”

Police said Capello arrested three of the teens, who were 15 and 16 years old, and charged them with possession of alcohol by a minor. One of the 16-year-olds was also charged with possession of marijuana and drug para-

phernalia, police said.

Once Graham returned to the cottage, police said, Capello arrested her for delivery of alcohol to a minor and risk of injury to a minor. While there had been allegations of Graham selling marijuana to minors, there was not enough evidence to charge her, police said. Graham admitted, though, to providing alcohol to minors on one other occasion, police said.

Capello discovered the remains of two 30-packs of Busch and one 30-pack of Bud Light at the cottage, police said, adding that Graham admitted to supplying the Busch, but not the Bud Light.

According to Kelly, teens would give Graham money to go buy the beer, and would sometimes throw in “a little extra” for her.

Kelly said Graham indicated to police that her motive was basically to make money, and she showed little remorse for her actions, saying, “Kids are going to [drink] anyway.” Graham added, according to Kelly, that it was better for teens to drink with her present than to do it unsupervised.

“That’s obviously concerning,” Kelly said, who added that alcohol consumption by minors is already a dangerous issue without adding the component of adults helping them acquire it. But, he said “it’s not very common to see this.”

Kelly credited his colleague, saying, “Officer Capello made a real difference with the underage drinking. I commend him on that.”

Bransfield said, “I give a lot of credit to our police department for making the arrests and protecting the youth.” She also thanked the families who notified her office of this offense and encouraged children to notify her office or the police department when they witness something they think might be wrong or dangerous.

But, Bransfield said, “I’m very disappointed that an adult was responsible for this. That was an egregious situation.” She added that “we are taking the necessary precautions and revising our policy for volunteers.”

Graham no longer volunteers for the town, police said, and added that she was released on a \$250 non-surety bond and is due in court Tuesday, July 31.



The Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps and the Swiss Renegades played a concert together at Blish Park Wednesday night.

Upcoming Concert Has International Flavor

by Sarah McCoy

It seems music really is the international language, at least for the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps and the Swiss Renegades. The Americans hosted the Europeans earlier this week, when the two corps played together at Blish Park.

Two years ago the Marlborough Corps traveled to Europe to meet other musicians. They ended their trip with a concert in Basel, Switzerland, where Rick Crowley, the director of the corps, met piccolo player Michele Aberlin. Aberlin, Crowley said, was looking to start a musical corps of her own.

“She wanted to start a Junior Corps in Switzerland, something that had never been done before,” said Crowley.

This meeting turned into the start of a friendship.

While in Switzerland, the Marlborough Corps taught the Swiss musicians how to play the fife and the American style of drumming. In exchange, the Swiss taught the Marlborough corps about the piccolo and their style of drumming. By the end of their time together, the two corps were able to play “Battle Hymn of the Republic” together.

Since then the Swiss Renegades have grown, both in number and in ability. “In 18 months these musicians have learned a lot,” Aberlin said. “It has been amazing to watch. We are very thankful to the Marlborough corps for teaching us.”

Aberlin and her musicians came to America last week; for most of the group, it was their first time in this country. The Renegades attended Fife and Drum camp in Deep River, and this week reunited with the Marlborough corps. Together, the two groups have camped out at Markham Meadows in East Hampton, playing together first in Ivoryton and then on Wednesday at Blish Park. This weekend, the two groups will travel to Vermont to play in a parade.

“Music really is an international language,” Marlborough member Amanda Burns, who plays the fife, said. “Not all of the Renegades speak English, but we have had a great time together communicating through gestures and when we play.”

And it appears the corps have formed a bond. Each musician wears a pin from the other’s country. When they’re not practicing, the groups have held pool parties and cook-outs.

“Our musicians have really enjoyed the trip. Everyone we have met has been very friendly and hospitable,” Aberlin said. “It has been a wonderful experience getting to see America and really getting to know Americans.”

In honor of their concert Wednesday, First Selectman Bill Black and selectman Joe LaBella proclaimed July 26, 2007, to be “Swiss Renegade Day” in town. State Rep. Pam Sawyer also attended the concert and presented the corps with a citation from the state, honoring the two groups.

Hebron Republicans Endorse Candidates

The Republican Town Committee (RTC) caucused last week and assembled their slate of candidates for the November municipal elections. The ticket includes a mix of familiar faces and new names.

The caucus was held Wednesday, July 18, at the Douglas Library. Fourteen people were nominated for various offices, including the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance, both the Hebron and RHAM school boards, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Assessment Appeals.

For the Board of Selectmen, the Republicans nominated Gayle Mulligan and Andrew Bordick. Mulligan has been a member of Zoning Board of Appeals since 2005 and is Deputy Republican Registrar of Voters. Mulligan, who has two children in elementary school, also is director of Hebron Soccer Association, and has volunteered in the schools and with the PTA.

Bordick is a newcomer to Hebron politics. A former Lieutenant Commander and F-14 fighter pilot in the U. S. Navy, Bordick now works as a quality control manager at Pratt & Whitney. He also has two children in elementary school.

Mike Hazel, currently serving on Board of Finance as an appointed member, was nomi-

nated for a full four-year term. Also seeking a seat on the Board of Finance is Dan Larson. Larson, a longtime resident who served as chief of the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, is an electrical contractor with a business in Hebron.

Mark Allaben, former chairman of the local Board of Education, was nominated for another term, as was Brian O’Reilly, another newcomer to Hebron politics. Endorsed for the RHAM Board of Education were Thomas Tremont, who currently serves as an appointed member of the school board, and Brenda Casoni, who has two children in the RHAM system.

Lewis Hinman was endorsed for a second term on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Other Republicans endorsed last Wednesday were Clara O’Brien, who is seeking re-election to the Board of Assessment Appeals, and newcomers Jon Lesisko, who is running for Zoning Board of Appeals, and Robert Davis, who is running for PZC alternate.

“We have a great slate of people who collectively bring decades of experience, both in the professional world and in terms of volunteer service, to our Hebron community,” caucus chairwoman Donna McCalla said. “Our candidates are committed to open, transparent government to residents.”

Portland Republicans Endorse Candidates for Fall Election

The candidates endorsed this week by the Republican Town Committee (RTC) all have, in the words of RTC chairwoman Cindy Varrichio, “a desire to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Portland.”

The Republicans caucused Monday, July 23, to endorse candidates for the municipal elections being held Nov. 6.

The slate of candidates does not include a nominee for First Selectman; Varrichio said that for many experienced businesspeople, the First Selectman’s salary can represent a big cut in pay. Still, she said, she was disappointed the Republicans weren’t able to put forward a candidate, and added, “We’re hopeful and anticipating we’ll have a candidate in two years.”

Candidates endorsed Monday were: for the Board of Selectmen, Carl Chudzik and Mitch Kogut and incumbents Scott Adamsons and John Anderson; for the Board of Education, Brenna Kosicki and incumbents Mark Bucheri and Christopher Bongo; for Town Clerk, Bernadette Dillon; for the Board of Assessment

Appeals, Peter Castelli and Michael Kirchberger; and for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Kurt Peterson.

Anderson said the candidates “are talented and dedicated with a wealth of experience and diversity.” Campaign Chairman Richard Carella agreed, adding that “the candidates are an exceptional group of people who collectively possess a wonderful source of new and inspirational ideas that Portland needs.”

Varricchio said the Republicans are “fortunate” to have a mix of familiar faces and incumbents, of lifelong Portland residents seeking their first elective office as well as newcomers to the community with the desire to become involved.

Varricchio added that “the Republicans are looking forward to launching an honorable, exciting and positive campaign.”

For more information about the Portland Republicans, contact Varricchio at 342-0184 or cindyvarricchio@gmail.com.

Hebron Residents Experts at Giving Blood

by Sarah McCoy

Robert Warner and Lura Fellows Butt have lost a lot of blood over the years. Forty gallons worth, to be exact. But, don't worry, it's all been for a good cause.

The American Red Cross recently recognized the two Hebron residents for each donating 20 gallons of blood. This works out to be 160 donations for each of them.

For Warner, the decision to donate came after he graduated from RHAM High School around 40 years ago. "I worked at Pratt [& Whitney] then," he said. "They had a policy that employees could donate blood while they were still on the clock. So I figured, why not?"

Since then the routine has become quite a habit for Warner. He said he donates every 56 days, the minimum allowed by the Red Cross. "I have always known I was helping by giving blood, but it gives me a good feeling, too," he said.

When he started, Warner said he never dreamt of giving so much; he's just pleased to be able to do it. "The Lord gave me a good body to do it, I'm happy to use it to help," he said.

According to the Red Cross, only five percent of the population gives blood, even though 60 percent are able to. The organization said that anyone who is over 17 years old and weighs more than 110 pounds is eligible. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE for more information.

When Warner went to the Russell Mercier Senior Center to give blood last Wednesday, July 18, representatives from the Red Cross were present to award the Hebron native a pin to commemorate the occasion. Much to their surprise, though, they found another Hebron resident, Lura Fellows Butt, who's also donated

20 gallons of blood over the years.

Warner and Butt, who attended high school together, frequently bump into one another at blood drives. Still, Butt's 20-gallon achievement had slipped under the radar of the Red Cross. But the organization still honored her last week, and both Butt and Warner wound up receiving congratulatory pins.

Butt began giving blood when she was 20 years old. At the time her landlady was responsible for rounding up donors.

"She said to me, 'If you're willing to donate, I'll drive you there and stay by your side,'" Butt recalled. "I went and have been going ever since."

Like Warner, Butt said she makes a point to give blood every 56 days.

For Butt, giving blood is a very personal act. When she was 24, she needed a blood transfusion after giving birth to her third child.

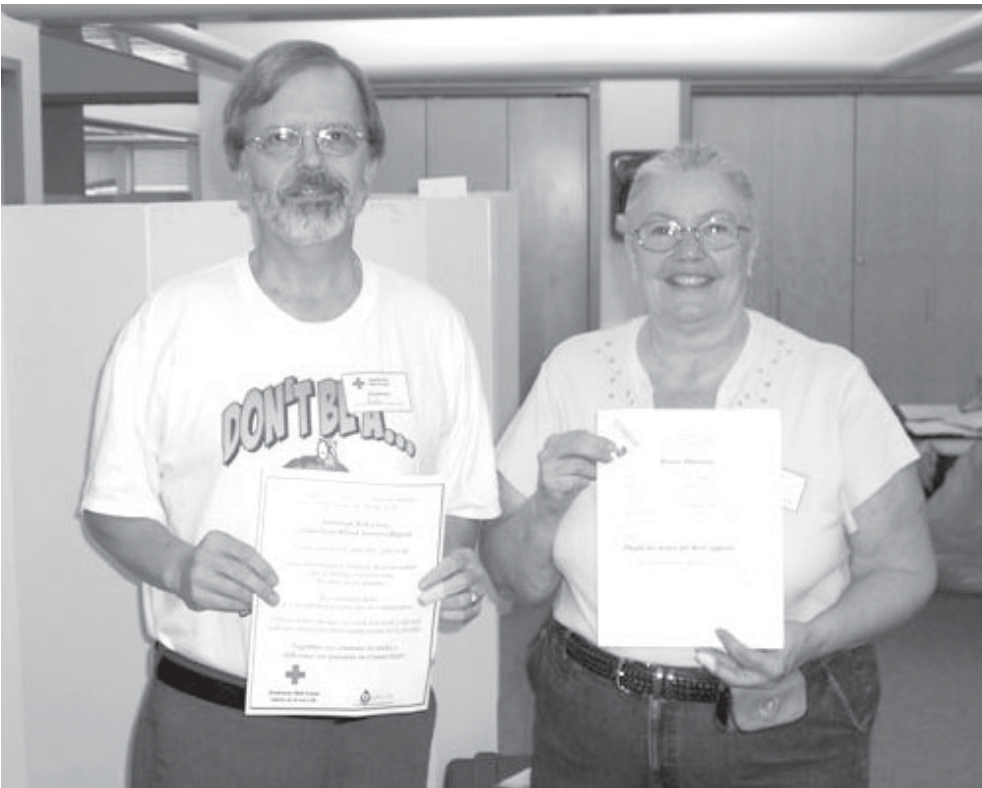
"Right then, giving blood became more significant," she said. "I do it because I am grateful for to opportunity to raise my children."

Even though they have reached the 20-gallon mark, neither Warner nor Butt plan on stopping any time soon. "I plan to give until they tell me, 'I'm sorry, you're just too old,'" said Butt.

In the meantime, both said they hope they can encourage others to follow their lead and start donating. "People tell me all the time that they are afraid it will hurt," Warner said. "It hurts less than a bee sting and does a whole lot of good for a lot of people."

The Red Cross said one pint of blood can save as many as three lives, and the organization estimated that, between them, Warner and Butt have helped as many as 960 patients.

"I hear people say that they don't have the



Robert Warner, left, and Lura Fellows Butt received recognition from the American Red Cross last week. The two Hebron residents have each given 20 gallons of blood.

time. They're full of bologna," said Butt. "Once you realize there are other people who need it, you make the time."

The Connecticut Red Cross does not have official records of how many individuals have reached the 20-gallon donation mark. But Elaine St. Peter, Connecticut corporate affairs

specialist for the American Red Cross, said the achievement is "rare" and "a cause for celebration."

The next blood drive in Hebron will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St. (Route 316), on Friday, Aug. 10.

Colchester Republicans Endorse Giles, But Morgan Plans to Primary

by Jim Salemi

The Republican Town Committee (RTC) this week overwhelmingly endorsed Diana Giles as its nominee for First Selectman – but that doesn't mean rival Greg Morgan is going away.

Giles received 113 votes at a Monday (July 23) caucus, compared to Morgan's 33.

But Morgan remained upbeat after the defeat, and has begun collecting signatures for a chance to run in a September primary. He needs to collect 90 names to get a spot on the ballot.

"I am running for First Selectman because I love this town," Giles said during her acceptance speech. "Republicans have had difficult times. We had a popular incumbent for 15 years. She is gone now. We know what the issues are and we can do something about it. We want it to be affordable for everyone who lives here. People are saying 'enough' to ever-increasing taxes because of costs. It's more than time to do something about business growth."

Morgan, meanwhile, said the number of votes he garnered Monday were significant, as he has only been campaigning for a matter of weeks, while Giles has been at it for months.

"Although I didn't win the caucus, I am thrilled by the amount of support I did receive," Morgan said. "After only a few short weeks of campaigning, I received approximately 30 percent of the vote against the sitting party chairman. That's a great showing and I am prepared to move on to the primary knowing that our support will only increase."

"Maybe five percent of registered Republi-

cans were here tonight," he added. "I'm looking to the other 95 percent."

More than 150 town Republicans packed the hall at the Polish Club for Monday's caucus, the largest turnout for a Republican caucus in recent memory. Following nominations and selection for the remainder of the slate for the November election, party members voted for the first selectman nominees by paper ballot.

Giles was nominated by former selectman John McHugh.

"Diana is a lifelong resident and she knows the town," McHugh said. "She has served on the Board of Selectmen, the Sewer and Water Commission, the Historic Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and served as the chair of the Republican Town Committee. ... She is contentious and dedicated and she has demonstrated this time and time again."

But not everything Monday went smoothly. Republican Greg Schuster, who supports Morgan, objected to Giles' nomination and asked the newly-elected RTC committee chairman, Brenden Healy, to declare it out of order.

Schuster cited state party rules, which govern town committee procedures, and state that candidates for office cannot be presiding officers on a town committee.

Morgan has also filed a formal appeal with state party headquarters.

Giles called this appeal "a cute parliamentary trick."

"To file an appeal is not something that

equates to leadership in my book," she said.

Morgan responded to this by saying, "Maybe it's a cute parliamentary trick, but it's actually asking the town chair and leader of the Republican Town Committee to abide by the rules. We warned them not to, and they chose to go on. If that's leadership, then my definition of leadership must be a bit rusty. Leadership means following the rules."

Morgan said Giles held the office of temporary chairman, after handing off the position of chairman, which she held going into the caucus, to Healy.

"The temporary and permanent chairs were candidates" at the caucus, he said. (Healy was also nominated by the RTC for treasurer.)

But, at the caucus, after Schuster's point of order, Healy ruled that the chairman of the RTC, Giles, automatically becomes temporary chairman.

"She opened the caucus and turned it over," Healy said. "In my opinion, proper nominating procedure was followed."

Following his objection, Schuster then nominated Morgan as candidate for First Selectman.

"For the first time in over a decade, we have an open seat for First Selectman," Schuster said. "We are fortunate that Stan Soby stepped up and served and he should be commended for that."

Following applause, Schuster continued, "Now at stake is who will lead the town. I have given this a lot of careful thought. My conclu-

sion is that Colchester needs a fresh face. I'm tired of being the permanent minority party. I'm tired of failed referendums. I'm tired of losing elections. Greg has the qualifications and experience."

Schuster pointed to Morgan's distinguished military career of 23 years, which included two combat tours of Vietnam and 25 decorations including two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star.

Morgan later worked in management for the nuclear power industry and has volunteered for a number of community initiatives over the years. While living in Massachusetts, he made a bid for the U.S. Congress in 1998. (It was erroneously reported in a previous *Rivereast* that Morgan ran for the Massachusetts state legislature.)

Giles has worked as a political consultant and served as executive director of the Jefferson County Republican Party in Kentucky. She has also worked in advertising and in retail management and accounting.

Also at Monday's caucus, Soby, Schuster and Greg Cordova were endorsed to run for the Board of Selectmen. (There are two Republican seats open on that board.)

Former Board of Education member Bob Wilson was endorsed for another term on that board, along with candidate Jean Walsh. Healy was nominated for treasurer and James Grady for tax collector, while Ihor Rudko and Dave Anderson were endorsed for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Third Strike for Colchester Town Budget

by Jim Salemi

The proposed 2007-08 town budget got shot down at referendum for a third time this week – and by a larger margin than before.

The proposed \$47.3 million spending plan was defeated 1,562-1,346. That’s a difference of 216, or more than triple the margin of the June 19 referendum, when a \$47.4 million budget got rejected by a 1,387-1,317 vote.

This series of Colchester budget defeats began May 15, when a proposed \$48 million spending plan was defeated by a vote of 1,707-848.

The increased ratio of ‘no’ votes from the June 19 vote, despite the presented budget figure actually decreasing, may seem unusual. But, Board of Finance chairman Bruce Hayn theorized, “Apparently people got their tax bills.”

The town recently underwent a revaluation, and a portion of property owners, especially those who own existing homes, saw their assessments increase, while commercial value actually decreased.

Including absentee ballots, 2,908 of the town’s 9,091 eligible voters (including property owners who do not live in town) cast ballots Tuesday, for a turnout rate of 32 percent.

Hayn said he felt it was obvious a good portion of residents came out in response to a higher tax assessment following the revaluation and receipt of their tax bills, but he added it was still unclear how much more taxpayers want taken out of the budget.

“In the past, we could get a pretty good read,” he said. “The only difference this time, we sent out tax bills. Was it voted down because people want a zero-mill increase, or their individual bills reduced by \$500, like we heard at the last town meeting?”

“We don’t know what the taxpayers want,” he added.

The budget presented Tuesday was \$216,295 less than the previous presented budget, but still would have been a 3.1 percent increase over the 2006-07 budget. This would have resulted in a mill rate increase of .31 mills, putting the taxation rate at 23.31 mills.

Board of Finance member Ron Goldstein said an additional \$373,500 would have to be cut from the budget in order to bring it in at a zero-mill increase.

Hayn said he’ll read responses left by voters in a suggestion box at the polls to try to gauge voter sentiment.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle retreated to her office after the vote was tallied, to e-mail school personnel of the outcome.

Loiselle said the Board of Education and school administration will “wait on the Board of Finance” for direction.

Loiselle said she’s already had to pass over a Biology teacher the school system was poised to hire.

“We were ready to offer a contract to a very good teacher from Hartford who wanted to come work for us,” she said. “We can’t do that now. This has certainly impacted our ability to hire the very best teachers.”

Loiselle said she has yet to order supplies for next year’s session because she is waiting for funding.

It is still unclear if it is even possible to cut the school board budget further, according to Goldstein, who also serves as liaison to the Board of Education, since the entire school budget increase is covered by state Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants for schools.

“ECS has to be used for education,” Goldstein said. “The town could face penalties and it risks future funding if state guidelines are not adhered to.”



Mike Belanger, left, and Luke Crawford stand inside a new shop, LB Sea Marine, which opened in May. Together, the two have worked on everything from jet skis to 60-foot boats.

New Marina Offers Dockside Service in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

Though he’s a Nutmegger now, Luke Crawford, 25, grew up in Florida, and, as a kid, “was always on the lakes with my grandparents.”

Crawford, who moved to East Hampton a year ago, has found a way to parlay that nautical history into a career.

Crawford is the owner of LB Sea Marine. Located at 4 North Main St., across the street from Liberty Bank, the business offers various boating services ranging from basic oil changes to full engine replacements, including outdrive services, outboard repair, fiberglass and body repair, electronics and painting.

Crawford began working at marinas when he was 15, and continued this work after moving with his family to Old Saybrook in 2000.

In early 2004, Crawford started up his own business, LB Sea Marine. While working at other marinas, he said, he saw that dealerships wouldn’t perform maintenance work on a boat once its warranty expired. This forced owners of older boats, as well as those who had bought used boats, to find other means to repair their vessels.

Seeing a need, Crawford decided to start up his own business, providing maintenance services to these older boats.

When Crawford started his business, it didn’t have an actual office; he operated out of a van, doing on-site work. A year ago, Crawford and his wife Michelle, who works for Pratt & Whitney, moved to East Hampton. It wasn’t long before Luke decided there was a need in the area for a service marina. He said most people in town need to travel to South Windsor, or even to the shoreline, to get boat work done.

In May, Crawford opened his East Hampton business. He works with friend Mike Belanger of Lebanon, who joined Crawford’s operation in spring 2006.

Crawford said he plans to eventually run a full marina. While he finally has his own shop, there is no area for him to actually store boats in the water.

“We joke that we’re a full-service marina without the marina,” he laughed.

Still, Crawford said LB Sea Marine has been quite busy, and he made special mention of Dennis Griswold’s hospitality. Griswold owns the East Hampton marina The Happy Paddler,

but his business does not perform service on boats so, Crawford said, Griswold has been referring his customers to LB Sea Marine.

“We’ve got to say thanks to Dennis and everybody,” Crawford said.

While customers can bring their boats, jet skis, or trailers straight to LB Sea Marine, Crawford and Belanger also perform dockside service. Though much of their recent work has been centered on Lake Pocotopaug, Crawford said he has clients in towns such as Chester, Deep River, Mystic, Guilford, and Westerly, RI.

Also, LB Sea Marine can help people sell their boats if they so desire. The company also offers pickup of salvage boats. Clients looking to unload a vessel they no longer want can contact the shop, and have it removed.

Crawford’s operation also sub-contracts for large marinas such as Brewer’s, which has more than 20 locations all over New England.

In the fall and winter LB Sea Marine performs shrink-wrapping and other winterizing services for boats, including standard fall maintenance, administering anti-freeze and outdrive services.

With his recent relocation to East Hampton, Crawford said he has found himself increasingly repairing propellers, due to the shallowness of Lake Pocotopaug.

LB Sea Marine also has a small retail section as well, which offers basic parts such as oil, spark plugs, and starters.

Crawford said he tried to include the types of parts that “could ruin a weekend” if they broke down on a Friday or Saturday. The business has weekend hours – Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – so boaters can pick up a replacement part and be on their way.

Crawford said he appreciates the warm welcome he has received from the town so far. “Everybody always seems to be glad that we’re here,” he said.

LB Sea Marine is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crawford said he and Belanger are also often available Mondays if customers need assistance. For more information, call 754-8707 or e-mail lbseamarine@yahoo.com.

Colchester Man Arrested for Enticing Minor

by Jim Salemi

Michael Garvie, 30, of 68 Beechwood Dr., was arrested by Bloomfield Police July 6 on a warrant charging him with enticing a minor and risk of injury to a minor, according to police.

The arrest followed a five-month investigation by a Bloomfield Police detective assigned to on-line predator investigations, police said.

The detective posed as a 15-year-old girl and was allegedly contacted by Garvie in an online chat room, police said. Garvie engaged

the purported 15-year-old in a number of conversations that were sexually explicit, police added, and said he also forwarded photos of himself to the detective, as well sexually explicit images. None of these sexually explicit images were of himself, investigators said.

Garvie was released after posting a \$25,000 bond, police said.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, Garvie was a teacher at St. Bernard High School in Montville, where he also served as athletic director and coached varsity baseball.

East Hampton Police News

7/7 — An 11-year-old female juvenile was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct, East Hampton police say.

7/12 — Tiffany M. Cardot, 20, of 31 Hill Top Rd., East Hampton, was arrested on the charge of risk of injury to a minor, police say.

7/12 — Scott M. Erlandson, 29, of 173 Wopowog Rd., East Hampton, was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police say.

7/12 — Kevin Naughton, 21, of 3 Bishop Hill Rd., East Hampton, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Bishop Hill Road, three-tenths of a mile east of Summit Street, police say, adding that Naughton was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without insurance and reckless driving.

7/14 — Richard Ditullio, 46, of 23 Hayward Ave., Colchester, was arrested for operating

while under suspension, police report.

7/15 — Robert G. Arpaia, 52, of 257 St. John St., New Haven, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a traffic control signal, police say.

7/16 — Lynette R. Ciochini, 21, of 24 Main St., East Hampton, was issued a ticket for creating a public disturbance, police say.

7/17 — Roxanna Dombrowski, 40, of 21 Wildwood La., East Hampton; Charlton Carey, 29, of 296 Maple St., East Hartfor; Jesse B. Weitknecht, 25, of 481 Brooklyn Rd., Canterbury; and Roger L. Levesque Jr., 51, of 193 Mercier Ave., Bristol, were all issued tickets for traveling too fast.

7/18 — Thomas F. Pedevillano, 55, of 51 Blue Heron Dr., East Hampton, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, police say.

7/19 — Richard D. Uberti, 55, of 55 Lincoln Ave., Milford, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, police say.

East Hampton Council Approves First Phase of Water System

by Michael McCoy

Almost a year after being issued a consent order by the state, the East Hampton Town Council has accepted a plan for a town water system.

The proposed \$25.9 million system, passed by the Town Council earlier this month, still needs to get public approval at referendum. No date for this vote has been set, but the council hopes to include the project on the Election Day ballot in November.

On Aug. 24, 2006, the state ordered the town to the water system in the village center due to contamination issues and insufficient water capacity. Since then the Clean Water Task Force, Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), the Town Council and many other groups and individuals have been seeking out a remedy to the situation.

On April 25, Director of Finance Jeff Jylkka issued a document containing several proposals. The council commissioned all departments to study the options and pick the most suitable one.

After numerous meetings, the Town Council on July 10 voted 6-1, with Bill Devine opposing, to send one of the proposals to referendum.

If approved, the project would cost \$25.9 million and service 490 people in the Village Center and Route 66 area. Those residents served by the new system will apparently bear the brunt of the project cost.

Jylkka said it is likely the town will take out a 20-year bond on the project. During the first repayment year, residents served by the system would pay \$2,631, while those not served would pay \$70. During years 2-20, those served would pay \$1,239 each year, with others continuing to pay \$70.

But Devine favored a plan, known as “Proposal 5,” which would double the service area and reach 4,030 people. However, this plan would also double the cost, bringing the project to \$51 million.

If the town went with this plan, during the first year of a 20-year bond, those served by

the water system would pay \$2,626, while those not served would pay \$129. In years 2-20, those served by the system would pay \$1,216, with those not served paying \$129.

Public Utilities Administrator Vincent Susco estimated that piping for the water system would run about \$1 million per mile. This means that difference between those two proposals is \$25 million worth of pipe.

Councilman Scott Minnick stressed the priority of the project, saying, “We had to get water to the village center.” He called the approved plan “the backbone” of the \$51 million project.

Minnick predicted that in the future, other towns would want to hook up to the town’s water system and, if this happens, they could chip in towards future expansion of the system.

“Why not have other towns contribute money instead of having East Hampton foot the bill?” he said.

Minnick said that the approved plan would satisfy the state. “I’m sure the state would be very happy,” he said. “It’s more than what they asked for.”

Minnick said Proposal 5 would be fiscally irresponsible at this time, adding, “If you look at Jeff Jylkka’s report for plan 5, it would put the town in the red within four years.”

But Devine was frustrated with the decision and said, “Well, these people, they don’t know what they’re doing.” Devine said the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Fire Commissioners, WPCA, and Board of Finance all recommended Proposal 5. “Some of them have been working on this for 15-20 years,” said Devine, continuing, “They know what’s best for the town.”

Speaking on the lower taxation figures, Devine wondered, “How could you go for something that’s more expensive? That’s what I don’t understand.”

Regardless of which plan the town would go with, Susco said he expects this issue of a townwide water system to continue for at least another decade and said, “You gotta start somewhere.”

Obituaries

East Hampton

Violet Walton

Violet A. (Ellis) Walton, 84, widow of Frederick A. Walton II, died Friday, July 20, at Middlesex Hospital. Born March 16, 1923 in Hawthorne, NY the daughter of the late Emerson and Helen (Ballard) Ellis, she had lived in East Hampton for more than 67 years. She was a member of the East Hampton Women’s Auxiliary of the V.F.W., a past member of the Democratic Women’s Club of East Hampton, and a communicant of St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. She had worked at both Artistic Wire of East Hampton and Brownell Manufacturing of Moodus before her retirement from the State of Connecticut where she had worked as a Food Technician at Mansfield Training School since 1981.

Violet leaves a son, Frederick A. Walton IV and his wife, Joy of Crestview FL.; a daughter, Barbara W. Surrell and her husband, Robert of Dayville; 11 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. She was predeceased by a daughter, Christine Fish and a grandson, Scott D. True. Funeral services were Monday, July 23, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Charles LeBlanc, Pastor of St. Patrick Church, East Hampton officiating. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton. Friends called at the funeral home Monday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Marlborough

Edna Brown

Edna Rosemond (Trafton) Brown, 108, of Marlborough, widow of Walter C. Brown in 1977 and Vernon W. Orcutt in 1936, died Thursday, July 19, in Marlborough. Born March 8, 1899 in Waterville, ME, Edna lived a full and long life, telling family stories of her childhood haying the farm field with her father in Waterville, MA in the 1910s and enjoying her marriage to Vernon and family life in the 1920s. After Vernon died, leaving her a widow at age 37, she cared for her daughter by working as a telephone operator at the local phone company in Fairfield, ME.

After World War II, she moved to Milford to live with her daughter’s family. In 1954, at age 55 she became a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked at Milford Hospital. In 1957, she married Walter Brown and moved to Florida. Every year for 20 years, she and Walter summered on China Lake in S. China. She loved needlepoint and crocheting, friend and family gatherings in Florida and Connecticut and lived the last decade of her life in Marlborough, near her grandchildren’s homes.

She was predeceased by her parents William H. and Lucetta (Hapworth) Trafton of Waterville, ME., her daughter, Marjorie E. Magoon of Palmetto, FL.; two brothers, Charles Trafton and Bernard Trafton; a sister, Belle White; and a great-grandson, Scott Magoon of Vernon; She is survived by four grandchildren and their partners, Thomas and Sheila Magoon of Vernon, Cheryl Plaster and Mary Fournier of Windsor Locks, Patricia and Peter Govoni of Glastonbury, Robert and Susan Magoon of Colchester; a step daughter and her husband, Betty and Jay Caulkins of Orono, ME; six great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held Wednesday, July 25, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Friends called at the funeral home one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut, 940 White Plains Rd., Trumbull, CT 06611.

Colchester

Lillian Herbert

Lillian G. Herbert, 90, of Clinton, formerly of Colchester, passed away June 24. She was born May 26, 1917 in Hebron, Ct. She is the daughter of Orlando Frank and Mabel (LaMere) Porter. Lillian is preceded in death by parents and husband Alvin D. Herbert. Lillian is survived by daughters; Phyllis Donnelly and her husband, Gary of Clinton, Arlene “Bunny” Probus and her husband, Charles of Colchester, granddaughter, Darla Allen, grandsons, Stephen, John and Robbie Probus, great-grandchildren, Zachery Allen, twins, Sophie and Bailey Probus. Swan Funeral Home, Old Saybrook will be handling the private arrangements.

East Hampton

Ann Laing

Ann J. Laing, 85, of Dogwood Drive, East Hampton, died peacefully Friday, July 20, at Middlesex Hospital. Ann was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, on Nov. 19, 1921 and later married, relocating to New Britain. It was here that she resided for much of her life and raised two sons, Edward and Roger. She then went on to develop a career as the branch manager of several credit unions including those for New Britain General Hospital, North & Judd and Colt Firearms.

Ann enjoyed crocheting, gardening and cooking, passing down several of her recipes to her family including those for her special lemon meringue pie and cabbage rolls. Ann was known to her family and friends as “Grandma” or “Gram” and will be remembered and respected for her strong will and determination in life.

She is survived by her two loving sons, Edward of East Hampton and Roger of Farmingdale, NJ and his wife Jan; as well as her grandchildren Bryan, Kevin, Leisha, and Brianna. She is also survived by her sisters, Lorraine Ginsberg of Pembroke Pines, FL, Marge Sheridan of Kensington; and her brother, Joseph Primich of New Britain. Ann was predeceased by her brothers, George, Charles, Michael “Mikey”, John, Carl, and her sister, Helen.

Her funeral was Thursday from Burritt Hill Funeral Home, 332 Burritt St., New Britain, where a Panachida Service was held. Divine Funeral Liturgy followed at 10 a.m., at Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church, 121 Beaver St., New Britain. Entombment will be in the family mausoleum at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton. Calling hours, with a Parastas service, were Wednesday at Burritt Hill. Donations in her memory may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457. To share a memory with the family, visit burritthill.com.

Andover

Robert Bennett Sr.

Robert W. “Woody” Bennett Sr., 88, of Andover, the husband of the late Jean Bennett, died Tuesday July 24, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Born in Long Island, NY, he had lived in Andover for 54 years. A proud member of the Teamsters Union, Woody was a retired truck driver for Sealtest Foods in Hartford. He had a great love for fishing and boating in Long Island Sound and will be dearly missed by his beloved cats Crysta Bell and Beau Beau. Woody’s family would like to offer a special note of thanks to his friends and extended family that took time out of their day to visit him while he was ill.

He is survived by his son, Robert W. Bennett Jr. and his wife, Mary Beth of Hopkinton, NH. He is also survived by his grandchildren, who knew him as Papa, Sarah Jean Bennett of Columbia, and his extended family Marquerite and Raymond Perkins of Manchester. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 28, at 11 a.m. at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home 219 West Center St., Manchester.