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## Thousands Attend 30th Straight East Hampton Old Home Days

by Michael McCoy

"Make no mistake," East Hampton resident Red McKinney hollered. "Mo Lanzi was the one who resurrected Old Home Days after 25 years!"

McKinney, the longtime face of East Hampton's Old Home Days (and voice of its annual parade), declared this as the Model A honoring the late Lanzi cruised by during Saturday's parade. Lanzi was one of the charter members who brought back the annual festival in 1978, after waning interest led to it dying out in 1954.

Near the front of the procession, which began at 11 a.m., was new East Hampton Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe, along with every member of the Town Council, except for John Tuttle (who was away on vacation).

"Eighty-five years the fire department has protected our lives and our property," McKinney said, as East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department Chief Chuck Stickler led his team of public servants through the route. Soliciting the crowd's applause, McKinney shouted, "C'mon folks! This is the group that's there when you need 'em!"

McKinney gave a similar shout-out to members of the East Hampton Volunteers Ambulance Association as they passed, saying, "They don't cost the town a nickel!"

"Guess what? It's all free!" McKinney said of the three-day Old Home Days festival, alluding to the fact that nothing except food and beverages costs money. "Not one nickel, not one red dime!"

The parade, chaired by Russ Oakes, who has put together the event for years, was rife with fife and drum corps and other bands, including the East Hampton High School Band, which trotted through the village center to The McCoys' "Hang On Sloopy."

Another group was the 3rd Connecticut Regiment Fife & Drum Corps. Old Home Days President Sheila Oakes, herself a Fife & Drum Corps member during the 1980s and '90s, marched on Saturday. The parade also featured the East Hampton and Middle Haddam public libraries.

Newington and Springfield (MA)

Shriners provided fun and thrills as their various squads traveled the parade in a variety of unique machines. "They never accept any money from a burn victim that needs care," McKinney said.

All told, McKinney said the event cost \$40,000, which was provided for by donations and the revenue from the 2007 festivities. Only the necessary police overtime was provided for by the town. The largest donors this year were Shaw's (\$5,000) and Liberty Bank (\$4,000).

Perhaps the most eye-catching float came in the form of the *Midsummer Night's Dream*-evoking Earth Day presentation by the town's own Epoch Arts. The East of the River Classics group of preserved antique fire engines was well represented once again; its cars included a 1947 Ford pumper as well as a 1956 Chevy pumper.

Once the parade ended, a little after 1 p.m., people gradually assembled on the grounds for the day's opening ceremonies before enjoying the rest of the day's offerings.

"As you know, we had no parade marshal today," McKinney announced, noting that the parade was dedicated to the late Lanzi, Governor Bill O'Neill and Mark Anderson. The latter is a founding Old Home Days member who passed away this year.

When describing the late governor, McKinney, who seems to now make a habit out of taking political jabs during the festival, said, "He had more integrity in his little finger than some of today's politicians have in their whole bodies, present company excluded." Minutes later, while remembering Lanzi, McKinney had to fight back tears as he said, "We miss you buddy."

Miss Connecticut Ashley Glenn also spoke at the ceremony, and declared, "I hope you have another 30 years of the Old Home Days."

East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said a few words and, addressing the new town manager, said, "You'll find out what a great community we have

hear."

State Representative Gail Hamm also spoke, saying Old Home Days "gets better every year," while State Senator Eileen Daily told the crowd to "enjoy yourself. Spend your money."

U.S. Representative Joe Courtney was also present, and said, "As your representative in Washington, it was an honor to stand on the floor of the U.S. Congress and talk about [O'Neill's] legacy." He credited O'Neill with bringing "humility" to the office.

The Old Home Days Association also held their annual raffle on Saturday, where they gave away 10 prizes plus a special bonus grand prize. Every single prize went to a Belltown resident. The third prize Nintendo Wii went to East Hampton resident Jim Vick, while second place, a Weber gas grill, went to fellow resident Christine Costa. First prize, a 40-inch Sony LCD flatscreen television, was awarded to Pam Joslyn.

This year, the Old Home Days Association gave away a special 30th anniversary grand prize: four loge seats to a Red Sox/Yankees game at Yankee Stadium, including door-to-door limousine service. Joyce Rittman was the lucky winner to witness the grudge match.

The last day of the festival was the first day of the Joseph N. Goff House's new exhibit: "Old Home Days Past and Present." The exhibit is free to the public, though donations are accepted and is open 2-4 p.m. every Sunday, at 2 Barton Hill, in East Hampton.

The Goff House's last photo exhibit honored Bill O'Neill and all the notable faces he crossed paths with over his illustrious career. One wall was devoted to O'Neill's part in declaring "Yankee Doodle Dandy" the state song, which has been retained for the current exhibit.

The Goff House solicited the submission of photographs that portrayed past Old Home Days. In addition to pictures, this included programs and editions of *East Hampton Old Home Days News* and the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

Friday night was the 10th annual Glorious Gallop 5K race, which started at Seven Hills Crossing and finished up at Center School. Forrest Misenti, 17, and Nidia Lopez, 22, defended their titles from last year, and Forrest, of Haddam, bested his time from last year, clocking in this year at 14:59 and taking first place. Nidia, of Portland, finished first among women and came in 19th overall with a time of 18:33.

Several businesses and organizations had booths set up, including Old Home Days itself, which was selling mugs, various apparel, all with the classy new logo designed by Teri Prestash.

That afternoon (as well as Thursday night) kids could purchase a carte blanche bracelet, giving them unlimited access to the rides provided by C & J Amusements, which included the Wave of Fire giant slide, the classic Scrambler, the UFO-shaped Thriller and a Ferris wheel.

Food was in no short supply, as all sorts of goodies, fried and otherwise, were available. (This reporter opted for a Kelly Dog from the East Hampton Village Lions just before the parade. The frankfurter was covered in sauerkraut and hit the spot. Later, I swung by the Old Home Days soda booth and took advantage of their bottomless cup deal. For two dollars, you could refill your plastic commemorative cup throughout the weekend. I opted for the delicious, ice-cold Hosmer White Birch Beer.)

East Hampton Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel estimated that over the course of the three days, 10,000 people came through Old Home Days. She also remarked that this is the biggest fundraiser for many of the town's civic groups.

When asked Monday how she thought the festival went off, Sheila Oakes responded, "Marvelous! It was great. Everything went smoothly."

The Old Home Days Committee will start planning next year's festival in September. The committee meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the public library community room.

# Bacon Grad Gets Girl Scout Award

by Kristina Histen

A Bacon Academy graduate has received the Girl Scout Senior Award for doing more than just selling cookies.

Although Brytnie Porter, 17, was a top Girl Scout cookie seller in her troop for many years, she proved what being a Girl Scout was all about by demonstrating the qualities of character that are associated with the spirit of the organization.

"Brytnie certainly is a great young person involved in the community inside and out," said Marie Knutsen, who is on the Girl Scout Committee that gives out the award. "She received the award because of her thoughts on helping the community, helping statewide and helping with the servicemen."

Brytnie is the 27th girl to receive the award. It is designed for Colchester residents only, and although the award money is not much, as only Knutsen and two other women fund it, there is significance in the experience, Knutsen said. There is a plaque inside the Bacon Academy library where all the girls have their names engraved. Knutsen said she would "love it" if eventually some of the older girls that had received the award and have now finished college and started working would donate to the Girl Scout Senior Award fund at BankNorth.

For the 12 years that Brytnie has been involved in Girl Scouts, her troop of six, led by Peg Stevenson and Shirley Barber, have participated in activities that benefited not only the community, but the country as well. Planting flowers at the Senior Center, sewing quilts for the preemie babies at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and baking pies at Thanksgiving for senior citizens were just ways to show they cared about the community they belonged in.

Being positive role models for the younger Girl Scouts by planning and hosting campories at Camp Laurel in Lebanon were merely part of the scouts' yearly commitments.

When terrorist attacks struck the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Brytnie's Girl Scout troop made a banner with everyone's signatures on it and sent it to New York for the firefighters, along with water and canned goods, because they wanted to help. The girls also put together care packages for the soldiers in Iraq filled with shampoo, bars of soap, shower gel and other personal items.

During the holiday season, the troop holds a can drive at its annual Christmas Show, where the proceeds benefit the Food Bank and others in need.

"I'm glad to be a Girl Scout," Brytnie said, "and I'm glad I was in it for so long just because I picked up so much throughout it."

For most of her high school years, Brytnie had kept a busy schedule. Aside from Girl Scouts, she was a cheerleader for about nine years, on the National Honor Society and prom committee at school and a waitress at Family Pizza Restaurant. Girl Scouts has impacted her life, she said, helping her to communicate better and manage her time effectively. It has also been influential in her future career choice. Brytnie wants to major in elementary education when she attends the University of Connecticut in the fall, because "she loves kids" stemming back to all the campories she attended at Camp Laurel.

"I understand that you have to fit people's needs," Brytnie said. "I just feel like I'm one with the community now. I'll be meeting new people all the time at college, and [Girl Scouts] has helped me to be more outgoing because the



**Brytnie Porter, 17, a Girl Scout for over 12 years, shows off her Senior Girl Scout sash filled with badges and awards she has earned over the past few years.**

world is endless, you can meet as many people as you want."

To qualify for the award, Brytnie had to write an essay on the importance of Girl Scouting, her involvement and appreciation of it and where it will be in the future. "Longevity is very important," Knutsen said, and Brytnie said she hopes Girl Scouts will be "the same as it is now, if not bigger" because "it changed a lot of our

lives."

Even though Brytnie is moving on to bigger and better things, her history in Girl Scouts will be sure to prove beneficial in all her future endeavors, Girl Scout Promise. She will continue to affect her community and the country, even if it is just simply delivering everybody's favorite boxes of Samoas and Tagalongs during Girl Scout cookie season.

# New Principal of East Hampton Middle School a Familiar Face

by Michael McCoy

A veteran of the East Hampton school system, John Fidler was recently named as the new principal of the middle school.

Fidler officially assumed the new role on July 1, shortly after former principal Tracy Barber took a position in New London.

Fidler, 51, is a South Windsor native and graduated from South Windsor High School in 1975. He immediately enrolled at the University of Connecticut as a pre-veterinary student.

However, while a sophomore, Fidler was taking an economics course, which required him to work within a community. During this project, Fidler spent time at Mansfield Training School. "Things just clicked for me then...finding a niche, seeing that I could make a difference," Fidler said.

Fidler then tried out some education courses and subsequently switched his major the following year.

In 1980, Fidler graduated from UConn with a bachelor's degree in education, and started working for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC). For a year, Fidler was an academic teacher for their vocation program. Then, he took a similar position with EASTCONN, an education service provider in Danielson.

In 1985, Fidler "started pecking away at a master's degree" in education. Around this time, he also found the opportunity to take a cross-country trip with a friend. Then, later in the year, he began teaching science and math to adolescents at Elmcrest Hospital in Portland.

"Those positions were a little outside mainstream education," Fidler said, but added that he was drawn to them. This was due in large part to his focusing on special education at UConn.

However, Fidler eventually felt he was missing out on things like assemblies, athletics and

music, offerings that only larger and more traditional schools could provide. So, in 1989, Fidler spent a year at Tolland Middle School teaching special education.

Fidler's wife currently teaches language arts and social studies at Polson Middle School in Madison. So, Fidler said, "We drew a couple circles on the map and East Hampton was right in the middle." They subsequently purchased some property in town and began building their home in the summer of 1990.

As it happens, Fidler coached the East Hampton High School Girls JV basketball team during the 1987-88 and 1988-89 seasons, and in 1990, he took a special education teacher position at the high school.

Fidler spent the next 14 years in that position and several of those years were spent as a team leader. He also served as the athletic director at the high school for much of that time. He was also assistant coach and later head coach of the girls varsity basketball team.

Fidler said he felt proud of growing the athletics program into a success. "We were, and we continue to be," he said. "I have nothing but fond memories from that time."

In 1986, Fidler completed his master's degree in education from UConn, and in 2000, completed his sixth year, receiving his administrative certification.

In the 1990s Fidler, an avid outdoorsman, started up the All Sports Camp, the Martha's Vineyard bike trip and Adventure Camp along with Jon LeBlanc, and, in the case of the All Sports Camp, Bob Boscarino as well.

The latter is a program that ran throughout the 90s and into the early 2000s. Fidler would take a group of high school students on trips such as a hike up New Hampshire's Mt. Washington or rafting in Maine.

All Sports Camp, which typically draws

about 60 kids, is still an annual two-week event every July. During the three two-hour blocks, elementary and middle school kids have their pick of traditional and alternative sports.

The bike trip also lasted through most of the 1990s and ended when Fidler became assistant principal at East Hampton Middle School. Mountain biking has "turned into my primary interest," Fidler said, adding that he also enjoys hiking and winter camping. "Anything outdoors really," Fidler said. Of late, Fidler has spent a lot of time in Hebron's Grayville State Forest and along the Airline Trail.

Perhaps Fidler's most ambitious project is his goal of scaling the high point in every state. So far, Fidler has conquered 24 of these, including Mt. Elbert in Colorado, Mt. Washington in New Hampshire, Maine's Mt. Katahdin, Massachusetts' Mt. Greylock, and the southern slope of Mt. Frissell in Connecticut. (The peak is actually in Massachusetts.)

In 2004, the assistant principal spot opened up at the middle school, and Fidler applied. When asked why he wanted to make the switch from teaching to administration, Fidler said, "It wasn't so much about what I wanted to accomplish, but I wanted to contribute more."

Fidler admitted he did miss teaching. "It's the contact with the kids," he said, "to be out and about in the school and be in the classroom with them...being with the kids, helping them grow and learn. That's what it's all about."

Fidler said that, as an assistant principal, "there's a lot of devotion to discipline." He was hopeful that he could move more toward enhancing academic performance as principal, as opposed to dealing with the negative.

"I'm looking forward to working at this level," Fidler said. "I appreciate challenges." He figured, "Education can be a tough field. It



**New principal John Fidler is looking forward to welcoming students to East Hampton Middle School this fall.**

takes a lot of work."

Fidler and his wife have two sons. Jack, 16, and Jeff, 14, will be a senior and freshman, respectively, at East Hampton High School this fall. "I'm lucky that they never wound up in my office" at the middle school, Fidler joked. He also said that having his kids wandering the halls on his watch was not as awkward as one might have imagined. "We gave them the space they needed to grow, and it worked out," he said.

As principal at the middle school, Fidler will oversee 39 teachers and 70 total staff members. "I'm anticipating it to be a smooth transition," Fidler said.

# Annual AHM Summer Play Next Weekend

by Sarah McCoy

In her 17 years associated with AHM Summer Youth Theatre, Director Mary Rose Meade has never faced a challenge like this year.

Next weekend, 93 students (ranging in age from 11 to 18) will perform *Fiddler on the Roof Junior*. The slightly-adapted play tells the story of a traditional Jewish family growing up in Russia. "It's about the balance of hanging onto traditions that keep you together as a family while adapting to the world that's changing around you," Meade said of the production.

If acclimating 93 students to the emotional journey of Tevye and his family wasn't enough, Meade has had to do it in only 16 rehearsals.

"Each year I question how we do it, but each year it does" go on, she said of the annual performance.

When Meade started out in 1992, she had about 30 students mostly high-school age. This year she's instructing her largest group yet and a third of them are in elementary school.

In addition to her staff, Meade is able to rely on some of her veteran actors to lead by example.

Sam Little of Hebron has been performing in the Summer Youth Theatre for the past seven years. This year he will play Tevye, the main character of the show. "This year is a lot different than past shows," Little said. "The cast has gotten bigger, but also, now that I'm one of the oldest students, I've taken more of a leadership role."

Little, who's played fatherly figures in each of the last three years, is looking forward to the new depths of his most recent character. "I want to become Tevye, not just a person playing Tevye," he said.

As *Fiddler on the Roof* is a show driven by plot, Meade said she's done a lot more teach-

ing on the art of acting than in previous summers. "There are some musicals driven by the music," Meade said. "This isn't one of them. I want kids to connect with what their character is feeling."

Each winter, Meade selects the performance for that upcoming summer largely based on her expectations for her cast. She said she considered *Fiddler* last year but changed her mind, worried that the show might be too much.

This year she thought about it again and finally settled on it after both Assistant Director Jeff Jacques and Musical Director John DiNicola suggested the show on consecutive days, unbeknownst to one another.

The show is heaped with Jewish culture, something new to at least one member of the cast. "I didn't know much about the culture going into this summer," Chris Langlois of Marlborough said. "It's been really interesting to learn about their history."

Langlois plays Motel, the husband to Tevye's eldest daughter, in next weekend's performance.

Like the song denotes, *Fiddler on the Roof* is based on tradition (tradition!). A concept, Meade feels, that the cast has really used to understand the message of the show. "We're talking about a culture that has been held together by traditions for thousands of years," she said about the Jewish culture. "To understand that power is to understand Tevye."

While the challenges have been tough, Meade feels the reward will be great. "I love the show. The music is beautiful and it has real substance to it," she said.

Langlois said there is no place he'd rather spend his summer evenings than on the stage at RHAM High School. "From top to bottom this program is filled with wonderful people," he said.



**Sam Little of Hebron sings "Tradition" during rehearsals for the AHM Summer Youth Theatre production of *Fiddler on the Roof Junior*. The show will run July 24, 25 and 26. Tickets are available at AHM Youth Services, the Hebron Town Clerk's office, or at the door.**

While he's always had an interest in acting and would like to continue studying it after high school, it's the people that keep him coming back each year. "It's not a coincidence that the program keeps getting bigger each year," he said. "Kudos to all the great people working to make the show great every year."

The AHM Summer Youth Theatre will present *Fiddler on the Roof Junior* from July

24-26 in the auditorium at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. all three nights. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$6 for children and seniors. They can be purchased from AHM Youth Services, 25 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, the Hebron Town Clerk's office, 15 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron, or at the door.

## New Therapist a 'Perfect Fit' for AHM

by Sarah McCoy

A former intern has returned to AHM Youth Services to serve as a new youth and family therapist for the bureau.

Nine years ago Mike Hurlock interned at AHM while pursuing his master's degree in marriage and family studies at the University of Connecticut. Now with two master's degrees under his belt and a nearly completed doctorate, Hurlock is back at AHM, looking to help.

Hurlock's road to the counseling profession began through tragedy. At the age of 18, a diving accident left him a quadriplegic, with no movement from his neck down. As a way of adjusting to his new life, Hurlock began attending counseling. "I began to see my disability as a tool," he said. "I had an avenue to help others."

He would go on to receive a bachelor's degree in psychology followed by master's degrees in counseling therapy and marriage and family therapy. This summer Hurlock will finish his Ph. D. in family studies from UConn.

His broad educational, employment and life experiences will serve Hurlock well at AHM, where he will work with families, children, couples, and groups. The exact format for the groups has yet to be determined as Hurlock and AHM's other youth and family therapist, Sandy Plummer, gather input on the needs of the community.

AHM Youth Services, located in Hebron, serves residents of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough. The AHM Clinical Department is one of the oldest parts of the youth service bureau and receives counseling referrals from a number of sources including the school systems, Department of Children and Families, the Juvenile Review Board and self-referrals.

After 10 years of working for UConn's



**Mike Hurlock, who became a quadriplegic when he was 18 years old, recently started as a youth and family therapist at AHM Youth Services. Tapping in on his life, education and employment experiences, Hurlock hopes to have a positive impact on the community.**

HEART Program, a substance abuse program for college students, Hurlock is looking forward to working with a new population. "I hope to play a part in what the community needs me for," he said.

Hurlock approached Plummer after the HEART Program dissolved earlier this year. Wanting an opportunity to help others, he asked to volunteer.

AHM Youth Services Director Joel Rosenberg can hardly contain his excitement

about the newest member of the AHM staff. "To have a professional volunteer their time is a real gift to the bureau and the community," he said. "Mike is the perfect fit here."

And the feeling appears mutual. "I've never been somewhere so accommodating," Hurlock said of AHM.

By his first day at AHM (which was at the end of June), Hebron resident and AHM volunteer John Soderberg had built Hurlock a desk at the perfect height for his wheelchair to glide

under. And soon he'll have a computer fitted with voice recognition software.

With his Pittsburgh Steelers blanket hanging from the wall (the Patriots are number two in his book), Hurlock is settling into his new position. He is starting to develop a caseload and hopes that will continue through the fall when his schedule will change from two days a week to three.

As someone who's gone through counseling, Hurlock understands the trepidation that comes from walking into a counselor's office. To those who may be considering it, Hurlock has an open door policy. "It's all about the relationship and developing a rapport with a client," he said of the counseling profession. "I hope people know the services are there and will try it out."

With no use of his limbs and a wheelchair powered by his mouth, Hurlock says he typically gets two reactions to new clients. "Sometimes people think, 'How can I tell this guy my problems? He goes through tougher times than I do,'" Hurlock said. "Others, open the flood gates and let their guard down because I am seen as more vulnerable than they are."

Hurlock isn't worried that his disability will hinder his ability to counsel. "It's not like most counselors are jumping up and down, doing push-ups, or hanging from the ceiling," he said.

For the rest of the summer Hurlock will see clients on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. In the fall he will begin working from noon-5 p.m. on Thursdays as well.

Fees for youth and family therapy at AHM are determined on an income-based sliding scale, though Rosenberg stressed that no family is ever turned away. Those looking for more information can contact the bureau at 228-9488.

# Annual Portland Fireworks Show This Weekend

by Michael McCoy

If the stifling mid-July heat is wearing you down, head out to the annual Portland Fireworks show this Saturday, July 19, at the Exchange Club Fairgrounds for what should be a dazzling pick-me-up.

This year's show will be a little different than previous fireworks displays, since it will be the first time since the show began in the early 1990s that former police sergeant Mike Dapkus will not execute the event.

Dapkus, who has spent more than 30 years in the fireworks industry, has been gradually scaling back showing fireworks for some time, and announced last year that he would no longer do the show. He now focuses solely on importing and exporting fireworks.

Having someone on the inside has always been an asset to Portland, as it has been able to boast a show uncharacteristically large for a town this size. For instance, Dapkus, who would supply the fireworks with a zero percent markup and put together the show for free, estimated that the town received a \$45,000 show last year for \$20,000.

This year Fireworks Committee Chairman John Sobczyk said the two-year-old committee had set a goal of raising \$30,000 for the whole event (this includes \$20,000 for the fireworks themselves). As of last week, Sobczyk said the committee had raised \$22,000.

In an effort to come up with the necessary funds, the committee has held a number of tag sales, as well as other sales, the latter in front of Tri Town Foods. The committee has also held tip-a-cop/tip-a-fireman events at Portland Restaurant and sent out mailings to past donors.

The fireworks have always been solely provided for with donated funds. Earlier this year, the Board of Selectmen had hoped to set aside \$3,000 for the fireworks show in the 2008-09 budget. However, that was cut during budget deliberations.

"We'd like to have more than just fireworks," Sobczyk said. He said the \$10,000 the committee was seeking to raise (on top of the aforementioned \$20,000 for the fireworks) would go

to things like paying people to help with parking, providing the appropriate amount of bathrooms, as well as the pre-show musical entertainment.

"There's a lot of competition out there," Sobczyk said, acknowledging that a host of civic groups are all vying for the same benevolent dollars in the current economic squeeze.

To try to reach their goal, committee members will pass around donation buckets during the evening, and the committee will also accept donations after the show. Checks may be mailed to 265 Main St., c/o the Portland Police. Donors should write "The Portland Fireworks" in the memo line on the check.

As for the pre-fireworks music, Sobczyk said "we're trying something different this year." The committee has forgone the big band stylings of mainstay The Joe Milardo Band. Instead, rock outfit Brother Sleeze, country group Hometown Roots, and classic rockers The Tony Bologna Band will provide the night's tunes. The music will begin at 5 or 5:30 p.m., and the fireworks display will start at dusk. Ocean State Fireworks will put on the show, and Sobczyk estimated it run "at least a half an hour."

The Exchange Club will once again cook up hamburgers and hot dogs, and treats like popcorn, French fries, cotton candy and ice cream will also be sold by various vendors.

Though the committee had previously kicked around the idea of charging admission for the first time this year, the show will remain free to the public. Sobczyk said an entry fee "wouldn't be fair," since people would then be hit up twice when the donation bucket is passed.

The fireworks were canceled in 2006 due to flooding of the grounds, but last year's event drew some 4,000 people.

Parking will be available on the grounds, and is also free. Handicapped parking will also be provided for. However, Sobczyk said, "Parking is going to be limited."

The rain date is Sunday, July 20.



Beatrice Hummel, who has headed up the local branch of Girls State since Portland's American Legion Auxiliary got involved, is seen here handing Charlaina Dimond (right) the \$250 necessary to head to Washington, D.C.

## Local Girl Heading to Washington as Part of Girls State

by Michael McCoy

In the 30 or more years that Portland's American Legion Auxiliary has participated in Girls State, no one from here has ever gone on to Washington. Until now.

Charlaina Dimond, who will be a senior at Portland High School this fall, started a political awareness committee because she doubted that her cohorts were aware of national and world issues. For this initiative, Dimond was nominated to Girls State.

The Girls State program was started by the American Legion Auxiliary in the 1940s and, according to its web site, helps young women by "creating a mythical state through the election of public officials on local, county, and state levels and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices." Portland has been involved in the program for the past 35 years.

From the end of June to the beginning of July, Charlaina and nearly 200 other girls spent a week at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, participating in mock legislative proceedings.

"It was just a great experience," Charlaina said. "I have never met so many girls who are intellectually on my level."

The girls were split into Federalist and National parties. At the end of the week, each party was commissioned to nominate five of their own to vie for the two senatorial offices. Charlaina and Amanda McGowan of Bristol (both Feder-

alists) were chosen out of those 10 by Girls State staff. Out of 80 Federalist voters, Dimond received 60 votes from her peers.

After being nominated, Charlaina had to present her mock senate bill to rest of the participants. Hers dealt with health care business for small business employees.

Charlaina will head to Washington, D.C., this weekend for Girls Nation, which runs from this Saturday to next Saturday. There, she could potentially be elected vice president or president. Looking ahead even further, Charlaina said, "...I want to be a U.S. Senator."

In addition to debating bills on the floor of the senate, the girls at Girls Nation will also get a chance to tour the White House and the Pentagon, and perhaps even catch a second with President Bush "if he's not too busy," Charlaina said.

During her week in D.C., Charlaina is guaranteed to meet no small amount of legislators, including her own U.S. Representative Joe Courtney. In addition, she is hoping to schmooze with Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

In addition she hopes to speak with Sen. Chris Dodd, who she actually has already met. "I think he's so charismatic, and I think he does a great job representing Connecticut," she said.

More information about Girls State and Girls Nation is available at [www.girlsnation-auxiliary.com](http://www.girlsnation-auxiliary.com).

## Andover Budget Finally Passes, On Third Try

by Sarah McCoy

At a June 25 meeting, a day after the second proposed budget failed at referendum, Andover Board of Finance Acting Chair Cathy Desrosiers called a proposed one mill increase the "magic number."

She was right.

The town's \$10.27 million budget, for the 2008-09 fiscal year, finally passed Tuesday, by a count of 280-167. Two previous referendums on the budget had failed — one held May 27 and the other held June 24.

While the \$10.27 million figure is identical to what was defeated last month, the budget passed Tuesday calls for a one mill increase in the town's mill rate, whereas the prior budget proposal called for a 1.3 mill increase. This reduction in the mill rate is thanks to the Board of Finance applying a surplus from the local Board of Education budget to the town budget proposal.

At the June 25 meeting, Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia reported that the town can expect a \$200,650 return from the school board from the 2007-08 fiscal year. This surplus is largely due to unexpected grants the school administration was able to secure.

The Board of Finance then decided to apply \$83,700 of this to the 2008-09 budget, bringing the levy on taxpayers to 27.3 mills.

"It's fine for now," Andover resident Brenda Solenzio said of the budget, right before she cast her vote Tuesday. "All these referendums are too expensive. Plus, the departments have cut back. It's time to move forward."

An average referendum costs the town approximately \$3,000.

After failing by six votes at the June 24 referendum, the newest figure passed by over 100 votes.

"I'm happy," First Selectman Bob Burbank said of Tuesday's outcome. "But, more than that, I'm relieved."

Desrosiers agreed. The Board of Finance members "were just hoping we wouldn't have to make any more cuts," she said. "If it had come to that I suspect we would have considered applying more of the surplus. There were just no more cuts to be made without running into problems."

While the budget season has come to a close in Andover, the tax situation hasn't quite been resolved. In order to mail out the tax bills by the July 1 deadline, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted June 23 to calculate the bills using an anticipated mill rate of 27.6. Now, three weeks later residents approved the budget at a rate of 27.3 mills.

Burbank said the BOS would soon decide how to handle the discrepancy. One option would be for the town to mail checks back to residents for their overpayment. Another solution would be to deduct their overpayment amount from the last tax bill. Or, the town could return the monies, with interest, to residents the following year.

"Right now we're weighing the cost of each alternative," he said. "However, taxpayers should not adjust the tax bills themselves. If they do, they will be subject to penalties."

The 447 voters that turned out for Tuesday's referendum represent a 20 percent voter turnout. This is up from the 17 percent and 19 percent voter turnout, respectively, for first two budget referenda this year. However, it's still not a number town officials are pleased with. "I'm always surprised how few people actually vote," Desrosiers said. "We have 17-19 percent of voters deciding on the direction of this whole town."

# East Hampton Resident's FOI Complaint Dismissed

by Michael McCoy

A complaint pertaining to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act that had been filed in January against members of the East Hampton Town Council was dismissed last week.

Mary Ann Dostaler filed the complaint on Jan. 16, alleging that the council violated the FOI Act by discussing a personnel matter during executive session at a Dec. 18, 2007, special meeting despite the agenda for the meeting stating, "Discussion of written legal opinion from Town's Labor Counsel regarding incoming Town Manager's contract (anticipated executive session)."

The respondents named in the FOI Commission report were The Town of East Hampton, the East Hampton Town Council, and specifically, council chair Melissa Engel and vice chair Tom Cordeiro.

The East Hampton Town Council fired longtime town manager Alan Bergren in June of last year and, in October, hired Jim Thomas of Old Orchard Beach, ME, to fill the position. Chatham Party Chairman Kyle Dostaler, Mary Ann's husband, was part of the council at the time; the council at that time was made up of five Chatham Party members and two Republicans.

After last November's elections, only three of the previous councilmen remained on the council. The division shifted to three Republicans, two Chatham Party members and two Democrats. Then, on Dec. 18, exactly two weeks before Thomas was to start, the new council rescinded his contract, declaring it invalid.

According to the commission report, Engel requested the legal opinion of town labor counsel Mark Sommaruga concerning Thomas' contract. He responded in the form of a written letter, which was not disclosed to anyone but the Town Council. The commission found that this

letter "constituted a record of communication privileged by the attorney-client relationship" and that such a record is exempt "from mandatory disclosure." The commission also called the discussion of this opinion in executive session "permissible."

In her complaint to the FOI Commission, Dostaler alleged that the labeling of the matter on the agenda was a "poorly disguised pretext" to avoid declaring their true intent.

Dostaler said Thomas' legal counsel was at the meeting and had requested that any discussion be done in a public forum. According to Dostaler, Engel replied, "I'm going to say no to you simply because what we are discussing is a written legal opinion from our town labor counsel."

Dostaler said newspaper articles from other communities that Thomas worked in were discussed, and that Cordeiro "went so far as to bring with him a stack of Internet research he had done concerning Mr. Thomas, and discussed his research during the meeting."

Dostaler also alleged that Engel admitted to requesting Sommaruga's legal opinion "for the specific purpose of identifying an excuse to avoid fulfilling the contract with Mr. Thomas."

Dostaler said these offenses "cut at the very heart of the Act's purpose and merit the maximum civil penalty allowable."

The FOI Commission also found that anything said during this session, "did not constitute a separate discussion 'concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal' of Mr. Thomas, and did not constitute the purpose of such executive session."

Dostaler's complaint was dismissed, with the commission declaring it has "concluded that the respondents did not violate the FOI Act as alleged."

The commission heard the matter on May 1, and FOI attorney Kathleen Ross issued her report on June 23, dismissing the case. On July 9, the commission concurred with Ross' findings.

Engel said that while she was not surprised by the decision, "I was relieved. I certainly didn't think we had violated anything." She added, "I'm very happy to know that after nine years [on the town council] I'm managing to run a town meeting, while adhering to FOI guidelines."

"I'm so tired of this," Engel said of continued allegations of wrongdoing by Chatham Party members. "I don't know what their issues are, and, right now, I don't care anymore. It's all detrimental to our community...and it's getting really old."

Engel said she felt "complete vindication" by the FOI Commission's findings, and said, "I always assume we're doing a good job."

Cordeiro said, "You know, I'm glad the decision was made in our favor. I'm glad we put this behind us. I stand behind the notion that we didn't do anything wrong, and I'm glad the FOI Commission felt the same way."

Though Cordeiro said he was not quite surprised by the ruling, he admitted, "I didn't leave [the May 1 hearing] with any great confidence." He later said, "I really believe I acted in the best interest of the town...I consider myself to be an upstanding citizen."

Cordeiro said he found himself in unfamiliar territory on May 1, as he'd "never really been in a courtroom before." He said it was "difficult" to put "my wife and my family through that." He also admitted feeling embarrassment in telling his employer he would have to miss work as a result of being named in a court case.

He said this matter has been something of a hassle, Cordeiro suggested, "I don't know how

you would find people to run for office."

Speaking on behalf of the five non-Chatham members of the Town Council, Cordeiro said, "There's a faction of people who feel that we're doing the wrong thing," also adding, "I understand their position, and I respect their position."

Dostaler admitted to being "obviously disappointed" and remarked that the commission "granted leniency because they felt the chairwoman did her best to keep the focus of the discussion," despite finding that executive session strayed from the stated topic. "I don't buy that," Dostaler said. She said the commission felt Engel made a "good faith" attempt to guide the discussion, and that was an opinion, Dostaler said, "which I don't believe."

"But I think the bottom line for me," Dostaler said, "is that I'm disappointed the residents of East Hampton will never know the real reason why Jim Thomas was fired and why the Town Council wasted tens of thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money. That question still persists."

Dostaler said that the commission "had a lot on their plate" and that there were 10 or 12 total cases on their agenda when her case was heard. "Many of these were very hotly-contested issues," remarked Dostaler.

Dostaler said the commission had at one point incorrectly reported the date of the Dec. 18 meeting as March 27. "They didn't even get the date right," Dostaler said. "It just speaks to the level of attention it was getting."

Dostaler maintained Monday that "none of the facts I asserted were disputed" in the commission report.

Overall, Dostaler said, seeing the way the FOI process worked was "an eye-opening experience."

## East Hampton Police News

6/28 — Paul Strong, 56, of 78 Mott Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for creating a public disturbance, East Hampton Police said.

6/28 — Justin T. Barraro, 20, of 6 Candlewood Dr., was arrested for procuring alcohol, police said.

6/30 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Clark Hill Road, two tenths of a mile north of Champion Hill Road. He was issued a ticket for using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, failure to drive right and distracted driving, police said.

6/30 — Dolores M. Gostyla, 75, of 16 Mountain Tr., and Steve Melocowsky, 37, of 151 Dayton Rd., South Glastonbury, were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Main Street, 200 feet north of Summit Street, police said, adding that Gostyla was issued a ticket for failure to avoid colliding with bicyclist.

6/30 — Anthony Tasca, 27, of 27 Hillside Ave., New Britain, and Rodney Snyder, 52, of 1339 Sycamore St., Freemont, OH, were involved in a car vs. motorcycle accident on Rt. 66, in front of McDonald's, police said, adding that Tasca was issued a ticket for making an unsafe left turn/failure to grant right of way ticket.

7/2 — Amity Rose Hierl, 33, of 159 Leonard Bridge Rd., Lebanon, was arrested for illegally obtaining false prescription and second-degree forgery, police said.

7/3 — Darlene M. Napolitano, 39, of 133 Comstock Tr., was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police said.

7/3 — Judith S. Manzo, 62, of 20 Emerson Rd., was issued a ticket for traveling too fast

and operating an unregistered vehicle, police said.

7/3 — Frederick P. Riebald, 68, of 60 Bunny Ln., Danielson, was issued a ticket for making an improper turn, police said.

7/3 — Tammy L. James, 45, of 33 South Main St., was issued a ticket for traveling fast, police said.

7/3 — Kenneth A. Krajewski, 37, of 145 Chestnut Hill Rd., was arrested pursuant to two warrants for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

7/3 — Michael A. Latronica, 31, of 82 Main St., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

7/6 — James E. Stone, 49, of 42D Bresler Rd., Glastonbury, was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a handheld cell phone, police said.

7/7 — Paul J. Owen, 38, of 46 Colchester Ave., was issued a ticket for traveling too fast, police said.

7/7 — William V. Depietro III, 45, of 26 Colchester Ave., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct, police said.

7/7 — Jason Pangretic, 28, who police had no certain address for, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for criminal violation of a restraining order, disorderly conduct and second-degree harassment, police said.

7/8 — Lap C. Keung, 62, of 461 North Spring St., Naugatuck, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a traffic signal, police said.

7/10 — Nicole Romano, 19, of 62 Auburn Knoll, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Gisele C. Farrell

Gisele C. Farrell (Rancourt), 78, passed away Friday, July 11. Born in Hartford, she lived the last 45 years as a resident of East Hampton.

Gi, as she liked to be called, is survived by her children, Sue Kagerer and husband Joe of Lebanon, Michele Sexton of East Hampton, Gerry Guilbeault and his wife Deb of Algonquin, IL, Andrea Guilbeault of East Hampton, and David Farrell of Kingston, NY; grandchildren Melissa and husband Nate Carta, Joe Kagerer, Will and Matt Sexton, Jacqueline and Sam Guilbeault; great-grandchild Owen (cute as a button) Carta; lifelong best friend "Aunt" Betty Hager of Farmington; and sister-in-law and her husband, Jan and Vin Holcombe of Glastonbury. She also leaves many nieces and nephews as well as countless people to whom she brought a smile to any time she would meet them.

Gisele was predeceased by husband, Jerry Farrell, her parents, Bernard and Delina Rancourt, her beloved son and daughter, Ray and Anita Guilbeault, and 11 brothers and sisters. She is looking forward to being reunited with them and her beloved cat of 18 years, Pumpkin.

Mom lived every day to the fullest and urged others to do the same. She will long be remembered for her willingness to help anyone who needed it. Her sense of humor brightened the day of everyone she encountered. Of all the gifts Mom gave us, the strength to find humor in any situation is the one we treasure most.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 16, in St. Patrick's Church, East Hampton. Interment immediately followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Anita C. Guilbeault Scholarship Fund, c/o East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, had care of arrangements. To leave online condolences or for directions visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com)

## Portland

### Janet L. Belzak

Janet L. Belzak, 63, of Ann Street, Portland, beloved wife of Walter Belzak, died on Tuesday, July 15, at her residence surrounded by her family after a long battle with cancer. She was born on Sept. 9, 1944, in Middletown, daughter of the late Peter and Angelina (Ruggeri) Marino. Janet had been a resident of Portland for 43 years and a member of St. Mary Church, Portland.

Besides her husband, Janet is survived by her loving family; a son, Thomas Belzak of Portland, a daughter, Tracy Dardick of East Hampton; two brothers, Salvatore Marino of Florida, Carl Marino of Middletown; two sisters, Ann Marie Kelly and Patricia Lewis, both of Middletown; four grandchildren, Timothy, Jacob, Kevin and Ethan; also several nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held Friday, July 18, at Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church, Portland, at 10 a.m. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Calling hours were at the funeral home on Thursday evening. Those who wish may make memorial donations to St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland CT 06480; or to the Middlesex Hospice Unit c/o Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

## Marlborough

### Patricia F. Sadler

Patricia F. Sadler, 57, of Park Road., Marlborough, beloved wife of Michael Sadler, died at her residence surrounded by her family on Friday, July 11. She was born on Feb. 15, 1951, in Hartford, daughter of the late C. Thomas and Barbara W. (Weinberg) Foley. Patricia grew up in Portland and graduated from Mercy High School in Middletown. In 1994, she returned to Connecticut and lived in Marlborough.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her loving family, son Thomas Sadler and daughter Shannon Sadler both of Marlborough, a daughter-in-law, Suzanne Sadler, future son-in-law, Jason Sobolow, William, Jen and many other "adopted" kids; also several aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a son, John Sadler.

A memorial service celebration will be held Saturday, July 19 at 11 a.m. in the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown. Burial will be private. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

## Colchester

### Bobby Phillips

Bobby "Dale" Phillips, 45, of Colchester, beloved husband of Maria Lemay, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, July 8.

Friends called Wednesday, July 16, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

## East Hampton

### Fred Kowal

Fred Kowal, 70, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Sandralee (Buden) Kowal died Saturday, July 12, after a long illness. Born Oct. 5, 1937, he was the son of the late Feodor and Katherine (Lupinski) Kowal.

Fred had lived in Newington before moving to East Hampton almost 30 years ago. He was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. He had served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. Fred was a member of the American Legion Post 2095 of East Hampton. He had volunteered at My Father's House in Moodus, and would bring coffee in the winter and soda in the summer to the East Hampton Town Garage. Fred had worked for more than 10 years in outside maintenance for the Colchester School System where he was affectionately known as "Mr. Green Jeans" by all the children.

Besides his wife, Sandy, he is survived by a brother, David Kowal, and many nieces and nephews especially Karen and Michael Kowal and Thomas Senetcen. He was predeceased by his son Kevin in 1980, a brother Stephen Kowal, a sister Anne Senetcen, and a nephew James Senetcen. A Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, July 15, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private in the family plot in West Hill Cemetery in Newington. Calling hours were at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday morning. To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Portland

### Matt O'Connor

Matt "Connor" O'Connor has left this life. He was born June 1, 1985, in Oakland, CA. At the age of five he moved to Portland with his mom and dad where he grew up making wonderful friends and playing sports, mainly baseball.

In 2005, Matt moved to Montana where he also made great friends. While there he worked in concrete masonry and became an avid backcountry snowboarder. He was also learning rock and ice climbing. Matt felt Montana would be the perfect place if only his dad and his Connecticut friends would move out there too. Matt loved sports, his friends and family and he loved to laugh.

His life was celebrated at a wake at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday, July 14. Donations in his memory may be made to the charity of your choice. For directions or to leave an online expression of sympathy, kindly visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Portland

### William J. Trudel

William J. Trudel, 66, known to his family and friends as "Bill" or "Billy", of Main St., Portland, died on Wednesday, July 9, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Meriden, April 19, 1942, a son of the late Emil and Mary Nielson Trudel, he was a Portland resident for many years. He had been employed by the Standard-Knapp Co., for 40 years until his retirement in 2005. He had served an enlistment in the U.S. Air Force.

He is survived by his daughter, Laura Engel Peterson and her husband, Eric of East Hampton; his beloved grandchildren, Taylor Engel and Gavin Peterson, who were the light of his life; his brother, Theodore Trudel and his wife, Charlene of Portland, his former wife and friend Carole, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Loretta Kuwik, and his brother, Ronald Trudel.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service Saturday, July 12, in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. There are no calling hours. Interment will be private in the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492 or to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., Meriden, CT 06450. For directions and online expressions of sympathy, kindly visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Marlborough

### Patty Szostak

Patty Szostak of Stage Road, Guilford, VT, and formerly of Marlborough, passed on early Friday morning, July 11, after a courageous journey with cancer. She was born in Norwalk on Jan. 24, 1955, beloved daughter of Jane Whelan (Porco) and the late Ralph Porco. Patty graduated from the University of Hartford with a degree in communications. She then spent most of her corporate career working in various human resource capacities for Aetna in Hartford.

In 1989, Patty married her soulmate, her life-long partner and best friend, Mike Szostak. They began their journey together in the towns of South Glastonbury and Marlborough later moving to Birchrunville, PA, and then joined the community of Guilford, VT in 1999. Patty was a very gifted person, both as an artist and a writer. Her work was published in various magazines and she received recognition for her skill as a wood sculptor. She also had a unique ability to connect with nature and animals as shown in the surroundings she created in each home she and Mike shared. She loved to design, build and take care of her beautiful rock, vegetable and flower gardens.

Patty was a trusted confidant to her family and many friends. She had a remarkable quality of being able to listen to people in a non-judgmental and supportive way. Throughout Patty's life she embraced not only tradition but diversity in views and beliefs. Yoga, meditation and other spiritual practices became a very important part of her life. Patty was constantly striving to expand her mind through reading and conversations with people of differing interests.

Much of who Patty was can be described by how she handled her 14-month journey with cancer (lymphoma). People would often comment about how in her e-mail updates and conversations she showed an amazing ability to accept her illness and deal with it not as a battle but as another opportunity to learn about a different aspect of life. Despite the numerous setbacks she experienced, she always found a way to find something positive about what was happening in her journey. She will be terribly missed as a devoted wife, daughter, sister, stepmother, nana, aunt, friend and active community member.

She leaves behind her husband Mike Szostak of Guilford, VT, her mother Jane Whelan (Porco) and her husband Bill of Annapolis, MD, her mother-in-law, Julia Szostak of Westfield, MA, her brother Steve Porco and his wife Carrie of Annapolis, MD, her stepchildren Andrew Szostak and his wife Lisa of Downers Grove, IL, Jennifer Heutz and her husband Tim of Lewiston, ME, her three granddaughters, Julia, Abigail and Miranda and her nephews Johnathan, Steven and Michael. In addition, she leaves behind her many animal friends, including her beloved horses Stormy and Gabe, her kitties Freddie, Luther and Riley and her dog Truman. She was predeceased by her father Ralph Porco, her brother Peter Porco and her father-in-law Henry Szostak.

In a recent photograph of Patty with a butterfly on her nose she wrote, "Nothing is worth more than this day." This photo and quotation by Goethe summarizes the person that Patty was. A memorial service will be held for Patty at the Guilford Community Church on Saturday, July 19, at 11 a.m. with a reception immediately following. Casual dress.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the Guilford Community Church, Broad Brook Grange, the First Responder unit of the Guilford Fire Dept, Rescue Inc. or any animal protection organization. Cremation services are being handled by Eternal Blessings of Guilford, VT. Mike would like to express a special thank you to the Oncology Unit at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and the endless number of friends and family who gave us love and support to carry us through our journey.

## East Hampton

### Elinor Gonci

Elinor Dawn West Gonci completed a full life of 81 years on Tuesday, June 24. She was born April 27, 1927, and was raised in East Hampton and Marlborough. Elinor was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, George H. Gonci.

She leaves behind a son Richard, his wife Joanna Fink and grandson Noah of Cambridge, MA and a son David, his wife Noreen Cullen and grandson Paul Petro of Glastonbury. She also leaves a brother and sister-in-law, Almon and Dorothy West, of East Hampton and special cousins Doris and Dorothy Lawson, as well as many members of the Gonci, West and Flemke families and several dearly loved nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews on both sides.

There will be a private interment. In lieu of a wake, friends and relatives are invited to call on the family 3-5 p.m. Saturday, July 19, at the Parma Restaurant, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. There will be a memorial service at South Glastonbury Congregational Church, 30 High St., Glastonbury, at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, July 20. A reception will follow at the Gallery Restaurant, 141 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Memorial contributions may be made in Elinor's memory to a charity of the donor's choice or to the Connecticut Carcinoid Initiative c/o Pat Strong, 5 Silo Dr., Wethersfield, CT 06109. The Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton is in charge of arrangements.