

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

Volume 34, Number 36

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

November 27, 2009



**Looking for Buried Treasure...** Colchester Cooperative Nursery School students searched for treasures on their recent field trip to Salmon River Sate Park with their teachers Michelle Donahue and Linda Eselunas. Pictured are Vivian Lubinsky, Michael Vilardo, Morgan Mylly and Sage Ostergren from the 4B class at the school.

## Colchester Teen Charged With Making Bomb

by Katy Nally

A 16-year-old Colchester resident, who allegedly created his own bomb and claimed he would kill everyone at Norwich Technical High School, was arraigned in New London last Friday, Nov. 20, and will be tried as an adult.

Kyle Zahacefski, a junior in the heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) program at Norwich Technical High School, was arraigned on charges of manufacturing a bomb and possessing a sawed-off shotgun, both of which are felonies. He was also charged with reckless endangerment, threatening and an act of terrorism.

On Oct. 2, police raided Zahacefski's 241 New London Rd. home and seized from the teen's bedroom a Remington 870 Magnum shotgun with a sawed off barrel and a homemade bomb, according to the affidavit.

Zahacefski was arrested on Oct. 21, nine days before his 16th birthday. On the day he was arrested he was also admitted to Riverview Hospital, according to the New London court clerk's office.

Suzanne McLean, a guidance counselor at Norwich Technical High School, was present when Zahacefski was questioned by school officials in October. On Tuesday, she recalled his presence as "creepy" and said he spoke about his shotgun "like it was nothing."

When asked why she thought Zahacefski had plotted to kill his classmates, she admitted she had no idea, but mentioned she was not surprised by his threats, when considering his "history." However, McLean did not divulge more

because of the pending court case.

When questioned by school officials, Zahacefski did not disclose why he threatened to kill fellow students, the affidavit said. Instead, when asked what he had planned, he only replied, "I've been upset, but I am over it," according to the affidavit.

However, according to the same report, one student heard Zahacefski say he would "kill everyone in school" while riding the bus on Oct. 2, but the student thought it was a joke.

Whatever Zahacefski had planned, it was interrupted in October when one student became so concerned with his friend's behavior that he informed McLean about Zahacefski's threats. On Oct. 2, the friend showed the guidance counselor a photo sent from Zahacefski's cell phone displaying his altered shotgun, his bomb, three boxes of ammunition and a Zippo lighter, the affidavit said. Accompanying the photo was a caption that read "Check out this saw n off shotgun i made."

McLean said the way Zahacefski was bragging about his weapons and his clandestine plans was really a "cry for help," the court documents said.

On Sept. 22, about a week before Zahacefski sent the photo, he told his friend, a senior in the electrical shop program, he was angry with a girl and would eventually "do something about it." According to the affidavit, Zahacefski told the senior he could not detail what he had planned because, if he did, he could be com-

See Bomb on Page 2

## A Three-peat for RHAM Volleyball Team

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Sachems volleyball team won its third straight Class M state title last Saturday, Nov. 21, and if you were to ask them how they did it players might say it's because of their chemistry or work ethic.

Or, it could be because senior libero Mallory Grosso ate the same dinner the night before every game or that senior Kelsey Welling wore the same (thankfully washed) socks at every game.

"We're a very superstitious team," Grosso said earlier this week.

Whether it's the meals, the attire or good old fashion hard work the Sachems are doing something right. RHAM finished the season undefeated (25-0) and with its third consecutive state championship.

A large part of this year's team were the seven seniors that have been a part of the program since arriving at RHAM in 2006. Those girls – Grosso, Welling, Tessa Smolinski, Ellie Linden, Alie Carlson, Chelsea Fenton and Kelsey Brault – haven't lost a match since the North-west Conference Championship in 2007.

Since then, they've rattled off 53 straight victories including a hard fought match against No. 11-ranked Joel Barlow on Saturday.

It was a rematch of the 2007 Class M Championship when RHAM won 3-0 to capture its first title in school history.

Saturday was déjà vu all over again as the Sachems won by the same score. Even though it was their third title in as many years, victory tasted just as sweet for RHAM.

"We knew we had a chance to do something special this year," Smolinski said earlier this week.

At the beginning of the season, RHAM head coach Tim Guernsey asked his players to write down their three goals for the season. Players took their pencils and paper and scribbled the words "undefeated," "conference champions" and "state champions."

As two-time defending champs, this team had a target on their back but relished their position. This was a team that practiced twice a day "with intensity," Guernsey said.

The Sachems set out to win a title and did just that.

At Saturday's match the Sachems jumped out to an early lead taking the first game 25-11.

The second game was a seesaw affair as the two teams were tied at 15 and, later, 22 before

See Volleyball on Page 2



The RHAM volleyball team won its third straight title last Saturday, Nov. 21. Pictured are the seniors on the team: front row from left, Alie Carlson, Chelsea Fenton, Kelsey Welling and Mallory Grosso; back row from left, Tessa Smolinski, Ellie Linden and Kelsey Brault.

### Bomb cont. from Front Page

mitted to a psychiatric hospital.

Zahacefski took other precautionary measures and even prepared for his potential court trial, according to the affidavit. On Oct. 1, Zahacefski told the same senior he would “laugh and smile” at the family members of those he killed, so he could plead insanity, the affidavit said.

The next day, on Oct. 2, Zahacefski warned the senior not to take the bus anymore because “it’s going to happen soon,” the affidavit said.

Finally, with the culmination of threats and the photo, the senior went to McLean, the affidavit said. He showed the guidance counselor the photo from Zahacefski and the school resource officer, Jeffrey Rogers of Troop E in Montville, was called in. McLean said Tuesday she recalled the student as “terrified” when he entered her office.

Later that day, Zahacefski’s mother Susanne was called in to discuss her son, the affidavit said. She told officials Zahacefski was her middle son and described him as the “good one because he is quiet and keeps to himself,” according to the affidavit.

Zahacefski’s mother said her son did not have problems making friends and said he was not ostracized at school, according to the affi-

davit. McLean agreed, saying Tuesday that Zahacefski was “absolutely not” bullied.

Later in the day on Oct. 2, Zahacefski was brought in and questioned by Rogers. Zahacefski replied succinctly and calmly, and even detailed how he made the bomb, saying he used “Roman candle heads, black powder, match heads, BBs and a wick.”

But the then-15-year-old became taciturn when asked about his family life, the affidavit said. Instead of responding to whether things were “okay at home,” Zahacefski’s eyes welled up and he had a “1,000-mile stare,” the affidavit said. According to the affidavit, Zahacefski’s mother told officials said was remarried three years ago after a divorce.

After he was questioned, Zahacefski was admitted to a treatment facility, then arrested 19 days later. He will next appear in New London Superior Court type A, which handles felony charges, on Dec. 18, according to court records. He is currently undergoing treatment at Riverview, the court clerk’s office said. He is represented by attorney Mark Balaban of the Balaban Law Firm. Balaban and the state prosecutor’s office both declined to comment.

### Volleyball cont. from Front Page

three service errors by Barlow gave RHAM the victory 25-22.

As exciting as the second game was, the third game outdid it. RHAM found itself behind 7-1 before knotting the score at 10 and, later, taking a lead of 20-15. Just when the title was within reach the Sachems hit a scoring drought.

Barlow pulled ahead 24-20, threatening to do what just one other team has done this season to RHAM, win a game. A quick timeout by Guernsey snapped his Sachem team into action. They forced an error on the ensuing play to put Brault on the service line down 24-21.

After a block by Sachem junior Jocelyn Taylor and two kills by Smolinski the score was tied at 24. After a kill attempt by Barlow sailed out of bounds the Sachems were within one point of a perfect season.

Like they’d done so many times before, Linden set the ball to Smolinski who ended the game, match and season with a kill along the

sideline.

Smolinski was named Most Valuable Player of the state tournament. She and Welling were both named to the All-State team.

Guernsey knows that next year’s team will look a lot different than the one on the floor Saturday afternoon, but he’s not worried. “It’s not rebuilding. It’s reloading,” he said earlier this week.

Of the non-seniors on the team, only Taylor saw significant playing time.

However, Guernsey is quick to highlight, in 2007, when the Sachems won their first state championship, they did so on the backs of then-seniors Molly Rathbun, Mallory Mangan and Shelley O’Keefe. The following year, RHAM won the title again despite losing its three strongest players.

“We have players that are ready to step in,” Guernsey said. “They’re not looking to replace anyone but create their own legacy.”

## Colchester Rotary Club Makes Annual Thanksgiving Deliveries

by Katy Nally

Members of the Colchester Rotary Club acted as Thanksgiving’s little helpers Monday and delivered over 130 boxes of food to local families who couldn’t afford to give thanks over a traditional turkey dinner.

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department was the loading dock for volunteers who stocked their station wagons, SUVs and sedans with heaping boxes full of food. Each package was topped off with a yellow sheet of paper that read, “The Rotary Club of Colchester wishes you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.”

The club was presented with a list of 136 needy families Monday morning and by that night, the boxes were delivered. A few extras were given back to Colchester Social Services for families that did not sign up in time.

Edward Galan and his family drove through the fire station twice Monday night and loaded up with seven boxes, then another five on the second go-around. Galan paused from packing his Buick and described the dinner drive as “very rewarding and humbling at the same time.”

This year, about 10 more boxes were packed than in 2008, and another delivery shift was added, said Colchester Rotary Club President Robert Kennedy. About 20 boxes were delivered during the day to residents who would be home to receive it. “If there’s a need we will fill that need,” Kennedy said.

What appeared to be a one-day, smooth operation was actually the result of fundraising and coordinating since October.

Throughout the fall, Kennedy said he asked Rotary members to help out and donate to Liberty Bank, where the club has an account. The bank adds \$1 for every \$3 that is deposited and added \$1,894 to the club’s \$5,680, for a grand total of \$7,575. “These guys have been enormous fundraisers,” Sue Murphy, the executive director of the Liberty Bank foundation, said.

“The need is greater than ever because of

the recession, so we made a special effort to raise more money this year,” Kennedy said in a press release.

Kennedy said he looked for other partnership opportunities and this year joined with Prudential Realty in fundraising efforts.

When the fundraising was complete, the club enlisted the help of two local food vendors – Noel’s Supermarket in Colchester and Tri Town Foods in Portland. The markets sold the items to Kennedy at a great discount, or at cost, Kennedy said.

Then the boxes were assembled and packed. Each one contained a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, onions, a loaf of white bread, an apple pie, gravy, two cans of green beans, two cans of corn, a can of cranberries, butter, apple juice, celery, a five-pound bag of sugar, a canister of coffee and a dozen eggs. Kennedy explained the eggs aren’t part of the traditional dinner, “but they’re a staple.”

“We’re committed to making sure Colchester residents are fed,” Linda Hodge, Rotary vice president, said. Hodge acted as a loading volunteer Monday and helped pack her husband Bob’s car with boxes of food.

Hodge said when she was a driving volunteer during past delivery programs, one little boy was so excited to receive the Thanksgiving meal because he had never eaten turkey before.

While the Colchester Rotary Club has delivered food to families in town for over 30 years, the Thanksgiving dinner drive spans several towns in the area. Liberty Bank and 21 other Rotary Clubs provided food for 28 towns this year. Murphy said Colchester and Middletown actually buy food for residents, while other towns collect donations for food banks or buy grocery gift cards for needy residents. Murphy, who works in Middletown and lives in Colchester said, “This project is very near and dear to my heart because these are my neighbors.”

Murphy said the dinner drive began in 2004



**The annual Liberty Bank and Rotary Club Thanksgiving dinner drive took place this past Monday. More than 130 boxes of food – each including a turkey – were collected.**

when the Middletown Rotary Club approached Liberty Bank and asked to partner with the local branch. According to Murphy, the bank decided to participate in the program only if the donations would be distributed throughout the bank’s service area, including Middlesex and New London counties, as well as Mansfield, Windham, Marlborough, Wallingford, Cheshire, North Haven, Wethersfield and Madison.

“Because of the efforts of our Rotary partners, more than 2,100 local families that might not have had a Thanksgiving feast this year will

be able to enjoy one,” Murphy said in a press release.

This year the 21 Rotary Clubs and Liberty Bank banded together to raise more than \$90,200. The East Hampton club raised the most with \$13,027, which includes the bank’s matching donation.

Murphy said this type of generosity is commonplace for the Rotary organization. She said the club has certainly lived up to its motto of “Service above self.” And as a community bank, Murphy said “it’s a natural thing for us to help out.”

# East Hampton and Portland Join Six Towns for New Court

by Michael McCoy

With the big probate court merger still over a year away, a cluster of centralized towns has taken a parallel step.

According to East Hampton Judge of Probate Anne McKinney, the new Central Connecticut Regional Children's Probate Court commenced operations on Nov. 2 in Meriden. The court, which was previously the Meriden-Wallingford Regional Children's Probate Court, will now serve eight towns: East Hampton, Portland, Meriden, Wallingford, Middletown, Cromwell, Durham and Middlefield (the latter three towns were already part of Middletown's probate court).

The first children's probate court popped up in New Haven several years ago, McKinney said. The idea is that children's matters will receive enhanced care. These issues include custody, guardian removal, emancipation, paternity and adoptions. A press release from the state's Office of the Probate Court Administrator said the New Haven court "has been nationally recognized for its innovative approach to children's matters."

In a press release, McKinney said the court will "provide the clinical expertise necessary

to quickly identify children's needs, improve case planning and links to community services, facilitate an appropriate family plan and provide long-term monitoring."

McKinney, who has been East Hampton's probate judge for 15 years, seemed quite pleased by the merger and explained it was not so much a cost-savings measure, but a means to pool resources. She specifically said that sharing a building with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) was "one of the additional things that I'm really excited about."

Philip Wright Jr., who had been administrative judge at the Meriden-Wallingford court, is retaining his position in the new, expanded court, and oversees the court's day-to-day operations. In addition to Wright and McKinney, the other judges are Joseph Marino of Middletown, Steve Kinsella of Portland and Brian Mahon of Meriden. They are also each remaining probate judges in their respective towns, traveling to the Meriden-Wallingford court for hearings.

"I think it's a great idea," Kinsella said. "It puts everything in one place."

Kinsella, who has served as Portland's judge of probate for three years, estimated he fields about a dozen children's cases every year. He said just a few weeks ago he dealt with some children whose mother was incarcerated. They had nowhere to go and one needed medical care. What's more, Kinsella said he couldn't reach DCF. Kinsella figured the new court would eliminate that problem.

"It's a wonderful asset," McKinney said of the new court. She acknowledged the drive East Hampton residents now have to make it to Meriden (right on the Middlefield border), but, she figured, "It's worth having the resources."

Residents only need to drive to Meriden for hearings and the like. They can still file paperwork in their own town.

That is, of course, until the major regionalization, approved by Governor M. Jodi Rell in September, which will consolidate the state's 117 probate courts into 54. The plan takes effect in January 2011. At that time, Portland and East Hampton will combine with East Haddam and Marlborough to form one court.

Though the location of the office has not been officially decided, McKinney said it looked like it would be in the East Hampton Town Hall Annex, since it had ample space. Though Kinsella said he and his constituency would love the court to stay in Portland, he recognized that placing it in East Hampton made sense because of its central location.

The new four-town probate court will be open at least 40 hours per week, while they are typically open 20 now.

The five probate judges will remain for now at the children's probate court. However, just one judge will be elected a year from now, leaving three current judges out to dry.

Though the Central Connecticut Regional Children's Probate Court opened early this month, McKinney said the state will host an open house reception in January, attended by state and local dignitaries.

The new court is located at 1510 East Main St., Suite 203, in Meriden. It can be reached by phone at 203-235-1014. More information can also be attained by calling McKinney's office at 860-267-9262 or Kinsella's at 860-342-6739.

## Back to Work for Hebron Board of Selectmen

by Sarah McCoy

With Republican Dan Larson now seated, it was back to business last week for the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

At two separate meetings, the selectmen voted on officers, reopened the search for a new town manager and accepted Larson's resignation from the Board of Finance.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the selectmen unanimously supported a motion for Republican Jeff Watt to continue serving as the chair of the BOS. Watt has served in the role since selectman Gayle Mulligan stepped down in 2008 due to her battle with cancer.

Mulligan, a Republican, is healthy now, and her fellow board members voted 3-0 (Democrat Mark Stuart was absent from the meeting, and Mulligan abstained from the vote) to name her vice chair of the BOS.

Up until last week, that position had been filled by Democrat Mark Stuart. Stuart said earlier this week that while he would have liked

to continue in that role, he's sure Mulligan "will do a fine job."

Stuart also said the board members have worked well together in the past and he expects that to continue.

At its regular meeting Thursday, Nov. 19, the BOS also reopened the search for a permanent town manager. The selectmen decided to reach out to the individuals who had participated in the last search committee to see if they are interested in serving again. Watt said he hopes that between now and Dec. 3, the search committee would be able to review the past applications the town received for the town manager position and determine if the top candidates identified in the summer are still available.

Former Town Manager Jared Clark left his post in March of this year. A search committee was formed and seven top candidates were selected before the BOS opted to suspend the search and discuss whether Director of Public

Works Andy Tierney, Town Planner Mike O'Leary and Executive Assistant Donna Lanza could fill the role of town manager on a permanent basis.

Last month, the members of the management team stated they were no longer interested in continuing in the role permanently.

Watt said the intention of the BOS is to reopen the application period at their Dec. 3 meeting and begin interviewing candidates in mid-January. Once a town manager is hired, Watt said, the BOS would begin work on hiring a new finance director.

Also at last Thursday's meeting, the selectmen voted to accept the resignation of Larson from the Board of Finance (BOF) because of his election to the BOS. The town's two parties now have until late December to endorse a candidate for the spot on the BOF.

On Monday night, the Republican Town Committee (RTC) unanimously endorsed Lynn

Guerriero for the position. Guerriero has over 20 years of experience in finance. She feels that her background in project management coupled with her ability to give time to serving make her a qualified candidate for the board.

The Democratic Town Committee (DTC) has not endorsed a candidate for the position.

There has been a tradition to fill a vacancy with a member of the same party. However, in early 2007, after staunch Republican Matt Daly resigned from the BOF, Donna Ferree, an independent candidate endorsed by the DTC, won the right to serve over Republican-endorsed Clara O'Brien.

Watt said the BOS will decide on a candidate in January- just in time for the individual to participate in the town's annual budget process.

The Board of Selectmen will hold their next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 in the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

## Candidates Explored for Marlborough Charter Revision Commission

by Katy Nally

The Board of Selectmen discussed seven candidates for a Charter Revision Commission (CRC) at the last board meeting on Tuesday Nov. 17.

Four were nominated by Republican Town Committee (RTC) chair Ken Hjulstrom, including Town Tax Collector Barbara Murray, Midge Denno, Pasquale Amodeo and David Durel.

Out of his four nominations, Durel is the only candidate who does not work for the town or currently serve on a board or commission. Hjulstrom said Durel "is obviously a person with a lot of energy and interest in town matters," adding, "I would be pleased to see him put that energy into charter reform." Durel has been active in protesting certain aspects of the local sewer project. He organized two petitions in August that asked to change the sewer regulations, but both were deemed void at a Sept. 1 meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Durel keeps a blog, [marlboroughsewersunfair.wordpress.com](http://marlboroughsewersunfair.wordpress.com), that chronicles the status of the sewer project.

Speaking of his other nominations, Hjulstrom said Denno, an AARP representative on the Commission on Aging, would "pro-

vide representation of senior citizens." He added that Murray would present "excellent insight into the town operations" from her years as tax collector.

Hjulstrom said Amodeo would be a "valuable asset" to the CRC because he is an attorney. However, First Selectman Bill Black said Amodeo is not allowed to serve on both the Board of Finance and the CRC, so he would have to resign from his current position if selected. Amodeo was elected to the finance board as an alternate in November.

Democratic Town Committee (DTC) Chair Shawn Fisher nominated Betty O'Brien, who was appointed as president of the Board of Education (BOE) on Nov. 19. Fisher did not return requests to discuss his nomination.

Black and selectman Riva Clark (Joe La Bella was not present) also reviewed the candidacy of Democrat Maria Grove and Republican Dennis Hawrylko. Grove was chairman of the BOE until recently, as she did not seek reelection, and Hawrylko was a selectman from 1998-2003 and acted as first selectman in 2006 for four months.

At last Tuesday's BOS meeting, Black said the number of CRC members will be a "floating figure," and will depend on the number of applicants. According to state laws on charter reform, there must be a mix of Republicans and Democrats with a bare majority of one person from each party. Black said Monday that the BOS hasn't decided on how many town officials and citizens will join the CRC.

Black said the BOS would discuss all the applicants and possibly conduct interviews. He said he would like the CRC to be set up by January, so a reform question could appear on the November 2011 ballot.

Once the CRC is established, Black said the "whole charter is open for review." He noted some areas that might change such as the structure of town government, which could switch from a BOS to a town manager. He also said the number of selectmen could be altered, as well as the process for approving a town budget.

Black mentioned Monday this past budget was a "catalyst" to establish the CRC. He said many of the budget processes are confusing for

some voters and other residents have asked to change the voting style from a town meeting to a secret ballot. Through charter reform, the window for voting on a town budget could increase to all day.

The Town Charter was adopted in 1985 and has never been amended. In 2001, a petition, organized by Hjulstrom, called for charter reform and a charter revision commission was established. But at a 2002 referendum, voters turned down an all-or-nothing package of changes proposed by that commission. Hjulstrom said he thought the charter would have likely been reformed if voters were able to approve certain sections as opposed to the entire package.

The proposed 2002 changes included expanding the BOS to seven members and replacing the town treasurer with a chief financial officer.

The CRC needs to be in place by the end of February 2010 in order for a reform question to appear on a November 2011 ballot. The commission will have 18 months to review the charter and propose changes.

# Marlborough BOE Creates Committee to Look at Fees

by Katy Nally

An ad-hoc committee that will look into establishing a revolving account dedicated to education was established at last Thursday's Board of Education (BOE) meeting.

The four-member committee will meet with selectmen and finance board members to discuss creating an account funded through increased user fees, grants and state and federal reimbursements.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz said the committee, composed of Betty O'Brien, Louise Concodello, Ruth Kelly and John O'Toole, would discuss the account with other boards sometime after the holidays. At the Nov. 19 meeting, O'Brien was also appointed as the BOE's chair, Concodello as vice chair and Kelly as secretary.

Sklarz explained the BOE was looking into a revolving account because "we want to be more aggressive in finding more revenue." He said, currently these user fees, grants and reimbursements go into a town wide general fund, so the revolving account would divert those funds back into the BOE for education purposes. Sklarz called the revolving account a "good source of revenue for the school budget."

Board of Finance (BOF) Chair Catherine Gaudinski said the account would affect the town budget only slightly because the revenue will still offset costs, despite which account it's in. Gaudinski said that although the user fees and reimbursements come back to a town fund now, "the bottom line is, it's all one big pot of money." If the town's revenue is affected, Gaudinski said taxes could increase to make up the difference.

Sklarz explained how the town is currently reimbursed when the school spends over a certain amount of money on a special needs child who is sent out-of-district for school. He said the revolving account would collect this type

of compensation and funnel it back to the school. "We're looking for cost saving measures," the superintendent said.

Although this idea would increase revenue it is not a very common occurrence, with no special needs children being sent out-of-district this year.

Sklarz also mentioned increasing user fees for those who use the school after hours, citing groups that use the gym and the auditorium. He said these fees haven't changed in about a decade and increasing them would provide more revenue.

Sklarz said there are several types of groups that use school facilities, ranging from those that serve Marlborough students to those that have no local members. Because of this wide range, he said the fee increase would be on a sliding scale where the student groups would pay the least. Though the fee changes have not yet been determined, Sklarz estimated an increase of 20 percent for groups that don't serve Marlborough.

Lastly, the superintendent mentioned fees paid by a before- and after-school program would likely increase. The program, Marlborough Elementary Child Care Association (MECCA), provides daycare before school until 8:15 a.m. and after school until 6 p.m. The association also provides care for kindergarteners during the half of the school day that they're not in class. Sklarz said MECCA's contract hasn't been negotiated in "some time," so an increase in user fees could happen.

The creation of the ad-hoc committee was just the first step. Sklar said "it's more important to have the discussion" with the boards of selectmen and finance, as opposed to immediately creating the account. In difficult financial times, he said, cost-saving measures and increasing revenue are critical.

# RHAM Senior Literally a One-Woman Swim Team

by Sarah McCoy

For some, it might be a surprise to hear that RHAM has a swim team. After all, the school doesn't even have a pool.

Not only does it compete, the entire Sachems team took first place in the state open 500-yard freestyle race last Saturday. No, it wasn't a relay.

The RHAM team is comprised of just one member – Marlborough resident Alicia Mathieu.

Alicia, who will attend the University of Florida on a swimming scholarship next year, won two races at the Class M State meet last week and another at the State Open on Saturday.

The State Open pits all swimmers in the state against one another whilst the class meets matches up similarly-sized schools.

Since RHAM doesn't have a pool, Alicia spent the season practicing with the team from E.O. Smith. At competitions, she sports a RHAM suit with gold cap.

Alicia, 17, began swimming, as so many local children do, with lessons at Lake Terramuggus in Marlborough. Liking it, she began swimming for the Minnechaug Pool Club, a now-defunct recreational league in Glastonbury.

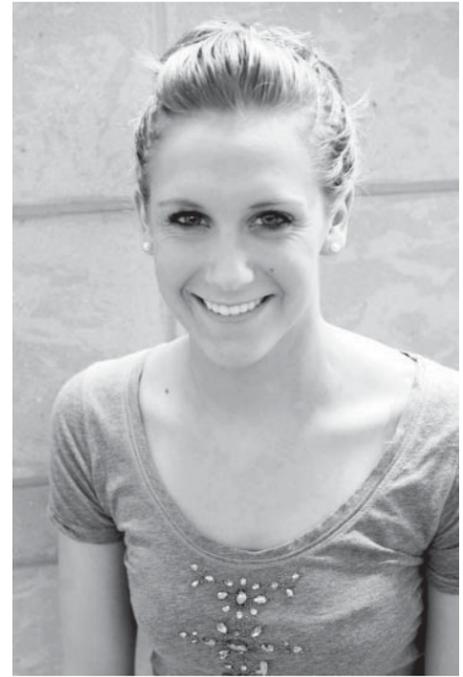
In sixth grade she joined the Sonoco Swim Club and began competing at a regional and national level. "I've always liked competing and racing against people," she said earlier this week. "When you're young you like what you're good at and, for me, that was swimming."

Over the years, Alicia has traveled far and wide for swimming. She competed in the Olympic Trials in 2008, finishing 22nd in the 800-meter freestyle. Alicia has her sights set on the 2012 Olympic Team in London. Though with only the top two swimmers qualifying for each event, she knows she'll have to get faster to make the team.

That's precisely why she's heading south next fall.

Presently, Alicia swims for two hours each day with another hour of conditioning twice a week. Next year her schedule will change to nine practices each week plus lifting and conditioning. The University of Florida "has produced some amazing athletes," Alicia said. "I just clicked with the environment and the other members of the team when I went down to visit."

Alicia said earlier this week that her best events are the 800-meter and one-mile freestyle.



Alicia Mathieu

Since Connecticut high schools don't run those events, Alicia has been racing the 500- and 200-yard freestyle this season.

In the 500-yard race last weekend, Alicia finished 13 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor with a time of 4:52:50. Earlier this week, Alicia said she did what she needed to do but that the race wasn't a particularly strong one for her. "I was about five seconds off my personal best," she said.

In the 200-yard race, Alicia finished fourth with a time of 1:53:17 – three seconds off the winning time. Still, Alicia said, she was pleased with her run and is looking forward to building on that success in the future.

In about a week she will travel to Ohio for the Junior National Tournament. Alicia said she hopes to place in the top three in the mile swim. From there she'll have some time off before the national championships in Irvine, CA, in August.

Alicia said she'll gauge whether or not she wants to try for the 2016 Olympics after the 2012 games. "It depends how close I am," she said.

For now she's enjoying her state titles and looking forward to her next opportunities to compete.

# Portland Public Works Deals with Two Straight Water Main Breaks

by Michael McCoy

It's not just the bleak midwinter that forces Portland's Public Works Department to put in all-nighters. They spent their Monday night fixing the first of two consecutive water main breaks.

Around 12:30 a.m., Portland Police reported an alarm going off at the Bartlett Street pumping station. This alarm signaled a main break, so Public Works director Rick Kelsey, along with a crew of four took a midnight run to the scene.

The break occurred on High Street, near Sunset Terrace, and, Kelsey said, "It's a high pressure area." According to Kelsey, High Street is where most of the breaks occur. The main is about 50 years old Kelsey said, but that alone is not the reason for the break. For instance, many of the town's water mains are 150 years old, but those are made of cast iron. The main on High Street is made of asbestos cement, far less durable.

According to Kelsey, during such a break, water shoots up about a foot out of the asphalt, resulting in a "roaring river" flowing down the street.

The crew worked until 7 a.m., digging up the road, replacing the 13.5 foot main with cement-lined ductile iron pipe.

However, just as they were on their way out, about half an hour later, they saw another break just 400 feet north of the first one. "It's unusual for breaks to occur one after the other like that," Kelsey said, adding that High Street can expect about six water main breaks each

year. So, the crew worked, similarly to the first incident, and finished up at 3 p.m. Kelsey said they labored to finish before the three High Street schools (high, middle, and Valley View) got out.

"It's a long day," said Kelsey, who also estimated the breaks lost about 50,000 gallons of water combined, with each interrupting service for about five hours. He said it affected 20 homes.

Kelsey said typical practice involves covering up the pipe and topping it with gravel, but waiting until the next day to pave it, so the ground may be packed down first.

In regards to the second break, Kelsey surmised that air got into the system when the line was being refilled, and burst the old pipe. As for the cause of the first break, Kelsey said, "Who knows?" However, he went on to explain in general terms, "It's a function of the cold temperature and the viscosity of the water."

Thursday morning, Kelsey said the department was in the process of the repaving the spots.

"It's a catch 22," said Kelsey, explaining that the town tries to maintain the pipe, but such improvements drive up water rates as well. Kelsey said he hopes to replace about 4,000 feet of High Street pipe this summer, to the tune of about \$1 million. This will be funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and was approved by the Board of Selectmen about a year ago.

# Middletown Man Charged in Portland October Robbery

by Michael McCoy

Portland Police have arrested a Middletown man for the second time in a month.

On Nov. 17, police said, Robert Doucette, 54, of 1 Labella Circle in Middletown was charged with first-degree robbery, sixth-degree larceny, second-degree threatening and third-degree robbery.

As reported in the *Rivereast* last month, Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham said Doucette entered the Super Moon Mart on Main Street on the afternoon of Oct. 11, approached the counter and told the clerk he had a gun but "didn't want to shoot anybody." Doucette then allegedly made off with about \$100.

Cunningham said Doucette returned to the store that evening, less than nine hours later, demanding money without the threat of a gun, but only managed to scare up a pittance. Cunningham said this week that Doucette figured "It worked the first time," thus the sec-

ond visit to the store. (The store is located mere feet from the police station.)

The third-degree robbery charge applies to the second visit, while the others are for the first incident, Cunningham said.

Police did not catch Doucette until an incident around 12:30 a.m. on Oct. 13. According to Cunningham, Doucette tried, via tire iron, to force his way into the Main Street Dunkin' Donuts, located next to the Arrigoni Bridge. When Doucette realized the four employees, who were closing down the store, saw him, he fled across the bridge. That's where he was picked up by Portland and Middletown police.

Doucette was only arrested for the Dunkin' Donuts at that time, despite confessing to all three, explaining he was trying to fund a \$400 a day crack cocaine habit.

Doucette is currently awaiting trial at Hartford Correctional Institute, Cunningham said. His combined bond is set at \$85,000.

## East Hampton Police News

11/9 — Melanie Brule, 45, of 70 Sunny Side East Rd., Yantic, was issued a ticket for operating while using a cell phone, East Hampton Police said.

11/9 — Brian Mularski Jr., 24, of 223 North Moodus Rd., Moodus, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

11/12 — Vincent Tedesco, 19, of 35 South Main St., was issued a ticket for speeding, police said.

11/14 — Eric Havry, 22, of 72 Middletown Ave., was arrested for misuse of plates, failure to display front plate, operating without minimum insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

11/15 — Tara Cassina, 37, of 11 West Blvd., was arrested for second-degree breach of peace and fourth-degree criminal mischief, police said.

## Hebron Police News

11/20: At 4:54 p.m. it was reported that multiple lockers in the men's sports locker room at RHAM High School were broken into, sometime between 3 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. that day, State Police said. Locks on the lockers were missing and were assumed to be cut off. Numerous items of value were stolen. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Resident State Trooper James Nolting at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

11/21: At 9:46 p.m. a burglary on Senate Brook Drive was reported. Some time between 11 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. unknown persons entered through the front window, ransacked numerous rooms, and stole numerous items of value. Any-

## Colchester Police News

11/17: Tadeusz Janusz, 61, of 63 Senate Brook Dr., Hebron, was charged with making and improper turn and DUI, State Police said.

11/17: Justin Mikan, 26, of 288 Lake Hayward Rd., was charged with stealing a firearm, having a weapon in a motor vehicle, third-degree larceny, risk of injury to a minor and selling/delivering/transferring a pistol, State Police said. The accused was picked up on an arrest warrant and was part of an ongoing investigation since January, State Police said.

11/17: Gerald Hoffstot, 66, of 60K Linwood Ave., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

11/15 — Jason Baine, 19, of 125 Prospect Hill Rd., Colchester, was issued a ticket for illegal passing, police said.

11/15 — Tracy Crowley, 44, of 91 Hammond Ct., Colchester, was issued a ticket for traveling fast, police said.

11/18 — Thomas Foley, 18, of 311 Cox Rd., Portland, was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

11/18 — Santo Ficars, 26, of 43 Neptune Ave., Portland, was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

11/19 — Darin Hurne, 41, of 180 Tartia Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

11/19 — Gariel Stein, 33, of 124 Main St., was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

one with more information is asked to contact Resident State Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

11/21: Thomas Kirker, 44, of 24 Crouch Rd., was charged with operating an unregistered vehicle, speeding, driving underinsured and having license violations, State Police said.

11/22: At 8:42 p.m. a burglary at a home on Congress Drive was reported. Some time between Friday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 8:30 p.m. unknown persons entered the home through a kicked-in rear door. Many items of value were stolen, State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Resident State Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

11/19: Jennalee Stedman, 24, of 68 Merchants Ave., Taftville, turned herself in for third-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/20: Colin Dunbar, 32, of 2221 Cromwell Hills Dr., Cromwell, was charged with DUI and simple trespassing, State Police said.

11/20: Richard Jutras, 52, of 99 Gil St., was charged with breach of peace, interfering with an officer, DUI and operation of a motor vehicle when license is suspended, State Police said.

11/22: Daniel Stravato, 44, of 7 Meadow Dr., Apt. 6, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

EH

## Man Crashes Car, Flees, Crashes Again

A Rocky Hill man was arrested after, East Hampton Police said, he crashed into two different cars within moments of each other.

According to police, Joseph Boucher, 19, of 7 Garden St., Rocky Hill, rear-ended a car on Lakeview Street, near Flanders Road, at around 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5. He fled the scene and, moments later, crossed into oncoming traffic and hit an oncoming car on Summit Street, near Bevin Court, police said.

After this second crash, police said, Boucher fled on foot, but was caught near the

scene shortly thereafter.

For the first crash, Boucher was charged with failure to travel at a reasonable distance apart, illegal operation of a motor vehicle and evading responsibility, police said. For the second crash, Boucher was charged with failure to drive right, illegal operation of a motor vehicle while under suspension and evading responsibility, police said.

Boucher was released on a promise to appear, police said, and was due in court Wednesday, Nov. 25.

## Fugitive Reportedly Spotted in Colchester

A New Hampshire man who had escaped from jail was reportedly spotted in Colchester, according to Connecticut State Police.

The man, Robert Hale III, 45, escaped from Sullivan County Jail in New Hampshire in the early morning of Nov. 19, New Hamp-



Robert Hale III

shire State Police said. He was awaiting trial for armed robbery.

According to Connecticut State Police, Hale was reportedly seen in the Colchester area last Friday morning, Nov. 20. State police said they have been checking the area where Hale was allegedly seen.

Both Connecticut and New Hampshire state police said Wednesday, Nov. 25, Hale had not yet been caught.

Hale is approximately 6 feet tall, 190 pounds with brown eyes and hair, police said.

Anyone who may have seen Hale is asked to contact State Police Troop K at 860-537-7500.

## Portland Police News

11/18 — A 17-year-old male was arrested for criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

One of the reporters at our sister paper, the *Glastonbury Citizen*, is something of a history buff, and last week was telling me about a program he'd seen on The History Channel the night before about a molasses famine in Colchester, due to the river being frozen over. He didn't know much beyond that, though. Intrigued, I hopped onto Google and within seconds found out everything I wanted to know – and then some – about the great molasses shortage of 1705.

It seems there's a pretty detailed story about the famine readily available online. The story, entitled "Mistress Esteem Elliott's Molasses Cake: The Story of a Postponed Thanksgiving," first appeared in an 1891 magazine called *Wideawake* (yeah, I never heard of it either). It was reprinted in the 1915 book *Good Cheer Stories Every Child Should Know*. Well, I managed to make it to 30 without knowing the story, and I turned out alright. Nevertheless, though, it is a fairly interesting tale.

It seems that in mid-October 1705, there was a terrible cold snap, and the Connecticut River was frozen solid. After the river froze over, a huge snowstorm occurred, and Colchester was buried under three feet of snow. There were some footpaths and roads broken out in the "immediate village," the *Wideawake* story said, but nothing further. With the closed roads and the closing of the river, the town couldn't get its winter supplies, which were secured from Norwich and New London. As the 1891 story noted, "Even Mr. Chapin, the storekeeper, was but poorly supplied with staples of which he ordinarily kept an abundance on hand."

There was only one family in the area, that of Deacon Esteem Elliot – whom the story called "the richest man in the place" – that had any molasses. Now, to me, this wouldn't be a big deal. But apparently, in 1705 Colchester, it was a *huge* deal. Thanksgiving was to be celebrated the first Thursday in November that year (yes, that early; it wasn't until 1863 that President Lincoln officially declared Thanksgiving to be the fourth Thursday in November), and the housewives of the town were very worried. "Pray what would Thanksgiving amount to, they inquired, with no pumpkin pies, no baked beans, no molasses cake, no proper sweetening for the rum so freely used in those days?" the story said.

Mistress Esteem Elliot didn't want to part with her family's molasses; she told the other desperate housewives that she only had a "bare quart" and that it was, as far as she knew, "all that the whole town of Colchester has got to depend on until the roads or the river can be broken to Norwich." The ladies began discussing whether they could postpone Thanksgiving a week, to allow for the roads to be better cleared and perhaps get in some more of those precious molasses. After all, one of the more forward-thinking women said, "there's no law against it."

The notion was soon discussed with the town's three selectmen, and a town meeting was held Oct. 27, declaring that Thanksgiving be delayed a week, to the second Thursday in November.

The decision went over well with most of the townspeople – except for Mistress Elliott's "buxom daughter" (as the story described her) Prudence Ann, who was to be married on Thanksgiving Day to "the son of a great mag-

nate in the neighboring town of Hebron." Upon learning of the delay, Prudence Ann – whom the story also described as "spoilt" – was "fairly raging over it."

The story quoted Prudence Ann as sobbing that she had her heart set on getting married on Thanksgiving Day. She wouldn't consider delaying the wedding either, since, she said, "everybody knows there is no surer way of bringing ill luck down than that!"

"I say I won't have it put off!" the story quotes her as saying. "But we can't have any party with no molasses in town! Oh, dear! I might as well be married in the back kitchen with a linsey gown on, as if I were the daughter of old Betty, the pie woman! There!"

The story said Prudence Ann vowed "vengeance upon the selectmen of Colchester," and even sent her father to go talk with them. (I'm betting if the *Rivereast* were around back then she'd have written a nasty letter to the editor, too.) The discussion was of no use; apparently the Elliots weren't very popular in Colchester. The story says the selectmen "had known all along the Elliots did not want the festival day put off, but nobody in Colchester minded very much if the Elliots were a little crossed."

Prudence Ann's mother sat down with her and explained the facts: she could either have the wedding on Nov. 4 anyway, attended by just a few guests, or she could wait a week, at which time, her mother told her, "you can probably have a better party." Prudence Ann opted to go ahead with the wedding on Nov. 4, as "her terror of a postponed wedding overcame every other consideration."

So, the Elliots went ahead and had the wedding. Mistress Esteem Elliott used her molasses to make a cake and several pumpkin pies. The morning of the wedding, the mistress placed the treats on a shelf in the back of her kitchen to cool.

This proved to be a big mistake.

Two neighborhood kids were walking by and swiped the cake for themselves. Then, Mistress Elliott's calf came loose from her rope, walked through the back door of the kitchen, and proceeded to eat the pies. Mistress Elliott arrived on scene just in time to see a few remaining pieces of pie crust.

Prudence Ann was inconsolable, "passing from one fainting fit into another," the story said, and ultimately calling for the death of the calf. (Don't worry, the animal's life was spared, through what the story described as "artifice and diplomacy.") The wedding went ahead as planned, only this time with nuts, apple and cider as the chief refreshments.

As for the two kids who stole the cake, one passed the tale of the theft down to her grandchildren, with, the 1891 story said, "appropriate warnings to them never to commit similar misdemeanours themselves." The other one, the story said, died not long after stealing the cake. The story makes special mention that no cause of death is listed on the boy's tombstone – but I highly doubt he was killed as payback for stealing the cake.

So, there you have it, the story of the great Colchester molasses famine. Hopefully you didn't have much famine at your Thanksgiving table yesterday – and hopefully you were able to snag a slice or two of cake for yourself, molasses or otherwise.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## Marlborough Police News

11/18: Eric Rick, 20, of 155 West St., Hebron, was charged with second-degree reckless endangerment, State Police said.

11/21: Kent Johnson, 60, of 12 Caffyn Dr., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, State Police said.

11/21: Neil Johnson, 26, of 12 Caffyn Dr., was charged with operation of a motor vehicle when license is suspended, operating a cell phone while driving, having a windshield that obstructs the view, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, State Police said.

## Andover Police News

11/20: Joao Cordeiro, 35, of 16 Pineridge Rd., was charged with violation of a criminal protective order, threatening, harassment and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Mary K. (Broome) Arnt

Mary K. (Broome) Arnt, 88, wife of the late Gilbert E. Arnt, of Pottstown, PA, passed away Sunday at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center.

Born in Snyder, OK, she was the daughter of the late William B. and Kate (Ross) Broome.

Surviving are children Carole V. Hope, Kenneth E. Arnt, husband of M. Susan Arnt, and Vena K. Ackerman, wife of G. James Ackerman; brother Wendell Broome, husband of Virginia, and sister Alma Jo Coffelt of East Hampton. Also surviving are grandchildren Eric S. Hope, husband of Colleen, Douglas F. Hope, husband of Colleen, Brian L. Hope, husband of Bonnie and Stephen A. Hope, husband of Sharon and 12 great grandchildren. She is predeceased by six siblings.

Mary was a very active member of St. James Lutheran Church in Pottstown where she was a member of WELCA and was on the church counsel numerous times. She was a helper with the Relay for Life and a volunteer at PMMC.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Nov. 27, at 10 a.m. at St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, PA with Rev. Peter Hutchinson officiating. Burial will follow in Prospect Cemetery in East Stroudsburg, PA. Family and friends called on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at Catagnus Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Inc., 711 N. Franklin Street, Pottstown, PA and on Friday, Nov. 27 at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mary's name to St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, PA 19464.

View obituaries or send condolences at [www.catagnusfuneralhomes.com](http://www.catagnusfuneralhomes.com).

## East Hampton

### Kenneth Sexton

Kenneth Eugene Sexton, 75, of Coventry and formerly of East Hampton, beloved husband of 53 years to Sandra (Pellett) Sexton, died Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 21, 1934, in Middletown, he was the son of the late L. Perry Sexton and Gertrude (Jillson) Sexton. Kenneth graduated from the East Hampton school system and then attended the Rhode Island School of Graphic Design, and was a member of the Wesleyan Potters. He was a Master Craftsman who sold his finished work all along the East Coast and New York.

Besides his wife, Sandra, he is survived by his two sons, Randal Sexton of California, and Todd Sexton of Massachusetts; a daughter, Melanie Glynn of Milford; a brother, Mark Sexton of Florida; three grandchildren, Garrett Glynn, Zachary Sexton and Eliana Sexton.

The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, followed by the Funeral Mass at Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam. Burial will be in the spring in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 45 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108, or the Wesleyan Potters, 350 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457-4213.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Cody Cunningham

Cody Michael Cunningham, 22, of Coventry and formerly of East Hampton, died at his home on Friday, Nov. 20, surrounded by his loving extended family, after a 15-year battle with brain tumors. Cody attended East Hampton schools and graduated from Coventry High School in 2007.

Cody leaves his loving family, his mother, Suzanne LaRoche Cunningham of Manchester; his father, Noel A. Cunningham Jr.; his younger brothers, Noah and Casey Cunningham, also of Coventry; as well as his sister, Dana Cunningham; his niece, Elise of St. Helens, OR; his maternal grandparents, Dr. Odillon and Jeanne LaRoche of Alburg, VT; his paternal grandparents, Noel "Skip" Cunningham Sr. of Alabama and grandmother, Linda Villa Cunningham of Oregon. He also leaves many aunts, uncles and cousins from both sides of his family.

Cody was predeceased by his uncle, Todd G. Cunningham and cousin, Isabella Ladybug LaRoche.

Cody was loved by everyone who knew him and will be greatly missed.

Funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 25, at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Lynn Noyes

Lynn A. Noyes, 56, of Colchester, died Sunday, Nov. 22, at her home. Born March 8, 1953, in Meriden, she was the daughter of Robert and the late Phyllis (Kingsley) Noyes.

She attended East Hampton High School and graduated from Simmons College in 1975 with a B.A. in sociology and education. In 1977, she received her M.S.W. in Casework from Boston College. The majority of her career was spent within the Connecticut Department of Social Services and the Connecticut Department of Health where she represented these agencies on statewide and national committees, networks and task forces that addressed child, family and social work issues. Lynn was a lifelong member of the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam and spent many relaxing summer vacations in Maine with her family. She was an avid gardener and collector of antiques.

Lynn leaves her father Robert Noyes sister, Cindy Smith and her husband Gary, nephews Adam Smith, Benjamin Smith and his girlfriend Kimberly Widmann, all of East Hampton; and a niece, Stacey Czepiel and her husband Pete and their daughter Madison of Deep River.

Burial will be private at Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 206, Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Elizabeth Seguin

Elizabeth (McCarthy) Seguin, "Betty," 75, of Colchester, beloved wife of Robert, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Liberty Specialty Care Center/Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born July 24, 1934, at Poundlick, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, she was a daughter of the late James and Hannah (Hickey) McCarthy.

Mrs. Seguin was a certified nurses' aide, having worked at Liberty Hall in Colchester for many years before her illness. A woman of great faith, she was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester and was active with the Ladies' Guild there. In her spare time, she was an avid reader.

In addition to her loving husband of 55 years, she is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Deborah of Tucson, AZ, and Thomas and Vicina of East Hampton; six grandchildren, Isaiah, Christopher, Justin and Isabel Seguin and Jason and Jesse Mattarazo; a great granddaughter, Christina; six siblings, Patrick, Mary, Hannah, Eileen, Kathleen and Daniel; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Kathleen; and six siblings, Jerimiah, Bridget, James, Dennis, Teresa (her twin) and John.

Friends called Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled Monday, Nov. 23, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Committal followed in the family plot in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of both Apple Rehab Colchester and Hospice for the care and dignity shown to them during Betty's illness. In recognition, donations in her memory may be made to CT VNA SE Hospice, 339 Flanders Rd., East Lyme 06333 or to the Apple Rehab Recreation Fund, 36 Broadway, Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Mildred Elaine Bednarz

Mildred Elaine Bednarz, 79, of East Hartford, formerly of Colchester, wife of George F. Bednarz, passed away peacefully Saturday, Nov. 21, after a valiant struggle with Alzheimer's.

She is survived by her loving and caring husband, George Bednarz; children, Sandra Buxton, Denise Rush, Edward Dumore, Emerson Dumore and Collette Verjenski; grandchildren, Tiffany and Ashley Varjenski and Heather Lemay; stepchildren, Michael and Paul Bednarz and Kathy Knight.

Elaine was predeceased by her son, Kenneth Dumore.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the staff of Masonicare Hospice of East Hartford, also Nelly Rodriguez and Ercila Ruiz.

There was a funeral service Wednesday, Nov. 25, at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. There was a calling hour Wednesday, Nov. 25, just prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Masonicare Hospice of East Hartford.

Rest in peace, my beloved, Elaine.

## Andover

### Arthur Tomlin Goodman Jr.

Arthur Tomlin Goodman Jr., 91, of Andover, beloved husband of the late Sedzel A. (Peterson) Goodman and step-father of the late Walter G. "Terry" Clark, passed away Thursday, Nov. 19, at his home in Andover.

Mr. Goodman was born in Chicago, IL, on Nov. 12, 1918, son of the late Arthur Tomlin Goodman Sr. and Helen Louise (Ricketts) Goodman. Following his education, he enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps, having served during WW II and honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He had resided in Vernon before moving to Andover in 1971, where he owned and operated Tomlin Woodworking Co. Inc. for many years prior to retiring. He was an excellent craftsman, and spent many long enjoyable hours producing beautiful furniture for his customers and family. He also enjoyed his time at the ocean where he took pleasure in boating and as a hobby would build authentic miniature boats.

Mr. Goodman is survived by a sister, Julie R. (Goodman) Fallon of Williamsburg, VA; a step-daughter-in-law, Terry Clark of Andover; six grandchildren, Dennis Clark and his wife Debbi-Sue of Coventry, Christopher Clark and his wife Lodamia of Storrs, Joshua Clark and Jordan Clark, both of Andover, Robyn Clark of Andover, Sarah Wierzbicki and her husband, Christopher of Coventry; seven great-grandchildren, Corey, Morgan, Avery, EmmaRaea, Madison, Genaro, Olivia; four nephews, Emmett Fallon, Michael Fallon, William Fallon, James Fallon and their families and one niece, Julie Helen Fallon and her family; a brother-in-law, Roy Peterson of Baltimore, MD and a nephew, Roger Peterson and his family and two nieces, Sheila Peterson and Dedra Milholland and her family.

Family and friends are invited to attend funeral services and burial with military honors in East Cemetery (Section B) in Manchester today, Friday, Dec. 4, at 10:30 a.m. There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made in Arthur's name to: Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

Watkins Funeral Home Manchester is in care of arrangements. To sign the online guestbook, visit [www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Colchester

### Frank J. Okarmus

Frank J. Okarmus, 79, of Colchester, widower of the late Janet (Bertrand) Okarmus, passed away Monday, Nov. 23, at home, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Jan. 5, 1930, in Springfield, MA, he was the son of the late Frank and Addie (Rapalus) Okarmus.

He was a graduate of Springfield Technical High School and went on to earn his Bachelors degree in Business from the University of Miami. In 1952, he enlisted in the Air Force, serving active duty during the Korean War and then rejoining the Air Force Reserve for 16 years until his honorable discharge at the rank of master sergeant.

On Sept. 6, 1958, he and Janet were married in Springfield and shared 38 years wonderful years together before she predeceased him on Feb. 17, 1997.

Mr. Okarmus owned and operated the former Western Auto in Colchester for many years before his retirement. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an avid car enthusiast. Most importantly, he will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and devotion to his family.

He leaves two children and their spouses, Laurie and Carl Albert and Mark and Debbie Okarmus, all of Colchester; three grandchildren, Shelby Lynn and Cameron Okarmus of Colchester and Anthony Laterra of Ledyard; a sister, Charlotte Powell of Scottsdale, AZ; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a sister, Stella Thrasher.

Friends may call from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble starting at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30, at the funeral home before the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation of Nerissa, who was Frank's devoted aide, as well as Dr. J. Carey Laporte, Jr. and the staff of Hospice Southeastern CT, for the dignity they afforded him during his illness. In recognition, donations in his memory may be made to Hospice SECT, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360 or to the American Cancer Society, Franklin Commons, 106 Route 32, Franklin, CT 06254-1800.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Barbara Whitten Peckeroff

Barbara Whitten Peckeroff, 66, of Savannah, GA, and formerly of East Hampton, passed away Monday morning, Nov. 23, at Memorial Health University Medical Center after a short illness.

She was preceded by a son, Ronald William Peckeroff.

Barbara was born and raised in New London and East Hampton, and had attended local schools there, graduating from East Hampton High School Class of 1961. She and her husband Ronnie moved to Savannah in 1983 from Alabama and went to work at Memorial Health in the oncology unit. She retired three years ago after 22 years of service. She was a former member of the Order of Eastern Star and was a member of the Seacoast Savannah Church.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Ronald "Ronnie" Peckeroff of Savannah; a son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Deborah Peckeroff of Savannah; a daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Herman Taylor of Bethel, NC; a brother, Raymond Whitten of East Hampton; a sister, Carolyn Hamm of St. Petersburg, FL; three grandchildren, Katherine and Caroline Peckeroff, Eric Taylor, several nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, at Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, SC, with Rev. Doug McGaury officiating. Memorial Contribution: Hospice Savannah, 1352 Eisenhower Dr., Savannah, GA 31406 or Seacoast Savannah Church, 12705 Golf Club Dr., Savannah, GA 31419.

Fairhaven Funeral Home and Crematory, 2794 W. Highway 80 Garden City, GA 31408, has care of the arrangements. Visit [www.fairhavenfuneralhome.net](http://www.fairhavenfuneralhome.net).