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The Portland Planning and Zoning Commission gave their final approval to a mixed-use development at the corner of routes 66 and 17. The development calls for a combination of commercial and residential spaces. At this point only Walgreen's Pharmacy has been confirmed as a future tenant. Pictured above is the Hart-Jarvis historic property which will be rotated and relocated on the property to be included in the development.

## Approval Comes for Portland Town Place

by Michael McCoy

It took years of dialogue, research, meetings, and number-crunching, but Portland Town Place will be a reality...eventually.

During their July 30 meeting, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted 5-0 to approve the plans for a massive mixed-use development. The meeting, held at Brownstone Intermediate School, began by picking up May's continued public hearing.

All told, about 80 people were present during the outset of the evening, though, surprisingly, about half had cleared out by the time the decision was rendered nearly three hours later.

Portland Town Place is a mixed use development, planned for a 14.89 acre parcel, composed of 14 properties, at the former Elmcrest Hospital Property located on the corner of Main Street and Route 66. The mixed use moniker means it will be a blend of commercial and residential space. Most of the building space (125,085 square feet) will be retail. Another 18,837 square feet will be used for bank or office space. Restaurants are planned to account for 6,596 square feet, and 82 residential units are to be included.

The application was submitted by Anthony Fonda and Fouad Hassan, doing business as Portland Town Center, LLC.

With the exception of Walgreen's, no tenants have been announced. The largest retail space (65,000 square feet) is intended to be a grocery

store.

When speculation about this project began several years ago, concerns were largely related to the potential adverse effect it may have on local business. When the actual public hearing began in May, objections came largely from the Portland Historical Society, who cringed at the planned demolition of three 19-century homes. Last Thursday night, the talk was mostly traffic.

PZC Chair Don Bascom said that very day, around 5:30 p.m., he watched two lanes of traffic at the intersection of Marlborough and High streets back up to Pickering Street, and wondered what this might mean for traffic near the development. At one point, he even said, "I am not comfortable with this at all."

Bruce Hillson, Portland traffic engineer, said of Route 66's traffic in that vicinity, "This has been an item that has been a concern to me for several months now," estimating it would back up 500-550 feet at times.

The applicant's lack of a concrete way to address traffic at this time prompted Bascom to say, "I'm not hearing solutions. How are we going to deal with this?"

However, the applicant's lawyer, Ralph Wilson, reminded the commission that the applicant would work with the state Department of

See Town Place on Page 2

## Colchester Man Arrested for Making Bombs

by Michael McCoy

A Colchester man is currently behind bars after being arrested for manufacturing explosives.

On Thursday, July 30, State Police, in conjunction with the Eastern District Major Crime Squad, arrested Kevin Walker, 21, of 72 Elm St., Colchester, charging him with criminal attempt manufacturing of bombs.

The whole thing starts, oddly enough, with fire hydrants. According to court documents on file at superior court in Norwich, on July 29, a citizen told Colchester Police that Kevin Walker was "charging" local fire hydrants, making them "disperse large volumes of water" and creating a hazard to responding firemen. The citizen also said Walker was manufacturing explosives in his garage.

The report says the citizen was in Walker's garage as recently as July 28 and observed a "CO2 bomb," made of gunpowder, epoxy, and a fuse. Walker was also allegedly making napalm from gasoline and Styrofoam.

The report continues, "Walker asked the concerned citizen if he (Walker) could borrow a drill to make pipe bombs." The witness also said Walker fashioned a remote

detonator from a model rocket.

On July 30, Eastern District Major Crime Unit Detectives, police from Colchester's Resident Trooper's Office and members of the State Police Emergency Services Unit (aka the Bomb Squad) executed a search and seizure warrant. While at the residence, they found a cache of suspicious items including smokeless powder, threaded steel pipes (with caps on one end and holes in the other end), 39 metal pellets, a Launch Electron Beam Safety Key (or remote detonator,) eight CO2 cylinders, 10 CO2 cartridges, a plastic bottle containing a liquid "similar to that of 'Napalm.'"

Police also seized a notebook with writing, a Compaq laptop computer, a pill bottle "containing a large quantity of small pellets," a "metal smoking pipe containing burnt residue," 10 paintball CO2 cartridges, and "one turtle roach clip and lighter."

They also discovered a memory card with a video depicting Walker "igniting an incendiary device in which the device, flames up approximately three or four feet in height,

and becoming totally engulfed."

Walker arrived at his home during the search and was apprehended. In a written statement, he later admitted to purchasing the items "for the purpose of manufacturing bombs," specifically CO2 bombs and pipe bombs. He added that he had made CO2 bombs recently, and had detonated them in his backyard. However, Detective Mark Devine, of the Eastern District Major Crime Unit, said Walker never identified why he was making bombs or what his intentions were.

Walker appeared in court the following day, July 31, and was held on a \$50,000 cash bond.

Though Walker has not yet been charged in relation to the fire hydrant offenses, Devine said they have applied for the warrant, and figured an arrest would be imminent.

As for the bomb charge, he is scheduled to appear at Norwich Superior Court again on August 14. Devine said he is now on medical watch at Corrigan-Radgowski Correction Center.



Kevin Walker



## Town Place cont. from Front Page

Transportation, to achieve an approved traffic plan.

By the end of the meeting, Bascom had changed his tune about traffic, saying, "I'm pretty confident the First Selectman is not going to let us down. She'll ask all the questions."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield led off the public comments by thanking the PZC, applicant, and the Portland Historical Society (PHS) for their hard work and declared, "I fully support this project."

The official site plan hit Town Hall in February and called for the demolition of two homes, the Hart/Jarvis Home (built in 1829-30) and the Erastus Brainerd, Sr. Home (built in 1852.) The stated intention was to replicate them elsewhere on the property.

After an outpouring of residents, many of them from the PHS, criticized this plan, the developer came back with an amended plan. This plan called for the Hart-Jarvis Home to be rotated and relocated, but weighing in at 1,100 tons, the Brainerd House was said to be too heavy to move. The plan calls for it to be replicated, salvaging a number of railings windows, fireplaces, and a cupola.

Thursday night Suzanne Anderson, a lifelong resident, called the plan "good" but wondered, "Is this the best we can do?" She suggested that the PZC consider a plan presented by PHS President Claire Frisbie two weeks prior. Her plan called for decreasing parking requirements and giving the PHS a chance to dialogue with the anchor tenants before any demolition occurs.

Anderson was one of a handful of residents who suggested the PZC consider something similar. However, Bascom reminded them all, "We cannot consider any other plan here tonight." Similarly, when residents broached the subject of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD,) Bascom said the developer merely had to "consider" the document but only had to adhere to the zoning regulations.

Before approving the project, the PZC approved a waiver request dealing with issues like parking requirements, loading zones, sidewalks, and liquor separation distance. The motion, read by Bette Jenak, stated, "The granting of these waivers will not create any adverse im-

pacts on abutting residential uses or residentially zoned properties."

Bruce Tyler then read the dense motion for site approval. It included no less than 23 conditions covering issues like traffic, parking, fire safety, and erosion. It was passed 5-0.

"I think this is a major step forward for the town," Bransfield said. She also promised to work closely with the applicant and the DOT's Traffic Commission "to make sure safety is enhanced" as it applies to traffic concerns. Before construction can begin, the developer will need to acquire a certificate of safe traffic operation from the DOT.

That is just one of many permits the developer will have to receive before building. This may explain why the project still seems so far away. In what Bransfield called a very conservative schedule, Portland Town Center estimates that demolition will not commence until June 1, 2011, with building beginning December of 2012. Phase I is scheduled to be completed April 2013, and Phase II July 2014.

"If we get approval quicker than we expect, then obviously we would move more quickly," Wilson said Thursday

"Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will this," laughed Bransfield in light of these dates. However, she added, "I hope to see activity soon."

"We spent quite a lot of time with this," said Bascom, who couldn't stifle a chuckle when thinking of the days and nights spent perusing documents and hashing out the details.

When asked if he was comfortable with the traffic concerns, he responded, "No, to tell you the truth," but said protocol dictated that the application be passed before the developer clears such concerns with DOT. "Susan Bransfield, she'll do a good job," Bascom said, referring to the First Selectman's part in looking out for the town's interest.

Remarking on the distant timetable, he said, "That's tough for a developer," and added, "I believe that you'll see it a lot faster."

As far as the potential to hurt existing business, Bascom said, "The commission can't stop competition," and predicted that businesses that are currently thriving would continue to do so.

Democratic Registrar of Voters. Mogensen, who has served as an alternate to the commission for the past four years, is a placeholder for a future candidate.

Joseph Schling is running for Planning Commission Alternate.

Three individuals will be elected as full members to the Planning Commission and two alternates will be elected.

Ned Hickey, Lisa Hawes and Elizabeth Sullivan were endorsed by the Democratic Party as candidates for the Zoning Commission. All are new candidates to the board.

Voters will elect three candidates to this commission.

Ann Kilby is seeking a position as Zoning Commission Alternate.

Allan Miller, Raymond Weber and John Grasso are running for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Weber and Grasso currently serve as full-members to the board while Miller is an alternate. Voters will vote for three candidates and three will be elected.

Norman Swanson is running for Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate.

According to state statutes local parties must have held their meeting to nominate candidates between July 21 and 28. Once this roster is set parties can no longer add names but can swap or delete candidates.

Municipal elections will be held Nov. 3. The Community Room at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Rd., will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. for eligible voters to cast their ballot.

## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Sarah McCoy

I have always had a close relationship with my family. My dad, brother, and I bond over sports (lately golf). And, my mom and I, bond over everything else—shopping, movies, our intentions to really stick to our latest diet (we mean it this time!).

But perhaps the one thing that brings us closer than ever is the opportunity to give my mom a hard time. Last Saturday we shared a family dinner and, with everyone present, it didn't take long for the subject to turn to how she has embarrassed us over the years.

Like how I, for some reason, was forced to ride the school van home from kindergarten whilst all my neighbors rode the bus. My mom swears she doesn't know how this happened.

Sure.

I'm sure it was her way of ensuring I'd be wearing a seatbelt or something crazy like that.

Or the time when I had an infected toe and, instead of making a real doctor's appointment, she had me remove my socks and shoes at my dentist appointment later that day. "After all," she said at the time, "He is a doctor."

Then there was the infamous peas incident.

Let me set the mood.

It's summer. I'm the youngest one in the neighborhood (maybe 4 or 5 years old) and my best friend's older brother had just put the finishing touches on a tree house. To christen what would become our favorite hang-out spot, he hosted a sleep-over.

Everyone had agreed to bring food, tell ghost stories, and stay up way past our 8 p.m. bedtime. You know— the kind of classic summer time nights that everyone should be able to look back fondly on.

Whether it was miscommunication or just a slick plan to get her most hated vegetable out of the house, I don't know. What I do know is that while others brought bags

of Twizzlers, makings for s'mores, and potato chips, I brought a casserole dish full of peas.

At the time she told me she thought we were having dinner out there. Likely story. And now, she has blocked the entire episode from her memory. Lucky her.

I learned a very valuable lesson that day. Nothing kills the mood like peas. Nothing.

While at the time all I wanted to do was melt into the ground, now, over 20 years later, I can say with certainty that I cherish those memories.

I love that I can remember zipping around the corner of my neighborhood riding a two-wheeler for the first time.

I love that I could camp out in the backyard and my only fears were, what was that noise? And not am I going to be kidnapped/raped/murdered/or something worse?

I love that I can remember laying in bed wondering why I had to go to bed when it was still plenty light out. (P.S.- I think I'm making my mom sound pretty lame, in reality she wasn't at all. Trust me. You'd like her.)

Now that summer is (finally) upon us, I have found myself referring back to these memories as a coping mechanism for my go, go, go life.

Not to get all "when I was your age," because I don't think you can't start sentences like this until you are at least 50, but I hope kids today are cultivating those memories. Not only is summer vacation something that ends far too early in life but it's those memories that you cap tap into later on when life gets just a little harried.

How boring would it be if your memories consisted strictly of watching *The Hills* (or whatever kids are watching these days) and playing Halo on your X-Box?

Who needs technology, amenities, or fancy vacations to have a good time? Let's all raise our glasses of lemonade to the simpler things in life like backyard picnics, slip and slides, and, of course, peas.

# Marlborough Democrats Endorse Candidate Slate

by Sarah McCoy

The Democratic Town Committee (RTC) caucused late last month to endorse candidates for this fall's election. Elections will be held on Nov. 3 for many of the town's municipal boards and commissions.

The DTC endorsed Lauren Cragg for the Board of Finance. Cragg has served as an alternate to the board for the past two years and has another two years left on her term. If she's elected as a full-member this fall a vacancy will be created as a BOF alternate.

Voters will cast their ballot for two BOF candidates and two will be elected.

Russell West is running for an alternate position on the BOF.

Margot LaPoint and Mary Milewski are running for election to the local Board of Education. Both are new candidates to the board.

Voters will vote for three candidates with the top four earning a spot on the board.

James Cherry and Rosa Taylor are seeking spots on the RHAM Board of Education. Cherry currently serves as Vice-chair to the board. Voters will vote for two candidates and two will be elected.

James Callaghan is listed as the Democratic candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals. However, he is serving as a placeholder for the party until another candidate is determined. Two individuals will be elected and voters will cast their ballot for two candidates.

Dennis Soucy, Ann Kilby and William Mogensen are candidates for the Planning Commission. Soucy is the long-time Chair of the commission while Kilby serves as the town's

## Chief Points Out Peak Season Pocotopaug Patrol in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

Though the lake is meant for recreation, Chief Matthew Reimondo reminded lake users that state and local authorities are watching.

For the heart of summer, Reimondo said, the East Hampton Police Department, as well as the state Department of Environmental Protection have beefed up patrol on Lake Pocotopaug. Authorities are looking to discourage misconduct, such as speeding or loud boats or jet skis.

"It's the season, and we want people to be aware," said Reimondo, reminding lake users that the speed limit is 40 miles per hour on the water. "We don't want any injuries," he added.

However, within 200 feet of shore, that speed limit drops to six miles per hour.

Reimondo said especially, with jet skis, "They're off and gone," as soon as they enter the water.

While safety and noise are certainly important, the limit also prevents the lake floor from being stirred up to its detriment, thus the lower limit in shallow waters.

In addition to stopping watercrafts for speeding or noise, the Reimondo said police and the DEP are also conducting spot safety inspections making sure operations are up to code, such as proper number of flotation devices.

Figuring that abiding by these regulations and still having fun are not mutually exclusive, Reimondo said it all boils down to, "We want people to be able to enjoy the lake."

# East Hampton Town Council Vote on Potential Water Source This Week

by **Michael McCoy**

East Hampton has been talking about a town water system for decades.

Developments this week just brought the town dramatically closer.

Tuesday night, during a special joint meeting of the Town Council and the Water Development Task Force, town officials announced they had secured an easement deal that would yield four wells on the property of St. Clements Castle.

The meeting kicked off in town hall at 6:30 p.m., following a Water Pollution Control Authority meeting and a Town Council executive session.

Town Council Chairman Melissa Engel opened the meeting by remarking on the years spent pursuing a secure water source. "In the last three or four months, we've made tremendous headway," she said. This culminated in Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe and Town Councilman John Tuttle brokering a deal last week with St. Clements Foundation founding trustee Father Edward Doherty.

The agreement, if approved by the Town Council, includes a permanent easement on 4.57 acres of land on the Connecticut River. The cost is \$673, but jumps to \$790,500 once remediation of contaminated soil, as well as building removal is thrown in.

In addition, a parallel agreement was struck to purchase the Greer property, a 10.3-acre parcel located at Middle Haddam Road, just behind Cobalt Market. The site would be used to construct a new water treatment plant. This

site was first identified as valuable to the town in 2004. The purchase of that property, if approved, will cost \$220,000

Also included in the total package are improvements to Flanders Road, which will cost \$9,225. In total, the sum comes to \$1,019,725. The Flanders Road project already has money waiting for it. Leftover funds from a State Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) will take care of \$555,775. The remaining \$454,725 will come from the general fund balance.

Board of Finance chairman Ted Hintz said the town has been putting aside money for water development for the last four years. According to him, the town will save \$25,000 by self-funding the project.

WPCA Public Utilities Administrator Vincent Susco walked through a timeline that showed how both projects came to be.

In 1972, St. Clements site, which is technically located at 49 Oakum Dock Rd. in East Hampton, was one of several identified as a potential source of groundwater. However, it was't until 2001, that the town began talks with Doherty to secure the land in earnest.

Then, in 2007, the town voted down a \$28.5 million water system, which would have served about 5,300 people.

Engel said, according to public feedback, many residents were hesitant to spend money on a water system when a public water source was unsecured.

During Tuesday's meeting, Councilman Sue

Weintraub said her understanding was that residents voted down the water system because of cost as well as the threat of "unchecked development."

The consensus among the rest of the council seemed to be that these were valid concerns, but that securing these properties was a necessary entry point to explore future water endeavors. Susco seemed to agree, saying, "You can't do anything without the property."

Thom Cordeiro also validated Weintraub's concerns, but said, "It's separate from the current issue.

"To not move this forward would be terribly short sighted," said Tuttle.

"This time," said Engel, "we actually have the cart before the horse, which we did not have last time."

Engel, as well as Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe praised councilmember John Tuttle for his work on the project, especially his amiable relationship with Doherty. During the meeting Tuttle noted that the town considered several avenues to come by the property.

One option was, of course to buy it, but this proved to be no option at all, as Doherty was unwilling to sell. They also entertained the notion of eminent domain, but Tuttle said this process looked to be not only unpleasant, but also costly. He called \$2.417 million a "conservative estimate" of what it would cost in total to get the land that way. This is far more than the land was even appraised at.

However, Tuttle said of Doherty, "He knew we needed the water. He wanted us to have it. He didn't want to burden us to the point that we couldn't make it work."

Thus, the two parties came up with the easement agreement.

"It's really a win-win said Tuttle," who noted that the easement is transferable, which means it would stand should St. Clements ever sell the property.

"We've come a long way from the first offer to this," said Tuttle.

"It's interesting to note, John Hanson has been involved with the water search since it began," said Engel. Hanson, a member of the WDTF was present. However, Bob Heidel, also involved since the beginning was not. Heidel passed away on July 1 of this year.

"It's too bad Bob wasn't here," said councilman Bill Devine, as the room grew somber for a few moments.

O'Keefe seemed elated by the development, and showed an acute gratitude toward Doherty, who O'Keefe said, let the town drill 14 test wells in the property over the last decade.

"Father Doherty really negotiated in good faith," said O'Keefe, figuring Doherty could have asked for several thousand more dollars for the easement

On Wednesday night, the Board of Finance voted 6-0 to allot the money for the project. The Town Council will take the matter up at their next regular meeting, Tuesday, August 11.

## Portland Police News

7/29- Steven Oliver, 22, of 15 Silver St., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, Portland Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

7/24 — A 16-year old male juvenile was arrested for possession of marijuana, East Hampton Police said.

7/24 — A 17-year old male juvenile was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, police said.

7/24 — Heath Galvin, 20, of 61 N. Main St., was arrested on three court-ordered warrants for violation of probation, police said.

7/24 — William Choma, 55, of 20 Namonee Trail, was arrested for having a defective windshield, operating without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and having an improper exhaust system, police said.

7/25 — Kristina Hahn, 18, of 19 Summit St., was issued ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

7/26 — Robert Walck, 22, of 1222 Collins Hill Rd. Johnston, VT, was issued a ticket for operating a dirt bike on a public road and with

insufficient lighting, police said.

7/27 — Mark Malone, 32, of 267 Williams St. E, Glastonbury, was issued a ticket for towing an unregistered trailer, police said.

7/27 — Miroslaw Rulka, 31, of 80 Brownstone Rd, Berlin, was issued a ticket for violation of a municipal parking ordinance, police said.

7/29 — Daniel Cook, 46, of 240 Lake Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to drive right and without a license, police said.

7/29 — Joseph Ford, 20, of 107 Main St., was issued a ticket for operation of a motor vehicle while using a hand-held mobile phone and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

7/30 — Christopher Bouchard, 24, of 89 Wopowog Rd., was arrested for risk of injury to a minor, police said.



# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Richard Parsons

Richard "Rick" Parsons, 78, of Colchester and formerly of Oakdale, beloved husband and best friend of Lillian (Kulikowski) Parsons for 53 years, passed away Friday morning, July 31, at home.

In accordance with his wishes, services and burial was to be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester 06415.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, please visit [www.aurora-mccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.aurora-mccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Sally Cossalter

Sally (Gentile) Cossalter, 91, of Colchester and formerly of Wethersfield, passed away Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Apple Rehab Center in Colchester.

Born on July 28, 1918 in Hartford, she was the last surviving of the eight children of the late James and Lucia (Braciolo) Gentile.

Cossalter was a hairdresser for many years, owning and operating Sally's Salon & Beauty in Newington and later working at Reno's in West Hartford.

She had been active with the Ladies Democratic Club in Wethersfield for many years and enjoyed cooking and crocheting in her spare time.

She is survived by three children, Susan Masselle of Colchester, Nadine Ferrara of Chicago, IL and Emmett Pizzoferrato of Sterling; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, Aug. 4 at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester. A Chapel Service followed that evening.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory in recognition of the staff of CT VNA Hospice and Palliative Care may be made to the Masonicare Charity Foundation, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford 06492.

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

## Portland

### Joan Bankowski

Joan (Pinunsky) Bankowski, 74, of Portland, wife of the late Stanley J. Bankowski, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 1, at her home.

She was born in Middletown, the daughter of the late Edward and Evelyn (Mielczarski) Pinunsky. Prior to her retirement, she co-owned, with her husband, B&B Equipment in Portland. Joan was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Portland and a talented artist. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister and friend and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. She is survived by her three sons, Stephen Bankowski and his wife Lori of Portland, Peter Bankowski of Portland, and James Bankowski and his wife Rita of Middletown; her daughter, Linda Saypalia of Reno, NV; two sisters, Claire Narus of Portland, and Lucille Dralle of Cromwell; three grandchildren, Michael, Stephen and Tyler; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Edward Pinunsky. The family would like to thank Margaret for her love and devotion she showed to both of their parents.

Funeral Services were held Thursday, Aug. 6, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown followed by a Funeral Liturgy at St. Mary's Church in Portland. Burial was to be in Calvary Cemetery. Calling hours were held at Biega Funeral Home on Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

## East Hampton

### Alfred C. Binder

Alfred Charles Binder, 84, of East Hampton died peacefully on Thursday, July 30, at Marlborough Health Care. He was the beloved husband of Josephine (Varallo) Binder.

Born on Dec. 31, 1924 in New York, Alfred was the son of the late Michel and Clemence (Chabaud) Binder. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Alfred was a retired crane operator and was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Besides his wife he is survived by his daughter Catherine Beyer, of East Hampton, a brother Emil Binder, a sister Caroline Hooverson, and his two grandchildren Thomas Grote and Deborah Cusso. Burial was private in St. Andrew's Cemetery in Colchester.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St. East Hampton, had care of the arrangements.

## Portland

### Barbara Martin

Barbara (Cubeta) Martin, 64, of Middletown, beloved wife of 43 years to Robert J. Martin, passed away on Thursday, July 30, following a brief illness.

Barbara was born on May 4, 1945 in Middletown, to Hazel (DeWolf) Cubeta of Florida and the late Paul S. Cubeta. She graduated from Portland High School in 1963. Following high school, she became a stewardess for United Airlines until she married on September 4, 1967. She worked several jobs including the Middletown School System, the YMCA Youth Shelter and the Russell Library.

In addition to her husband and mother, she is survived by her three children, Robert P. Martin of New Jersey, Carrie Pederson and her spouse Dan of Deep River, and Kim Scalora and her spouse Joseph of Middletown. She also leaves three grandchildren, Joey, Hannah and Logan, whom she adored. She leaves her brother, Paul Cubeta of Florida and her sister, Joan Carpentiere of Maryland; her brother-in-law, Bruce Johnson of Middletown; as well as several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her sister, Kathleen Johnson.

The family would like to thank the staff at Water's Edge Rehabilitation Center for their care and compassion, as well as her friends at the Russell Library.

Funeral services were to be private with no callings hours. Burial was to be at convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made, in Barbara's memory, to the Russell Library, 123 Broad St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Biega Funeral Home had care of arrangements.

## Portland

### William Renals Jr.

William J. Renals Jr., 81, of Portland, passed away suddenly at his home on June 12.

Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late William Renals and Ida (Roth) Renals. He was the beloved husband of the late Katherine Renals. William is survived by his three children, James Renals, Stephan Renals and his wife Barbara, and Mary Berndtson and her husband David; also, his grandchildren, Greg and Tim Berndtson, and Peter and Tyler Renals. William also leaves behind several beloved extended family members and friends, especially Michael and Lori Griffith.

Prior to his retirement he was the owner of Renals Manufacturing Co. in Middletown.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Kathleen Renals Crowley. At William's request the family held a private burial at the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

## Portland

### Lambert J. Geato

Lambert J. Geato, born May 13, 1947 in Mellili, Sicily, succumbed to cancer on Monday, Aug. 3.

Orphaned at the age of two, Lambert was subsequently adopted by Joseph and Concietta (Signorelli) Geato at the age of eight and brought to America to join his new family of sisters, Annemarie (Mrs. Richard Johnson) of Florida, Doreen (Mrs. Robert Murphy) of Norwich, and Laura (Mrs. Patrick Tucci) of California.

Lambert was a lifelong resident of Portland. He was a graduate of Portland High School, class of 1962, and later joined the U.S. Army, in 1968, serving in Vietnam, earning the decorative medal for marksmanship. Upon discharge from the service he dedicated his life to his floral creativity and greenhouse expertise as the second generation owner of Geato's Flower Shop and Greenhouses. Throughout his years in business he had the privilege of acquainting himself with a large segment of the local population and of sharing his planting and gardening accomplishments. Lambert's hobby was refinishing his beloved 1959 and 1972 Corvettes, but his grandchildren, Takuone Geato and Briana Lachapelle, were the source of his joy.

He will be remembered and loved by his children, Michael and Valerie Geato, and Michelle Lachapelle and her husband David. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Pamela. Graveside services, with Military Honors, will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, at 9 a.m. at the State Veterans Cemetery, Bow Ln., Middletown. A celebration of Lambert's life will be held Friday, Aug. 7, from 5-7 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Veteran's Hospital, 950 Campbell Ave., West Haven, CT 06516.