



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Fire Destroys Home...** Fire broke out at a Windham Avenue house early Tuesday morning, injuring three people, including one critically. The blaze destroyed the home. See related story on page 24.

## Will Third Time Be Budget Charm?

by Bailey Seddon

Marlborough will try again to pass a budget next Wednesday, when a proposed \$21.16 million spending plan heads before the voters.

The budget represents a \$280,824, or 1.19 percent, over current year spending, and calls for a 2.34 percent tax increase. It is the exact same budget taxpayers shot down at a May 25 meeting.

At a meeting this week of the Board of Finance, the board voted to have both a written statement available to residents upon arrival at next week's budget vote, and an exit poll, should the budget fail.

The board decided to provide a written statement so that citizens would have the information regarding insurance issues within the sewer district. It was the belief of the board that the budget had not passed last time because residents were not given all of the information they needed to make an informed decision. With this statement, residents and non-residents of the sewer district should have a clear understanding of the legal fees, town officials hope.

"It would be a benefit to everybody if we can keep it as simple and straightforward as possible," said Board of Finance Secretary Richard Shea.

Board Chairwoman Catherine Gaudinski,

with the help of board members Shea, Cliff Denniss and Evelyn Godbout, wrote a draft of what the written statement would say. The statement will provide the estimate of the defense costs for the sewer district. These are estimated at \$10,000 for each of the five residential claims and \$15,000 for the two business claims.

"We are hoping people will come out and support their budget," Gaudinski said in a phone interview Tuesday.

The first vote, on May 9, was first passed in a show-of-hands vote 81-80. However, because of the close vote, residents used Roberts Rules of Order to demand a recount. According to [robertsrules.org](http://robertsrules.org), anyone can motion for a recount of a show-of-hands or voice vote. The recount was done via paper ballots, and the \$21.13 million budget was defeated, 91-76.

A second vote, held May 25, also resulted in a budget rejection, this time by a 117-105 tally.

Gaudinski said Tuesday her board is hoping that, if more information is given to people this time around, residents will see the budget "is the right one for the town." Gaudinski also expressed concern that the budget has yet to pass.

"I was a little surprised and disappointed"

See Budget Charm Page 2

## Young Problem Solvers Head to Competition

by Bailey Seddon

The ultimate goal of Marlborough residents Austin Georgiades and Jack Caplan is to help the world, and have fun along the way.

Austin, a 15-year-old in ninth grade and Jack, a 12-year-old seventh-grader, are part of the Future Problem Solving Programmers International program. FPSPI has been engaging students to think of current and future problems critically for the past 26 years. Students do this through individual or group competition.

And currently, Austin and Jack are at the University of Wisconsin, competing in the Future Problem Solving Programmers International competition.

The two boys are part of a "home school" team. They go to different schools and are different ages but they wanted to stay together for the internationals. Some of the issues Austin has had to try to solve are water quality in the world, emergency planning and sensory overload. He creates an individual "booklet" where he states the issues and analyzes the possible solutions. One of the biggest issues he has had to try to solve is neurotechnology.

"I like it because it's a challenge...it is an advantage for kids in the program," to learn about these issues, Austin said.

Marlborough selectman Joe La Bella, the kids' adult leader, said the children go to state

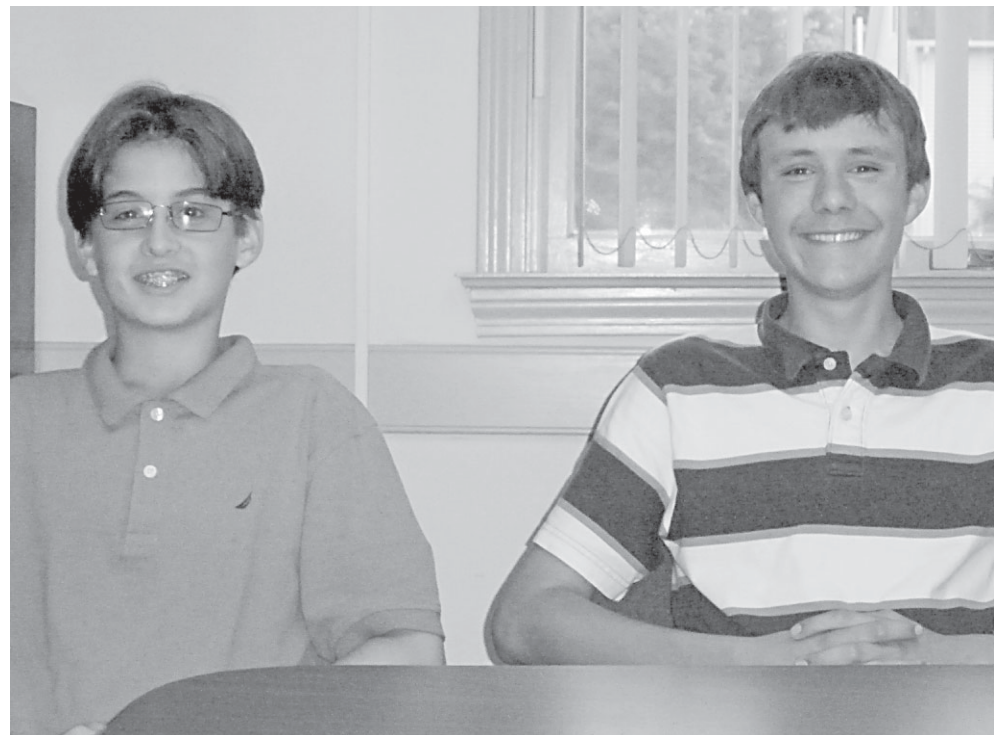
conferences, where there are several hundred kids in each of three different divisions which go by age: grades four through six, seven through nine and 10 through 12. This makes around 2,000 kids altogether, LaBella said.

What is great about it, La Bella said, is that all the students are volunteers. They are kids who are driven to use their knowledge to think creatively to solve problems. "These guys are totally representative of FPSPI," La Bella said of Jack and Austin.

When Austin first started at his school, around fourth grade, it was more of an enrichment program that evolved into the FPSPI. Five years later, Austin has come a long way. He won the state champion for an individual booklet.

Jack said FPSPI was a program you "sort of had to be invited into," as the school wanted children who were interested in the program. Jack has now been in the program for three years. He got to choose from five different topics, choosing healthy living. From there he wrote a story that took place 20 years in the future, in Ohio. People would go to get monthly IV shots for all the vitamins and minerals they needed instead of eating food, making overeating impossible. Unfortunately the company that controlled these IVs made cuts and people

See Problem Solvers Page 2



Marlborough residents Jack Caplan, left and Austin Georgiades are currently competing in the Future Problem Solving Programmers International competition in Wisconsin.

### Budget Charm cont. from Front Page

by the two rejections, she said.

If the spending plan is not approved next week, Gaudinski said, the town could start the fiscal year July 1 without a budget, which she said would actually make it more expensive for everyone. The town would have to use this year's spending plan, and would not be able to collect additional revenue; there would be a supplemental tax bill, which would have to collect the difference from the old tax bill, she said.

Shea said in a phone interview that people likely did not vote because they were not given enough details on the issue of insurance coverage. According to Shea, residents do not want to pay extra for insurance if there is no coverage for legal fees. Now that this has been clarified the decision should be clearer, said Shea.

At Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting, all board members agreed to an exit poll. Gaudinski brought out a draft copy of last year's exit poll and members briefly discussed what, if anything, they would change about it.

Selectwoman Riva Clark told board members that First Selectman Bill Black will present a PowerPoint presentation at next Wednesday's meeting. Clark told board members that Black's presentation will be very similar to the statement that will be given out by the Board of Finance at next week's vote.

Resident Vic Battaglioli said the Board of Finance should make sure it's statement does not conflict in any way with what is in Black's presentation. Battaglioli expressed concern for what would happen if the town received different sets of information.

Board members left the meeting with the

hope that the information provided in the statement will help citizens vote yes for their budget.

Black said this week there are two competing camps of people who do not want to vote in favor of the budget for different reasons. There are those who feel that everyone, even those living outside the sewer district, should be paying for the town's legal expenses as it deals with the lawsuits brought against it by the sewer district residents.

Then there are the residents who live outside the sewer district, who do not want to pay for a sewer tax they are not benefiting from on a day-to-day basis. Outside residents were promised they would only have to pay 30 percent and they are now paying 53 percent, Black said.

Board of Finance member Elizabeth Petroni, who was not present at Wednesday's meeting, was the only regular board member opposed to sending the exact same budget to the voters. In a phone interview, Petroni recognized the two different groups of people who were voting no for different reasons.

"The issue stems around the lawsuits that are pending," Petroni said.

Petroni expressed her concern that the budget was being used to pay for the legal fees of the sewer district.

"In the past when we have seen lawsuits coming down the pike, we have not budgeted money for it," Petroni said, and added this sets a precedent for this type of issue in the future.

"We are putting the cart before the horse here," she said.

in water.

Since they won, Jack and Austin now get to go to Internationals. There they will find students like them from all over the world such as Australia, Korea, United States, Singapore, Great Britain, Russia and more. When they get there they will find out what the problem is they have to solve and will work in groups on solving it. This will be both Jack and Austin's second time at Internationals. Jack went last year and Austin two years ago.

"It is a meeting of people from all walks of life," Austin said. "Getting to win and go to internationals," is a prize within itself.

"It's just really fun to meet everyone," Jack said.

### From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A national fast food chain opening up another outlet isn't necessarily big news, particularly when it occurs in my hometown of Manchester, which already has a boatload of chain restaurants.

But when that chain is a Sonic, well, people take notice.

Sonic – which bills itself as "America's Drive-In" – opened up just its second Connecticut location on Wednesday, near the Buckland Hills Mall. The chain opened up its first outlet in the state last year in Wallingford, and it proved to be a huge hit, breaking nationwide records for sales in a single day. It also led to long lines of cars in the "staging area" next to the Sonic, as people waited their turn to get a taste of the food that's been hyped up in commercials for years.

In Manchester, police have been preparing for a similar turnout. Tuesday's *Journal Inquirer* had an interview with the Manchester chief of police, Marc Montiminy, on how he plans to deal with the traffic. He said at least two off-duty police officers have been assigned to the area, to deal with increased traffic flow – and as anyone who's driven in the Buckland Hills Mall area can tell you, traffic's generally pretty heavy there as it is.

Meanwhile, Sonic itself (which, by the way, is paying for the off-duty police officers) has employed extra flagmen to keep the queue of cars moving from a staging area next door – an abandoned Mobil gas station – into the Sonic parking stations and then out the exit.

Montmimy hopes the queue of cars stays at the Sonic and former Mobil, and doesn't back up onto Buckland Street, causing traffic problems at two major intersections nearby. After all, as Montmimy amusingly told the *J*, "We're not going to allow those intersections to back up with people waiting for hamburgers."

I'm writing this column Tuesday night, so I don't know how the opening Wednesday went, but hopefully it went well, at least as well as can be expected. There will be heavy traffic – probably very heavy – but, in all honesty, this is probably one of the best times of year to open the store. I went to the Wallingford store twice last year, once not long after it opened, and then again about

three or four months later. There was a wait both times, but, for the first trip, the wait was *much* longer, which was to be expected, as the store was new. After a few months, though, the novelty had worn off. (Perhaps this is because, with the exception of the delicious tater tots, the Sonic food was really kind of average, in my opinion.)

I suspect much the same thing will happen with the Manchester location, which means the crowds will have died down a bit by the time the Christmas shopping season starts in November. As someone who does the bulk of his Christmas shopping in the Buckland area, I certainly hope it does.

\* \* \*

Some strange news out of Farmington this week. A drunk driver punched himself in the face, tore his shirt and threw his wallet and keys in a river, all in an attempt to convince police he'd been assaulted, the *Hartford Courant* reported.

According to Farmington Police, Daniel Vagnini, 22, of Farmington, sped through a stop sign at the intersection of New Britain Avenue and Indian Hill Road at around midnight last Saturday, and nearly crashed into a car that had entered the intersection. An officer witnessed what happened, the *Courant* reported. Police then found Vagnini's car on Indian Hill Road, and heard him in the woods. As police searched for Vagnini, he called 911, to report that he was lost in the woods.

Officers found Vagnini near the Farmington River, and he told them he'd been drinking in Hartford, and was physically assaulted as he got into his car to go home. He told police the beatdown led to him blacking out, and the next thing he knew, he was in the woods, his clothes torn and his wallet, keys and ring missing.

Alas, Vagnini's tale of survival after getting mugged by Hartford thugs was all made up. Vagnini eventually told police he lied, and admitted to punching himself in the face, tearing his shirt and throwing his belongings in the Farmington River, all to make his story more believable.

Vagnini was charged with DUI, reckless driving and evading responsibility, police said.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

### Problem Solvers cont. from Front Page

got sick from a lack of nutrients. For this story he won the state championship in scenario writing.

"I like working with a team, learning about all the different topics," Jack said.

Austin agreed, "You form a lot of close bonds with people," he said. Austin won by creating a booklet on the issue of water quality. The booklet contained a six-step problem solving process. First he had to analyze the situation, then select an underlying problem, create a system of criteria to rate solutions and finally an action plan. What this all brought him to was an idea for genetically modified harmless bacteria that breaks down the hazardous chemicals

## Drug-Free is the Way to Be, Says AHM

by Courtney Parent

AHM Youth and Family Services, Inc. is helping Andover youth embrace a drug-free lifestyle, by making a donation to the Andover DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program.

The donation was used to purchase tickets for the children to go to its annual New Britain Rock Cats game. According to AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg, Andover's former temporary resident state trooper, Keith Maynard, is still working with the Andover DARE program, and served as their escort to the game on June 2.

While Rosenberg did not have an exact figure of the donation, he said that AHM has donated thousands to the various DARE programs over the years. This year alone, AHM has donated \$1,200 to the DARE programs in the three contributing towns, he said.

"It's just a little-known, nice thing that we do," Rosenberg said.

The funds AHM donated to the Andover DARE program were a direct result of a "Reaching for Respect Project" grant, which Columbia Resident State Trooper Don Aitken aided AHM in attaining.

According to Rosenberg, AHM and State Police Troop K were one of just a "handful of communities" to receive the "Reaching for

Respect Project" grant. According to Columbia Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from March 15, Aitken explained that the grant had been approved and that it was just one of four grants given out.

Rosenberg said AHM has donated funds to the DARE programs in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough for years. Rosenberg said the funds, which are raised through grants and private contributions (not through municipal funds), are put towards curriculum materials, sportswear, and other efforts to support the kids.

The DARE program aims at giving children the skills they need to steer clear of drugs, gangs and violence. According to official DARE website, dare.com, the program was originally founded in 1983 in Los Angeles and has proven to be so successful that it is now being implemented in approximately 75 percent of the nation's school districts and more than 43 countries.

The website describes the program as a "police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives."

Andover Elementary School Principal David Griffin said the DARE program has been at Andover for a "number of years" and that the

program provides the students with the skills they need to say no to drugs, understand the effects of drugs and learn how to cope.

"As they move on to the upper grades there will be peer pressure," Griffin said. "In the program there is role playing, the students complete an essay emphasizing the points they felt helped them or will help them and there is a poster contest."

According to Griffin, the program was implemented in the three sixth-grade classrooms at Andover Elementary this year. The program lasts for approximately an eight-week period, and was run this year by Maynard.

"The kids were very open with him," Griffin said. "They talked about various situations and how to deal with them."

Rosenberg praised Maynard, as well as the other local resident state troopers for Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia for the great work they do implementing the DARE program in the local schools.

"We really value and appreciate the work that they do and all the time they give working with AHM's Juvenile Review Board and Substance Abuse Task Force," Rosenberg said.

According to Griffin, upon the completion of the course, there is a graduation at which all of the students receive a certificate. Poster con-

test winners from each of the three participating classes are announced and posters are displayed at graduation. Also, those students with the best essays, chosen by Maynard, each recite their essays at graduation.

Upon completing the program, the kids "come away with a better education as to the effects that drugs and alcohol have on people's lives," Griffin said. "And for the most part, I think they come away with a pretty positive attitude."

Griffin explained that for the essays and poster contest, students are asked to utilize the concept of saying no to drugs, saying no to alcohol and coping skills and "put them into an artistic rendition using that theme."

The New Britain Rock Cats game on June 2 was part of an annual, end-of-the-year celebration, at which Andover and other schools within the region sport their DARE T-shirts and enjoy a baseball game with local law enforcement.

According to Rosenberg, the Rock Cats games allows the kids to commemorate the end of the program, while also spending time with a police officer in a "positive and re-affirming" manner.

"We're delighted to be able to support them in the effort," Rosenberg.

# Extra Words on East Hampton Library Sign Lead to Meeting

by Joshua Anusewicz

Incorrect wording on a sign at the Middle Haddam Public Library has earned the library's president a meeting with the head of the state's Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT), and one resident hopes it leads to a change in the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission handbook.

The sign in question was posted at the library after the facility was awarded a \$16,800 Historic Restoration Fund grant for a rehabilitation project. According to librarian Janet McDonald, the grant is being used to replace the antique window panes at the library.

However, the wording on the sign, which explains how the project is funded, differed from CCT's guidelines.

Middle Haddam resident and former Middle Haddam Historic District Commission (MHHDC) member Margaret Faber noticed the sign last month and alerted David Bahlman, director of the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the CCT, of the improper wording. The sign stated, "The rehabilitation (sic) of the Middle Haddam Public Library, which is listed as a contributing resource of the Middle Haddam Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, is funded by a matching grant from Connecticut's Historic Restoration Fund."

According to the CCT guidelines, the words "as a contributing resource of the Middle Haddam Historic District" were added to the sign. The sign was intended to plainly state the library was "listed on" the National Register of Historic Places.

McDonald said Bahlman called the library and stated the sign was "grossly incorrect" and needed to be changed. Bahlman then discussed the matter with Royster at a meeting in Hartford, and Royster corrected and replaced the sign.

"In order to meet the requirements to receive the grant, the sign has to be correct," Bahlman said Thursday.

Though the sign has been corrected, Faber believes there are still changes in order. In a

letter sent to the MHHDC, Faber expressed her belief that the wording was "purposefully written" incorrectly so the sign would adhere to the commission's handbook, which, as of a 2010 update, states that "no individual properties in Middle Haddam are on the National Register."

According to a letter sent from Bahlman to Faber on May 26, the Middle Haddam National Register Historic District includes "62 contributing buildings and 12 contributing archaeological sites," and that "all contributing resources located within a National Register district are considered by the State and by the National Park Service to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places."

Faber said in her letter to the MHHDC that, since 2005, the commission has "flatly denied" that the 62 buildings in the district are on the National Register. She believes the denial is due to an incident six years ago, when a resident was considering demolishing her property in Middle Haddam.

In 2005, the MHHDC issued a Certificate of Appropriateness to resident Barbara Angelico to demolish her property on Middle Haddam Road, known as the Samuel Taylor House, which was part of the National Register district. Faber – who was on the commission at the time – said residents noted this fact to the commission, and Paul Loether, who was then the director of the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the CCT, even sent a letter to Faber stating that the Middle Haddam Road property is "listed on the National Register of Historic Places."

The National Register of Historic Places states that the building should be "protected from unreasonable destruction" under Connecticut General Statutes 22a-19a.

Currently, the MHHDC handbook still states that no buildings in the district are on the National Register, which Faber fears could cause the commission future issues.

"If the owner of a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places assumes, based on the MHHDC handbook and precedent," Faber states in her letter to the MHHDC,



This sign was posted at Middle Haddam Public Library after it was awarded a state grant for a rehabilitation project. However, the wording on the sign differed from what the state mandated.

"that all that is required is a Certificate of Appropriateness from the MHHDC and a town permit in order to demolish their property, but is then prevented from taking that action by the State Historic Preservation Board and/or an injunction by the Attorney General, they may initiate a lawsuit against the MHHDC."

Royster said Wednesday that he recently met with Bahlman and that "everything is in order." He added that the "CCT is entirely satisfied with [the MHHDC's] management of the grant project."

When asked if the library is on the National Register, Royster said that the library, as well as the buildings and archaeological sites, are considered "a contributing source of the Middle

Haddam Historic District, which is on the National Register."

"In no way does that diminish the significance [of the buildings]," Royster said.

He said that while they are listed a "contributing source," the CCT considers each individual building to be on the National Register, so they are afforded the same protection as other historical sites on the National Register. He added that for each individual building to be listed on the National Register, each building would have to meet "specific requirements of historical significance."

"It's really just semantics," Royster said.

The next meeting of the MHHDC is Thursday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

# Air Line Trail Extension in the Works in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Preliminary work has begun on an undeveloped portion of the Air Line Trail that will extend the path into the Village Center, a long-awaited plan intended to provide pedestrians with better access to the center.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer, Anchor Engineering of Glastonbury has begun surveying the 500-foot tract of land that stretches from the municipal parking lot next to Main Street Pizza to Watrous Street, where the trail currently ends. Plummer said that engineering, design work, obtaining permits, and wetland delineation will also take place this summer. She added that Anchor was chosen out of 12 candidates because they planned to attain most of the natural aesthetics of the area.

Construction is expected to begin this fall. For several years, the town has discussed extending the trail, which currently runs about 23 miles from East Hampton to Lebanon. An extension from Watrous Street to Smith Street, where the trail head will remain near the cranberry bog, has also been completed in the past year.

The newest extension will be 10-foot wide and, like most of the trail, will be made of stone dust. The entire trail is handicapped-accessible, as well.

Plummer said that the biggest challenge to completing the extension has been obtaining the funding, which the town was able to do in 2010, via a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant up to \$200,000. The construction costs, Plummer estimates, will be around \$140,000.

The grant was awarded through the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as part of the National Recreation Trails Program, which has designated over 1,000 trails

in the United States. The Air Line Trail is considered a state park, but the municipality that the trail runs through combines with the DEP to perform maintenance on the trail.

Another challenge is that the land, as Plummer puts it, is "the most precarious 500 feet you've seen in your life." The steep embankment rises through trees and bushes and over the Pocotopaug Brook, just several yards away from a waterfall. The trail will also lead over an abandoned railroad bridge over the brook, which will be upgraded to allow for pedestrian traffic.

And pedestrians are what the town is aiming for, as the town has hopes that extending the trail to the Village Center will help spur business in the area. Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chairman Rich Leone said Wednesday that one of the EDC's top priorities has always been revitalizing the town center.

"Our hope is that the trail will encourage those on the trail to explore the center and take advantage of the businesses there," Leone said.

He said that he hopes increased pedestrian traffic will not only support existing businesses, but will stimulate the opening of new businesses that could cater to those walkers, runners or bikers that use the trail.

"I think a sporting goods store or a bike shop would be a natural complement," Leone said, adding that even a convenience store that could offer drinks or ice cream would do well in the area.

Leone said there are about 10 businesses in the Village Center right now, but there are still a few vacant storefronts from businesses that haven't survived the tough economy. In the past year, however, a few new businesses, like Anything Goes and the restaurant 70 Main, have opened and thrived in the center.



Construction is expected to begin this fall on an undeveloped portion of the Air Line Trail, extending the path into the Village Center. The plan involves upgrading the railroad bridge seen here, which people would be able to walk across to access either Watrous Street or a municipal parking lot, depending on which direction they're walking.

Plummer also added that the town's annual half-marathon, the Ghost Run, will now have easier access to the Village Center. In past year's, the race, which begins at Hebron Elementary School, has followed the Air Line Trail, but has had to wind through side roads to reach the finish at Center Elementary School. The new extension will bring runners straight into the center, reducing the need for police to

direct traffic.

Both Plummer and Leone stressed the importance of multiple town committees working together to make the project possible, as it seems the majority of the town hopes this will be another step toward revitalizing the "downtown" area.

"I think the impact can only be positive," Plummer said.



**Blitzen Duval is the town's official Top Dog. The friendly pooch was adopted by resident Mary Duval last December. She is shown at left kissing her new best friend, a domestic short-haired cat named Star. At right, Blitzen shakes hands with First Selectman Bob Burbank. The canine was honored at a meeting last week of the Board of Selectmen.**



## New Top Dog in Andover Has Had a 'Ruff' Life

by Courtney Parent

Texas to Arkansas to Connecticut; a kill shelter to a sanctuary to a first-official place to call home.

Blitzen Duval received a Christmas miracle when she was officially adopted this past year, she has now also been "adopted" and accepted by the town being crowned this year's Top Dog.

Blitzen was honored at a Board of Selectmen meeting last Wednesday, June 1, where she was presented with a certificate, as well as a handmade scarf with text reading "Andover Top Dog." During the evening's ceremony, Blitzen proved to be a crowd-pleaser as she politely sat front and center to shake hands with First Selectman Bob Burbank.

This year was the town's first official Top Dog competition. While there was a small pool of just eight competitors, residents did show up to cast their votes. Blitzen received 57 votes to bring home the gold. Coming in a close second with 52 votes was Quincy Busch, while Bella Russell collected 44 votes to finish third. According to Burbank, the \$199 raised from the competition – residents paid a fee to enter the contest – is going to benefit the Andover Social Services Fund.

While 2-year-old Blitzen's last six months

have been blissful, she has come across more danger and despair in her brief "childhood" than most dogs do in a lifetime. The Australian Cattle dog mix landed her first official "home" in Andover this past December. However, prior to coming to Andover, she had to make multiple voyages to escape death and find someone to call her family.

According to Blitzen's owner, Mary Duval, Blitzen originally resided in a high-kill shelter in Texas before being rescued through the network of the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter. From there, she was flown by private plane to a sanctuary in Arkansas, after which she made her way to Vernon to a foster home.

However, Duval said she believes that, at some point in Blitzen's life, she was someone's pet, as she was already house-broken and knew several basic commands such as sit, shake and lay down.

Duval refers to Blitzen as her "Christmas girl," as the two made their friendship official on Dec. 16. Blitzen received not just a new home, but also a new kitty friend. According to Duval, Blitzen is best friends with her other shelter rescue, a domestic short-haired cat

named Star.

While, Duval may have literally been Blitzen's savior, Blitzen was figuratively hers as well. Duval, who has been an animal owner and lover all her life, said she lost her 10-year-old German shepherd Eisen last June. According to Duval, the death of Eisen, which she had since she was a puppy, took her by surprise and hit hard. While she anticipated another five years of companionship from the shepherd, cancer took it from her.

Finally, after a difficult six months, Duval said she felt that she was ready to look for another dog. However, she decided to look for a different breed, as no one could take the place of her shepherd.

"I decided that there's probably a dog out there who needs me," said Duval, "and I need them."

While watching WFSB-TV Channel 3's *Lost and Pound* pet segment, Duval saw a dog offered through the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter. (similar to Blitzen, except bigger) that she was interested in. However, when she contacted the shelter to inquire, that dog was gone.

Instead, though, the shelter suggested a

"similar, smaller version" which they referred to as "Bitsy." After speaking with shelter president Cheryl Hutchins, Duval decided to meet "Bitsy."

"She walked up to me, sat down and licked my hand," said Duval, "and it just melted me."

It was a match made in Heaven; the gentle, loving Cattle dog won Duval's heart. However, Duval was not a fan of the name "Bitsy," so that was quickly changed.

"No dog of mine was going to be called 'Bitsy,'" said Duval laughing. "I think they called her that because when they would let her out of the crate she would just curl up in a little ball."

While being rescued from a high-kill shelter and placed in a permanent home will surely be the luckiest moment of Blitzen's life, the luck streak continued last week when she was officially named Top Dog. The competition field was small, but Duval said the contest was very official as the ballots contained an embossed seal 'so that no one could cheat.'

As Duval stated on Blitzen's Top Dog entry, "Blitzen has won the Lottery of Life and deserves to be the number one Dog for a year."

## Marlborough Selectmen Talk About Grant Money Uses

by Bailey Seddon

Possible uses for state grant money were among the many topics discussed by the Board of Selectmen at a meeting Tuesday.

Other items discussed were whether or not they were going to hire a new seasonal lifeguard, a FEMA check that the town received, change of capital investment threshold, and a possible exit poll on the new budget.

The town already has \$250,000 in Small Town Economic Assistance Program funds for use on renovating and expanding Richmond Memorial Library. Another grant discussed was an application for money for sidewalks to finish the connectivity of the village district.

Selectwoman Riva Clark also brought up the possibility of seeking out other grants for rec-

reational land use to use toward welcome to Marlborough signs on the highway. She mentioned other towns that have signs on the highway to let people know when they are entering town. La Bella and Black agreed that it would be on the next meeting's agenda.

Any grant applications have to be submitted to STEAP by June 20. The board also applied June 3 for a Small Cities grant. The board also discussed sending in an application for \$662,000 for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements for such things as a handicapped-accessible elevator to the library's second floor, selectman Joe La Bella said.

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The board unanimously voted to hire a sub-

stitute lifeguard for the second half of the summer season. The town needs two to three lifeguards from mid-august to Labor Day who will receive instruction on water safety. The selectmen said they were happy with the teenage boy that had applied; they felt that he would do a good job helping the town with lake duty for the summer season.

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The selectmen also discussed a \$37,556.24 check from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) given to the town for damages to buildings that were caused by the extreme winter weather. This money will go into the general fund. Town funds were already

used to pay for the damages and the money that was used to plow and salt the road. This money will go into the town bank to be used at a later date when needed.

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Also, the board voted to change the Capital Investment threshold from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Anything below this amount the town selectmen can use toward their own discretion, while anything over this amount would need to be approved at a town meeting.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

### Minor Injuries in Hebron Two-Car Crash

A juvenile was transported to Windham Hospital July 3, following a two-car crash on Route 85, State Police said.

According to police, William Churchill, 59, of 1107 Whetstone Lane, Brownington, VT, was traveling north on Route 85 near Hope Valley Road when another car turned out of a driveway and struck his vehicle.

Frank Wilkosz, 54, of 96 Crestwood Trail, East Hartford, was taking a left out of a driveway when he accidentally hit Churchill. He was charged with failure to grant right of way, police said.

The juvenile in his car was taken to the hospital to treat minor neck, shoulder and back pain.

### Marlborough Police News

6/3: Mark Kneeland, 27, of 4 Austin Dr., Apt. 6, Marlborough, was charged with breach of peace and third-degree intimidation (bigotry, bias and threatening), State Police said.

6/4: Ashley Bonertz, 24, of 122 Saner Rd., Marlborough, was charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault (minor injury or intent to cause injury), State Police said.

6/5: Graham A. Waddington, 19, of 260 Skinner Rd., Hebron, was charged with breach of peace, drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, State Police said. Police were called when Waddington allegedly caused a disturbance at the Marlborough Clinic, where he was being treated. He was found with less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

### Colchester Police News

6/1: A juvenile was arrested after being found in possession of two marijuana smoking pipes, State Police and Colchester police said.

6/2: Johnny B. Hayes, 52, of Brooklyn Road, Brooklyn, CT, was charged with violation of probation/conditional discharge, State Police said.

6/2: Kerry L. Shorey, 49, of 55 Gill St., Colchester, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

6/4: Christine S. Avery, 21, of 235 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, was charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault, State Police said.

6/6: Max Kamm, 22, of 89 Millington Hopyard Rd., East Haddam, was charged with operation of a motor vehicle under suspension, DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

# Portland School Board Extends Doyen's Contract

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland schools have seen success at multiple levels over the past few years, whether it be academics, athletics, music or art. So it seemed like an easy decision for the Board of Education to keep the person who might be the most responsible for that success.

At an executive session following Tuesday's meeting at Portland High School, the school board voted 4-0 to extend the contract of Superintendent of Schools Sally E. Doyen for three years. Only board members MaryAnne Rode, Andrea Alfano, Rosemary Weitowitz and Benjamin Srb were in attendance.

Doyen's contract was scheduled to expire at the end of June, but will now carry until 2014. Doyen has been the superintendent in Portland since 2005.

"She is fantastic," Rode said following the meeting. "She has done a fantastic job for us both educationally and financially."

In recent years, Doyen has helped strengthen academics district-wide, including improved test scores more advanced placement courses at Portland High School. This year, Doyen and the Board of Education were commended by many, including First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, for presenting a zero percent increase in the education budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

"We are very glad to have her," Alfano said.

Doyen said Wednesday that she was also excited to be staying in Portland.

"Portland is a wonderful community and I'm proud to be a part of it," Doyen said. "Each day I work with dedicated staff and students who are eager to learn."

Doyen also added that, like the education budget, she would be receiving a zero percent salary increase, citing the board's recognition of the "tough economic climate" as the reason for staying as is. She said her 2010-11 salary was \$144,520.

Bransfield said Thursday that she was pleased that Doyen's contract was extended, saying that she has been "a pleasure to work with." She added that the increased interaction between the Board of Education and general government has grown into "an important partnership" that has helped the school system improve.

\* \* \*

During the regular session of the board's meeting, Doyen presented the board with summer maintenance projects that are planned at all of the Portland schools.

At the high school/middle school facility, the entire air conditioning and heating system is expected to be drained and cleaned with an acid solution, Doyen said. She said that there has been a problem with the valves operating properly since the school opened in 2004.

Doyen also discussed the smoke detectors in the school auditorium, which she said Director of Buildings and Grounds Paul Bengston

has had trouble testing. The ceilings are 32 feet high and Doyen said they have been unable to find a lift device to reach the ceiling. She said they are currently in talks with a "vendor that uses infrared lighting" to test the units.

She also announced that repairs from the winter snowfall have been estimated at \$7,200, which will be covered by the district's insurance. The repairs include cracks on the roof of both the middle school cafeteria and media center.

The blacktop at Brownstone Intermediate School is scheduled to be resurfaced, which Doyen said is in the capital budget.

Doyen also said that stairway railings at the Brownstone, Gildersleeve and Valley View schools will all be upgraded.

In August, Bengston is expected to tour all of the schools with a member of the Fire Marshal's office to make sure that the proper upgrades have been made.

\* \* \*

On Tuesday afternoon, a reception was held to recognize six members of the Portland school system that will retire at the end of the school year: Alice Guilmette, Katherine Scott, Myra Finkelstein, Patricia Woronoff, Marietta Shlien and Dr. Fie Budzinsky.

Guilmette has been at Valley View School for the last 27 years, starting as a special education paraprofessional. She has since worked with first and second grade students in reading, writing, and math. She is a graduate of

Portland High School.

Scott has been at Valley View School for 25 years, starting as a paraprofessional. She has also helped in all grades with reading, writing, and math, and is also a graduate of Portland High School.

Finkelstein has worked in the school district for 29 years at both Gildersleeve and Brownstone schools as a tutor and long-term substitute. She has also worked as an English teacher at the middle school and as a reading specialist throughout the district.

Woronoff has been in the district since 1986, when she began as a math tutor at both the middle and high schools. She has taught all facets of math at Portland High School for the last 15 years.

Shlien has been a world language teacher at the high school since 1978.

Budzinsky began working in the district in 1976, working as a curriculum coordinator before becoming a science teacher at the high school in 1989. She was named Connecticut Teacher of the Year in 1995. Since then, she has worked as the district's instructional technology administrator and since 2006, has been the district's Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m., at the Portland High School library.

## Colchester Student Reads Memorial Day Poem

Christopher Wilson Jr., 12, a sixth-grader at William J. Johnston Middle School, wrote a poem for his late grandfather for a school Memorial Day celebration, and had the chance to read it to students, teachers, town officials and honorees.

Wilson's grandfather was John Levitow, a Vietnam War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient. Levitow, a lifelong Connecticut resident, worked for more than two decades for the Veterans Association, fighting for the benefits and rights of enlisted veterans. Levitow died Nov. 8, 2000, at the age of 55.

The following is the poem Wilson wrote:

*My grandfather was a hero to one and all.  
He risked his life for Americans both large and real small.  
I don't remember him, he died when I was young.*

*But I think of him every time our National Anthem is sung.*

*He was awarded ribbons and stars.  
The Medal of Honor and some shiny new bars.*

*The President honored and thanked him when again he could stand.*

*He thanked him, saluted, and then shook his hand.*

*John Levitow received the highest honors in our land.*

*He was a hero, my grandfather and one great man.*

*Let's pray that there will never be any new wars.*

*So there will be no need for those medals and shiny new bars.*

*Life is too special to take or have taken,  
but so are our freedoms to ever be forsaken.*



Fire broke out early Tuesday at this Windham Avenue home. Three were injured in the blaze, including one resident who was left with burns over 60 percent of his body.

## Fire Destroys Colchester Home, Injures Three

by Bailey Seddon

A man was flown by LifeStar to a hospital in Rhode Island after sustaining extensive burn injuries during a fire early Tuesday morning, Chief Walter Cox of the Colchester Fire Department said.

The call came in at 2:34 a.m. from 360 Windham Ave. It took firefighters 50 minutes to get the fire under control. The house was under "heavy fire" and by the time the blaze was out, the one and one-quarter story Cape Cod-style home was completely destroyed, Cox said.

Of the five people inside, three were injured, Cox said. The most serious of these was a 22-year-old man who sustained second- and third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body, mostly the head, chest and torso. The victim was flown to the burn wing at a Providence, RI hospital.

The other two victims were taken to the

Marlborough Clinic, Cox said. One was a 57-year-old who suffered from back pain after jumping from a second story window, about 10-14 feet off the ground. The other was a woman who was a victim of smoke inhalation, Cox said.

Around 70 firefighters responded to the blaze, Cox said. Of these, 35 were from Colchester, with the other firefighters coming from Bozrah, Lebanon, Salem, Gardner Lake and Hebron.

According to the assessor's office, the owner of 360 Windham Ave. is Robert Beckman. However, it is unclear if Beckman was one of the three injured in the fire.

Phone records also listed a Justin Beckman as living at the address.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation by the state fire marshal's office and the Colchester fire marshal's office

## Heat Closes Colchester Schools

by Bailey Seddon

Students at William J. Johnston Middle School and Bacon Academy were let out early Wednesday and Thursday, due to the unseasonably hot weather.

The middle school got out at 11:40 a.m. and the high school at 11:55 a.m.

While Bacon Academy has air conditioning, the middle school does not, Curriculum Director Barbara Gilbert said, and since the two share buses, both needed to have an early dismissal.

In the past, this has happened once or twice at the end of school years, according to Gilbert.

While extreme heat had been forecast since early this week, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle waited until Wednesday and Thursday mornings to make the call to close the schools.

"Weather can be so unpredictable and she does not want to dismiss school if the heat wave breaks unexpectedly," Gilbert said.

## Police News

5/29: Robin H. Boyce, 57, of 412 Cotton Hall Ct., Simpsonville, SC, was arrested for violating a restraining order, police said.

5/29: Clifford J. Brunner Jr., 23, of 96 Hammond Ct., Colchester, was arrested for trav-

eling too fast for conditions, following too close and DUI, police said.

5/31: Maria J. Alipio, 50, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., was arrested for first-degree failure to appear, second-degree failure to appear for a separate incident and for failure to comply with the fingerprinting process, police said.

6/1: Lisa Jeanne Bassett, 47, of 118 Main St., Hartford, was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

6/2: Dominic Paul Accarpio, 42, of 266 Savage Hill Rd., Berlin, was arrested for second-degree failure to appear, police said.

## Portland Police News

5/29: Daryl Adamaitis, 24, of 6 Privilege Dr., Bloomfield, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, Portland Police said.

6/1: Miguel Quiles, 25, of 163 Airline Ave., was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

6/5: William Myers, 45, of 14 Beverly Heights, Middletown, was charged with violation of protective order, police said.

## Hebron Police News

6/4: Trever Bartson, 18, of 451 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, was charged with traveling too fast, State Police said. Police said that, while driving on Wall Street in his 2001 Volkswagen Jetta, Bartson lost control of his vehicle, crossed the double yellow lines and, while trying to correct his vehicle, struck a large rock. Bartson sustained minor injuries, police said, but did not go to the hospital.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Mary Stula

Mary (Harrington) Stula, 79, of Colchester, wife of John S. Stula and mother of Karleen and Karl Stula, died Wednesday, June 1, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. She was born June 3, 1931, in Brooklyn, CT, a daughter of the late Frank and Helen (Gorman) Harrington.

Mary had six siblings, Gladys Dietch, Doris Anderson, Raymond Harrington, James Harrington, Frances Harrington, all predeceased and the only surviving sibling Eileen Panteleakos. She also leaves four grandchildren, John and Shawn Stula of Colchester, Kara and Eve Cicchiello of Columbia.

She was predeceased by her eldest granddaughter, Maria Cicchiello, in 2005.

Mary married John on April 24, 1948, in Brooklyn. The couple celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary last month. Professionally, Mary was a licensed hospital administrator and nurse. She and John built and ran three convalescent facilities in eastern Connecticut and operated them until retirement several years ago. Upon retirement, they moved to Cape Coral, FL.

Mary enjoyed traveling, tennis, golfing, dancing and spending time with her family. She will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews and all those who loved her.

Calling hours were held Sunday, June 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Celebration of the funeral Liturgy was held Monday at 10 a.m. directly at St. Columba Church, Route 66, Columbia. Burial will follow in St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

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

## East Hampton

### Norma Ann Belmont

Norma Ann Belmont, 94, of East Hampton, widow of the late Daniel Belmont, died Friday, June 3, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born Jan. 19, 1917, in the Bronx, NY, she was the daughter of the late James and Esther (Bloom) Cafarella. Norma Ann had lived in East Hampton for most of her life.

She is survived by her son, Robert Belmont and his wife Susan of Rocky Hill; a grandson, Ryan J. Belmont Sr. and his wife Shana of Glastonbury; a granddaughter, Kelly J. Belmont of Rocky Hill; a great-grandson, Ryan J. Belmont Jr. of Glastonbury; and a great-granddaughter, Ava R. Belmont of Glastonbury.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, June 7, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, June 6.

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

## East Hampton

### John Henry Squier

John Henry Squier, 82, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Thursday, June 2, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born Sept. 19, 1928 in Marlborough he was the son of the late Walter and Laura (Burke) Squier and had lived in East Hampton for many years.

He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, serving his country in Japan in support of the Korean Conflict. John was a Life member of the Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Post 5095 of East Hampton, a member of the American Legion Post 197 in Marlborough and a past member of the Loyal Order of Moose 1631 in Marlborough and the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department.

John loved playing cards, watching his beloved New York Yankees and enjoyed Friday night bingo at Markham Meadows Campground. He will forever be remembered as "Big John" behind the bar at The Heidelberg Inn.

John leaves behind the love of his life, his "Babes," Ruther Flemke; a sister, Charlotte Wright and her husband Fred of Lebanon; two brothers, Frank Squier of East Hampton and Kenneth Squier and his wife Corinne of Chicopee, MA; and several nieces and nephews. Also left with fond and loving memories are his "grandchildren" by association; Mark Peszynski, Jill Kelley, Kevin Unikewicz, Daniel Peszynski, Tina Lanzi, Karen Clark, Thomas Flemke Jr., Stacy Levesque and all of their children.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 7 in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in the Connecticut State Veteran's Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday before the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Program, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## East Hampton

### Richard Frederick Wall

Richard Frederick Wall, 81, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Mary Lu (Clark) Wall died Sunday, June 5, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Born Jan. 14, 1930, he was the son of the late Richard and Katherine Wall, and was a lifelong resident of East Hampton, attending the East Hampton school system and graduating in 1948.

Richard was an outstanding athlete and played on three high school varsity teams when he was in eighth grade, earning five letters. Although he played soccer and basketball, his first love was baseball. He played on the Belltown Bombers team at age 14 and was the youngest player on a semi-pro team in the Middlesex County League. He also played on a Middletown Knights of Columbus team and for a semi-pro Boston Braves team in Meriden. He tried out for the St. Louis Cardinals but after some contemplation turned down the offer and was invited to play for Savitt Jewelers' semi-pro team at Buckley Stadium.

Richard worked on the family dairy farm business starting at an early age and became known by many in town as the milk delivery man. He attended the UConn school of Dairy Engineering, graduating in 1950. The family then built the "Walls Dairy Farm" store which later expanded into the restaurant that included fresh made doughnuts, baked goods, his mother's homemade clam chowder, delicious ice cream and meals. It was known for being a family-friendly meeting place. Richard and brothers John and Phil sold the business in 1988.

He then went to work for Alpine Haus in Wethersfield, then at Elmcrest Hospital as Director of Transportation, and later at Hemlocks Easter Seals in Hebron. He finally retired again about five years ago. His favorite activities included traveling, skiing, camping with his wife as well as biking and golfing. They owned vacation places in Vermont and in Rhode Island.

Richard was an active member of St. Patrick Church his whole life, serving as an altar boy and on several committees over the years, including the finance board and parish council and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He served the public on the Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning Board, State of Connecticut Tourism Commission, East Hampton building committee for a Town Hall and Police Station. He was also chairman of the East Hampton Division of Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce Midstate Regional Board and was a Trustee on Board of Directors of Connecticut Bank and Trust. He was a partner in building the first phase of the Edgemere Apartments/Condos on North Main Street.

Besides his loving wife, Richard leaves four sons and their wives, Richard of Portland, Ron and Barbara of Colchester, Russ and Judy of Hebron and Randy and Jennifer of East Hampton; five grandchildren that he adored, Jennifer, Laura, Kathryn, Jason and Madison; his adopted sister Mary Albright of Cobalt Lodge; and numerous other nephews, nieces, relatives and former employees and friends.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, June 11, at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Church. Burial will follow in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton today, June 10, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church Repair Fund, PO Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424, Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457, East Hampton Ambulance Association, PO Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 or the Alzheimer's Association CT Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

The family wishes to thank the hospice unit at Middlesex Hospital for their care and support during Richard's stay.

To leave online condolences or to share a funny story about Richard with the family, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Edith Mongiat Spencer

Edith (Whelan) Mongiat Spencer, 75, of Moultonborough, NH, loving wife of William B. Spencer, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 5, after a brief illness with her family at her side. Born in Stamford on Oct. 6, 1935, she was the daughter of Thomas and Marjorie (Wilkes) Whelan.

Ede spent the early years of her life in Hartford before moving to East Hampton in 1955. She was a resident of East Hampton for 52 years before moving to Moultonborough, NH, in 2008. Prior to her retirement in 1998, she was an account clerk for the East Hampton Police Department.

Ede was a warm and joyful person and content to live a simple life, happy to have a comfortable chair, a cup of coffee and a good book to read. She appreciated God's creation and loved watching the sunsets, rainbows, snowfalls, foliage, and never tired of watching the birds at her bird feeder. Ede will be remembered as a loving and friendly person who easily made friends.

Besides her husband Bill, she is survived by her two sons, Robert M. Mongiat and his wife Deborah of East Hampton, Steven J. Mongiat and his wife Sheila of Waterboro, MR; two stepdaughters, Sherri Faucher and her husband Brian of Westbrook, Melissa Pardi and her husband Frederick of Old Saybrook; a brother, John Whelan of Pawcatuck; a sister, Elizabeth Bailey of Wethersfield; and eight grandchildren, Amanda and Brittany Kelly, Corey and Andrew Mongiat, Spencer and Sara Faucher, and Seth and Hailey Pardi; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, June 10, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Robert Mongiat Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Laura Saunders, East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

## Amston

### Clayton J. Meyers

Clayton J. Meyers, 63, of Amston, died Saturday, June 4, in Amston. He was born Sept. 16, 1947 the son of Bernice Dougan of Maine and the late John F. Meyers.

He was raised in the Durham/Higganum area, lived in Manchester and moved to Amston in 1978. Clay served as a U.S. Marine in Vietnam, worked as a roofer and as a cable splicer for the former SNETCO, retiring in 1997. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed hunting with his hunting dogs.

He also leaves his wife, Marilyn (Bania) Meyers; his daughter, Sara Meyers-Hicks of Canada; his son, John "Jake" Meyers of Amston; and his sister, Dorinda O'Laughlin of Griswold.

In accordance with Clay's wishes there will be a cremation and no calling hours. Memorial donations may be made to the Honor/Memorial Program St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9956.

The John F. Tierney Funeral Home, Manchester has care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit [tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tierneyfuneralhome.com).

## Marlborough

### Andrew Whitehill

Andrew Whitehill, 30, of Marlborough, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, June 5, at home. Born April 26, 1981, in Middletown, he was a son of David Whitehill of Marlborough and Lesley (Stainkamp) Whitehill of West Park, NY.

Andrew graduated RHAM High School with high honors and an achievement award for Most Improved Student. Andy then attended SCSU where each year he made Dean's List, earning his Bachelor's degree in exercise science. Andy took great pride in his health and enjoyed working out daily at the gym and spending time outdoors. He will be remembered for his smile, the joy it gave to others and his thoughtfulness and willingness to always help others.

In addition to his loving parents, he is survived by his brother, Robert Whitehill of Manchester; his stepsister, Theresa Sadlier of Andover; his paternal grandparents, Robert and Doris Whitehill of Marlborough; his friend and cousin, Joe; his friends, Rolf, Zack and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family members and friends.

Friends may call from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Services and burial will be private.

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