

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**The Helpful Elf... Here is a rare sighting of one of Santa's elves, Olivia Correia, 3, preparing items for folks in need. The items were donated by the generous families of East Hampton Nursery School.**

## Warming Hearts, Hands in Newtown

by Joshua Anusewicz

On Sunday morning, at roughly 4 a.m., Kim Piscatelli had an idea. Like many of us, Piscatelli was profoundly affected by what had taken place just two days before at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. Also, like many of us, Piscatelli wondered how she could help the victims' families and the community that had lived through such a tragedy.

So, with the idea fresh in her head, and the sun yet to rise, Piscatelli sat down and began an email to a group of her friends.

Two days later, she was getting calls from as far as Canada from people looking to help out.

"I'm overwhelmed by how this little idea could turn into something so much bigger," said Piscatelli, an East Hampton native.

The idea that Piscatelli came up with stemmed from a popular children's book called *The Kissing Hand*, written by Audrey Penn in 1993. The book was published by the Child Welfare League of America, and was intended to help children that are suffering from separation anxiety. The book became a hit with teachers and was named one of the "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children" by the National Edu-

cation Association in 2007.

*The Kissing Hand* is about a young raccoon, Chester, who is nervous about going to school. When he tells his mother, she kisses Chester's hand and tells him that whenever he feels scared or lonely, he can press his hand against his cheek and know that his mother loves him. This comforts him and he goes to school.

The message of the book struck a chord with Piscatelli, who felt the book could comfort the students of Newtown in the wake of last week's tragedy.

"I just thought it was a perfect match for the situation," she said.

So from the book came Piscatelli's idea: with the help of some friends and family, she would knit pairs of mittens for the children of Newtown. Each mitten would have a small heart sewn or embroidered on the palm that would work much like Chester's mother's kiss, to comfort students when they were nervous or scared.

The idea quickly spread soon after Piscatelli sent out her email and posted the idea to Facebook. Within a day, the New York City Knitting Community pledged to help out. A

See Warming Hearts Page 2

## All I Want for Christmas Is....

It's that time of year – not just when the world falls in love, but also when all the good little boys and girls begin eagerly waiting for the man with the bag to pay a visit.

As they do every year, Marlborough Girl Scout Troop 65220 has been collecting letters from area kids to send to Santa. But before shipping the notes up north, the scouts once again let us at the *Rivereast* have a look.

The letters this year came not just from Marlborough and surrounding towns, but also from as far away as Mississippi and California. As usual, they were great, so we decided to share a sampling of them with you readers. After we typed them up (and yes, we left in the charming little-kid misspellings on purpose), we sent them on their merry way to Kris Kringle's house.

And don't worry, kids – we've got an inside source at Santa's workshop, and he assures us the letters made safe passage, and that the big guy will try to fulfill as many Christmas dreams as possible.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the *Rivereast*.

Dear Santa,  
I am in a quandry. Who is your favorite reindeer? Is it Rudolph? How about blitzen? Okay, now lets get to the good part here are the top 5 things I want for cristmas.  
1. I pod touch (okay if don't get)  
2. Dog treats for my dog lady  
3. DS games  
4. Wii games  
5. Remote control (cars, helicopters, trucks)

From,  
Adam

Dear Santa  
Can you please send me a video and can you get me one of these things – laptop, Iphone 4S or a paintball gun please

Sincerely,  
Gabriel

You are so nice

Dear Santa Claus,  
I have been nice. I hug my twin sister Mia and I listen to my Mommy and Daddy. For Christmas, my wish list is:  
1. Princess castle  
2. Chutes & Ladders game  
3. Toy box  
4. Slide game  
Thank you and I love you! Say Hi to Eddie!

Love, Glanna

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I have been trying very hard to be a good girl like my mommy told me to. Could I please have an I pad for kids and a Toy Story "Jessie" doll, and maybe a Wii game just for me? I hope you're doing well, I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love,  
Maddie

Dear Santa,  
May I pleas have an Amaracan Boy, the foot Masoshing Orby, and something I can make crafty stuff with. Oh and also may I pleas have a LaLa Loopsy with pink hair a hart near her right bottond eye an a marvulis dress that she is wairing. Thank You and Merry Christmas.

Sinsearly,  
Emily

PS. May I also have Babby Butterskoch.  
PPS. Thank you.

Der Santa,  
for Christmas I wont a skylanders DS game. And a football, Benee Ball and more plese.

I am varee soree for my bhvure. You dside fi I am god or bad.

Love, Aaron

Dear Santa Claus,  
I've been nice some days. What I want for Christmas is:  
A remote control car  
A new camera  
An Xbox  
Different stuffed animals (whatever you choose is fine)  
A pretend sleigh (just like yours), with gold and red on the sleigh  
Hope you are doing well. Hope the reindeer are good. See you soon.

Your friend,  
Cavan, age 4 (but almost 5)

Dear Santa,  
My little brother wants a choo-choo train and an airplane. We have been good this year.

Sam and Lucas

Thanks

See Santa Letters Page 2

**Holiday Shopping Guide Inside**



With the help of East Hampton's Kim Piscatelli, each student in Newtown will receive a pair of mittens, like these, as part of The Kissing Hand Mitten Project. Each student will also get a copy of *The Kissing Hand*, a children's book that helps young people with separation anxiety.

**Warming Hearts cont. from Front Page**

school in Mississippi turned the idea into fabricating *Kissing Hand* pillows. Locally, St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton announced they would be integrating the knitting project into their catechism classes. Individuals throughout the country began pledging to help out by knitting a few pairs that they could send.

"It's turned into something remarkable," said Piscatelli, happily.

But the effort, now known officially as The Kissing Hand Mitten Project, really took off the following day, Tuesday, when Piscatelli was actually able to reach the book's author, Penn, to get involved. Penn was so touched by the project, Piscatelli said, that she and the publisher of the book pledged to donate 1,600 copies of the book to Newtown, one for each student and teacher in Newtown – young or old, public or private school.

Each classroom would also receive a copy of another one of Penn's books, *Chester Raccoon and The Acorn Full of Memories*, a children's book that teaches young people how to cope with loss of someone close to them.

Piscatelli herself has been hard at work knitting, an interest she recently renewed with her mother. She has also enlisted the help of her son, Nathan, 10, who has been sewing the hearts on the palms.

"It's easy enough to do," Piscatelli said, encouraging more individuals and their families to get involved.

Local businesses have donated warehouse

space, packing equipment, and delivery services – "people are moved to do something," Piscatelli said – and her hopes are that the delivery will take place in three stages: first, each student and teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary School would receive a copy of *The Kissing Hand* and a pair of mittens; second, each classroom in Newtown schools would receive a copy of *Chester Raccoon and The Acorn Full of Memories*; and lastly, the remaining students in Newtown would receive *The Kissing Hand* and a pair of mittens. Piscatelli said she plans to be part of the delivery and added that Penn plans to help delivering the materials, as well.

"We're really turning into a little army," said Piscatelli with a laugh, explaining all of the help the project has received.

Those looking to join in the effort can still knit and donate pairs of mittens to the project. Because Piscatelli has had an influx of deliveries to her home, a donation box has been set up at Paul's and Sandy's Too in East Hampton, where people can either drop off or mail their mittens. The mailing address is: The Kissing Hand Mitten Project, 93 E. High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The project is a touching tribute to the students of Newtown and another example of how a small idea can become something much larger, literally and figuratively. And in the face of the ultimate tragedy, those students will at least be sure to have warm hearts – and warm hands – as they begin the healing process.

**Santa Letters cont. from Front Page**

Dear Santa Claus

I have been very good this year! For Christmas I would like an animal planet tube of dogs. A white seal beanie. A book about betta fish like Swimmy. And a beanie ball keychain! How are the elves doing?

Love,  
Teresa

Dear Santa,

How have you been. Kringle is a great little hider. I looked in the spot where he was hiding 17 times and I never saw him. My sister Alexa found him. This is what I want for Christmas:

1. Sound recorder
2. New locomotive for my electric train and cars for it

From,  
Bernie

P.S. Answer as soon as possible

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would a baby alive, voice activated diary, and anything you think I might like so what I am trying to say is suprize me! :-D

Can't wait what else you will get me!

From one of your believers,  
Cara

Dear Santa,

How are the elves? Could I please get a Mobigo, a baby doll, and a board game? I will leave you Reese's cups and Coke!

Love,  
Sammie

1. Kitten
2. Kitten
3. Kitten
4. Kitten
5. Kitten
6. Kitten
7. Kitten
8. Kitten
9. Kitten
10. Kitten

Please, Santa this is all I want. You are the best.

Love,  
Kyra

Dear, Santa,

When you come to my house, can you land on the roof a little quiet, please? I am easy to wake. This yaer, can you please get me at least about 1 side of either list? How are you, by the way? Our chimney is a little small, so, I hope you don't get stuck!

Signed,  
Jonah

Dear Santa,

Hi I'm Faith I wrote to you a couple of years ago and all I want for Christmas is another set of littlest pet shops. My Christmas was good thank you. Oh and merry Christmas. Oh would you mind sending me a picture of a reindeer? Thanks

Sincerely,  
Faith

I love you Santa. I miss you Santa. I love you Santa. I also miss the reindeer.

Love Alexa

PS-I just want you and I to stay at the North Pole

Alexa's Santa List  
Pink airplane that flies scarf  
boots like Chloe's  
Dress like Chloe's  
tights

Dear Santa,

I am very excited about Christmas. Before that comes though, I have a few questions to ask. Well to start off with, am I on the naughty or nice list? And how are your reindeer? I hope they are well because there are only 15 day till Christmas. I hope your day are merry and bright, and enjoy the cookies when you come to my house.

Happy holidays!

Love,  
Cristina

P.S. Do you celebrate hunika?  
P.P.S. What kinds of animals livie in the north pole?

P.P.P.S. Do you know how to cook?  
P.P.P.P.S. Please reply.

American Girl – the fanciest one with matching everything

Horsey – the fanciest horse like Wilsaley's with a saddle the fanciest saddle

Alyson

Dear Santa,

How are you? I hope you, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, and all the elves are having a good time! This year I want:

A blue ipod touch  
A vera bradley go round tote in doodle daisy  
One direction's album  
Paint brushes

I also hope my sister can have the 3DS game Moshling theme park. My dad can have good luck when hunting. My mom can have a new vaccum. I also hope you can have a lovely year at the north pole. Thank you!

Love,  
Kristin

Dear Santa,

How do the reindeer fly?  
Thank you for last year.

Here are some fun things I would like this yearL

Furby toy (in black)  
Nerf gun and discs (green)  
Anything: Phineas and Ferb, Star Wars, Lego/Lego Star Wars

Love Ethan

I love you Santa

I want a dS please. Can I please have Twister dance.

Love Audrey

Dear Saint Nick,

Please give presents to my parents.

Love,  
Stas

# Annie Get Your Gun Proves to be a Hit @ RHAM

by Geeta Schrayter

Since Christmas is nearly here, it's not improbable to think somewhere some kids are going to sleep with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads. But for members of the RHAM Drama Club, it'll likely be visions of *themselves* dancing – and singing and acting for that matter – in their recent performance of *Annie Get Your Gun* that they'll be thinking of fondly.

The RHAM Drama Club performed the play during the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec. 2, and co-director Lindsay Halle said the production was “very well-received.”

“There was a lot of positive feedback,” she said. “We had a lot more kids involved this year between the actors and some more tech crews. And we had a full orchestra this year, so it was just really nice that so many students were able to get involved with the production.”

Halle, who co-directed with Karl Jancis, said there were about 500 audience members on opening night, while Saturday and Sunday each brought out around 350.

“This is actually the first year we’ve had three performances,” she said. “We normally only have two, so we’re happy with the third, we still had a decent-sized audience.”

*Annie Get Your Gun* is a musical about sharp-shooter Annie Oakley. During a competition at Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, she meets – and beats – fellow sharp-shooter Frank Butler. As the story progresses, a love begins to form between the two, forcing them to battle between their competitive sides and their feelings for each other.

The musical also features classic Irving Berlin songs as “There’s No Business Like Show Business” and “Anything You Can Do.”

During the RHAM performance, Oakley was played by senior Anna Filosa, who choreographer Shannon Yager said had a voice “so mature and fantastic it’s hard to believe she is only a senior in high school.”

On Tuesday, Filosa called the performance – her last at RHAM – sad “but a great experience.”

“I was really close to the cast,” she said. “It was just a great experience. I feel like we all got along really well. The directors were really supportive and it was just an all-around fun show to do.”

Filosa said playing Oakley was a role out of her comfort zone, which made it a challenge, but “I was up for it,” she said.

“It was probably the most singing-intensive [role] I’ve ever done. The character Annie and



The RHAM Drama Club performed *Annie Get Your Gun* the weekend of Nov. 30-Dec. 2. The cast of 50 had fun working through several challenging musical numbers, and hundreds came out to see them each night of the show.

I are complete opposites so it was definitely putting myself out there – but it turned out to be a lot of fun,” she said.

Filosa added while it was hard to pick a favorite scene, she loved the part where she sings “Moonshine Lullaby” since the song had meaning for her even before the play.

“I love ‘Moonshine Lullaby’ because my mom used to sing it to me as a kid,” she stated.

Filosa’s sister Emma, 14, who fittingly performed in the play as one of Oakley’s sisters, said her favorite scene was when Oakley and her sisters are conversing about Butler. Butler walks in during the conversation, forcing the girls to quickly cover for Oakley. In addition, Emma Filosa, like her older sister, said she enjoyed working with the cast.

“I love doing theater and music so obviously that was a big part – and the cast and the crew; everyone was awesome,” she said.

The younger Filosa added that some of the singing and dancing proved difficult to learn, but everything came together in time for the performances.

“There was one song where we couldn’t get the harmonies,” she said, “and during the opening number – that was a hard dance to do. I had to do a cartwheel over three guys, and it was difficult to learn, but in the end it all worked out.”

Senior Colleen Sargent, who played Mr. Wilson, also felt the dance numbers were the most difficult part, but she said the cast came

through.

“This year there were quite a few dance numbers we had to memorize compared to last year’s [performance, the musical *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*] but I think after we learned them all it was a lot of fun,” she said, “but it was a challenge.”

Like the other girls, Sargent said the cast got along really well and there was always something fun going on which made the process “a good time.”

And for freshman Olivia Kurtz, who played another Oakley sister, learning everything in the allotted time was a challenge “but everyone always gets things done.”

“My favorite scene was probably the opening number,” she added. “It was just an explosive scene with lots of singing and dancing and I think it was a lot of fun for the cast and audience.”

Halle and Yager felt similarly.

“I think that the opening was really awesome,” Halle stated. “The choreography was amazing. The kids worked really hard on perfecting it and I think it definitely had a big impact.”

“The opening was my favorite one only because that dance was really, really hard for them to all pull together,” Yager said.

She explained it contained a majority of the cast and some difficult aspects like hat tricks and Emma Filosa’s cartwheels, along with the dancing and everything else.

“So it was a challenging dance for them,” Yager said. “They really pulled it off and it was great.”

In light of the fact that the play had so many songs, rehearsals for this year’s performance began shortly after school started, giving the cast about three full months to prepare.

“It’s a very long play,” Halle said. “There are a lot of songs. It’s really a challenge so we wanted as much time as we could to work on it.”

Yager said there was so much to do for the play she even had to add in an extra day for rehearsals and recruit one of her teachers from the Jacqueline Roach School of Dance to help out.

“There was so much work that went into this particular one,” she said. “It took a lot of work to make them pull together and they always do such a good job – it’s wonderful.”

“The kids were amazing this year,” added Halle. “I think it went incredibly well. We got nothing but positive feedback and a couple faculty members who went said it was the best RHAM production they’d seen. It went really well. We were very, very happy.”

So with the holiday around the corner – and whether they celebrate Christmas or not – this group of kids has extra reason to be cheery as they reminisce about the results of their hard work and this year’s performance by the RHAM Drama Club.

# Christ Church in East Hampton Welcomes New Priest

by Joshua Anusewicz

Having bounced around the country and multiple parishes over the years, Rev. Mary Anne Osborn is certainly accustomed to ingraining herself into a new church community and, for the past month, she has been doing just that as the new priest at the historic Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam.

“It’s been a good match,” said Osborn on Tuesday from her new, mostly-empty office, with freshly-painted walls. “The people have been very gracious and I’ve felt very at home here.”

Osborn comes to Middle Haddam from Zion Episcopal Church in North Branford, just one of the many stops she has made since she was ordained in 1986. Though a Guilford resident, Osborn is actually “a Southern transplant” – yes, a hint of a twang is still there – having grown up in Kentucky, Alabama and Florida. She graduated from Florida State University with a degree in psychology, which she said was her first calling.

Working for 10 years in psychology, primarily with children, Osborn said she always knew that she wanted to be priest; at the time, however, the church forbade women from joining the priesthood. When the church finally permitted women to serve as priests, Osborn passed up her career as a psychologist to do what she always wanted to do – and, more importantly, what she believed God wanted her to do.

“I said, ‘I’m just going to go for it,’” she recalled. “God wasn’t going to let me go.”

It was at that time that Osborn made her exodus from the South to study at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., in 1983, her first experience in the Northeast. After her ordination three years later, Osborn began her career as a priest in “community-based minis-

try,” working as a chaplain at various hospitals and nursing homes. This, she said, gave her a “variety of experiences” and allowed her the opportunity to practice inter-faith ministry. She soon moved on to leading parishes, such as Zion Episcopal and St. Paul’s in Fairfield.

While at Zion, Osborn said she was interested in finding a position at a new parish, particularly a parish where she could work part-time to take care of her grandchildren a few days a week. It was at this point, earlier this year, that Osborn began filling in on Sundays at Christ Church in Middle Haddam, which was without a priest at the time.

A priest looking for a new parish and a parish without a priest? Sounded like a match made in, well, heaven.

“I’ve been in small parishes before, but none this lively and vibrant,” said Osborn of Christ Church, recalling how impressed she was with the tight-knit church community of less than 100 households. “That really drew me in.”

Although she’s only been at the parish for about a month, and is admittedly “still learning names,” Osborn said she can already see the how active the parishioners are with spreading “God’s word into the community.” She said she’s also pleased that the parish members and the priest are more “partners in ministry” at Christ Church, as opposed to Osborn being the one and only member of the church with any authority.

“I wanted to be at a parish that didn’t look to the priest to do everything,” she said. “There is very strong lay leadership here, and I truly appreciate that.”

Despite joining the parish during Advent, one of the busiest times of the year for Christians, Osborn said the integration has been “smooth.” She has begun working with the parish mem-



Last month, Rev. Mary Anne Osborn was named the new priest for the historic Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam. Osborn, a Guilford resident, comes to Middle Haddam from Zion Episcopal Church in North Branford.

bers on implementing goals for the church, which include continued community involvement and providing more opportunities for youth ministry, something Osborn holds close to the heart having worked with many children as a psychologist. But her most important goal, and the most important goal for every priest, Osborn said, is providing “meaningful and inspiring worship” for the members of Christ

Church.

Having been a nomad of sorts, there’s no telling how long Osborn will remain in Middle Haddam, but she said she’s hopeful it will be a while. But if there’s one thing she’s learned, it’s that an old adage remains true: “if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.”

“I’ll stay here for as long as He wants me to,” Osborn said with a smile.

# Hebron Village Green Dreams Finally Becoming Reality?

by Geeta Schrayter

At the intersection of Route 66 and John E. Horton Blvd in Hebron, the installation of a traffic light is currently underway. The light is scheduled to be up and running in late January, and once it begins blinking – and in view of the recently approved permit for the construction of a CVS/pharmacy nearby – the hope is that it will be the “green light” for other developers and signal the long-awaited development of the Village Green District.

The Village Green District is a 130-acre parcel of land owned by Horton Brothers, LLC, located across from the plaza that houses Ted’s IGA Supermarket. The land has been eyed by the town as a location for economic development for more than a decade. However, while a “master plan” calling for a mix of both residential and commercial use of the land was approved in 2004, not much has happened since then.

In 2007, the town received a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to cover costs associated with installing a roadway on the property, but since its completion the road has effectively led to nowhere. Two years later, residents approved a \$282,000 supplemental appropriation to help improve the property’s infrastructure and this past January 2012, another STEAP grant for \$214,000 was awarded for the installation of a traffic signal.

And now, nearly a year later, that traffic light is finally becoming a reality.

“It’s something that many, many board members and staff in Hebron have worked hard to get accomplished,” said Vicki Avelis, chairwoman of the Economic Development Commission and former member of the Board of Selectmen. “It’s all coming to fruition. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of time. It took more time than any of us were expecting, but I’m glad to see it all starting to happen.”

Avelis explained there were numerous steps that needed to be taken to make the property acceptable for development – including dealing with various state agencies – which took “many, many years.” The change of governors in the middle of everything only slowed the process further, Avelis said, as it required a certain amount of “reeducation.”

Avelis added the private land owners didn’t have the capital to do everything that was required to develop the property on their own, so

the town and the owners worked together to make it happen; “to make the Hortons’ dream come true, which would of course benefit Hebron as well.”

Now that some progress is finally being made, the hope is that developers will start to move in and make the draft plan that was developed in 2004 a reality – although Avelis noted even that’s not set in stone. The plan, she explained, was made as a kind of “what if” drawing. It was put together by a volunteer on behalf of the Hortons and the town with input from the parties involved, but it shouldn’t be mistaken as the end-all design, she said.

“We have no control over that,” Avelis stated. “There are no clear development plans. It is the Horton’s property – the Hortons can and will do what they will with it.”

But at this point, the overall hope – particularly for some of the individuals who’ve been involved since the onset – is that development takes place at all.

Bill Cox, a former selectmen who, like Avelis, was on the board for the beginning stages of the Village Green concept, said he was “very pleased” things are finally moving forward.

“This is something that the town worked on for a lot of years to get the plan through and to get the road built so we could encourage development in the center of town,” he said. “It’s finally going to have a CVS and the light, so hopefully that’s a start to more development.”

It should be noted, however, that the CVS/pharmacy that’s set to be built is adjacent to the Horton’s property and not actually a part of the Village Green District. But as Economic Development Coordinator Randy Anagnostis said, the fact that such a large chain has chosen to call Hebron home, may cause others to follow suit.

“I’m surprised [the district] has not moved forward previously, but at this point in time I would really expect things to start to happen there both in terms of the traffic light that is being installed and the fact that CVS has been approved adjacent to the site,” he said. “I think that’s really going to be a big impetus to developers, to recognize that a national company is willing to make an investment in establishing themselves there.”

Anagnostis said that will “signal the potential” that the Village Green has, and in every-



The installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Route 66 and John E. Horton Blvd in Hebron is finally underway. Many in town are hoping the light’s arrival will signal the start of some development in the Village Green District.

one he’s already spoken to, it’s been “encouraging.” Anagnostis said he’s contacted numerous developers to see if they had an interest in viewing the site including some on a national scope who do “high-quality mixed-use developments” in other areas.

“My role is simply to try to make the availability of the site known and try to assist in finding opportunities that would do well for the town,” he said.

But Karen Strid, who also served on the Board of Selectmen with Avelis and Cox when the Village Green concept was born, said Hebron being a “bedroom community” could make it difficult for any large-scale development to occur. The hope, she explained, was that the Village Green would expand the town a little bit; but she said it was wrong for individuals to think it would end up becoming some giant tax break.

“I’ll be surprised if that ever really happens,” she said. “There have been studies done in the

past. It’s a bedroom community with no access to a highway, so I can’t imagine people rushing into Hebron.”

For Strid, the hope is that the district will bring a sense of community. She noted that when Route 66 came through the town, it was built right through the Hebron town green.

“We’ve kind of gotten robbed [because of that], but hopefully with this new Village Green District we can have a little more sense of community,” she said.

But Anagnostis said the saying “if you build it they will come” may very well hold true.

“I’m a firm believer in what sort of goes with that adage ‘if you build it they will come,’” he said. “I think the Village Green District is that kind of ideal location that, somebody who’s smart enough to see the potential, will sort of look at the opportunity that exists and the population density issue will decrease.”

But whether that’s the case, or the Village Green dream remains just that, is yet to be seen.

## Marlborough Public Hearing Held for Phase II of Sewer Project

by Melissa Roberto

At its Wednesday, Dec. 12, meeting, the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) held a public hearing to inform the public about the town’s portion of the Stage Harbor Healthcare Center Sewer Project, which has been coined “Phase II” of the original town sewer project, which was designed back in 2000.

The project would pick up where Phase I of the project left off at the southern intersection of Cheney Road and Lake Ridge Drive to the intersection of Cheney Road and Park Road, and will also hook up Beverly Lane and five houses on North Main Street.

Marlborough Health Care Center (MHCC), which has also been referred to as the Stage Harbor Healthcare Center, would connect to the town’s sewer line at Cheney and Park roads and pay for their private extension separately. Town officials say that currently MHCC manually pumps its system once or even twice a day.

Town Planner Peter Hughes led the crowd through a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the construction plans and costs. The project would consist of a low pressure sanitary sewer line to be constructed on Cheney Road and Beverly Lane and a lateral sanitary sewer line to hook up five houses from 139-156 North Main St.

Residences would be available for hook up by the use of a grinder pump chamber and grinder pump unit. Hughes explained that the grinder pump is 93 inches tall and 36 inches in diameter, and would be lowered into the grinder pump chamber. Located within the chamber is a pump that sits on metal stands and “takes the fluid out” once the effluent reaches a certain level.

Hughes said “squat” chambers – which are

shorter and wider – are available in cases where the grinder pump would not fit. A lateral line would also be built that would connect the sewer line to the grinder pump chamber.

Also, an electrical control box would be mounted to the side of each residence. The control box includes a strobe light and an audio alarm that would turn on if a pump failure exists.

A 200 AMP service at each residence is needed to run the system. Hughes explained to residents that if they do not have a 200 AMP service, their services would be upgraded “as part of the project costs.”

Hughes explained to residents impacted on North Main Street that they would be sent a maintenance agreement which would allow the WPCA onto the property to install the grinder pump and laterals. After construction of the sewer line is complete, residents would need to undergo a mandatory hook-up. Hughes said residents would be sent a 90-day connection notice depending on the year the project begins – adding that notices would not be sent out during “the dead of winter.”

Residents would be allowed three 30-day extensions in addition to the 90-day extension, giving residents a total of 180 days to make a connection to the sewer line.

Hughes indicated that the town and MHCC would bid the project jointly, however, with two separate construction contracts and two separate sets of design drawings. A developer’s agreement between the WPCA and MHCC requires MHCC to contribute \$20,000 for design/bidding expenses, \$30,000 for construction inspection services and to pump between the off peak hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The projected cost estimate of the construc-

tion is \$615,623 for the town’s portion of the project. That estimate was broken into three separate costs for each road that would be constructed on: \$337,983 for Cheney Road, \$170,140 for Beverly Lane and \$107,500 for North Main Street.

A remaining six construction estimates were also provided: \$120,000 for legal and financing costs including the issuance and interest of short term notes, \$92,343 for construction contingency, \$60,200 for resident inspections, \$56,000 for construction administration, \$25,000 for design and bid documents – an expense that would be shared by the MHCC and WPCA – and a \$20,000 fee for Clerk of the Works.

Therefore, Hughes provided an estimated total of the town’s overall portion of the construction along Cheney Road, Beverly Lane and North Main Street of \$939,166.

He also explained the interest costs for the town. With a 2 percent interest rate, the short-term note for two years is projected at \$15,409. A 4 percent interest rate for the 20-year long-term borrowing note is estimated at \$426,713. A total of these two numbers results in \$442,122 total interest cost for the project.

Therefore, the total of estimated construction costs and interest costs results in \$1,381,288.

The total number of EDUs (equivalent dwelling units) for the project is 83.25 and 23.25 of those EDUs are residential, and the remaining 60 EDUs cover the MHCC.

Although some residents in the crowd were concerned with the noise that Hughes said would “absolutely” occur during construction, a majority of residents were optimistic about

Phase II of the project, mainly because it is helping to keep MHCC in town.

Hughes described MHCC as a “valuable asset to the community.” He said that keeping MHCC in town is not only important because it is one of the town’s largest taxpayers, but also because it would retain 171 jobs at the center.

Hughes reiterated the presentation and cost estimates during a joint meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 18 between the boards of selectmen and finance, and the WPCA.

Board of Finance member Beth Petroni was worried that negativity from Phase I – a project that stalled construction from 2002-07 because the Clean Water Grant was cancelled – would be dragged into Phase II. Fellow finance board member Ken Hjulstrom said he believed there isn’t negativity regarding Phase II after witnessing a “majority of positivity” during the Dec. 12 public hearing.

Lastly, Hughes said the town hopes to bid the project in mid-January and receive bid results by late February. At that point, the WPCA would request for funds to the Board of Selectmen for an actual project cost based on the bids received. The selectmen would then forward the request for funds to the Board of Finance in February or March. The Board of Finance would then hold a public hearing on funding requests in March and would set a town meeting in April. If the costs of the project reach \$1.6 million, a referendum would be held instead of a town meeting.

The next Board of Finance meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School library and the next selectmen’s meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

# Area Schools React to Newtown Shooting

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

As the weekend wore down, the reality of what had happened in Newtown last Friday finally hit her in a way she hadn't yet felt. An educator for over 40 years, East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden looked upon her grandson, all of six years old, and his innocent, fragile body. Like everyone else that day – those with or without children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, brothers, sisters – she felt a profound sadness for those who lost their loved ones at Sandy Hook Elementary School, a school that served students from kindergarten to fourth grade, some of the youngest and most vulnerable citizens in our communities.

"How awful for these people, to have their babies taken from them," said Golden, her voice cracking with emotion. She then caught herself and added, "I think we're all a little fragile right now."

Fragile might be the best way to describe people around the world in light of the tragic shooting at the Newtown school that left 26 innocent people dead – 20 first-grade students and six faculty members. The mass shooting, one of the worst in the country's history, is believed to have come at the hands of 20-year-old Adam Lanza, who has been described as a social outcast that may have suffered from mental health issues. Though some of the conversations have focused on the killer, many have focused on the victims, their families and the community that has been torn apart, with stories of heroism, sacrifice and charity from individuals near and far.

As days have passed, some of the conversation has now turned to how a tragedy like this could be prevented in the future, with advocates pushing for better mental health treatment, stricter gun control, and improved school safety.

In the six *Rivereast* communities, a town that once could have been described as on the other side of the state now seems like the next town over, as Newtown bears little difference to the "small, tight-knit New England" communities that make up our area. And though our communities have made strides in recent years to protect students and take the proper safety precautions, last week's tragedy opened the eyes of many school staff members who are looking at school safety in a whole new light.

In East Hampton, Police Chief Matthew Reimondo last Friday immediately sent an officer to Memorial School – which, as a kindergarten-through-grade three school, is similar in makeup to the kindergarten-through-grade four Sandy Hook – and stationed officers at all four of the town's schools on Monday morning as a precautionary measure, Golden said. Counselors were made available for any student that wished to talk about the incident, she said, and many of the older students discussed what happened with their teachers in "healthy conversation."

Golden said that "some time ago," the district installed security doors and cameras at East Hampton High School which, like most schools, require any visitor to press a button before being allowed inside. Much like in Newtown, students and faculty at all of the schools, Golden said, have also been trained with the proper security procedures and have practiced drills and lockdowns.

All those measures, however, did little to avert the tragedy at Sandy Hook, where they had similar safety tactics. "They had all of the security in the world in that school," Golden said. "It's not much different from what we have. We have the best we can afford. We just have to be hyper-vigilant."

## Hebron

Students at Hebron's two elementary schools – Gilead Hill and Hebron Elementary – also arrived on Monday to find an increased police presence as a result of Friday's tragedy. Acting Superintendent of Schools Kathy Veronesi explained Wednesday that a counselor from AHM Youth and Family Services was also present at each school for additional support, along with the school psychologists. There was also an increased presence of teachers in the hallways.

At Hebron Elementary School, meetings were also held with each grade level, where Veronesi said the details of Friday's events weren't discussed, but students were told about the various ways they're kept safe at school. "Truly everything," said Veronesi, "from how they get off the bus and walk down the sidewalks to how we practice various drills and then how to support each other, who to go to if they're feeling sad or anxious or needed some one to talk to and how to access adults."

A safety meeting was then held Tuesday, Veronesi furthered, where it was determined there "wasn't anything that we saw that was a glaring [safety] need that we overlooked."

In terms of long-term changes, however, she added there had been parents who've expressed an interest in having a school resource officer assigned to every school. But that, she said, would require a commitment "at a much higher level for financial and resource support for schools throughout the state," not just Hebron.

In a letter Veronesi sent to parents Dec. 15, she explained people are buzzed into the buildings and required to sign in at the office and receive a visitor's badge. Faculty members know to ask someone seen without a badge to report to the office, and students are aware that they should inform an adult if they see someone who doesn't have one.

In addition, Veronesi said there are various code drills practiced throughout the year, including Code Red (full lockdown), which was last practiced on Nov. 30. "Staff and students were fully locked down within a matter of minutes and the drills at both schools were carried out successfully," she reported.

Veronesi added Wednesday the school's continuous focus on the children and safety allowed them to successfully deal with the aftermath of the Newtown tragedy. "We have safety procedures that we follow every day," she said. "We have great teachers and staff. We know how to respond to unexpected things that come up. Granted, this was far bigger and far more emotional than anything we've dealt with, [but] we were able to [deal with it] successfully. If that wasn't how our school ran day to day, I think it could have been really challenging."

## Marlborough

Marlborough was another community with increased police presence following the shooting, as officers were placed at Marlborough Elementary School from 7-10 a.m. every day this week. Also, AHM sent additional counselors to the school for staff and students.

Principal Scott Nierendorf said administrators would continue to review the school's security protocols throughout the week. He added that it was uplifting to see students Monday morning. "For those of us who work in the elementary environment, it's always reassuring to be with the kids," he said.

Nierendorf said timely communication with the school's staff and parents was a "top priority" as the news of the shooting broke. Emails were sent to parents on Friday through the Alert Now emergency system to inform parents/guardians that school staff members were aware of the situation and nothing had been communicated to students.

Nierendorf also explained that an emergency staff meeting took place at the end of the day last Friday to prepare for the upcoming school week. An additional staff meeting was held after school on Monday, giving teachers a chance to ask questions and share information.

Parents also received an email Monday afternoon about the services available to them throughout the week; on Tuesday night, AHM Youth and Family Services offered a presentation and discussion on how to talk to children about tragedies; and Marlborough Elementary administrators also held an open forum Wednesday night to explain the school's current safety and security procedures, and to hear questions from parents.

## Andover

In Andover, Andover Elementary School Principal Dave Griffin said Tuesday the focus was keeping the day's activities as normal as possible for students. In addition, the decision was made to let parents choose how, when and if to talk to their children about the shooting.

"Once I knew the scale of this horrific incident on Friday, I put out an email to staff and asked them not to talk about it or have anything on their monitors during the school day," Griffin stated. "Then I sent an email to all my parents and indicated as a school we felt how parents handled this type of crisis really needed to come from them to their children."

A staff meeting was held first thing Monday morning, where it was stressed that the children needed a sense of normalcy. "They need their routine to keep their minds occupied, and that said, it also works true for the staff," Griffin said, adding he'd been making an effort to be in classrooms more often to check on both the staff and students.

Griffin said faculty had been told to let administration know "if they need a respite" and, if a child is having difficulty, both the school

psychologist and social worker were available to assist them.

In addition, Griffin added, the decision was made not to have a moment of silence for the lives lost.

"I just don't think this would be the time to do it," Griffin said. "I think that after the school break, we'll do something of that nature. By that time, parents will have had an opportunity to talk to kids and handle it as they would a family."

Griffin said the decisions the school had made weren't "to minimize or to put by the side the tragedy," but to "respect parents' rights" in how they want to handle the situation with their children.

"By and large, our kids did very well," he said. "They made it through. We had very few calls of concern."

As far as safety measures, Griffin explained state police had said they were willing to do "whatever we wanted," but since the school was focusing on normalcy, a police presence wasn't requested. Instead, Griffin said he asked that a state trooper "make his presence known" outside the school and near the property.

Griffin added that the school has cameras both inside and out, practices lockdown drills three times a year, and is "very strict" about keeping the front door as the only means of entry, via buzzer. Even if the person at the door is familiar to someone inside the building, Griffin said "you're not to open it. We need to buzz them in so we know who it is. Even the kids know that."

## Portland

In Portland, Superintendent Dr. Sally Doyen sent out a succinct letter to parents on Monday, explaining the measures that the school district would take at the five local schools.

At the two elementary schools – Valley View and Gildersleeve – principals Deb Graner and Eileen Katz, respectively, met with their staff first thing Monday morning to discuss the matter and "ensure that everyone has the same information" regarding the Newtown incident, Doyen stated. Teachers were asked not to discuss the matter with the students, she added, but psychologists, social workers and school administrators were available for any student that wished to talk to an adult.

"Everyone will be very sensitive to the children's needs and will provide support and reassurance," Doyen stated.

At Brownstone Intermediate School, a brief moment of silence was held before the school proceeded through a normal day.

In the middle and high school, Doyen said that students first broke up into their "mentor groups" – roughly 10 students per group, plus one staff member – to discuss the incident. The role of the staff member, Doyen stated, was to "respond to concerns regarding safety" and give the students an outlet to talk about the matter, if they so chose.

Teachers were also asked to keep any discussions about the incident away from "details or any sensationalizing of the events."

"We will do everything possible to keep all Portland school students safe and secure," Doyen assured.

## RHAM

Over at RHAM, students returned Monday to have what Middle School Principal Mike Seroussi called "a tough morning" for both them and the faculty. He said the general mood was "sedate," but everyone seemed to have a good day.

Seroussi posted a letter to parents Tuesday and said a staff meeting had been held the previous morning to discuss how to meet the needs of the students and what to expect when they arrived. He said they were greeted by staff as they entered the school and guidance counselors, school psychologists and an AHM social worker were all made available.

But students "went right into routine," Seroussi said Tuesday, and as with the elementary schools, keeping to that routine was considered important.

"[The administrators] are the creators, in some ways, of the normalcy for the kids," he said. "Kids look to us for that calm, so moving forward, that's what we're looking to [create]."

High School Principal Scott Leslie agreed, explaining Wednesday that at Monday's meeting, one of the things discussed was the importance of sticking to routine.

"You just don't know how each of your students are going to react to any event, particularly an event like this," he said. "You don't know what kind of connections they'll have ...

so after any tragedy, one of the best things we can do is provide routine while making sure the students have opportunities to discuss what's happened."

Leslie added that Monday ended up being "a normal day," and while there was counseling support available for teachers and students, students didn't seem to be seeking that type of help. He said he knew the students were "very sad" about what happened, "but it's still a little distant, although I'm sure some are getting help elsewhere from family and friends."

Although Leslie said there were already a number of safety measures in place at the school, last Friday's events gave faculty pause, and made everyone take another look at the facility and safety practices to see "what it is we can do to help make the school that much safer."

In an announcement Monday, Leslie informed the students before they observed a moment of silence that the safety practices at RHAM are continuously reviewed, "and we will continue to do so over the coming weeks, especially in light of recent events."

Leslie said a number of meetings were scheduled after winter break to look at said practices and, in the meantime, a few immediate changes had been made, such as locking the school doors earlier in the morning and evening.

In Seroussi's letter it was further explained that safety plans are reviewed at the beginning of each year and safety drills are conducted monthly.

"Our safety plan is reviewed annually, after each drill (e.g., fire/lockdown), and periodically as the need arises," Seroussi wrote. "Input from the State Police, local fire officials and town personnel are a part of the review process to ensure that we are following the latest guidelines and protocols."

Both Seroussi and Leslie added they were proud of the rapport that RHAM staff has developed with the students and the community, which they called "very good" and "positive." This, they said, helps them provide an education environment that is "safe, nurturing and comforting for all."

## Colchester

Efforts were also immediately taken in Colchester to ensure safety in each of the four schools in light of the shooting. Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu explained that emails were sent out to parents and guardians on Saturday morning and Sunday night that explained the steps administrators would take to ensure safety in the schools for the upcoming week. An additional voice recording also reached each household Sunday night to explain the school's safety procedures.

Mathieu said the tragedy would not be discussed with pre-kindergarten to fifth grade students. He explained that the middle school and high school students were able to speak about the tragedy to teachers on Monday morning during the homeroom period.

In a district-wide administrative crisis meeting on Sunday night, school administrators, Board of Education members, Resident State Trooper Sgt. Marc Petruzzi and School Resource Officer Tim Edwards also discussed the steps that would need to be taken throughout the week. As a result, police officers stood inside and outside of each school during bus arrival and dismissals throughout the entire week.

The school's counselors were also present in each of the four schools to talk with students or staff if needed.

Colchester Police started to conduct a security audit on Monday in each school by looking at the current safety procedures and physically walking each building. Although this week was not the first time security audits had been done this year, Mathieu said in light of the recent tragedy it's "always good to look with a new set of eyes." Mathieu said each of the schools had an emergency faculty meeting prior to the start of school on Monday to discuss their responses and to make sure teachers felt comfortable with the procedures put in place.

After receiving a report from each principal and visiting Colchester Elementary School and Bacon Academy on Monday, Mathieu said the mood in the schools was "calmer than usual." He explained that there were "no major concerns in any of the schools" on Monday since last Friday's tragedy. Mathieu also explained that William J. Johnston Middle School Principal Chris Bennett said his students started the day off in "typical middle-school fashion" on Monday by writing letters to families affected in Newtown.

*Staff writers Melissa Roberto and Geeta Schrayter contributed to this story.*

# 2.20 Percent School Spending Increase Proposed in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

In one of her last official acts as superintendent of schools, Ellie Cruz last Thursday presented to the Board of Education a proposed budget of \$12,153,155 for the 2013-14 year.

Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea and board member William Moorcroft made the presentation alongside Cruz, whose last day as Hebron superintendent was last Friday; Cruz started this week as Plymouth superintendent of schools.

The budget proposal is a 2.20 percent increase over current year spending, or \$262,037.

In a change of pace from past years, a resource management committee that included administration, Cruz, Shea and Moorcroft began meeting in October to work on the numbers. Moorcroft said Board of Education members usually received a book containing the budget numbers after the process was already complete, but this year, they'd been involved from the onset.

Moorcroft said some of the factors that were taken into consideration when formulating the recommended budget were declining enrollment, fixed costs, contracts, staffing, a health insurance increase of 20 percent (equaling a 41 percent increase over two years, or \$491,045), legislative requirements such as changes in the Common Core State Standards and teacher evaluations, technology and infrastructure and special education costs.

The insurance increase, Moorcroft said, "weighs heavily."

"We'll hear about it over and over and over," he said. "Last year was similar, and 41 percent over a two year period is a lot to absorb."

Current and projected budget savings were also discussed and included the solar panels that have been installed on the school roofs, utiliz-

ing group purchasing for electricity, oil, diesel and supplies; the contract with Siemens the town signed onto which, in part, replaced the outdated furnaces at the schools with up-to-date equipment; a retirement incentive and the return of outplaced students.

Being able to return some of the special education students who had been outplaced has brought "significant savings to the district," said Moorcroft.

Shea explained at a September meeting of the boards of education, finance and selectmen that no parameters had been set regarding what sort of an increase the school board should come in with.

"So we presented what we thought was reasonable and will work on it throughout January," she said at last week's meeting.

Ideally, if a number was to be brought forth that contained everything first included in the budget with no changes, the number would come in at a 6.78 percent or \$806,507 increase.

The resource management team "and administration worked very hard to get to a lower number because we realize 6.78 percent is not palatable to the community," said Shea. She added "many, many changes" were made to get down to the lower number.

The proposed 2.20 percent increase will support board recommended class sizes and staffing and includes \$282,342 for insurance or 20 percent of the budget, and another 20.01 percent for special education costs.

"We have pieces of the pie that need to be taken care of, like the special education costs and insurance," Shea said.

But to bring down the number, budget adjustments were made in the areas of enrollment, staffing, transportation and supplies.

As a result of a 67 student decline for 2013-14, the decision was made to reduce two teachers in second grade and two teachers in fourth grade while adding one in sixth grade. The reduction of the three teachers, in conjunction with the reduction of a librarian and a math specialist will amount to \$320,247 in savings. One paraprofessional will also be reduced for another \$30,993 savings. Cruz explained the librarian and math specialist are retiring, so the opportunity is being used for some restructuring.

In addition to the reductions in certified and non-certified staff, some changes are also being made to administration. Cruz said the assistant principal position at Hebron Elementary School will be changed from a full-time to a part-time position. In addition, the Special Education Director position will be consolidated with the assistant principal position to become one person, for \$60,000 savings.

Also due to the declining enrollment, one bus was eliminated for \$43,428 savings and the reduction of some library and text books, special education supplies, agenda books and software brought another \$17,400 savings.

Cruz explained there were also some "unknowns" this budget season that will need to be considered and monitored. One piece is a new health insurance tax of \$5.25 per person, per month. Cruz said this is a piece of information that just came to their attention from the federal level, and would likely be a tax on the employer. If it comes to fruition, the tax would amount to around \$25,000.

"This is yet another unexpected cost," she said, adding "it is a concern."

Other "unknowns" include costs associated with implementing a new teacher evaluation

system; the new "Smarter Balanced" student assessment system, which goes with the Common Core State Standards; any special education students who may move into the district, grant reductions (support from grants has reduced about \$400,000 since 2009) and upcoming negotiations over the teachers' contract in summer 2013.

School board member Stephanie Raymond said the committee did a "great job" with the budget that was presented, but not having the "unknowns" included was concerning.

"We don't have the ability to budget them all in," Moorcroft responded. "We do the best we can with the 'knowns' and keep the 'unknowns' on our radar and get information as soon as possible," he said, adding that there were some unknown factors in every budget process.

Moorcroft said everything needed to be on the table, and during the process "we didn't leave a lot of stones unturned in looking for reductions." He added administrative support needed to be maintained in order to continue the work of the district, and said "we're not in a position to make big cuts, especially with the 'unknowns.'"

Shea stressed the budget as presented was by no means finalized, as it was still early on in the budget process.

"This is a [budget] summary as it exists today," she said. "We don't know how it's going to look at the end of January. This is a more in depth look in December than we've done before."

Budget workshops are scheduled to take place throughout the month of January, with the first one scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m., at Gilead Hill School.

## EH School Board Tabs Interim Superintendent, Contract Pending

by Joshua Anusewicz

At its meeting Monday night, the Board of Education unanimously voted to enter into an agreement to negotiate a contract with interim superintendent candidate Mark Winzler, who is expected to be named to the post.

Winzler is expected to begin Jan. 1, 2013, after the retirement of current Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden. Golden announced in March that she would be retiring after close to six years in East Hampton.

According to a release from the district's central office, Winzler is a former superintendent from Bolton who, following his retirement, served as an interim superintendent in Granby, Berlin, Watertown and, most recently, Rocky Hill. Winzler is also an adjunct graduate professor at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

According to Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia, Winzler will be paid 45 percent of Golden's final contract amount, which equates to roughly \$74,000. Laraia expects that Winzler will hold the position for two to six months until the school board is able to appoint a permanent superintendent and get that individual up to speed to take over the position.

Laraia said that after legal review on both

sides, the Board of Education will hold a brief meeting to approve the contract and officially make Winzler interim superintendent. No date has been set for this meeting, he added.

Laraia said he was pleased with the choice of Winzler, who has "been around the block a few times" as an interim superintendent. "I'm confident in him and the work he's done," said Laraia.

Winzler, Laraia said, also has experience in two upcoming matters that stood out to the board: the budget process and high school renovation projects. Laraia stated Winzler was part of Rocky Hill's recent high school renovation, a process that East Hampton is currently going through.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.



Mark Winzler

## East Hampton Police News

12/8: Kyle A. Philipchik, 19, of 86 Bartlett St., Portland, was arrested for disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer, East Hampton Police said.

12/10: Michael Bartolotta, 35, of 83 Midwood Farm Rd., was arrested for violation of probation, police said.

12/10: Mallory Reynolds, 26, of 64 Barton Hill Rd., was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and driving with a suspended license, police said.

## Portland Police News

12/13: Jordan Burke, 30, of 141 Deacon St., Groton, was charged with third-degree burglary and fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

12/17: Brian Inferrera, 45, of 18 Commerce St., was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening, police said.

12/17: Charlie Johnson, 24, of Burgundy Hill Lane, Middletown, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree criminal trespass and breach of peace, police said.

# Colchester Therapy Business Becomes Involved in the Community

by Melissa Roberto

As a married couple owning a marriage and family therapy business, Chris and Sally Miller of Miller Family Therapy are challenged to practice what they preach, but they say owning the business together has added authenticity to their work – and their relationship.

Miller Family Therapy is located at 79A Norwich Ave. and has been in business since Feb. 1, and the couple is in the process of planning future talks at local businesses like Cragin Library and Abundant Life Assemblies of God church in Colchester.

The business offers therapy to children, adolescents, adults and families by appointment. They also help individuals in short-term and long-term relationships, as well as those dealing with anxiety, depression, seasonal affective disorder, post traumatic stress disorder and grief.

A majority of their clients are from Colchester and surrounding communities, but the Miller's are also "surprised" by how far some of their clients are willing to drive to see them.

Chris and Sally have four children, and are residents of Colchester, which has influenced them to become more involved in the Colchester community. Their business is often referred to students of Bacon Academy and RHAM, as well as parishioners of local churches.

Sally is a licensed marriage and family therapist and originally moved her private practice from Hartford to Colchester last February in an effort to have more flexibility of hours to see clients. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Mississippi and obtained her Master's degree in marriage and family therapy at the University of Connecticut. After graduating from UConn, Sally worked in and out of child guidance clinics for eight years while also conducting her own private practice on the side. During her time spent at clinics, Sally became certified in sand play therapy, dialectical behavior therapy and helping military personnel.

In October 2010, Sally decided that clinics restricted her from having "more freedom to help people heal" and she made the transition

to solely conduct her private practice.

Chris decided to join his wife's private practice after receiving his Bachelor's degree in psychology from Charter Oak State College this past May. He is currently a mental health clinician in the process of gaining his licensure in marriage and family therapy. Chris worked as a massage therapist for the last 18 years with a team of physical therapists, orthopedic surgeons and a neurologist. A "pinnacle" of his career was working with Andy Roddick when he set the record for the fastest serve in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) history.

During his time as a massage therapist, Chris said he became interested in talk therapy as he witnessed his clients experiencing stress, anxiety and depression when dealing with physical injuries. Chris said his decision to start a career in talk therapy was "the natural progression for me to help people in their lives."

Sally explained that she does not have an agenda in therapy "except to help people get better and to reach their goals." She added that some people "just need a soft place to land" and the big, comfy couch in their office is usually where that can happen.

The couple explained that their therapy is "goal-directed." Chris and Sally typically ask their clients within the first session what they would like to accomplish through therapy.

In addition to providing a "nurturing atmosphere" for their clients, Sally and Chris said they are "always" looking for a need within the community and they offer classes to the public based on those needs. For example, Sally has previously held support groups, parenting classes and couple classes.

The co-owners also explained that assessing people's spirituality is something they like to do. "It's important to look at someone's behaviors, feelings, and actions but to also look at their spiritual belief systems to see if they have something they can lean on," Sally explained.

But something Sally said she is biased to is marriage. "I let people know that there's a lot of opportunity within the marriage relationship," she said, adding that her goal is to help married couples stay together.



**Colchester's Chris and Sally Miller are the names behind Miller Family Therapy, a business that focuses marriage and family therapy. A married couple themselves, the Millers offer a unique dynamic to their therapy practice, which is located at 79A Norwich Ave.**

Being a married couple helping other married couples and families is what also makes the couple's business so unique. Sally explained that because their "headspace is constantly around helping couples and families be kind to each other and to create a stable base for their kids," it causes them to also be aware of those goals in their own family and relationship.

Chris and Sally said they could not spend any more time with their children. The two take turns caring for their children in between their appointments with clients.

The couple also explained that their marriage does not interfere with the professionalism of their work. "It's not like we sit down at the dinner table and discuss clients!" Sally stated. Rather, if the two need to discuss the best approach for a client, they refer to a third party while "never" giving out client information.

Sally and Chris are looking forward to providing talks in the community in the next few months. They hope to host talks about the transition to parenthood, guided imagery for stress reduction, and are even thinking about hosting a talk about how to speak to children about tragedies, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Sally and Chris are looking forward to their future talks in town because they believe it is a "nice town with friendly people." They suggest readers to visit the Miller Family Therapy Facebook page to get updates on future events.

"It's a good town to work in and we want to be a resource to the community," said Chris.

If anyone is interested in making an appointment at Miller Family Therapy, or is interested in attending future talks, readers can also call 860-305-4446.

# North Woods Reaching Out to the Colchester Community

by Melissa Roberto

It wouldn't take a visitor long after stepping onto the property at North Woods of Colchester, a 55-plus active adult community, to recognize how kind residents are to one another, and this year residents wanted to extend acts of kindness past the North Woods neighborhood and into the surrounding Colchester community by sponsoring a family for Christmas.

The idea was first tossed around during a North Woods social committee meeting, a committee made up of 18-20 residents that plan social gatherings and events for the North Woods community.

After making a few phone calls, resident Denise Salmoiraghi said she reached a local organization that provided her with information about a family that residents could help for the holidays.

The next task was to shop for the family and provide them with gifts to place underneath their Christmas tree this year. Salmoiraghi said a small group of North Woods residents had "a lot of fun" shopping for the family.

"We were so excited we could help," she said.

The gifts were picked up on Tuesday morning; a sight that Salmoiraghi said was "great" to see.

She said North Woods residents plan to do the same thing next year.

But sponsoring a family for Christmas is not the only way residents of North Woods have helped out the Colchester community. A bin located in one of the model homes is available all year for residents to fill with items that are donated to the Colchester food bank. Each month the list is updated to show what the most critical items are, and once the bin is full a resident delivers them to Town Hall.

"They're a very giving group of people," said Bambi Stone, North Woods' administrative as-

sistant.

Owner and developer of North Woods Alan Williams said the "joyful" spirit of the residents never goes away. "Positive energy breeds positive energy," he said.

North Woods residents were able to have their own Christmas celebration together last Friday, Dec. 14 during their annual party held in one of the model homes that residents like to call the "party house."

Sixty of North Woods' 71 residents showed up for the party, and operations manager Kevin Curtis explained it's a rare occasion for residents to miss a social gathering.

North Woods residents have a number of activities to choose from on a weekly basis. Residents have assembled together a variety of clubs like the book club, hiking club, biking club, and they also gather to play cards, Wii Bowling, and participate in monthly breakfasts and lunches at local restaurants.

But the fun doesn't stop there. To get residents in the holiday spirit, one resident hosted a wreath-making event in her home, and another hosted an ornament-making party.

Resident Bill Farrell, who created the social committee two years ago, explained that the activities residents participate in "create a helpful atmosphere" at North Woods.

"It's a great place to live," said Salmoiraghi. And that sentiment seems to be a shared one.

North Woods was presented with two Home Building Industry (HOBBI) awards this November by the Home Builders and Remodelers Association (HBRA) of Connecticut, a statewide professional trade organization representing home builders, remodelers, developers and contractors that provide services to the industry. The community received the awards for the Best New London County 55-Plus Community and the Best Detached 55-Plus Home Under 2,000 square feet.



**North Woods of Colchester, a 55-plus active adult community, has sponsored a local family for the holidays. Residents at the development shopped for the family and provided them with gifts to place underneath their Christmas tree. "We were so excited we could help," resident Denise Salmoiraghi said.**

Williams said the third phase of the project is underway, and when all five phases are complete there will be 134 units on the property. The development – which opened in August 2007 – currently features 51 units, 42 of which are occupied.

Williams used to build mansions before developing North Woods of Colchester, and Stone said he has brought similar features of those homes to North Woods. She said that Williams refers to the homes at North Woods as his "little

jewel boxes."

While residents are looking forward to spending the holidays with their loved ones and neighbors, they were also excited they could spread joy to a Colchester family this year.

"Someone's going to have a nice Christmas," said Salmoiraghi.

For more information about North Woods, visit [northwoodsofcolchester.com](http://northwoodsofcolchester.com) or call 860-537-5338.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It was horrifying – and that's something no one can debate.

I don't think any of us will soon forget where we were when we heard about the terror that visited Sandy Hook Elementary School last Friday, or the emotions that swirled through our heads as the day went on. The news grew progressively worse, and utterly abhorrent, as the day went on. The final numbers were stupefyingly awful: 28 dead – including 20 first-graders.

It was a heinous, heinous crime, one that made no sense, and one that moved many across the country – including President Obama – to tears.

Almost as soon as the shooting occurred, the debate over whether gun control should be tightened began again. And almost immediately, the response from many was, "Today is not the day to debate such an issue." At first, I agreed; maybe last Friday wasn't the day. It was a day for mourning, a day for consoling, a day to hug your family. It wasn't a day to engage in what's traditionally been a heated political issue.

But, upon second thought, I realized it was the perfect time to start the debate. Because, guess what? Past mass shootings "haven't been the time to discuss such an issue," the status quo has remained when it came to guns – and the needless slaughter has continued.

This time around, the slaughter claimed the lives of 20 first-graders. Repeat: 20 first-graders. If that doesn't make you want to talk about gun control in this country, what will? Fifty kindergarteners? One hundred preschoolers? What is the threshold to say "enough is enough"?

People have commented that Connecticut has some of the strictest gun-control laws in the country, and that killer Adam Lanza's mother had purchased her guns completely legally. I don't care. Change the laws. Clearly, they need fixing.

To start, let's get rid of assault rifles. Adam Lanza used a Bushmaster AR-15 semi-automatic in his killings last Friday. Why did he have access to such a gun to begin with? This isn't a war zone; why could you possibly use one?

Protection? Not as necessary as you might think. Statistics – even statistics touted by the pro-gun set – have traditionally shown that rifles traditionally amount for a very low percentage of guns used in crimes.

For hunting? Really? Are you serious? Why do you need a semi-automatic *anything* – much less an assault rifle – to go hunting? Is Bambi going to shoot back? Just how dangerous are those woods? I'm not disparaging hunters or anything, but come on; I'd think a standard-issue rifle would suffice.

In addition to assault rifles, something really needs to be done about high-capacity magazines. You can use these with handguns – and the results can be awful. A high-capacity magazine was reportedly used by Jared Lee Loughner when he killed six and injured 13 others – including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords – at an event in Tucson, Ariz., in 2011. Thanks to the magazine, Loughner reportedly was able to fire 31 bullets in just 15 seconds from his Glock handgun, and was wrestled to the ground only when he stopped to reload.

High-capacity magazines often go hand-in-hand with mass shootings. They were used in, among others, the 2010 shootings at Hartford Distributors in Manchester, the 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech, the shootings at the movie theater in Aurora, Colo., this past July – and Lanza had a 30-round magazine in his AR-15 when he entered Sandy Hook.

There simply shouldn't be a virtually-endless supply of bullets in anyone's gun. Interestingly, just last year Connecticut legislators introduced a bill that would've made it a felony for anyone to possess magazines with more than 10 bullets. The bill died, though, reportedly thanks to strong pressure from the National Rifle Association. (The NRA, by the way, remained mum for days after the Sandy Hook shootings, finally breaking its silence Tuesday to say it "is prepared to offer meaningful contributions to help make sure this never happens again." The association is due to hold a press conference today, Dec. 21, apparently to explain just what that means.)

Lastly, I propose a simple limit on the number of guns a person should be able to legally own. From what I've read; Nancy Lanza was quite the gun enthusiast, and had a little arsenal. Her son took three of those guns with him to Sandy Hook last Friday. So here's a thought: you want a handgun for protection of your family at home? Fine. You want a rifle to go hunting with? Okay, there's another. That's two. Any more than that, I don't think you need. Is it a little restricting? Maybe. Isn't doing something – *anything* – to try to prevent future mass murders more important?

And here's an interesting idea I heard. If firing different types of guns is that important to you, can't you rent them, at the shooting range, while you're there, and then return them to the range when you're done?

As long as we're revising gun laws, here's something to chew on: as I mentioned earlier, Nancy Lanza's guns were purchased completely above board. But as gun control was reported on in the news in the days following the shooting, this was mentioned many times: If you buy your guns at a gun show, you don't have to undergo a background check. What the heck is that about? Background checks for all, no matter where you buy your guns.

Now, when revising gun regulations is brought up, the Second Amendment – the right to bear arms – is always brought up. But what I'm proposing, and what most gun control advocates propose, isn't denying anybody's constitutional rights. The amendment states that people's right to "keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Nowhere does it state how many arms a person should be allowed to "keep and bear." There are no numbers thrown about. This is just applying some common sense to the amendment that, frankly, we need. (There's also the fact that when the Constitution was written muskets were the weapon of the day, but that's an argument for another column.)

In the days since the Newtown shooting, the pro-gun types have argued mentally-disturbed individuals would still find a way to kill, even if guns were obliterated altogether. One poster I've seen floating around the Internet states that Timothy McVeigh didn't use guns to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma in 1995. This is true. Violence will still happen. But Sandy Hook Elementary, just like the Aurora movie theater, or the Tucson shopping mall, or the Manchester beer distributors, or Virginia Tech, wasn't bombed or set on fire. It was shot up by a deranged gunman. Don't we owe it to the victims of those tragedies – and their still-grieving families – to see if revising gun control laws would make a difference?

I think we do.

\* \* \*

This is the last *Rivereast* of 2012; the office will be closed next week due to the Christmas holiday. So, see you next year.

## Obituaries on Pages 10-11



# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Joseph E. Miner

Joseph E. Miner, 100, of Colchester and formerly of Canaan, widower of the late Jean (Jablonski) Miner, passed away Friday, Dec. 14, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born Aug. 2, 1912, in New London, he was a son of the late Joseph and Amy (Dart) Miner.

On Oct. 7, 1939, he and Jean were married in New London and shared 67 years of marriage before she predeceased him on July 28, 2006. Mr. Miner was an Engineering Supervisor for CL&P for 40 years before his retirement in 1975.

He had attended the First Congregational Church of New London and Pilgrim Church in Canaan. Mr. Miner was a member of Seneca Lodge 55 A.F. and A.M. in Torrington.

In his spare time, he loved to golf, fish, garden and feed the birds. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by two children, Diana and husband John H. Matheson of Colchester and Joseph E. Miner of Watertown, Mass.; a grandson, John H. Matheson, Jr. and his wife, Judy of Colchester; and children, Paige and Jack; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a brother and three sisters.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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

## East Hampton

### John Roger Williams II

John Roger Williams II, 65, of Fairfield, Maine, formerly of East Hampton, went to be with the Lord Tuesday, July 31, at about 2 p.m., in Monroe, Maine, in a motorcycle accident.

John was born in Middletown on June 28, 1947, the son of Roger Williams and Esther Williams (Walton). He graduated from East Hampton High School in East Hampton, in 1965, and earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from International Seminary in Plymouth, Fla., in 2009.

He served six years in the Navy in the Submarine Service in Scotland, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

John had a heart as big as gold, constantly giving to those in need, rarely letting others know. He was a loving, supportive and loyal friend. He was an encourager. John was described by those who know him best as loving, caring, fun.

John served his community for 31 years as a certified financial planner, providing counsel to his clients as a financial advisor, confidant and friend. He served on the board of directors for the Salvation Army, as an elder for Calvary Temple in Waterville, Maine, and as an elder for Good News Christian Fellowship in Sidney, Maine. He sat under the ministry of Dr. Wilson Hickam, of Biddeford, Maine, and pastor Peter Sheff, of Troy, Maine.

He was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association; in fact, as far as we know he was born with NRA membership. John was a registered Maine guide, and enjoyed hosting hunting parties at his camp in Hammond. As a child, he achieved Eagle Scout and as an adult he actively contributed to both the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts. As an avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, boating, motorcycling, reloading and target practice.

John was predeceased by his mother, Esther Williams; and his father, Roger Williams.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Judy Pick Williams; his daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and David Chasse; his son, Jonathan; his brother and sister-in-law, Peter and Emily Ereshena; his sister and brother-in-law, Luanne and Mark Paley; his grandchildren, Gabriel Chasse, Samantha Williams, Tess Williams, Zoe Williams, Alexis Williams, Stephanie Cichowski, Jonathan Chasse, Timothy Chasse, and Christina Clark and her husband Kevin; his great-grandchildren, Ella Cichowski, Alexis Clark and Natalie Clark; and his nephews and niece, Peter Ereshena Jr., Zachery Paley, Samuel Paley, Aaron Paley and Rachel Paley.

Visiting hours were Saturday, Aug. 4, at Lawry Brothers Funeral Home, 107 Main St., Fairfield. A funeral service was held Sunday, Aug. 5, at Faith Evangelical Free Church, Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville. Burial services for close family members was held at Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Augusta, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's name to the Waterville Area Homeless Shelter, 28 Ticonic St., Waterville, ME 04901; or the Omega Foundation, 448 West River Road, Waterville, ME 04901.

Online guestbook may be signed at [lawrybrothers.com](http://lawrybrothers.com).

Arrangements are by Lawry Brothers Funeral Home, 107 Main St., Fairfield.

## Marlborough

### Joseph George Andrasik

Joseph George Andrasik, 92, of Marlborough, entered into eternal rest Friday, Dec. 14. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on Aug. 26, 1920, he was the son of the late Andrew and Mary (Krajnak) Andrasik.

He was a proud veteran of the United States Army Air Corps where he attained the rank of master sergeant, serving for six years during the World War II era with the 25th Bomb Group, Flight Surgeons Unit. He served as an aviation medical/rescue specialist with the bomb group. He resided in West Hartford for over 50 years where he enjoyed raising his children along with his beloved wife Frances.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Frances, his sister Mary, and his brothers John, Andrew and George. He is survived by his sister Margaret McHugh.

Joseph is survived by his children, Catherine Gerent of Berlin, J. Stephen Andrasik and his wife Barbara of Westbrook, John Andrasik of Marlborough, Patricia Lewis and her husband Jim, also of Marlborough, and Deborah Cosker and her husband Robert of Windsor; ten grandchildren, Cara Gerent of Newington, Mark Gerent of Kansas City, Kan., Stephanie Andrasik of Portland, Jessica Andrasik of Westbrook, Joseph Andrasik of Stoneham, Mass., Sean Andrasik of Santa Cruz, Calif., Andrew Andrasik of Marlborough, Michael Lewis of San Francisco, Calif., Kimberly Lewis of Tucson, Ariz., and Robert Cosker Jr., of Windsor; two great-grandchildren, Raven and Dominic.

Joseph was a post commander of the Hannon-Hatch VFW post of West Hartford, a member of the Governor's Horse Guard, and a master freshwater fisherman. He enjoyed going fishing with his sons and grandsons on many fishing excursions throughout New England. During which he imparted a great deal of knowledge about fishing, but much more importantly, about life.

He will always be remembered for his love and devotion to his family, his guidance and support of his children and grandchildren. We will miss his wisdom, determination and his loving and gentle soul.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Marlborough Health Care Center for their care and love of Joseph and for their support of the family. To Collette, Marcella, Karen, Tracey, Emeka, Julie, Sue and Veronica who are all angels – a special thank you.

Friends and family attended a funeral service Thursday, Dec. 20, at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial with full military honors followed in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joseph's memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 [woundedwarriorproject.org](http://woundedwarriorproject.org), or to American Diabetes Association, 306 Industrial Park Rd., No. 105, Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave an online condolence, visit [glastonburyfuneral.com](http://glastonburyfuneral.com).

## Colchester

### Frederick Phil

Frederick Phil, 99, of Stanley, N.C., passed away peacefully Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Robin Johnson House. He was a native of Colchester and was born Nov. 27, 1913, to the late John Fol and Lizzie Wycisok Fol.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, June Shafer Phil, who died in 1987, and a son, Leonard Phil.

He was a retired supervisor with Talon, and loved golf. Fred was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Stanley.

Survivors include his son, Jim Phil and wife, Gail, and their son, Jacob Phil; and his beloved dog, Chelsea.

Graveside service was held Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the Manchester East Cemetery in Manchester.

Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, is handling the arrangement in Connecticut.

The family is being cared for by Withers and Whisenant Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 2916 Union Road, Gastonia, 704-864-5144.

Condolences may be made to the family at [withersandwhisenantfuneral.com](http://withersandwhisenantfuneral.com).

## Hebron

### Sophie Zaist

Sophie (Pomprowicz) Zaist, 95, of Chesterfield, peacefully entered into eternal rest Sunday, Dec. 16. She was born in Newark, N.J., on July 18, 1917, to the late Lawrence and Anastasia (Huk) Pomprowicz. At an early age she moved to her hometown of Hebron, where she was raised with her six siblings. She graduated Windham High School.

Sophie was active in leading World War II troop support efforts in Hebron, including bond sales and as a volunteer airplane spotter during the war. Sophie was employed by Connecticut Light and Power Co. in their Deep River and Niantic offices in sales and accounting.

On July 5, 1947, she married William Zaist in St. Joseph Church in Willimantic. The couple made their lifelong home in Chesterfield.

Sophie was a founding member of the Chesterfield Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary, active in support of 4-H programs, a bowler, gardener, and avid reader. In 1975, she and her husband established a winter home in Ft. Pierce, Fla., where she lived much of the year until recently. Sophie was a loving and caring mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and friend.

She was predeceased by her siblings and devoted husband, William.

She is survived by her two sons and spouses, Robert and Veronica Zaist of Castle Rock, Colo., and Stanley and Rebecca Zaist of Wilson, Wyo.; grandchildren, Matthew and spouse, Kelly, Jeffrey and spouse, Danielle, Tanya and Krusta Zaist; great-grandchild, Graycen Zaist; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family is very appreciative of the years of devoting companionship and care provided by Judy Penman.

Her family received relatives and friends Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Impellitteri-Malia Funeral Home, 84 Montauk Ave., New London. Guests celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial Wednesday, Dec. 19, in St. John the Evangelist Church, Maple Ave., Uncasville. Interment will be in St. Patrick Cemetery, Depot Road, Uncasville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut, PO Box 43, Colchester, CT 06415 or Treasure Coast Food Bank, 3051 Industrial 25th St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34946.

## East Hampton

### Chester Frank Grandy

Chester Frank Grandy, 89, of East Hampton, husband of the late Ruth Budzinack Grandy, passed away Monday, Dec. 10, at Middlesex Health Care. Born and raised in New Britain, he was the son of the late Frank and Frances (Kowko) Grandy.

Chester was a veteran of WWII serving in the United States Army. He had lived in East Hampton since 1972 and was a member of the New Britain Elks.

Chester is survived by his stepdaughter, Ruthann Kiley and her husband, David of Cromwell; three step grandchildren, David Kiley, Dawn Kovacs and Lisa Brauer and six great step grandchildren, Shawn, Michael, Maggie, Emily, Kylee and Lilla.

Along with his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a brother, Frank Grandy, Jr. and two sisters, Adella Grandy and Albina Grandy.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Chester's memory to Wounded Warrior Project, 4889 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256 and may send messages of condolence to the family at [www.doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://www.doolittlefuneralservice.com).

Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements.

## Portland

### Margaret Krawiec

Margaret "Peg" Lynd Krawiec, 84, of Portland, formerly of Hartford, passed away peacefully Saturday, Dec. 1. Peg was predeceased by her husband Ed Krawiec. Prior to her retirement, Peg was a nurse for many years at Ellis Manor Buckley Home in Hartford.

She leaves several nieces and nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by daughters Paula Lucas and Claudia Mahon; also two sons, Mark Krawiec and Edward Krawiec Jr.

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, she was cremated and laid to rest at Mt. St. Benedict with her husband of 59 years. Services were private.

Donations can be made to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

## East Hampton

### Joseph W. Sullivan

Joseph W. Sullivan, 100, died Thursday, Dec. 13. On his birthday, seven months earlier, he had gotten a birthday card from President Obama, and Willard Scott had announced his birthday on the *Today Show*.

Joe was born May 12, 1912 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of Joseph W. and Mary E. Sullivan. He attended elementary school and high school there, and City College of New York. He worked as a steamfitter, all of his life, beginning in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where he was a foreman during the construction of the battleships Missouri and Iowa, and aircraft carriers, FDR and Coral Sea.

He married Lucile Rolland in 1943, and the couple had three children, Richard, Gerald and Patricia. Joe and Lucile were proud that they put all three of their kids through college. Later, he worked in Manhattan, on the UN building, the New Chrysler building and many other skyscrapers, before moving to Manchester. There, he worked as a steamfitter, including helping to build nuclear submarines, hospitals, and buildings for the aerospace industry.

Joe's greatest pleasures in life were enjoying his family, his dog, Checkers, and summers at Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton. He and Lucile never hesitated to travel to wherever their children were living. After Lucile died in 1991, Joe kept busy, driving to the gym to swim laps, watching Yankees baseball, reading books and visiting with his family.

He is survived by his three children and their spouses, Richard and his wife, Sandy, of Rome, N.Y., Gerald and his wife, Robin, of Seymour, and Patricia Sullivan and her husband, Martin Gastrock, of Goffstown, N.H.; four grandchildren, Robert Sullivan and his wife, Arnica, of South Windy, John Sullivan and his wife Michelle, of Sunnyvale, Calif., Christopher Sullivan of Plum Island, Mass., Shelly Kingsbury of Rome, N.Y.; a great-grandson, Ryan Proulx of Rome, N.Y.; and his sister-in-law, Hildur Sullivan of Portland.

He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, and their children and grandchildren, and the staff of the Bel Air Nursing Home, all of whom attended his 100th Birthday party.

He was predeceased by his wife Lucile, his brothers Francis and Gordon, and his granddaughter, Holly Sullivan.

Family and friends called at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester on Monday, Dec. 17. Funeral service was also held Monday at the funeral home, followed by burial in Swedish Cemetery Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bel Air Nursing Home Activities Dept., 26 Center St, Goffstown, NH 03045 or charity of one's choice.

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

## Portland

### Stella Baroni

Stella (Sadlowski) Baroni, 91, of Higganum, wife of the late Frederick Baroni died Friday, Dec. 14. Stella was born in Portland and was the daughter of the late Francis and Steffie (Trezeiska) Sadlowski.

She is survived by a brother, Edward and his wife Connie of Middlefield, a sister, Mary Dill of Maine and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by four brothers, Joseph, Frank, Archie and John Sadlowski.

A funeral liturgy was held Tuesday, Dec. 18, at St. Colman Church, Middlefield. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, prior to the service. Burial will be in Saint Mary Cemetery, Portland.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Lucy Ott

Lucy Ott, beloved wife of deceased husband Joseph John Ott, passed peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital. She was 92. She was born Jan. 24, 1920, in Portland, and was the daughter of Salvatore and Philomena (Perruccio) Casserino and raised in Middletown.

Lucy, the family matriarch, was the last remaining sibling of the Casserino family that immigrated from Melilli, Sicily, at the turn of the 20th century.

She was predeceased by her Casserino brothers and sisters: Paul, Sebastiana, Anna, Joseph, Angelo, Carmelo, Angelina, Michael, John, Louis, Orlando, Eleanor and Clara.

Lucy, a hairdresser, worked at various boutiques in Middletown, including her own shop, Lu's Beauty Shoppe. In 1940, she married Howard Sanders, of Bimidji, Minn., who departed for service in 1942 aboard the USS Grunion, which was lost at sea during World War II. After giving birth and raising her son Howard, with the help of her many brothers and sisters, Lucy married Joseph "John" Ott in 1955, a World War II Navy veteran, with whom she was married to for 54 years until John's death in 2009.

Lucy was an avid bingo player who could manage more bingo cards simultaneously than anyone. She enjoyed playing at the Elks while her husband John managed the bingo hall. There is nothing she enjoyed more than visiting and reminiscing with her family, cousins, nieces and nephews. She had an incredible memory for details about growing up during the depression and through multiple wars. In later years, Lucy enjoyed going to the Day Club and socializing with her friends during the week.

She is survived by her three children, Maryann Ott of Hamden, Steven Ott of Princeton, N.J., and Howard Sanders of Colorado Springs, Colo. She had four grandchildren, Howard and Rodney Sanders of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Joseph and Emily Ott of Princeton, N.J. She also leaves two great-grandchildren, Heidi and Haley Sanders of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Funeral services will be held today, Dec. 21, from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a funeral liturgy at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Middletown, followed by a burial at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery with her beloved husband John. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Thursday, Dec. 20.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Day Club, 32 Minor St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Hebron

### Elizabeth Ann Riley

Elizabeth Ann (Annunziata) Riley, 64, of Amston, died peacefully early Monday, Dec. 17, at St. Francis Hospital. Elizabeth, known by her family and friends as Betty, was born Nov. 18, 1948, in New Britain, to the late Theodore and Ida (Ornati) Annunziata.

Betty was a math teacher at Wethersfield Public Schools for 38 years. She had a love for cooking, playing tennis, entertaining, traveling, volunteering, being with her dog Lucy and cat Lexi, vacationing in Maine, and spending time with family and friends. Betty was an active parishioner at the Church of the Holy Family and a vocalist in the choir.

She is survived by her three devoted sons, Christopher Riley, of East Hampton, Timothy Riley, of Amston, and Brendan Riley and his girlfriend Michelle Liang, currently residents of Beijing, China; the father of her children, George Riley, of Groton; her brother, Joseph Annunziata and his wife Donna Annunziata, of Berlin; her niece Lisa Annunziata and her boyfriend Brian Smith, of Beverly, Mass.; her niece Kristen (Annunziata) Pandolfi and her husband Joseph Pandolfi Jr. of Middletown; her niece Megan Annunziata, of Orlando, Fla.; several nieces and nephews in Texas; and many loving cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, Eugene C. Annunziata.

Her family received relatives and friends at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, Wednesday, Dec. 19. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, Dec. 20, at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Amston. Burial followed at St. Mary's Cemetery in New Britain.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the Covenant Soup Kitchen, 220 Valley Street, Willimantic, CT 06226 or the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry - WAIM, PO Box 221, Willimantic, CT 06226.

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

## Marlborough

### Gloria Carvalho

Gloria Carvalho, who was born in Portugal on Nov. 7, 1919, and was a longtime Yonkers, N.Y., resident, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Marlborough Health Center surrounded by family members and a friend.

Gloria and her husband (Feeny) owned and operated a neighborhood deli in Yonkers for 23 years. Upon retirement in 1979, they moved to Connecticut. Gloria loved her family, enjoyed cooking and adored her pets.

Gloria is survived by her two children: Gilbert Batista and his wife Karen of Santa Clarita, Calif., Sharon Scanlon and her husband Patrick and her only grandchild Kaitlin Rose of Marlborough; a sister-in-law, Edda Carvalho; plus numerous nieces and nephews, and Anna Sienicki, a dear friend and companion who became her second daughter.

Gloria's family would like to thank the staff at Marlborough Health Care Center for their loving care and compassion.

She was predeceased by husband, Feeny, and her parents, Rose and Abel Diogo, and her brother, John Diogo.

Gloria will be cremated and a private memorial service will take place this spring.

## Andover

### Rodney Thomas Mooney II

Rodney Thomas Mooney II, CDR, USN (retired), of Avon and formerly of Andover, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the age of 86.

He is survived by Mary Gelsimino, his companion of many years, and by his five children, Rodney T. "Tom" Mooney III and his wife Holly of Kemah, Texas, Theresa Julian and her husband John of Lunenburg, Mass., Elizabeth Malone and her husband Michael of Southington, Cynthia Sadowski and her husband Frank of Hebron, and Katherine Korbich and her husband Scott of New Tripoli, Pa.; and his seven grandchildren Taylor Malone, Erin Malone, Adam Sadowski, Jacob Sadowski, Evelyn Korbich, Chelsea Korbich and Sarah Korbich.

Commander Mooney served in the United States Navy for 25 years, during which he saw service on a variety of ships, ranging from a small wooden mine sweeper to a large aircraft carrier. On two occasions while in command of a ship he received an official letter of commendation from the secretary of the Navy. He also served in various staff positions in both the Atlantic and Pacific areas as well as in the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., including an assignment on the staff of an advisory committee to the secretary of defense.

Following his retirement from the Navy, he was employed for many years as a senior engineer in the Aerospace industry retiring from Hamilton Standard and was a life member of the engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi. He held a radio amateur license and a private pilot license, and was a small boat sailor and a model railroad enthusiast.

A favorite activity throughout his life was reading, on a wide and eclectic range of subjects. He was active in a variety of Scottish organizations, was a fellow of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, was Bard and Honorary Vice President of Clan MacThomas, a life member of Clan Mackintosh and a member of the Clan Chattan Association.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 18, at Andover Congregational Church, 359 US Route 6 in Andover. He will be laid to rest in the Andover Congregational Church Cemetery beside his beloved late wife Irene, who succumbed to leukemia in 1986. There were no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech. Cntr. Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3045.

To sign the online register book, go to [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Andover

### Bruce E. Kearney

Bruce E. Kearney, 63, of Andover, beloved husband of Sheila (Rourk) Kearney and beloved father of Justin E. Kearney, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 18, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born May 13, 1949 in Hartford, son of the late James and Lucie (Massa) Kearney. He grew up in Glastonbury and attended Glastonbury Public Schools graduating from Glastonbury High School. He worked for many years for Capital Tire in Wethersfield and for the last 25 years he worked for Hallmark Tire in Glastonbury, where he was a master auto technician and later moved to the front office.

Bruce was an excellent woodworker making many beautiful pieces for his home. He enjoyed spending time with his son and his friends, working on projects around the home and vacationing in the Caribbean.

In his final illness he was an inspiration to all who knew him. He never once complained, and did everything he could to make life easier for those he would leave behind. He did the things he enjoyed and continued to live his life to the fullest. He made it easier for all who knew him to accept what was happening to him and to enjoy the time we had left with him.

Besides his wife and son, he is survived by Justin's fiancé, Abigail Jackson and daughter Olivia of Norwich; his brother Alan Kearney and wife Patricia of Tucson, Ariz.; his sister-in-law, Eileen Organ and husband Paul of Grand Junction, Colo.; his brothers-in-law, Stephen Rourk and wife, Cheryl of Manchester, N.H., Thomas Rourk of Concord, Mass., Michael Rourk and wife, Jane of Clinton, Mass., and Daniel Rourk of Ayer, Mass.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, James L. Kearney.

The family would like to thank Dr. Michael Reale and the staff at Medical Oncology and Blood Disorders in Manchester, VNA Hospice of Vernon and all the family, friends and coworkers who have been so supportive throughout this journey.

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held Saturday, Dec. 29, from 1-4 p.m., at the Lakeview Restaurant, 50 Lake St., Coventry, CT 06238. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of the donors' choice.

For condolences, visit [pietrasfuneralhome.com](http://pietrasfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Peter J. Moeckel

The family of Peter J. Moeckel wishes to report that Mr. Moeckel died of natural causes on Friday, Dec. 14, in Colchester. His wife, Carolyn J. Moeckel, died Saturday, Dec. 1, after a brief illness. The Moeckels resided in Colchester in recent years and were longtime residents of eastern Connecticut.

The Moeckels are survived by a son, Jeffrey K. Moeckel; a daughter, Janet Szegda; three granddaughters; and two great-granddaughters. Peter Moeckel is survived by a sister, Jane Saunders; a brother, Kenneth Moeckel; and their spouses.

Peter J. Moeckel grew up in Naugatuck and enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard at the beginning of World War II. He fought in all four theaters of that war; after the war, he was involved in the Civil Air Patrol in Windham. He received his bachelor's degree at the University of Connecticut, and then worked in industrial management at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford and Wethersfield. He finished his career as a professor of psychology and industrial management at Thames Valley Technical College in Norwich. He went on to volunteer with the Town of Columbia's fire department and also was a fire control officer for the town. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and trap shooting. He was an NRA pistol and hunter safety instructor for many years.

Funeral arrangements are pending; arrangements are being handled by Belmont Funeral Home in Colchester.

## Colchester

### William C. Fritsch

William C. Fritsch, 95, passed away quietly Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 18. His family was at his bedside. He had been a resident of Apple Rehab of Colchester, for the past three years. He was loved and cared for by the staff there for his sparkling eyes and winning smile.

Mr. Fritsch was previously a longtime resident of Cromwell for over 45 years, as well as Portland for close to 20 years.

He was predeceased by the love of his life Mary, who he was married to for 68 years, and also by a son Thomas, USMC, killed in Vietnam.

Mr. Fritsch served in the U.S. Navy for seven years, three years during World War II. He served both in the European Theater and South Pacific. He was proud to be aboard the USS Missouri when the peace treaty was signed.

He was very active in the Knights of Columbus in the 3rd and 4th degree, and was a life member of 4th Degree Color Corp. He was a member of the Elks Lodge of Middletown 771, as well as The American Legion Post 105 and VFW 583.

He was a member of St. John's Church in Cromwell since 1965. He worked at Colt's Firearms and retired from Northeast Utilities in 1979 after 34 years as a shift supervisor in the control room.

He is survived by his daughters and two sons, Gloria and Dean Thomas of California, Patricia Fritsch of Colchester, William and Bonnie Fritsch of Texas and Steven and Kimberly Fritsch of Cromwell. He also leaves his grandchildren, Lauren and Chelsey Fritsch of Cromwell and Shawn and Wendy DeFelice of Marlborough; one great-grandson, Khanur DeFelice of Marlborough. He also leaves a sister-in-law, Marge Johansen of East Windsor and many nieces and nephews, all of whom he loved very much.

He will be deeply missed. May he rest in peace.

Arrangements are being handled by Rose Hill Funeral Home, Elm St., Rocky Hill. Calling hours will be 4-7 p.m. today, Dec. 21, at the funeral home. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. John's Church, 5 St. John Ct., Cromwell, on Saturday, Dec. 22, at 10 a.m. Please go directly to the church. Burial will follow mass at Rose Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made in memory to the "Thomas W. Fritsch Memorial Scholarship Fund" and sent in c/o Patricia Fritsch, 4 Waterhole Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.