

RIVEREAST

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Portland honored its local veterans Monday with a wreath-laying at the town's Veterans Memorial behind Town Hall. Pictured here are, from left, veterans Lt. Col. Reg Farrington, U.S. Army retired; Sgt. Kathy Burke, U.S. Marine Corps; Major Thomas DeRing, U.S. Army; and Commander Timothy Dickerson, U.S. Coast Guard retired.

## Portland Celebrates Its Veterans

by Elizabeth Bowling

On the eleventh month, on the eleventh day, at the eleventh hour, Portland honored its veterans with two minutes of silence and a memorial wreath, placed in the center of Portland's Veterans Memorial behind Town Hall.

About 40 Portland residents came out Monday morning, Nov. 11, to celebrate their local heroes and enjoy a sunny Veterans Day.

The ceremony, put on by the Veterans Affairs Commission, was short, but sweet and meaningful.

Lt. Col. Reg Farrington, U.S. Army retired, chairman of Portland's Veterans Affairs Commission, said, "We try to keep it really simple and just remember what we're here for."

He said the wreath is a memorial, "like you'd put on any grave to remember any person." The difference, though, is that this wreath – made up of a red, white and blue flower arrangement – memorialized all of Portland's veterans, he said.

Farrington was joined in placing the wreath on the memorial grounds by fellow-veterans Sgt. Kathy Burke, U.S. Marine Corps; Major Thomas DeRing, U.S. Army; and Commander Timothy Dickerson, U.S. Coast Guard retired. Other servicemen and women were in atten-

dance, too. Some came in uniform, others dressed more casually, but all were thanked for their dedication and sacrifices.

State Rep. Christie Carpino thanked every veteran and noted that even though they were being honored "today" (Monday), "We will never forget even tomorrow."

Portland's First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield added, "It's a solemn occasion to remember all of our veterans who are here today and those who can't be here today." She furthered, "It's a respectful way to remember our veterans."

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Portland High School also honored local veterans at its fourth annual Veterans Day program last Friday, Nov. 8.

The program was organized by Michelle Stotler, the social studies department head for grades seven through 12, and is part of the sophomore class' U.S. History course curriculum.

Stotler called Veterans Day "a day set aside to honor all who have served in the United States military in peace as well as war times."

She said the program was intended to help  
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## Grocery Store Now Possible in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough residents may not have to travel too far for grocery shopping and trips to the pharmacy in the future.

At its Nov. 7 meeting, the Zoning Commission unanimously approved an overall site plan that allows a grocery store to be built in the center of town. It was the final approval needed after respective plans had gone before – and ultimately were approved – by the Conservation Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority Commission (WPCA), and Planning Commission.

The plan was supported by Zoning Commission Chairman Kevin Asklar, Vice Chairwoman Susan McFarland, Eric Colantonio, Jeffrey Tracey and Richard Banbury.

Asklar said he felt the plan "was crucial to our town center" to create economic growth.

"I believe people will now spend their dollars in Marlborough instead of traveling to other towns and I also believe that it's going to create a lot of satellite businesses," Asklar furthered.

The chairman concluded he felt the applicant did an "exceptional job with conforming to our zoning regulations and not just making it look like a box store but more like a country grocery store."

The plan was submitted by applicant Robert Elliot, who owns the property of the Marlborough Tavern Green Plaza at the corner of East Hampton Road (route 66) and South Main Street. However, the application also in-

cluded properties owned by GSD LLC, 20 South Main St. and 22 South Main St.

According to Town Planner Peter Hughes, the three properties will be joined together and ultimately owned by Elliot, which will in turn create one large big plaza to include the grocery store, The New Marlborough Tavern and other businesses.

At last Thursday's meeting, Elliot confirmed he has been in talks with three grocers about the possibility of coming to town though he did not disclose which grocery stores they were. Elliot said the next steps are to find a grocer, enter into a lease and then construction of site improvements will follow.

The zoning approval allows construction of a 40,000-sq. ft. grocery store equipped with an indoor pharmacy that features a drive-through window. The project calls for demolition of the existing building that currently houses the Taylor'd Touch gift shop. The gift shop would then move to another open location in the plaza. Additionally, 22 South Main St. is slated for demolition while 20 South Main St. would be revitalized into a conforming commercial or retail use.

Elliot said his original design and thought process of constructing a grocery store in the center of town dates back to two years ago. Elliot has lived in Marlborough since 1970 and has practiced law in town for 42 years. He said he felt the grocery store is "going to cause the revitalization of the center."

Additionally, the plans include two main entrances, one located at East Hampton Road, which will be changed to an entrance and right turn-only exit. Another main entrance into the plaza will be located on South Main Street.

The overall plan conforms to the town's Plan of Conservation Development, Town Planner Peter Hughes said in the Nov. 7 meeting. It was also repeated numerous times by Elliot's attorney, Kari Olson of Murtha Cullina LLP out of Hartford, over the last few months that the plaza would create much foot traffic. For example, the site plans allow for a "pocket park" to take the place of 22 South Main St. The park would be a small, circular concrete area that would provide a seating area for pedestrians. Sidewalks would also be put in to connect the grocery store to shops within the Marlborough Tavern Green Plaza, including The New Marlborough Tavern.

Additionally, trees would be planted on site, Elliot said, and lighting fixtures within the plaza would match the existing fixtures near Town Hall.

Before approvals were made, Elliot agreed to comply with numerous changes to the site plan concerning wetlands and aesthetics. His attorney briefly summarized all the work that had been done to comply with the town's regulations.

"I have to say we have made a lot of concessions along the way," Olson said to the Zoning Commission last Thursday. "I think we've

ticked all the boxes for why we feel this is something that really should be approved."

Though last Thursday's approval was not simply a 'yes' or 'no' question. Several motions were passed and many decisions relating to the appearance of the grocery store had to be decided on before the ultimate approval.

These decisions included the commission's approval of 26 additional parking spaces, which did not violate zoning regulations but still needed to be approved. The commission took into account the public's initial concerns of allotable parking spaces when making their decision.

"It was a big issue with the public of how many spaces are available for everything," Asklar said to fellow members.

This week Asklar said he felt additional parking would benefit the town by providing more places to park for the surrounding businesses.

The commission also agreed that truck deliveries to the grocery store could not occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

"It's a quiet hour courtesy for people who live next door," said vice chairwoman Susan McFarland. "I think we have to do that to be responsive to all of the public comments that we heard."

It was also decided that the store could remain open for 24 hours. Hughes pointed out grocery stores often end up minimizing those hours once they aren't receiving business dur-

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**Veterans cont. from Front Page**

students “appreciate, respect and gain an understanding” of Veterans Day.

Stotler then showed a two-minute video that summed up the origin of Veterans Day, as well as its evolution. The video was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by PHS senior Jessica Wilcox.

Navy Reservist James Stotler – also known around PHS as a social studies teacher, the boys soccer coach, and Michelle Stotler’s husband – then took to the podium to serve as both the moderator and a panelist.

Chief Petty Officer Stotler served as an intelligence specialist dealing with information for combat support in the U.S. Navy Reserve since 2003 and did a tour in Iraq in 2007-08.

The other panelists were: Farrington; Nick Caisse, a 2010 PHS graduate who serves with the Army National Guard in the state of Connecticut and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2012-13; and Wayne Kukucka, a PHS science teacher who served as a nuclear technician in the Navy from 1999-2005 onboard the nuclear carrier USS Abraham Lincoln.

Stotler got the conversation started by introducing the topic of boot camp, which he called the “initial shock” into the military.

Kukucka said, “The one thing I remember from basic training is when they say, ‘We do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day.’ I thought that was just something they bragged about. And then I started waking up at 4 o’clock, jogging for several miles and doing so many things that I was exhausted by the time 9 o’clock rolled around and our day was still just beginning.”

One of his “fondest memories” from boot camp was the gas chamber. He said the name has since been changed to “the ‘confidence chamber’ because ‘gas chamber’ seems a little too intimidating and they wanted you to have confidence that gas masks actually worked.”

He explained his experience of entering the gas chamber, taking his gas mask off and reciting a speech.

“You get through half of it before you have to take your first breath and then everything becomes horrible – you can’t breathe, you can’t see,” he recalled.

But once it was over, he remembered thinking, “Wow, I’ll probably never get to do that again and I’ve done something that no one else probably has and it was kind of cool.”

Stotler agreed, “It was something that, when I was doing it, was absolutely miserable – I’ve never had my face burn as much as it did when you had to take your mask off and say that

speech.”

Caisse said he had to go through the gas chamber once to become a military police officer and after that got “maced in the face to know what it’s like to handle that and to be able to understand what it’s like to have to fight through something like that if I had to.”

Because Caisse is a military police officer in the U.S. Army he went through “one-station unit training,” which he described as a combination of basic training and job training.

He recalled spending six months in boot camp “waking up at 4:30, doing 12-hour days, learning my job, becoming proficient in the Army tasks and becoming an accomplished member of the United States Army.”

Farrington recalled his initial six weeks of basic training at Fort Devens, Mass. “And then Uncle Sam decided to make me a company commander of a basic training company and I went through basic training 13 more times,” he said.

But for all four panelists, after basic training and boot camp came deployment.

Caisse said he was deployed in 2012, after being with his unit for about six months, and went to Texas for a couple months to train for his primary mission in Afghanistan where he trained and mentored the Afghan army and the Afghan police.

“Our mission was to show them, basically, how to do their job effectively,” he said. “It was definitely a shock... being so young and not being with my unit.”

Specifically, Caisse was a gunner. He provided security and ensured there were no threats to him or his fellow soldiers.

Kukucka said his first deployment was supposed to be for six months but when that time was up, when he thought he was getting back on the ship to leave Australia and head home, he realized, “the sun was on the wrong side of the ship – we weren’t going back to the United States, we were going in the other direction.”

The next morning, he and his shipmates learned the war on Iraq was starting and they were on their way to it.

“We didn’t really find out until it was all said and done and we were already halfway there,” he said, adding that “our six-month deployment turned into 10 months.”

Kukucka’s deployment started during a time of peace, so he recalled doing a lot of drills and maintenance with the nuclear reactor on board. But once wartime started, his captain ordered that nobody work on the reactors because they were the “heartbeat of the ship” and he didn’t

for the people in our town.”

In regards to concerns of tractor trailers traveling on busy roads and in proximity to the school, Farrington said she works at the school and truck deliveries are made there “every single morning.”

Doris Conway said she’s retired and often has a difficult time traveling “two, three times a week” to a pharmacy in East Hampton.

“It’s really a problem when you’re older,” Conway explained. “You don’t want to travel that far.”

Economic Development Commission Chairwoman Jane Boston said she was in support of the grocery store, and although a vote hadn’t been taken yet, she said, “I look forward to shopping here.”

Boston furthered she is in favor of “the economic development it will bring to town and into our other local businesses who are definitely in need of additional business.”

With the plan in place and the project approved by all the land use boards, Elliot reflected this week on the entire process with appreciation.

“I want to thank all of the Town of Marlborough personnel who assisted me in receiving all of the approvals for my development, especially Peter Hughes,” he said. “And I want to thank all of the town professionals and my professionals who really made the doing of the development possible.”

Elliot had worked with Olson and project managers, engineers and designers from BL Companies, who were responsible for creating the site designs. He also expanded on what he thinks the grocery store and pharmacy will bring to town.

“It will provide not only a grocery store,” he said of the development, “but I think with a grocery store other national tenants will come, and I think that’s what’s going to cause the revitalization of the center.”

want to risk jeopardizing the mission.

So once wartime began, Kukucka was able to “sit back and relax and just let the nuclear reactors keep on going.” He furthered, “The odd thing for us was we were really, really busy during times of peace but, since we were the nuclear department, during times of war our jobs actually got much more relaxed.”

Kukucka said aside from traveling to places like Japan, Australia and Hong Kong, one of his favorite memories from his time in the service was when his unit provided humanitarian aid following the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra.

“We spent the next several weeks parked off the coast of Sumatra, sending out helicopters to this one city that lost 96 percent of its population and all roads to it were completely destroyed,” he remembered proudly.

Farrington’s experience was much different. He recalled becoming company commander four months into his first duty station at Fort Dix, N.J. He was in charge of 264 men.

Five years after his stay in Fort Dix, Farrington found himself in Fort Holt doing the same thing. When General Abrams – who Farrington called “the big cheese” – asked Farrington if he liked his role, Farrington responded bluntly, “I don’t.”

Farrington told Abrams he wanted to go to Vietnam. So after his one-year tour, to the day, he was on his way to Vietnam.

For his first order in Vietnam, Farrington said he was assigned as an advisor to Vietnamese infantry. He was one of four Americans to about 240 Vietnamese and “everywhere they went, we went,” he said.

“There were some times and events that were somewhat disconcerting,” he said about deployment.

He recalled one time when a helicopter crew chief threw Farrington’s radioman off because the helicopter was too heavy. So when he landed with his sergeant and 125 Vietnamese, he had no radio.

On another occasion, a similar situation arose. “They threw my interpreter off the helicopter,” he said. “I did learn to speak a little bit of Vietnamese very quickly.”

For the Navy Reserve, Stotler explained, individuals are “plucked” from their units for deployment. Stotler recalled being selected for a deployment to Iraq and having only 30 days to prepare.

“I didn’t have a lot of information about where I was going. I was basically just told I was going to Iraq and I was probably going to be there for about a year,” he said. “So, anxiety? Yeah.”

He recalled thinking that his life was about to take “a complete, 180 degree turn and go from the comfort and safety of Portland High School to Iraq. So big change is sometimes the price of doing business in the reserve.”

During his deployment, Stotler acted as a liaison between the British sector in Iraq and American forces in Baghdad. “It was difficult at the time because I was just a mid-level enlist,” he said. “But surprisingly the British didn’t really understand the rank system all the time so I actually got treated a lot better than I should have been by the British forces.”

Stotler explained that serving on a reserve means serving on a “part-time capacity – one weekend a month and usually two weeks a year.”

Caisse explained that serving in the reserve is a more “civilian-like” form of service than some other branches. He added that the reserve tends to have a “relaxed undertone.”

He said, “It’s a different mentality because people have their full-time jobs as well as their military service so it’s a little bit of a different animal.”

Caisse said he has a “strong connection” to the Connecticut National Guard because his father served on it before him. A bonus of joining was that the Guard helped pay for his higher education, he said.

Farrington also walked away with a college education. He graduated ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) in 1960 from the University of Connecticut.

“Eventually, in those days, you were going to serve in the military. You were going to get drafted or you were going to volunteer,” he said;

so he volunteered.

Similarly, Kukucka said he chose to join the Navy because he “wanted to get a lot of education out of the military.” His plan worked out because he did three years of college after doing a year-and-a-half in a military school. He also had the opportunity to spend time working as a nuclear physicist.

After his year-and-a-half of training and schooling, Kukucka drove from New York to Washington State – a four-day car ride – to start his military career.

He drove right up to his ship, leaving his belongings in his car. He was welcomed on board and given a tour to his barracks. When trying to exit the ship, he was stopped on account of the facial hair he grew on his four-day car ride, he recalled. He was not allowed to leave the ship because he needed a shave. But he couldn’t shave because his things were in his car, not on the ship.

Kukucka said that was when he realized “there’s a lot of catch-22s in the military and you have to follow all the rules to the line because they don’t let you get away with much.”

He added with a laugh, “I’ve learned to shave every single day since then when I was in [the military].”

An essential part of the deployment experience is corresponding with loved ones back home.

When Stotler was deployed, his wife Michelle said he called her whenever he got an opportunity, which tended to be during her prep-periods. One phone call in particular kick-started what she called “the hardest three days I’ve ever had.”

Stotler was eight months into his deployment when he called home and had a “very nice conversation” with his wife, Michelle recalled. “Then this siren goes off that his base is actually being bombed and the phone went down and I bursted into tears.”

When Stotler got a chance to call his wife again three days later, he told her, “I don’t know what you’re so worried about. I was fine.”

Where Caisse was deployed, he had phone, Internet, television and an Xbox. He said he tried to call home about once a week despite the time difference.

Kukucka said having “constant correspondence means the world” to someone in the service.

On the ship, Kukucka said he had cell phone and email access. But sometimes they experienced a “lockdown” of electronics and all forms of communication – both coming in and going out – were shut off.

He said he typically sent about three emails home everyday. But when correspondence went on lockdown, his family was home worrying about him, he said.

Farrington’s correspondence was somewhat different. During his time in the service, he said he used “snail mail.”

He recalled that if his unit wasn’t where the mail-deliverer expected them to be, the letter delivery would be delayed. Sometimes it came down to putting the letters in a bag with a few rocks and throwing it off the helicopter to wherever the unit was at the time.

Regarding standout memories from deployment, Caisse noted “the amount that everybody comes together.”

“The friends you make [in the military] are friends you’re going to have for life,” he said, adding that a military experience is “something that you have forever.”

Kukucka agreed, “You can’t forge a friendship like that.” He added, “We’re close like brothers... The bonds that you make when you’re in the military, I mean they’re just – they’re next to nothing.”

Farrington said he still visits his friends from the service. He concluded, “We’re perfect with each other.”

On that note, the Stotler wrapped up the program with a video encouraging viewers to thank a veteran.

Following the video, PHS seniors Jason Staub and Jonah Winakor closed the program with their performance of *Taps* on the trumpets. With that, students were dismissed, hopefully with a renewed perspective on the service of our veterans.

**Grocery Store cont. from Front Page**

ing the overnight hours. The commission agreed allowing a 24-hour store could attract grocers to open in town.

Aesthetics were also discussed at length. Commission members came to a consensus to have all of the grocery store windows in the front of the store tinted, including the entrance door, in an effort to mask signs that could be hanging in the windows from the interior of the store.

Other votes that were taken related to the additions to The New Marlborough Tavern, which is currently undergoing construction and is located at the corner of South Main Street and East Hampton Road. The commission agreed to keep uniformity among the buildings’ roof and siding, which they allowed to be done within five to eight years, once a certificate of occupancy is issued.

Last Thursday’s meeting also included a public hearing, which allowed members of the public to state their opinions on the proposal before a vote was taken by the commission.

While several comments were in support of the proposal, some regarded concerns in traffic, specifically tractor trailers on South Main Street. Resident Greg Hester said his concern is “for the kids in the school nearby and the traffic” among others including acoustics of outside equipment and trucks. Resident Mike Bove said he felt a grocery store “would be nice” but did not support the location of it. He also communicated concerns about the grocery store taking away from the town’s rural nature – what he said was “one of the value and charms of Marlborough I don’t want to lose.”

Though it seemed many in the room were in hopes that the project would pass, primarily due to the economic growth the grocery store would reel in.

“We need it,” resident Pam Farrington said. “We need it badly. We just cannot continue to go to other towns and support them. We need to bring business here. We need to provide jobs

*From the Editor's Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

So Erin Brady didn't snag the Miss Universe crown. Miss Venezuela – Gabriela Isler – won the title in the pageant, which took place Saturday night. Erin made the Top 10, though – which, considering she was competing against 85 other women, is certainly nothing to sneeze at. All in all, another feather to put in the cap of the 26-year-old, who's had a tremendous year.

\* \* \*

Now this was a rather cool outcome of last week's elections: In South Windsor, voters elected Connecticut's – and possibly New England's – first Muslim mayor, Dr. Saud Anwar. All across the country, there have been too many people who, ever since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, have unfortunately viewed "Muslim" as basically a four-letter word. Plenty of Obama-haters have used it to attack him over the years, accusing him of being one and therefore with "the enemy." (The fact that he's not, nor ever has been, a Muslim rarely seems to matter to these individuals.)

But it's nice that, in South Windsor, voters weren't concerned with a man's religion; they were concerned with how he could help the town.

"They're looking for the person who is going to do the best job for them with the priorities that they feel are important to them," Anwar told South Windsor *Patch* after he was elected.

Anwar, a physician who, with his wife and fellow physician Dr. Yusra Anis-Anwar have two sons, Taha and Taseen, is clearly a big fan of the people of South Windsor – and how warm and caring they've been toward his family.

"The people of South Windsor are very caring, embracing individuals who respect people of all backgrounds," he said, "so my being elected is more about the people of South Windsor and less about me."

On the national political stage, things are ugly. People are petty and juvenile, and too often political discourse seems stuck at a middle-school level. (Not that the national media doesn't sometimes egg things on; *Time* drew some criticism last week – and rightly so – after it ran a cover story on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie with the headline "The Elephant in the Room" pasted in front of a silhouette of the overweight Christie's face.)

But here in Connecticut, people can apparently rise above such nonsense, and focus on things that matter – not a politician's religion, or their weight, or that they're a Yankees fan. (Hey, we all make mistakes.)

That's something to be proud of.

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A friend of mine recently opined, "Why do we call it a 'laundry list'?" And he had a

point. If someone is arrested and has an array of charges levied against him, it's not uncommon to say something like, "His laundry list of crimes includes..." The phrase has even made it into several dictionaries; Webster's, for example, defines it as "a long list of related things." But, as my friend pointed out, if one ever had to write a laundry list, it would, in reality, be quite short: Put detergent in the washing machine. Put clothes in. Turn washing machine on.

Not very long, is it?

And, sure, before automatic washing machines, the process was probably a little more complicated, but it still hardly seems like something that should equate to "a long list." So how did "laundry list" come to be?

A quick Google search showed that it's hardly an uncommon question. Lots of people have wondered it. Fortunately, *Denver Post* columnist Ed Quillen got to the bottom of it in a 2008 column – and he was speaking from first-hand knowledge.

When Quillen was 14, he wrote, he went to work in the family's laundry business. Since he wasn't yet big enough to work in the washroom, his job was at the sorting table.

"Back then," he wrote, "before permanent press and abundant home washers, many people sent their clothes to a commercial laundry, where it was my job to mark it and sort it."

Quillen would mark the laundry to make sure it got back to the right people, and sort it to make sure the right stuff got cleaned together in the big washing machines. (So whites got washed with whites, sheets with sheets, towels with towels, etc.)

As Quillen marked and sorted the clothes, he recorded them on a "laundry list" – a printed form that was filled out with the laundry mark and the quantity, next to the appropriate category on the list.

Quillen learned a lot about laundry as a 14-year-old working in the family shop, including various terms and expressions, such as "counterpanes" (a.k.a., bedspreads) and "half-pairs" (as in, only one sock instead of two). And he cheekily encouraged his readers in that 2008 column on just how to respond when the phrase "laundry list" inevitably pops up in conversation.

"So the next time you hear about a 'laundry list,' ask about counterpanes and half-pairs," he wrote. "If you get a blank look, you'll know you're dealing with someone who couldn't tell a laundry list from an enemies list. As a pro when it comes to laundry lists, I know the real thing when I see one — and at least 99.9 percent of today's 'laundry lists' are not laundry lists."

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## Andover Resident Charged with Sexual Assault

by Geeta Schrayter

An Andover resident was arrested last week in connection with a sexual assault that allegedly took place in October at the Grange Hall in East Haddam, State Police said.

Dale Kukucka, 35, of 403 Hebron Rd., turned himself in last Thursday, Nov. 7, after learning there was a warrant for his arrest, police said. He was charged with first-degree criminal attempt to commit sexual assault, third-degree sexual assault, second-degree strangulation, first-degree unlawful restraint and third-degree assault as a result of the incident, which allegedly occurred in the late night hours of Oct. 19.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at Middlesex Superior Court, Kukucka allegedly assaulted a woman when she went to use the women's restroom at the Grange during the annual Moodus Fife and Drum Muster. The woman told police she was standing by the bonfire shortly before midnight when she decided to use the restroom. After she finished, she said she was washing her hands when a man – later identified as Kukucka – grabbed her neck with his right hand and put his left hand over her mouth. (Later, the trooper at the scene noticed red marks on the woman's neck "consistent with the size and shape of a finger.")

According to the affidavit, the woman struggled and moved toward the bathroom window which she broke with her elbow. She then lost consciousness.

Two witnesses who heard the struggle entered the restroom and found the woman on the ground with Kukucka on top of her, the affidavit states. One of the witnesses described the woman as having "a lot of blood on her face and in her hair" and said Kukucka had both of his hands up her shirt.

Both witnesses told Kukucka to get off the victim, and while one of the witnesses attended to the woman, the affidavit states the other attempted to "take him down." However, after a physical altercation between the two, the man left through the front door.

The woman was taken by ambulance to Middlesex Hospital. She later told police she sustained injuries to her nose, forehead, the back of her neck and her upper front tooth.

The man was identified as Kukucka in part by his girlfriend, who had left the grange earlier in the evening but returned to use the bathroom. The affidavit said that, after being told not to go into the restroom because "someone was raped," his girlfriend heard people talking about the incident and mentioning, "Dale from the Essex Sailing Masters," which is a fife and drum corps to which Kukucka belongs.

According to the affidavit, Kukucka's girlfriend approached one of the troopers at the scene and said she was dating a man named Dale and she had a picture of him on her phone. That photo was then shown to one of

the witnesses, who positively identified the man in the photo as the one he'd pulled off the woman in the bathroom.

Kukucka has been a science teacher at Carmen Arace Middle School in Bloomfield since August. In a release sent out by the school last Friday, Human Resource Specialist William Joslyn said State Police expressed an interest in Kukucka last Thursday afternoon.

"Mr. Kukucka was immediately placed on paid administrative leave and left the school to turn himself into state police," he wrote.

On Monday, the decision was made to terminate Kukucka's employment.

"We were concerned about what was coming forth in terms of some of the situations that this individual found themselves in," Joslyn said Wednesday. "We thought it was in the best interest of the school district to separate ways."

According to Bloomfield school policy, the school is required to "make a documented good faith effort" to contact the previous employers of any prospective employee. In addition, prospective employees are required to disclose whether they've ever been convicted of a crime or have any pending cases, and are subjected to criminal record checks and fingerprinting.

Joslyn said two pending cases showed up as a result of Kukucka's fingerprinting – one for a DUI and one for a second-degree breach of peace charge. But that information wasn't received until October, something Joslyn said is typical.

"It takes time to get those [results] back," he said.

Even so, Joslyn added the school was likely to look at their hiring procedures.

"Any time we have an issue that comes up we try to learn," he explained. "We're all educators. We try to learn from what we experience and we're certainly going to take a look at our protocols and requirements to make sure we're doing everything we can to screen applicants."

The second-degree breach of peace charge that came up is in relation to an incident from July 14, 2012, where, according to the affidavit, Kukucka allegedly kissed an 18-year-old female against her will at the Banner Lodge golf course in East Haddam and attempted to touch her breasts.

The DUI stemmed from a Glastonbury incident that allegedly occurred in the spring. According to Glastonbury Police, Kukucka was arrested March 17 and charged with DUI, following too closely, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Kukucka is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 19 for both cases. He was arraigned in Middletown Nov. 8 for the most recent case and is currently being held on \$500,000 bond.



# Marlborough Health Care Center Honors Local Veterans

by Melissa Roberto

Inside of the dining hall of the Marlborough Health Care Center on Monday, red, white and blue star-shaped balloons floated in the air, American flags were raised, and patriotic songs were sung.

But most importantly, the room was also filled with the center's residents and members of the community who were honored for sacrificing their lives for American freedom.

The Veterans Day celebration at the center welcomed all local veterans to attend. Administrator Marianne Herold said 100 invitations went out to community veterans to join in on the celebration. The afternoon began with a parade by veterans currently living at the center, who paraded down the hallways to the words of "Yankee Doodle."

The acoustics followed into the dining hall celebration, as music was provided by local musician Bob Diquattro, who strummed along to his guitar and sung old classics like "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "I've Been Working on the Railroad," "Daisy Bell," and "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Local veterans Charlie Vicino and Carl Carlson were two of the many in the room who sang along. Vicino, a former Private First Class Marine who served during the Vietnam War, said he heard of the event while being treated at the MHCC for 10 days due to a leg injury. Carlson said he received word of the event through the Senior Center. The two friends sat near the back of the room belting out the words to every tune.

"It's very good," Vicino said of the music while turning to Carlson. "I'm being entertained, right, Carl?"

A total of 11 veterans, of either the U.S. Navy

or U.S. Army, are currently residents at Marlborough Health Care. Each of those veterans were presented with certificates signed by U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. Master Sergeant James Woodland, retired from the U.S. Army, and Lt. April Krason, deputy commander of cadets and public affairs officer at the Royal Charter Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol Air Force Auxiliary, passed out the certificates and presented each veteran with a carnation.

Community veterans in attendance were also acknowledged with carnations. Refreshments and cake were also served.

Local author AnnMarie Sargent of Hebron, a Marlborough native, was the guest speaker. Sargent shared a poem from her recently-published book, *Memoirs of an Unknown Soul*. Sargent said the book is an "inspirational Christian story" about a young girl's journey of healing from abuse.

The author also shared a music video, which was displayed on the television for the veterans. The video was produced and directed by Sargent's niece, 19-year-old singer Ariel Fournier. Fournier wrote the song "American Hero" for her father, and Sargent's brother, Ken Fournier, ex U.S. Air Force pararescueman of 20 years.

"She wrote that song for every little girl who misses their daddy or mommy serving overseas," Sargent said to the crowd.

Sargent furthered it was "an honor" to be sharing Veterans Day with the veterans of Marlborough.

"I thank you all from my heart for my freedom and the ability to be here with you today," she said, "and the ability that my niece could make a music video and express herself. Don't



Local veterans Charlie Vicino, right, and Carl Carlson attended the Marlborough Health Care Center's Veterans Day celebration on Monday. The two veterans spent the afternoon singing along to all of the patriotic songs played.

think you're ever forgotten because you're not."

At the end of the event, Sargent said she felt the Veterans Day celebration was "very nice."

"I like to see the veterans honored because they really do sacrifice a lot," she said.

The event also hit close to home for Marjorie Camp, who received a carnation in honor of her late husband.

"I think this is a nice thing to do because it's showing someone that they do care about veterans and you don't find too many people doing that these days," said Camp.

The event was nostalgic for veterans and their family members and friends, who shared their stories with one another. Camp sat beside her close friend Walter Vogel, who was a merchant marine in World War II. The two enjoyed each other's company, and reminisced.

Herold, who is familiar with the residents living at the center, reminded veterans in the room that the celebration was for them and those who were lost.

"We so appreciate everything you've done for us and this is for you," she said.



Civil Air Patrol Lt. April Krason, right, and Master Sergeant James Woodland, ret. U.S. Army, passed out certificates and carnations to honor veteran residents of the Marlborough Health Care Center.

# Marlborough to Hold EMT Class, In Need of Volunteers

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough's fire department and ambulance staff is made up of volunteers and for the first time in seven years they are hosting an emergency medical technician (EMT) training class, to teach men and women the skills that help save lives.

Starting Tuesday, Dec. 10, and running into late March, an EMT class will be offered right in town at Station 2, the fire department on West Road. The class totals roughly 150 hours, and will be held each Tuesday and Thursday from 7-10 p.m. Chief of Service for the Marlborough Ambulance, Mark Merritt, said the class includes a total of four Saturday sessions between the three-month period that have not yet been specified by date or time. He furthered any individuals who turn the age of 16 before the end of the class, or older, are welcome to enroll.

The class fee is \$600, which includes the costs of the book and equipment. The \$600 will

be reimbursed to participants who commit to volunteering as an EMT in Marlborough for a minimum of one year following completion of the class. Merritt said participants who do so will help the town, which is currently in need of volunteers.

Merritt said the number of volunteer EMTs and firefighters in Marlborough has dwindled in recent years. He said this is mostly due to changing demographics and the economy.

"We've lost some good people who just can't afford to live in Marlborough anymore," Merritt explained. "And we've had people become paid fire fighters in the state and they have agreements with employers that they aren't allowed to do their volunteer work anymore."

Additionally, Merritt said people's families are expanding, which in turn leads to less people finding time in their schedules to volunteer.

"These things have really taken a toll [on the department]," Merritt concluded.

The class will be taught by Marlborough EMTs. Merritt explained EMTs are responsible for "all pre-hospital care." The captain said this includes "everything from excavation at car accidents to a situation where someone has fallen and can't get up."

He furthered the skills of an EMT "runs the gamut," and at the end of the class, individuals will be trained to deal with any of those situations on a "basic life support level."

The 150-hour EMT class is also mandatory at the state and federal levels for anyone wishing to become an EMT or firefighter.

While the EMT class starts in December, Merritt said the Marlborough fire department would also make accommodations for individuals interested in becoming fire fighter certified,

which also requires a class of roughly 150 hours.

Of course, Merritt said, the class is not available just to Marlborough citizens but to anyone outside of town. He furthered that while other surrounding towns have offered training on a regular basis, he's fortunate the town of Marlborough has the space and resources needed to hold the class right in town, and to hopefully attract more volunteers at the same time.

"Wherever you want to go from there is up to you but this will teach you all the basic skills you need to perform here," said Merritt.

To sign up for the 2013-14 EMT class in Marlborough, or to inquire more information about EMT or firefighting training opportunities, call Merritt at 860-295-9692 or 860-916-9577.



# East Hampton Town Council Tackles Host of Issues

by Elizabeth Bowling

A range of topics greeted the first official meeting of the new-look Town Council Tuesday, ranging from possibly-abusive behavior by a town official to the revisiting of a development proposal.

It was the council's first regular meeting since Election Day last Tuesday, which saw all Chatham Party members of the council lose their seats and the Democrats gain control of the seven-person board, via a 4-3 majority.

Newly-elected council chairwoman Barbara Moore read into the minutes a letter addressed to her from Kenneth Barber, who wrote on behalf of his clients Flannery Enterprises LLC and its member Anthony Flannery.

Essentially, the letter was a complaint against Inlands and Wetlands Watercourse Agency Chairman Jeffry Foran. Foran, whose term on the agency is up in 2015, was accused of behaving inappropriately as chairman.

In his letter, Barber claimed that at the agency's Oct. 30 meeting, Flannery was "subjected to belligerent, abusive and threatening behavior" by Foran.

"Foran's public behavior toward my client not only violated the town's code of conduct for public officials," Barber wrote, "but was beyond what is considered normal, civil conduct."

Barber went on to say that if a regular member of the public acted the way Foran did, that person could have been arrested.

Barber also stated that Flannery filed a complaint against Foran with the town's ethics commission.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco said he personally "witnessed Mr. Foran in one instance, for lack of a better term, berate a local citizen."

Maniscalco said in addition to witnessing such behavior on one occasion, he'd also been informed of it by staff "two or three times."

Foran could not be reached for comment for this story.

Council member Ted Hintz noted that the Town Council has the right to "remove any member for cause" so, as a legislative body, the council members would need to set a public hearing to vote on removing Foran.

He added, "You can't berate a taxpayer." The council members discussed suspending Foran until they could schedule a public hearing on the matter, but decided against it.

Moore noted that Foran has been chairman "for many years," and said, "We need to respect his service. We want to do it properly and I don't want to embarrass him."

Councilman Mark Philhower responded with a laugh, "He does a pretty good job of it on his own."

But Philhower added, more seriously, that he'd be more comfortable if the public hearing

came before Foran's suspension.

The public hearing to establish cause for Foran's suspension is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 18, at around 7 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

\* \* \*

The hearing will follow a town meeting – scheduled for Monday, Nov. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School – in which members of the public will vote on the appropriation of funds for a water hookup to the Chatham Historical Society.

Another issue that was presented to the council via a letter deals with the bridge that precedes Sexton Hill Road.

Maniscalco said Anna Ruth Sandin Masters, who lives at 10 Sexton Hill Rd., approached him about a month and a half ago regarding bridge maintenance.

Maniscalco explained to the council that in 1989, "the town stopped ownership of the road right before the bridge." He furthered, "It was determined that the bridge needed a significant amount of work. It was only serving one family and it was determined at that time by the Board of Selectmen that they didn't want to move forward with any maintenance on that bridge, nor did they want to continue ownership of the bridge."

Minutes recorded from a 1989 town meeting show that the Sandin family requested the abandonment of their portion of Sexton Hill Road, Maniscalco said.

"So essentially that family has requested the abandonment," he said.

In a letter sent last month from Masters to Maniscalco, Masters stated that when the town abandoned the property, she and her brother "were left with diminished town services and now we find we are increasingly cut off from basic services as large trucks are unwilling to cross the bridge."

The "large trucks" include snow plowing service trucks, trash and oil deliveries, construction vehicles, fire trucks and ambulances, Masters stated. She wrote that she is "concerned" about safety.

The letter went on to request that the town "reverse the abandonment of the road, fix the bridge, plow the short hill in winter and grade it in summer."

According to Maniscalco, Public Works Director Phil Sissick said the task of taking that property back into town ownership would cost "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Members of the Town Council agreed to visit the sight before making any decisions on the matter.

\* \* \*

On Tuesday, the council made the following amendment to membership terms of the fire

department ordinance: "The Town Council may remove any member for cause."

The public hearing to vote on the amendment is set for Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 6:15 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The council also discussed a report on the fire department that was presented at a previous meeting in which JLN Associates presented its findings from its five-month assessment of the East Hampton Fire Department.

At the Oct. 22 council meeting, John Nickerson, a JLN Associates representative, informed the council that the fire department is dealing with a number of "soft issues" that he also felt were "underlying issues that threaten the stability of the fire department."

One concern is internal stability, Nickerson said. In the past 15 years, the fire department has had seven fire chiefs. The consultant recommended that officer positions – like chief, assistant chief and deputy chief – require training to ensure "a strong three-person team at the top," as well as unity, consistency and qualified leaders.

He also recommended that the fire department establish a long-term budgetary plan, which should include some sort of rehabilitation or rebuilding of the fire department facilities.

According to Nickerson, another issue is "division along company lines" – he was referencing the division among company one, company two and station three.

Nickerson said the department as a whole has "trust issues" that may be combated by "a good strategic plan." A strategic plan would, for example, take into account and try to extend the life expectancy of equipment, the presenter said.

But at Tuesday's council meeting, newly-elected council member Phil Vistintainer – who was a member of the fire department for over 50 years, a period that included stints as fire chief and fire marshal – provided some feedback on the report.

"I would like to see a round-table discussion with the fire commission chief and representatives from this board to clarify what I think are some inaccuracies in this and to find out just exactly what we can do to rectify issues that have arisen," Vistintainer said.

\* \* \*

In another ongoing matter discussed at Tuesday's meeting, the development of 13 Summit St. was brought up during public comment.

The proposed plan for 13 Summit St., by East Hampton resident Haim Zahavi, is to turn the currently blighted property into a condo complex made up of 29 units that would be sold, not rented.

Zahavi's plan has been in the works for about two years and his request for access to the vil-

lage center water system was submitted this summer but still hasn't gotten the go-ahead from the town.

According to discussions during previous town council meetings, the town operates the village center water system, and that system currently has 7,000 gallons of excess water. Zahavi is seeking 6,625 gallons of water for his development.

During the public comment of Tuesday's meeting, Cindy Ruth, the chairperson of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), urged the Town Council to go forward with Zahavi's proposal.

She said the EDC voted unanimously in support of the development and its request for the use of the remaining water allotment in the village center.

Speaking on behalf of the EDC, Ruth said, "We believe that the town needs to make provisions to bring water to the village center a priority. We feel strongly that the town has enough water to support this proposal."

Resident Marty Voelker referenced 13 Summit St. during public comment, too. He expressed concern regarding parking.

But according to Maniscalco, Zahavi plans to remove some portions of the building, making way for parking areas.

\* \* \*

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the council voted unanimously to purchase a new Cogent LiveScan fingerprint machine for the police department for a total cost of approximately \$14,000, which is budgeted in capital, according to Maniscalco.

Maniscalco said purchasing a new machine is "a necessity for our [police] department to continue operating." He added that the current machine is "way beyond" its average life expectancy.

Also regarding the police department, the council voted unanimously to buy new in-car computer systems for all eight patrol cars.

Maniscalco said the cost for these new computer systems is approximately \$39,000 and will be covered by the police special revenue account.

Council member George Pfaffenbach said, "That's a good use of the funds."

In Tuesday's final matter regarding the police department, the council decided unanimously to move forward with an agreement in which the East Hampton Police Department will use Yankee Training Facility for weapon training "at no cost to the town," Maniscalco affirmed.

\* \* \*

The next regularly scheduled East Hampton Town Council meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.

## East Hampton Police News

10/18: Jacleen J. Lord, 27, of 116 Middletown Ave., was issued a summons for allowing the operation of an uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

10/27: Aimee Soucy, 25, of 1529 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland, and Wendy S. Gorman, 47, of the same address were both arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, for shoplifting at the East Hampton Stop & Shop, police said.

11/2: Tyler B. Provost, 24, of 201 Hog Hill Rd., was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

11/2: Walter Wadinger, 47, of 803 Lake Vista Dr., was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

## Fatal Crash on Route 66 in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

An East Hampton man was killed in a single-car crash Sunday, Nov. 10, at 12:45 a.m., near the ledges on Portland/Cobalt Road, Portland Police said.

According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, "Responding officers discovered that a 1967 Dodge Dart traveling westbound went across the eastbound lane, striking a dirt/rock embankment. The vehicle continued westbound. The vehicle became airborne while continuing westbound, striking a utility pole and then a tree before traversing down the embankment toward the river approximately 60 feet before it came to a stop."

Both the driver of the vehicle and the passenger were ejected from the vehicle, Cunningham said. The driver, Donald Sorvillo, 52, of 27 Main St., East Hampton, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The passenger, his brother, Robert Sorvillo, of the same address, was flown via LifeStar to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Cunningham said Thursday Sorvillo was in "stable but critical condition."

The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information about the crash is asked to call Portland Police Officer Dave Bond at 860-342-6780.



# New Salon Comes to Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

A trip to 27 Lebanon Ave. could be just what you're looking for – a place to escape from your ordinary routine and unwind. For owner Cindy Klaja, making her clients feel special is a top priority at Escapes Hair Salon & Spa, which she opened in Colchester last month.

The salon offers full hair services for the whole family, including coloring, styling and cutting, as well as something Klaja says sets her apart from the other salons in town: facials, full body waxing, full make-up, lash and brow tinting, manicures and pedicures all under the same roof. The facials range in type from “pumpkin” to “avocado,” and body treatments include lavender or peppermint to a salt glow.

“There’s a salon every two feet in town here so you have to make [clients] feel special,” said Klaja. “I just wanted a fun place where people can come relax and still have the quality of everything.”

And it seems fun is certainly possible while getting pampered at Escapes. Klaja takes pride in making her clients – who she says she “absolutely” thinks of as her friends – feel good. To that end, ordering in pizza, or offering her clients a cup of coffee or glass of wine, is a common occurrence.

“There’s a lot of individual attention here,” said Klaja from within the Lebanon Ave. salon. “It’s all about [my clients.] It’s not a production line. If they need a quiet day, then they get a quiet day from me. If they want to chit-chat, then we chit-chat.”

The new salon is close to the center of town. Its soft orange painted interior offers a bright and inviting setting. It has two rooms, one main room with a lobby/waiting area and three hair dressing chairs, and another room which Klaja says provides a “more individualized” setting for waxing, facials, manicures and pedicures.

The business owner has lived in town since 1999. She was raised in Wethersfield, and is quite knowledgeable about the way salons are run, as her mom, Lorraine Ficara, formerly owned salons in Hartford and Rocky Hill, and currently owns one in Wethersfield.

“I was always tinkering in my mother’s salon and grabbing this and that,” Klaja recalled of her childhood.

Klaja employs just one other hair stylist, Gina Cunningham of Salem. The two are actually old childhood friends who grew up together in Wethersfield. After years apart, the two recently reconnected and realized they both had entered into the same profession. Klaja hired

Cunningham to join her in her new salon, and Klaja said it’s like “we never left off.” Last week the pair agreed hair styling was also something they enjoyed back in high school.

“I was the kid in the high school bathroom that snuck in peroxide and bleach and gave everybody a stripe in their hair,” Klaja said with a laugh. “We all walked around with the big white stripes in our hair.”

The two stylists both hold cosmetology licenses. Klaja worked at Shattered Endz, another salon in town, for six years. Though she said she “really enjoyed” working with the Shattered Endz employees and misses them “to death,” opening up her new salon was an endeavor she said she was ready for. Klaja graduated from the then-Connecticut Institute of Hair Design in East Hartford in 1989. She’s also been an esthetician “for years” and has received several certifications as a result of attending classes about hair product lines to aromatherapy and facial techniques.

Cunningham obtained her cosmetologist’s license in the 1990s. She attended Paul Mitchell School in Rhode Island. Prior to that she was a teacher, though Cunningham said hair styling was always in the back of her mind. In terms of working alongside Klaja, Cunningham said she feels the two have the same intentions when it comes to working with clients.

“We’re really about making the person feel wanted and accepted and hearing what they have to say,” Cunningham explained. “We’re a good team in that sense.”

Escapes Hair Salon & Spa officially opened on Thursday, Oct. 17 and a grand opening followed a few weeks later, on Saturday, Nov. 2, where the two stylists were joined by family members, friends and clients for a celebratory ribbon cutting.

Escapes is offering a whole slate of discounts in honor of the grand opening through the month of November. The discounts include \$5 off of a manicure, a free foot paraffin with a pedicure, \$5 off a men’s or women’s haircut, \$49 facials, as well as a \$95 highlight and haircut special.

Additionally, the salon and spa also caters to clients in need of special attention, such as clients looking to make hair donations, and clients who are battling cancer. Klaja said she is offering free haircuts to clients looking to make a hair donation to the two organizations the business supports – Locks of Love and Wigs 4 Kids. Both are non-profit organizations that collect hair donations to help children and young adults suffering from hair loss as a re-



Owner Cindy Klaja, left, does the honors of the celebratory ribbon-cutting of her new business Escapes Hair Salon & Spa, alongside her mother, Lorraine Ficara of Wethersfield. The salon/spa stands at 27 Lebanon Ave. and offers an array of services.

sult of cancer or a disease.

Klaja is also a volunteer for the Look Good...Feel Better program through the American Cancer Society. The program holds group workshops that teach beauty techniques to female cancer patients dealing with the appearance side effects of cancer.

“There are certain days where these women are going through changes and we help teach them that it’s important to feel good inside and teach them how to have special days through that,” Klaja explained.

Klaja also takes pride in assuring her clients that her salon is clean. The pedicure room is home to pipeless pedicure tubs, she said, meaning the water within the tubs is not circulated.

“It’s very sanitary and eliminates the risk of fungus while still providing all of the luxuries of a pedicure,” she explained.

Having only been open less than a month, Klaja and Cunningham agreed business has been good – and the owner is hopeful that the all-encompassing salon/spa is “really going to grow.”

“We want this to be a place where people

look forward to coming in, and to not think of it as a chore,” Klaja furthered.

And while the pair said making their clients happy is their job, they often find it’s their clients who are putting smiles on their faces, too.

“After a while you really get to know them so it’s very personal,” said Klaja. “You have to be there if somebody’s going through something. You have to be there and support people but that works both ways, they’re happy to see you and they share in all of your happy things going on too.”

Escapes Hair Salon and Spa is a member business of the Colchester Business Association. Walk-ins and appointments are available. The business is closed Sundays. Klaja says she is flexible in the late evenings, specifically on Monday and Thursday nights. She reminds clients that parking is on the side of the building, at 27 Lebanon Ave., as well as street parking available out front.

To schedule an appointment, readers can call 860-215-1323. They can also visit [escapehairsalon.com](http://escapehairsalon.com) for more information.

# Teacher, Administrator Evaluations Boost Morale in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

All school districts in the state were dealt the difficult task of taking on the new state mandate of teacher and administrator evaluations at the start of the current school year.

Though the evaluations have been deemed rigorous by Colchester administrators, a discussion had at Tuesday’s Board of Education meeting indicated the Colchester school district is adapting well to them – and the new evaluations are even boosting teacher morale.

The development of the evaluation system, known as Connecticut’s System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED), began in November 2010, when a committee was formed at the state level to establish evaluation guidelines. Those guidelines weren’t approved by the state Board of Education until June 2012 and districts weren’t expected to begin until the new evaluation system until the 2013-14 school year.

However, Colchester responded fast, and in 2011-12 formed a committee to study the revision of the district’s teacher evaluation process though the state had not made any decisions at the time. The district then came up with an evaluation plan for the observation of teachers, which was approved by the school board in June 2012. In the 2012-13 school year administrators piloted the plan, and continued to improve it based on changes the state was making to its own plan.

Districts in the state then had the ability to adopt the state’s SEED model or to develop their own hybrid model. The Colchester district ultimately adopted its own hybrid model earlier this year.

“The teachers were part of our professional growth and advisory committee for two full years before this even happened,” Director of

Curriculum Barbara Gilbert explained Tuesday to the board. “So we were working in tandem throughout the time to develop our plan.”

Though the evaluations started just a few months ago, the state continues to make changes and ask districts to re-vote on their plans. On Tuesday, Gilbert proposed five changes to Colchester’s hybrid model of SEED and the board unanimously approved them.

Though what seemed to be compelling regarding the evaluations was the discussion that followed about how the district is dealing with the state mandate, which Gilbert said places a “huge overload” on administrators to evaluate 30 teachers three times a year, in addition to at least two meetings before and after the evaluations.

Board of Education member Michael Egan asked if Colchester’s hybrid plan was similar to others in the state. Gilbert said it was “quite similar,” but highlighted one of its “biggest” differences.

“The biggest difference between us and other districts is some districts are doing a third of their staff because that was an option,” Gilbert explained. “We felt it didn’t feel fair to say one third of you get to do all of this work and two thirds of you don’t have to do it.”

Egan furthered the district “didn’t blow it off.”

“You were proactive and I think the board looks at that,” Egan continued. “As a district we weren’t scrambling.”

Gilbert then said the “best thing of all” was that the evaluations have caused “great” conversations between administrators and teachers.

“Teachers are looking for ideas, they’re shar-

ing things much more than they had been,” said Gilbert. “Many, many things about this are causing good things to happen.”

Administrators in the room seemed to agree. “It’s working out better than I had anticipated,” Bacon Academy Principal Mark Ambruso said.

Ambruso, however, did admit it’s been a challenge, mostly for some veteran teachers who “haven’t been observed in 20-25 years.” He explained the evaluations come with new rubrics and documentation.

Mathieu also shared a bit about what he has been hearing from other superintendents in the state. He said that, just Tuesday morning in a meeting with other superintendents, he heard concerns over districts currently evaluating only one-third of its teachers. Mathieu said he was pleased “100 percent of our teachers can have the same conversation with anyone in the building, anyone in the district.”

Board member John Reeve questioned if the evaluations had a negative effect on teacher morale, which he said has been a concern he’s heard of in other districts. Bacon Academy math teacher Laurie Lindsay, seated in the audience, said she felt it had brought the high school’s math department “much closer together.”

“We’re so much more professional,” Lindsay continued. “We seek each other out to help solve our problems. We’ve gone over the rubric in depth to brainstorm ‘well what does this mean?’ So instead of one person having to come up with all the ideas there were 11 of us and I almost feel like we mastered the rubric.”

Jack Jackter Intermediate School Principal Deb Sandberg did, however, admit there’s “also

been a lot of stress” because the observations include lesson plans, data and analyzing. She said these changes also are occurring during the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, another mandate cast by the state to all Connecticut school districts.

“It’s great dialogue and I think eventually it’s going to be great but in the meantime it’s hard,” Sandberg said.

Board members like Mike Egan said he understood a lot of things are changing at the school but concluded “the change is good” and applauded the district for taking it on.

Mathieu commented on the teachers helping each other.

“If nothing else if we walked away today I think this is a home run and it’s working.”

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The board also honored member John Reeve, who opted not to seek re-election this year. This was Reeve’s final meeting, and, Goldstein said, his passion during his time on the board was “truly remarkable.”

“He’s clearly got an interest in making sure the district is on target and on task,” the chairman furthered.

Reeve had nothing but positive things to say about his time on the board.

“This has been an excellent experience,” said Reeve. “I’ve been so thrilled to learn every month the new things students are accomplishing. I’m endlessly impressed by the entire faculty and staff at these schools as well as the administrators. Certainly the board has been helpful to me from minute one and it’s been a real pleasure...I would encourage others to do things like this in the future.”



# Colchester Election Results Hold Up

by **Melissa Roberto**

The final numbers changed slightly, but the winners and losers remained the same after Wednesday's recount of the Board of Selectmen election results.

The recounts showed Republican Stan Soby and Democrat Rosemary Coyle, both incumbents, received 1,618 and 1,376 votes, respectively, each winning another two-year term. Soby was initially appointed to the board in 2006 and has been re-elected in what is now the last four elections he has run in. Coyle was re-elected to serve her fourth consecutive term as a selectman.

Joining the two incumbents are Democrat Michael Caplet and Republican Denise Mizla, whose votes again came in higher than the two remaining nominees, Colchester Independent Party candidates Tearice Peters and Evan A. Evans. Caplet received 1,215 votes in the recount while Mizla was supported by 1,211 voters. As was the case on Election Day, Peters' vote total was quite close to Mizla's. Peters' 1,207 votes were just four away from Mizla's 1,211. Evans, meanwhile, took in 1,169 votes.

Wednesday's recount was primarily caused by the very slim margin – of just two votes – between Mizla and Peters on Election Day. While the recount produced the same winners, the amount of votes candidates received did vary. Soby's 1,618 votes on Wednesday came in two lower than the 1,620 originally tallied on Election Day. Wednesday's recount bumped Coyle and Caplet up one vote each. Mizla saw her Election Day total of 1,209 votes rise by two to 1,211, increasing her margin over Peters, whose 1,207 votes, whose total stayed the same. Evans' 1,169 votes were also reconfirmed Wednesday.

Republican Registrar of Voters Diana Giles said the state requires "all ballots to be visually inspected" during a recount and that was conducted on Wednesday. The registrar explained the purpose is to detect any ballots that may have "inadvertent" or extra markings that may not have been "sufficiently clear" for the tabulator to pick up. Those found in question are then hand-counted.

Giles said a "few" minor ballots were questioned and passed on to the moderator to be counted, in which the public in attendance were able to walk up to the table and watch. Giles said that contributed to the changes in votes.

She further the desire to have all ballots inspected at a recount is "to make sure every voter's intent is honored."

With the results in tact, Mizla said this week she was "very pleased" she will join the Board of Selectmen, and admitted, "Now I really have to get working!"

Mizla, a former registrar of voters, said she was familiar with how a recount works, and felt confident in the results.

"It was a very thorough recount and there was even a representative from the Connecticut Vote organization to watch the procedure," said Mizla.

Peters said Connecticut Vote is a non-profit organization that makes sure the voting process is followed. Peters said the Connecticut Vote representative was brought in to represent her. With such a tight squeeze between the two, Peters said the representative was there "to make sure the integrity of the process went well."

"When you're tied to the process emotionally it's a little harder to be totally objective," said Peters. "To have the eyes and ears there to see things and to be official, it was nice to have him there."

Peters said she was also "fully confident" in the recount. She admitted it's not an easy task for those conducting the recount. Though she did not walk away Wednesday assuming a seat on the Board of Selectmen, Peters said she was "really proud" of the CIP, who became official in each of the boards/commissions CIP candidates ran for.

"We did gain three seats," Peters said of the CIP candidates, adding that "the areas we did lose in we didn't lose by very much at all."

Overall of her loss to the board, Peters said she had "no hard feelings here." Only four votes away from being elected, she said it's always important to remind citizens that "every vote counts."

"It's really important," she concluded, "and I can't stress that enough."

Mizla said she received a "big congratulations" from Peters. She added she feels the newly formed CIP did "very well" in campaigning, and the close votes prove that, she said. The new selectwoman added if the recount did not turn out in her favor, she would have turned toward appointed boards and commissions in town, and hopes those who did not win will take advantage of that.

# Identity Theft On the Rise in Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

In recent weeks, there has been a spike in the number of credit card/debit card identify theft cases occurring in Colchester, affecting at least 15-20 citizens, Sergeant Joseph Mercer, resident trooper supervisor of the Colchester Police Department, confirmed this week.

The fraudulent purchases range from \$2 to \$1,000, Mercer said. He added some of the fraudulent purchases have been made at larger department stores throughout the state.

Additionally, Mercer said some of the fraudulent spending has been common at "a couple" of Colchester businesses. However, he did not identify which businesses because the investigations are ongoing.

Mercer said the alleged victims never lost possession of their debit and/or credit cards.

"Somehow the suspect is electronically capturing their credit card information and generating new cards and making purchases," Mercer explained.

According to a news release at Troop K, six Colchester residents and one Hebron resident reported complaints of "unauthorized debit/credit card charges" last Thursday, Nov. 7. Another case was reported as recently as this past Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Mercer furthered the Colchester Police are currently investigating the cases and has "some leads that we're following up on."

Mercer added the local police department is working with the Eastern Connecticut State Police Major Crime Unit and may seek help from federal authorities. He asks that "everybody be vigilant in checking their credit card payments."

"The best defense is vigilance against this kind of theft," said Mercer. "Unfortunately, if people aren't regularly checking credit card statements there could be a time lapse between the time it occurred and the time it is discovered."

Mercer specified additional ways individuals can prevent identity theft or credit card

theft from occurring: report lost/stolen cards immediately; keep personal information in a secure place; never give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet; do not write personal information like social security numbers or birth dates on checks; do not use obvious passwords/PINs such as birthdates, last four digits of a Social Security number, etc.; never click on links in unsolicited emails; use firewalls and anti-spyware/anti-virus software; guard your mail against theft; remove delivered mail from your mailbox promptly; shred sensitive paperwork containing personal information on it; and to monitor financial accounts and billing statements for unexplained charges or fraud.

Additionally, Mercer recommended that any patrons using their credit/debit cards at a dining establishment should bring their cards directly to the cashier "to try to avoid having the card out of their view where their information can be stolen or scanned."

In terms of what businesses can do to assure the cards they receive are from the card owners, he recommended businesses ask for "a government-issued ID and confirm that the names match."

Mercer also reminded individuals who suspect they are a victim of identity theft or credit fraud to take the following steps immediately: contact your creditors or bank immediately; change PIN numbers and passwords immediately; and to contact a credit bureau to place a "fraud alert" on your credit reports (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion are the three main credit bureaus).

Additionally, Mercer reminds all individuals in these situations can call the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270 or Troop K at 860-465-5400.

For additional information regarding identity theft and credit fraud, long on to the FTC website at [ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft) and the state police website at [ct.gov/despp](http://ct.gov/despp).

# Mathieu's Contract Extended, Salary Raised in Colchester

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday to renew Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu's contract for another three years and to also give him a two percent increase in his salary.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said the contract is a three-year rolling contract, and was retroactive July 1, 2013. The extension takes Mathieu's contract to June 30, 2016.

Mathieu's salary was increased from \$148,000 to \$150,960. Goldstein said he felt Mathieu's extension and salary increase were deserved.

"He had a great first year as superintendent and he had to learn a lot in a quick period of time but he's certainly met all of our expectations so I'm happy the board agreed and unanimously supported renewing it."

Mathieu initially entered the Colchester district as Bacon Academy's assistant principal in 1992. He held the assistant principal position for seven years before assuming the principal of the high school for the next 13 years. In July 2012, the district learned then-Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin had accepted a position out of state and would be leaving the district in January 2013. Mathieu was to assume the superintendent's position upon her departure. However, Loiselle-Goodwin ended up leaving much sooner, and Mathieu took over the role just two days before the start of the 2012-13 school year.

"It was a relatively short transition period, but his familiarity with the district and with

the people of Colchester served him very, very well," Goldstein said. "He's done an outstanding job."

Goldstein furthered Mathieu provided support to the board through the budget process and the ongoing William J. Johnston Middle School/Senior Center/Community Center project that had been a focus in town over the last year.

Mathieu said this week he is "completely thrilled to be working in Colchester."

"This town has a special place in my heart," the superintendent said. "I'm thrilled it was unanimous and I'm happy that I'll be here for another three years."

Looking back at the last 14 months he served as superintendent, Mathieu said he feels it "went well," while adding that there were some "unique challenges." Those challenges included a hurricane and a blizzard, as well as the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, which he said "changed the way we looked at school security."

"It was [a time] where we had to bring the staff together and really the whole community," Mathieu furthered.

Another challenge Mathieu said he endured during his first year as superintendent was "navigating through the teacher evaluations and making sure staff have enough professional development." (A full story about the new teacher evaluations appears in this issue.)

Ultimately, Mathieu said, "It was a great year, but very busy," and he is excited for the next three years ahead.

## Colchester Police News

11/5: Colchester Police were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident into a tree that occurred at Clark Road at approximately 9:40 p.m. Police said the Colchester Hayward Fire Department arrived on scene to extricate the driver, Mark Litwinko, 29, of 14 Diane Ln., from the vehicle. Litwinko was then transported to Backus Hospital for a non-life threatening laceration to the left side of his head. Police said the "distinct odor of an alcoholic beverage" was detected on Litwinko, and further police enforcement is to follow.

11/6: State Police said Danielle A. Petsa, 34, of 72 Route 66, Columbia, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

11/6: State Police said Marion M. Nuccio, 33, of 13 Wetherbee Rd., Pomfret Center, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

11/7: Colchester Police said Robert Eldridge, 49, of 76 Prospect St., was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with a 911 call.

## Marlborough Police News

11/6: State Police said Brandy Gilebart, 27, of 58 Hough Rd., Bozrah, was charged with interfering with a police officer and disorderly conduct.

11/9: State Police said Dominic Bard, 43, of 68 North Quaker Ln., West Hartford, was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane and possession of less than a half ounce of marijuana.

11/10: State Police said Patrick Kempf, 34, of 106 Walnut St., Windham, was charged with misrepresentation of substance as a controlled substance.

11/10: State Police said Timothy M. McCluskey, 46, of 28 Candlewood Dr., Agawam, Mass., was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway.

11/7: State Police said Earl O. Ogarro, 30, of 83 Johnson Rd., Marlborough, was charged with third-degree assault, second-degree threatening and two counts of disorderly conduct.

11/9: Colchester Police responded to Diane Lane at approximately 5:44 p.m. for a fire near the roadway. Two juveniles, both age 16, were located on scene and charged with reckless burning and possession of drug paraphernalia.

11/9: State Police said Donald Congdon, 66, of 144 Meetinghouse Ln., Oakdale, was charged with DUI.

11/10: State Police said Jerry Alarcon, 33, of 383 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to drive in the right lane.

11/12: State Police said Aaron M. Talbot, 42, of 44 Evergreen Terrace, was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, third-degree strangulation and risk of injury to a child.

## Hebron Police News

11/6: State Police said Edward Orzel, 52, of 52a Portland Rd., Marlborough, was charged with violation of a protective order.

11/9: State Police said Raymond Cutler, 37, of 15 Oak St., Willimantic, was charged with DUI and operating a motor vehicle without a license.



# Hebron Resident ‘Quilt Ambassador’ for Charitable Project

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron resident Ian Fagan is, sadly, no stranger to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The 5-year-old was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia more than two years ago, and since that time, his father Patrick said, the hospital has become “like an extension of home.”

Ian, who was diagnosed in April 2011, just a month shy of his third birthday, is going through a treatment process that lasts three and a half years. He has about eight months to go, and his father said that while the treatment is “arduous,” it’s “going well.”

Ian’s initial chemotherapy caused severe side effects such as the inability to walk, crawl, roll over or sit up, but “he’s improving a lot,” Patrick said, explaining Ian participates in physical and occupational therapy.

At 5 years old, Ian currently attends kindergarten, when he’s well enough to do so, and enjoys the same activities any other kid his age might; he loves superheroes, puzzles, playing outside, going on the playscape and exploring. He’s also a big fan of fire trucks, which undoubtedly stems from the fact both his father and his mother, Cindy Links-Fagan, are volunteer firefighter EMTs in town.

But along with all that, the fact remains there’s another not-so-fun activity that’s a part of Ian’s schedule: chemotherapy.

“He faces chemotherapy consistently,” Patrick said. “He goes frequently to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center so it’s a big part of his life.”

Soon, however, Ian will head to CCMC not to receive anything, but to deliver handmade quilts to some of the other children at the hospital, as he’s been dubbed “quilt ambassador” of “Ian’s Gifts 2013,” the latest community service project being held at Close to Home Sewing Center in Glastonbury.

Owner Marilyn Gattinella explained this week the store, which opened in 1982, regularly participates in community service and in

the past they’ve knitted hats for patients, made totes for seniors with walkers and created quilts to donate.

It’s the latter they’re looking to do again, during this weekend’s “patchwork party,” which is open to anyone who’d like to help make quilts for Ian to deliver.

“We already had this project on the docket; we knew we were going to do this,” Gattinella said this week, but the idea to have Ian as the face of the project came after his grandparents paid a visit to the store.

“They told me about their grandchild and I said ‘wouldn’t it be nice to put a face to this [project].’ This little boy could be anybody’s little boy; he could be my grandson,” said Gattinella, who has 11 grandchildren of her own.

And so, after consulting with Ian’s grandparents who then contacted his parents, “they thought it was a great idea.”

“Honestly, I was overwhelmed with the generosity of the store,” Patrick said, adding his family was grateful for the support they’ve received from all aspects of their community. But in regards to Close to Home in particular, “the commitment that they made was more than just the quilts - it was raising awareness and bringing a sense of community together,” he said.

In addition, Gattinella said it’s an opportunity that makes everyone involved feel good.

“The truth of the matter is people feel good when they can do things that benefit someone else,” she said. “People should come because it’s a good cause but more importantly it’s a good feeling knowing you can bring joy to a young person anonymously. It’s good for everybody.”

Gattinella said some of her customers have already told her they’d be willing to make a quilt or have donated fabric for the project along with some of her suppliers. She explained she’ll be putting together quilting kits for the event, complete with “kid friendly” fabrics all with the hope of creating about 30 quilts to deliver.



**Hebron resident Ian Fagan, 5, was named “quilt ambassador” of the latest charitable project being held at Close to Home Sewing center in Glastonbury. Ian, who is currently being treated for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, will deliver handmade quilts to patients at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.**

“Thirty quilts would be a big deal,” she stated. “More than 30 would be a very big deal!”

Because the more that are created, the more children at CCMC Ian gets to deliver a comfy handmade quilt to, which just might help them feel a little bit closer to home.

The event will take place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 16. Gattinella stressed anyone is welcome and no quilting experience is necessary. The store will supply the sewing

machines, fabric and backing and any other necessary supplies however contributions of fabric or cotton batting will be accepted.

Refreshments will be provided by Ginger & Pickles Baking and Catering Co. and Daybreak Coffee Roasters.

Close to Home is located at 2717 Main St., Glastonbury, in the same plaza as Angelo’s Restaurant. Call 860-633-0721 to reserve a spot or for inquiries.

# Get Ready for *The Music Man* at RHAM

by Geeta Schrayter

On Tuesday evening, the RHAM High School auditorium was so empty it echoed. The students rehearsing their lines seemed small, centered on the similarly empty stage. There were no props, there were no costumes, and the front row was comprised solely of co-director Lindsay Halle.

But their presence hinted at things to come. Under Halle’s close watch, the students were rehearsing various scenes – again and again and again – for the RHAM Drama Club’s upcoming performance of the Tony Award-winning play *The Music Man*, Nov. 22-24.

*The Music Man* opened on Broadway in 1957 and won the Tony Award for Best Musical the following year. The performance contains such well-known musical numbers as “Seventy-Six Trombones,” “Ya Got Trouble” and “Till There Was You.”

“This is a classic, well-known show,” Halle said Tuesday. “[Co-director Karl Jancis and I] thought we’ve worked together for long enough that we could do it justice and get a really great audience here – and that’s what we’re hoping for.”

*The Music Man* is based on a story by Meredith Willson and Frank Lacey. The show follows a salesman who pretends to be a band teacher and convinces the parents at an Iowa school to purchase band equipment for their students. The huckster, Harold Hill, tells the parents he’ll teach the students to play their new instruments. In reality, however, he plans to escape the town once the equipment is paid for – but things don’t always go as planned.

Next week, Hill will come to life via senior Dan Busa, who said one of the challenges – but something he’s enjoyed – about this performance is acting as an actor.

“Salesmen are actors,” he said, “so it’s kind of a play within a play.”

Busa, who most recently acted as John the Baptist in AHM Youth and Family Services’ summer performance of *Godspell*, added he was

enjoying the constant energy that ran throughout the show.

“There’s a constant flow,” he said. “There’s not an action break. It keeps going and going and is light and cheery the whole way through.”

Alongside Busa will be junior Kelly Whitesell in the role of Marian Paroo, the town librarian who questions Hill’s credibility – and catches his eye.

Whitesell, who has also acted in such light-hearted roles as Snoopy in RHAM’s 2011 production of *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown* and Reno Sweeney in AHM’s performance of *Anything Goes* last year, said she was enjoying the chance to be more serious.

“I’m enjoying the opportunity to perform in a slightly more serious role,” she said, adding acting as a woman from 1912 meant she had to figure out some era-appropriate traits, which she enjoyed doing.

“I enjoyed reacting in character and coming up with my own 1912-era quirks,” she said. “A woman in 1912 is different than what I’ve done before. It’s definitely been fun.”

Whitesell and Busa are two of a 70-member cast made up of students in grades seven through 12 that Halle called “phenomenal.”

“We have phenomenal kids,” she said, and added with a laugh, “Regardless of how much I may have yelled at them today, they’re very talented – very fun to work with – so we always have a ball.”

This year about 15 members of the cast are new, which Halle said was a “pretty good percentage.” She added despite the age range, somehow the entire cast always seems to “figure it out” and pull the performance together.

But Halle said there’s still work to be done, particularly since *The Music Man* is a performance many will be familiar with.

“Most audience members are going to come in with an idea of what they want to see,” she said. “So making sure that we can do it justice and get all the people’s favorite parts in there



**Dan Busa and Kelly Whitesell spent Tuesday afternoon rehearsing for their upcoming performance in *The Music Man* with the RHAM Drama Club Nov. 22-24. Busa and Whitesell play the part of Harold Hill and Marian Paroo, the show’s lead roles.**

the way that they would like to see them [is a challenge],” she stated.

The cast started rehearsing in the middle of September and Halle said everyone was heading in the right direction, although she admitted she’d probably think there was more work to do after the show had gone on.

“I’ll say there’s a lot left to do on Monday after the show,” she stated. “There’s always more that you wish you could have done [but]

we’re doing ok. Barring a blizzard – knock on wood – we’re on the right track.”

And that right track will lead up to three performances of *The Music Man* and an auditorium that will look quite different from the vacant scene set Tuesday. The performances will take place Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Kids under five are free.



# Fallen Veteran Honored in Portland

by Elizabeth Bowling

A flagpole dedication was held Monday, Veterans Day, in honor of fallen veteran Major Gary R. Grant, U.S. Marine Corps. Grant's family sponsored the dedication at YMCA Camp Ingersoll in Portland in recognition of his military service.

The 30-minute ceremony attracted a crowd of about 40 and included rising a new flag on a new flagpole to honor Grant's memory.

"It's all new; it's all for him," Camp Ingersoll Director Tony Sharillo said.

"I thought it was beautiful ceremony. I was very pleased with the amount of servicemen and women that attended," Sharillo said. "They all were very appreciative."

According to Chris Eigner, the Northern Middlesex YMCA public relations director, Grant earned the Distinguished Flying Cross during his time as a Marine. He was killed in the Philippines on Sept. 14, 1970, when he was ejected from his aircraft 44 miles north of Poro Point.

Eigner said Grant was cited for his daring display of aeronautical skill in trying to rescue a squad of fellow Marines who were trapped on a mountain near Chu Lai, Vietnam. Grant's continuous attacks on the enemy by shallow diving caused the enemy to withdraw, allowing the Marines to withdraw from the trap, Eigner furthered.

Grant was born in Hartford and lived in Cobalt. He personally never attended Camp Ingersoll in Portland, but his three children did,

as well as his nieces and nephews.

According to Sharillo, the Camp Ingersoll flagpole was first dedicated to Grant in July 1971 by his children. The original pole was a 15-foot-high cedar tree with a small memorial plaque. The replacement pole, which was sponsored by Grant's nephew Victor Adler, as well as other members of the Grant and Adler family, is an aluminum pole with an 8.5x11-inch plaque at its base.

The new plaque states, "Dedicated in Memory of Major Gary R. Grant Vietnam DFC United States Marine Corps...By His Children Michael, David & Caryn, His Grandchildren and Rose, Sol and Victor Adler."

Adler's wife, Mary Adler, read aloud a letter Monday written by Grant's daughter, Caryn Grant, who was unable to attend the ceremony because she lives in California.

"When I was a young camper, the flagpole was the heart of Camp Ingersoll," Caryn wrote. "Embedded in the thin tree trunk was a small, rectangular plaque dedicating the flagpole to my father, and every summer a special ceremony took place at the flagpole in honor of my father."

The letter continued, "This new flag pole and dedication to my father's memory is very meaningful to my entire family... For those who didn't know my father, may this flag pole and its dedication be a continued reminder that freedom is a gift provided by all our military men and women past, present and future."



**Fallen veteran Major Gary R. Grant was honored Monday, Veterans Day, with a new flagpole and short ceremony at Camp Ingersoll in Portland. Centered, with their hands over their hearts, are some of Grant's family members, including, at center, Victor and Mary Adler. They are surrounded by local veterans.**

In a concluding remark, Sharillo said, "We're very proud and honored to dedicate the new flag and pole to Major Grant and keep that tradition going."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield called the ceremony "a beautiful service."

She also noted that Camp Ingersoll is "quite an outstanding outdoor facility and to have now an area where the campers can gather and have their pledge of allegiance and have it in honor of a fallen vet is a wonderful and very respectful thing for the YMCA to have."

## Obituaries

### Colchester

#### Marie Ann Tarkowski

Marie Ann Tarkowski, 72, of Norwich, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 6, while at Apple Rehabilitation & Healthcare in Colchester. She was born April 14, 1941, in Norwich, to the late George Lester Walden and Rosemarie (Quercia) Walden.

Marie was last employed by The Convalescent Center of Norwich where she devoted herself to bringing love, smiles and laughter to the residents. Marie was a sweet, kind, generous and beautiful woman, who lit up the room with her presence and smile. Her most favorite person was her granddaughter, Leah Rose Tarkowski. She loved her children, family time, animals, people, a good laugh and telling family stories.

Marie enjoyed decorating her home, gardening, taking ceramics classes, oil painting and reading biographies. She delighted in meeting and interacting with people and was well regarded in the community. Marie exuded love, was loved by so many and will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her son, Keith Tarkowski and his wife Laura and granddaughter Leah Rose Tarkowski of Columbia; her daughter, Stacy Tarkowski and her husband Craig Skigen of W. Hartford; brothers, Arthur Walden of Preston and Clarence Walden of Lisbon; and many beloved nieces, nephews and family friends.

She was predeceased by her son Bruce Tarkowski, brother Eddie Walden, and her sister; Georgianna Walden.

Marie's family would like to thank the caring and loving staff at Apple Rehab. of Colchester, the team at Masonicare, all family and friends who gave their time, love and support, Ross Adult Day Center in Norwich, Norwich Senior Resource Center, Home Care Solutions of Plainfield and Meals on Wheels of Bozrah.

A celebration of life memorial service for family and friends will be held Saturday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m., at Church & Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich. Burial will immediately follow at Bozrah Rural Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the National Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Dean Hwy., Rocky Hill, CT 06067, or to the Humane Society.

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

### East Hampton

#### Catherine J. Goodwin

Catherine J. (Geysen) Goodwin, 75, of Enfield, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, Nov. 3. Catherine was born June 17, 1938, in East Hampton, the daughter of the late Edmond and Etta May (Robinson) Geysen.

She retired from the Town of Enfield where she worked for many years in such capacities as school librarian or cafeteria aide and upon her retirement she was the head cook for Nathan Hale and Alcorn elementary schools, as well as Enfield and Fermi high schools. To say Catherine was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox would be putting it lightly; she was their greatest fan and was elated to see them win this year's World Series.

She is survived by her son, Bill Goodwin and his wife, Gina "Terry" (daughter she never had and best friend) of Southwick, Mass. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Nancy Geysen of East Hampton; a brother-in-law, Robert Goodwin and his wife, Francine of Cromwell; several cousins and many dear friends, especially Bob Kiebish of Enfield; and her cat Dewey, whom she treasured.

Catherine was predeceased by her husband, William H. Goodwin, III and a brother, Edmond Geysen.

There are no calling hours for Catherine. Relatives and friends are welcome to join in a memorial service today, Nov. 15, at 4 p.m., at the Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, 61 South Rd., Enfield. Burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Catherine may be made to the Westfield Homeless Cat Project, 1124 East Mountain Rd., Westfield, MA 01085.

For online expressions of sympathy or directions, visit [leetestevens.com](http://leetestevens.com).

### Portland

#### Dorothy Reiman

Dorothy (Sullivan) Reiman, 87, formerly of Portland as well as Aspen Drive, Middletown, and wife of the late George E. Reiman, died Saturday, Nov. 9, at Wadsworth Glen in Middletown. She was born in Holyoke, Mass., on Dec. 2, 1925, daughter of the late Patrick and Mary (Moriarty) Sullivan.

Dorothy had been a resident of Portland and Middletown after her marriage to George on Sept. 25, 1948. She worked for many years at JC Penny in Meriden. She was a member of St. Mary Church in Portland and more recently St. Pius X Church in Middletown.

Dorothy is survived by her sons, David G. Reiman of Middletown and Mark E. Reiman of Higganum; her daughter, Margaret Grover of Middletown; three grandchildren, Vanessa Tavares and Christine and Melissa Grover and two great-grandchildren, Cole and Jacob Tavares. She is also survived by her sister, Mary Reagan of Holyoke, Mass.; her brother-in-law, William J. Reiman of Middletown; and by several nieces and nephews, both in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

She was predeceased by two sisters, Patricia Higgins and Katherine Donovan.

Funeral service will be private with burial at State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown. There are no calling hours.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).



# Obituaries

## Amston

### Paul Francis Serra

Paul Francis Serra, 90, of Amston, beloved husband of Helen (Spada) Serra, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Aurora Senior Living Center in Cromwell after an extended convalescence. Born Aug. 28, 1923, in Portland, he was a son of the late Joseph and Josephine (DiMauro) Serra.

Paul served in the U.S. Army with the 788th Tank Battalion during World War II. He received seven Bronze Service Stars, an Invasion Star and the highest medal of the country of Philippines. He was member of the VFW 1724 in Willimantic and the DAV and had worked as a machinist in the area for many years before his retirement.

Paul brought music into the family home; by teaching and playing his guitar and harmonica. He continued to play is harmonica until his passing. He enjoyed country music, bringing his wife dancing, as well as farming and gardening. Most importantly, he loved spending time with his family.

In addition to his loving wife of 67 years, he is survived by five children Jeanne (Serra) Zacchio and husband John of Thomaston, Paul Jr. of Plainfield, James of Lebanon, Joseph of Amston and Lynn (Serra) Ristau of Willington; 21 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; one sibling, Joanne Formica of Portland; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by two children, Paulette Rudder and Francis Paul Serra; and 10 siblings.

Funeral services with burial in the New Hebron Cemetery were observed on Saturday, Nov. 9, and were entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

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

## Portland

### Allen E. Pudvan

Allen E. "Dutzy" Pudvan, 79, of Portland passed away Saturday Nov. 9, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation after a lengthy illness. Allen was born in Bay City, Mich., son of the late Edith and Francis "Fudge" Pudvan.

Allen graduated from Michigan Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1956. He moved to Connecticut with his wife in 1960 starting his 33 years of service with Pratt and Whitney in both the Middletown and East Hartford plants as an engineer. He and his wife also owned and operated a local package store for a number of years.

Allen was a jack of all trades, willing to try anything at least once and succeeding at most everything he did. He enjoyed woodworking, photography and gardening. He traveled extensively with his wife and had a fondness for history particularly the battles of World War II and he was also a devoted husband and father.

Allen is survived by his wife of 53 years, Joyce Pudvan of Portland, his daughter, Malinda Pudvan of Portland; his sisters-in-law, Frances Pudvan of Bay City, Mich., and Jean King of Jackson, Mich.; a brother-in-law, Jerry King, and his wife, Carroll of Jackson, Mich.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Francis "Bibs," two sisters, Judith and Carol, and by a brother-in-law, Kenneth King.

Allen's family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all the nurses, aides and other staff of Portland Care and Rehabilitation for the wonderful care and love you gave Allen. We cannot thank you enough.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in Allen's name may be made to Portland Care and Rehabilitation 333 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, has care of arrangements.

## East Hampton

### Antonina Ellen Pescatello-Marsie Soriano

Antonina "Nina" Ellen Pescatello-Marsie Soriano, 29, of Comstock Trail, died unexpectedly from a rare heart failure Sunday, Nov. 10, at Hartford Hospital.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Huntington Street, New London. The family will receive relatives and friends from 4-7 p.m. today, Nov. 15, at the Thomas L. Neilan & Sons Funeral Home, 12 Ocean Ave., New London.

A full obituary will appear in a later edition of the *Rivereast*. Visit [neilanfuneralhome.com](http://neilanfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Raymond Emil Rock

Raymond Emil Rock, 83, of Colchester, beloved husband of Alice (Savoie) Gagnon, passed away Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, at home, surrounded by his loving family. Born June 6, 1930, in Suffield, he was a son of the late Rhea Gloria (Fortune) Hyde-Bryan.

Mr. Rock served proudly with the U.S. Army both prior to and during the Korean War. He worked tirelessly as a self-employed highway engineer for many years before his retirement.

A memorial liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. today, Nov. 15, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Rendering of full military honors will follow Mass. There are no calling hours. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Robert Kowalski

Robert Lawrence Kowalski, 67, of Colchester, beloved husband of Teresa (Kobelski) Kowalski, passed away Sunday, Nov. 10, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Born Dec. 30, 1945, in Norwich, he was a son of the late Leo Lawrence and Dorothy (Read) Kowalski.

Bob was a 1963 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester. He had worked as a machinist at Pratt & Whitney for 36 years before his retirement.

Bob loved all sports. He played on and coached many softball teams in the area and had also coached many Little League teams in Colchester. His proudest moment was when he was inducted into the Connecticut Softball Hall of Fame in 2000.

In addition to his loving wife of 26 years, Terry, he is survived by two children, Jason Kowalski of Groton and Tara Kowalski of Colchester; four grandchildren, Jordan, Emily and Leo Kowalski and Jayden Danaher; two siblings and their spouses, Jeffrey and Kathy Kowalski of Baltic and Linda and James McGee Virginia; his mother-in-law, Joan P. Kobelski of Oakdale; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

He was also predeceased by a daughter, Kristin Kowalski Danaher; and a grandson, Dylan Robert Kowalski.

Friends called Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Nov. 14, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Robert Kowalski Memorial Fund, c/o The Savings Institute, 63 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## Colchester

### Richard Korenek

Richard Korenek, 28, of Colchester, beloved husband of Samantha (Walders) Korenek, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Nov. 8. Born June 18, 1985, in the Slovak Republic, he was a son of Jozef Korenek and Vlasta Korenek Cvachová.

He studied at the Masarykova Univerita in the Czech Republic. Richard came to the United States in pursuit of love and happiness in 2006 – he and Samantha were married in August of 2007 at Harkness Memorial State Park.

He worked at System Solutions LLC in Glastonbury as a computer software engineer for six years; and was proud to be a provider for his wife and children.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he leaves a son, Noah Richard Korenek; three stepchildren, Tanessa, Marettl and Mariah Pabon; his brother, Roman Korenek; his grandmother, Helena Cvachová rod. Saksová; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family will receive guests from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service will be observed at 3:30 p.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made "In Memory of Richard Korenek", c/o The Savings Institute, 63 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## East Hampton

### Kenneth Jordan

Kenneth "Wayne" Jordan, 58, of East Hampton and formerly of Guilford, passed away Monday, Nov. 11, at Hartford Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He leaves his loving wife of 16 years, Patricia (Donahue) Jordan; his mother, Rosa (Macias) Jordan of Summerville, S.C.; two children, Adam Jordan and wife, Jessica of Meriden and Michael Rundo of East Hampton; his sister, Rosemary Fulton of Summerville, S.C.; his twin brother, Edward, and wife, Mary, of Summerville, S.C.; two grandchildren, Haley Rae and Atreyu Wayne Jordan; his former wife, Cindy Jordan of Meriden; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his father, Edward Jordan; and a son, K. Wayne Jordan, Jr.

Wayne worked as a working unit leader at Pratt & Whitney in Middletown for the past 39 years. He was a member of the Polish Falcons in Middletown and enjoyed the outdoors, billiards, darts, music and riding his motorcycle. Memories of his love and zest for life, uplifting personality, contagious smile and unforgettable laugh will be cherished by many for years to come.

The family received guests Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service followed. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

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

## Colchester

### William David Prior

William David Prior, 58, of Colchester, beloved husband of Priscilla (Dean) Prior, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 12, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born May 20, 1955 in Hartford, he was a son of the late Frank and Ruth (Wilbraham) Prior.

Bill was the owner and operator of Allied Cash Registers for many years. In his spare time, he was an avid reader, loved to hunt and fish and was a fan of the New York Yankees and Dallas Cowboys. He was also a past member of the Colchester Lions.

He leaves his loving wife of 28 years; three children, Christina, Matthew and Jason; three siblings and their spouses, Diane and Tony Fornuto of South Windsor, Charles and Irene of Wethersfield and Alan and Lucy of Windsor; Priscilla's family – parents, George and Doris Dean of West Hartford, and siblings, Daniel and Cindy of New Hampshire, Robert and Gloria of Newington, Carol and Mark Gilbert of Marlborough, George of California, James of West Hartford and Jacqueline and John Kiefel of Pennsylvania; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

The family will receive guests 5-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will gather starting at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the funeral home, before an 11 a.m. chapel service.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, P.O. Box 5037, Hartford 06102 or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

## Colchester

### Mary Ann Born

Mary Ann (Moumbow) Born, 87, of Pukallus Avenue, Norwich, died Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Harrington Court Healthcare Center in Colchester. Mary was born in Norwich Oct. 21, 1926, daughter of the late Edward Joseph Moumbow and Mary T. (Bobsein) Moumbow.

She attended school at St. Mary's School in Greenville and the Norwich Free Academy. On Sept. 24, 1949, she was united in marriage to Louis F. Born at St. Patrick's Church in Norwich by Father Mitchell. Mr. Born predeceased his wife on Jan. 25, 1988.

Mary was a communicant of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Norwich, later she attended St. Mary's Church in Norwich. She was a member of the 050 Club, Connecticut Council of Catholic Women, Connecticut State Employee Association and the VFW Auxiliary 594 for 71 years. Mrs. Born worked for many years in retail including the Debutante store, Reid and Hughes Store and Nadicks.

Mary is survived by several nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Nov. 13, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Norwich. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery in Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 181 Elizabeth St., Norwich, CT 06360, or Center for Hospice Care 227 Dunham St. Norwich, CT 06360.

To share a condolence with the family, visit [cumplings-gagnefh.com](http://cumplings-gagnefh.com).

## Andover

### Solange Fournier

Solange (Dube) Fournier, 83, was called to be reunited with her late husband, Levi, Wednesday evening, Nov. 6. Born in Stockholm, Maine, June 23, 1930, she was the daughter of Paul and Emily Dube.

Solange and Levi wed in 1949 and lived in Limestone, Maine until moving to Andover in 1964. After many fond years of living, working and raising their family, Solange and Levi retired in 1982. In 1984, they decided to move to Palm Bay, Fla., where Mum enjoyed many sunny warm winters in her new home. She especially liked her Florida room, swimming pool, visits by her grandchildren (especially at Christmas time), and was surrounded by many friends and family.

Solange and Levi returned to Andover in 2006 to spend their remaining years close to family, especially their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Solange was predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Levi, her sister Rolande and brother-in-law Mitch, and her brother, Ivan Dube.

She will be greatly missed by her family, which includes: her sister Fern Plourde, son Paul Fournier and his wife Erin, daughter Anna Parkington and her husband Allan, and son Ivan Fournier. Solange was gifted with six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, Nov. 16, at 11 a.m., at St. Maurice Church, 32 Hebron Rd., Bolton. Burial will follow in Townsend Cemetery, Andover.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20004 or to the Connecticut Humane Society 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

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

## Colchester

### Barbara Prior Mitchell

Barbara Prior Mitchell, 81, beloved widow of Herbert T. Mitchell, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Nov. 7, at Middlesex Hospital after a brief illness, surrounded by her loving family. She was born May 16, 1932, in Manchester, the eldest of 10 children, to the late Henry and Edith Sargeant Prior.

She graduated from Manchester High school. After moving to Glastonbury in 1950, she later resided at Lake Hayward for many years.

Mrs. Mitchell was employed by Green Manor Estate and First Hartford for several years. She was active in the Lake Hayward Association and an avid supporter of the Goodspeed Opera House. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother as well as a friend to many.

She is survived by a daughter, Dawn Mitchell of Colchester; two grandsons, Scott Wissler and his wife Erin, John Wissler and his wife Stephanie; and four great-grandsons that she loved dearly. Barbara also leaves behind her brothers, Charles Prior of Coventry and George Prior of Putney, Vt., in addition to several nieces and nephews. She will be missed by lifelong friends Janet Richards Fairbanks, Mary Comollo, and Corky Colucci.

Barbara was predeceased by Herbert, her husband of 42 years; a daughter, Karen M. Wissler, and brothers Frank, Doug, Richard, David and Bruce; and her sisters, Ruth and Judy.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m., at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Green Cemetery, Glastonbury.

Memorial donations in Barbara's memory may be made to: Colchester Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

To leave online condolences, or visit Barbara's tribute, visit [GlastonburyFuneral.com](http://GlastonburyFuneral.com).

## Hebron

### Maryann Caine

Maryann Caine suffered a brief illness and passed away Thursday, Nov. 7. She was born in Manhattan, N.Y., and was the daughter of the late Steve Garger and Anna Garger. She graduated from RHAM High School in Hebron.

She had a 40-year career with CIGNA health insurance in Connecticut. She has been retired since 2001. She had several hobbies including sewing, gardening, and great love for her dogs.

She is survived by her mother, Anna Garger; a sister, Helen Fuller and her husband Alan; son George Caine III and his wife Melissa; daughter Lori L. Czarnecki and her husband Rick; and three beloved grandchildren, Alexis Caine, Jacob and Sophia Czarnecki.

The funeral and burial will be private. Donations in her memory may be made to ASPCA Tribute, 520 Eighth Ave., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Firtion-Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St., Westfield, MA, is in charge of arrangements.