

RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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**Meet Blizzie...** Colchester residents Donna and James Ambrosia look at their new daughter Elizabeth, after her big entrance into the world was made inside of an ambulance on the way to the hospital during the peak of the blizzard on Friday, Feb. 8. The story of Elizabeth's birth was detailed in last week's *RiverEast*. Due to the snowy circumstances of Elizabeth's birth, the couple has taken to calling her "Blizzie." Photo courtesy of Backus Hospital

## For Donna McCalla, Greece is the Word

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron volunteer extraordinaire Donna McCalla always knew she'd end up in another country.

As an 8-year-old living in Alice, Texas, McCalla informed her parents she was going to become an expatriate. She'd told them she knew what the word meant from a book she'd read – the Cambridge Dictionary defines it as "someone who does not live in their own country" – and she "just knew" it fit her.

The first time she went to Europe, McCalla funded the trip by working four jobs and saving money in a Folgers coffee can. That initial trip would become one of many, as McCalla traveled to "an awful lot" of destinations where she'd wonder "is this the place?"

Eventually, she realized "the place" was Greece. She kept going back to visit, she explained Wednesday, and said the first time she landed in Athens she felt the weight of the world lifting off her shoulders. Then, when she landed on the Greek island of Rhodes, she said it felt like she was coming home.

And so, "home" is exactly what McCalla is making it. She's taken up a two-year-lease on a house, and on March 12, she'll be heading over with 80 pounds of belongings (the most allowable) in preparation for her Aug 30 retirement and the use of her one-way ticket on Sept. 12.

But since 1992 it's been Hebron, not Greece, that's held the "home" title in McCalla's life. McCalla came to town during a period when she said she was ready to settle down and become involved with her community. As a child she'd always been involved – "to a great ex-

tent, in Texas that's all there was to do," she said – and in all the years of going to school and working since then, she'd missed that involvement. But when she drove into Hebron, she felt as though she'd found a place where she could do those things once more.

"The town felt right," she said. "The people felt right; everyone was very open and welcoming. I really like the people I got involved with, and everybody was different. ... It was just fun to meet such a vast diversity of people in such a small town."

And the more she got to know those people, the more interested she became in being involved. Over the years, McCalla has been on the Hebron Historical Society, the Hebron Historic Properties Commission, the Board of Finance, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Parks and Recreation Commission and was a member of the original Hebron Women's Club. She has also been president of the Republican Town Committee.

"Just a lot of different committees and commissions in town," she said. "I probably couldn't even remember all of them."

Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz said McCalla has put a lot of effort into getting historic buildings in town restored or "on the map."

"Her contributions to Hebron's history are just amazing," she said.

In the time McCalla has lived in town, Pomproicz said she's accomplished "more than anyone else I know as far as historic preservation."

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## Epoch Kicking Off Women's History Month

by Joshua Anusewicz

March will mark the kickoff of National Women's History Month, which ensures that the history of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces and communities throughout the country. This year's theme is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination," and perhaps nowhere will that theme be on display more than Epoch Arts in East Hampton.

Every weekend in March, Epoch Arts has planned a different program geared toward women, both young and old, beginning with the premiere of *We As Women*, a one-act play written and performed by members of Epoch's girls group Breaking Silences. The play is under the direction of Epoch Arts staffers Elizabeth Namen, Rachel Martin and Britta Gustafson.

*We As Women* – the title is taken from a poem written during the era of women's suffrage – is based on the struggles that women have faced throughout history contrasted with the issues that women face today. Namen, Epoch's theatre director, said the girls, all between grades six through 12, chose women throughout history that have inspired them and incorporated

their struggles to similar struggles that women face today.

"I wanted them to learn something from this play," Namen said. "If they learn more about these issues, they care more and don't take these things for granted."

The play begins with the girls as the young teens they are today, but each one eventually goes back in time to learn that the "problems" they face today pale in comparison to problems women faced in the past. For example, girls who complain about going to school are sent back to a time when women couldn't achieve an education, and two bullies are sent back to the Holocaust, when minority women were insulted and dehumanized.

The play also touches upon current women's issues, Namen said, including the story of Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai, an education activist who was shot by Taliban members for fighting for the rights of women to attend school.

The lessons from the play, Namen said, are already working. "I've had girls come in and say, 'I hate school; I don't want to go today,'" she said. "I just hand them the script."

See History Month Page 2



Epoch Arts will celebrate National Women's History Month with a number of programs throughout March, including an original play, *We As Women*, written and performed by a group of girls from Epoch Arts. The cast of the one-act play includes, from left, Saige Grace-Lang, Julia Anderson and Nana'aba Dougan.

**McCalla cont. from Front Page**

"That has been her passion, although I think her bigger passion now is Greece," Pomprowicz laughed, calling McCalla "a force to be reckoned with."

"When she gets an idea and she wants to do something, she gets it done," Pomprowicz furthered. "She makes up her mind, comes up with an idea and works hard until it's complete. When she takes on a project she doesn't settle for anything less than terrific."

Town Manager Andy Tierney called McCalla "very energetic" and "very-strong willed."

"You always know where you stand with her. She doesn't hold back," he said, adding, "I think she always had what was best for Hebron at heart at all times."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said McCalla was someone who had "stepped up to the community to show how committed they are from a volunteer standpoint."

"She's an extraordinary person with extraordinary energy," he said.

Like Pomprowicz, Watt commented on McCalla's involvement with town history, but also mentioned her involvement with politics "and giving a voice to people who weren't necessarily being listened to."

"She is one of the few people that have probably gone way above and beyond what you'd expect an individual to do as far as stepping up and showing community," he said. "If everybody was as active as her, that would be pretty incredible."

But now, McCalla plans to focus a little less on being active, and a little more on relaxing – even though she admits that's a somewhat foreign concept.

"I never thought I'd see myself retiring, but to be honest, working like this has gotten ridiculous," she said. "It was time to say 'enough,' but at the same time, I worked since I was 8, so it's kind of scary to think about the concept of retiring. It means what? Sleeping late?"

During her last three-day weekend, McCalla still got up at 3 a.m. "because I always do." But before long, the leisurely lifestyle is bound to take hold, which is exactly what she wants.

"I'm just at a stage in my life where I need to



**After more than 20 years in town, volunteering in various capacities, Donna McCalla is pulling up stakes and heading to Greece.**

sit back and relax," she said. "I feel the need to write, too. I have several book ideas in my mind. ... I'm going to retire in the true sense of the word, meaning 'no more - I'm done.'"

However, Hebron hasn't seen the last of McCalla. She'll be back – and she quipped that her life abroad will ensure she never gets boring.

"I'll be coming back every 90 days, and one of the things I told my friends is I'm kind of excited about this arrangement because when I come back I won't be a boring old lady; I'll have things to talk about. Then in Greece they want to know what's happening here so I won't be a boring old lady there," she laughed, adding her new arrangement afforded her "the best of both worlds."

**History Month cont. from Front Page**

Namen said the play is "a lot of abstract," but that the abstract fits the mold of what they do at Epoch, where kids learn and express themselves through various forms of art. The "girls' play," as Namen called it, is one of the more challenging programs at Epoch, with a good amount of dialogue, but Namen said she is "excited about it this year."

Another part of the upcoming month that Namen is excited about is quite the distinction for Epoch Arts. On Saturday, March 16, Epoch Arts will host LUNAFEST, a national film festival that celebrates short films from female directors. Epoch was just one of two places in the state, along with the University of Connecticut in Storrs, to earn the right to host the festival.

Namen said she was urged to apply to host the event by Wendy Regan, the director of East Hampton's Youth and Family Services department. Sending in the request on a whim, Namen said she was shocked when she heard that Epoch had earned a spot.

"We got it!" Namen said happily. "I was blown away by it."

LUNAFEST will feature 10 films that cover a variety of topics, including relationships and self-expression. During the day, Epoch will also feature live entertainment, food, and a number of booths dedicated to women. And the best part,

Namen said, is that all proceeds raised go to The Breast Cancer Fund, a national charity.

March will also bring two other programs. One of the programs will feature Love 146, an initiative that seeks to end child sex slavery and exploitation, a major problem throughout the world, including in some areas of Connecticut, according to Namen. Epoch, which has several of its staff members on a Love 146 taskforce, will feature a guest speaker that educates young women on the topic.

The other program will be a retreat weekend called "Me, Myself and Mom," which will take girls and their parents to Chester for a weekend together.

The month will kick off with We As Women, on March 1 and 2, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. The "Me, Myself and Mom" program will be from Saturday, March 9, at 9:45 a.m. to Sunday, March 10, at 10 a.m. Cost is \$70 for two, but spaces are limited. LUNAFEST will be held on Saturday, March 16; doors open at 4 p.m., with show time at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The Love 146 program will be held on Wednesday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Epoch Arts is located at 27 Skinner St. For more information on Epoch and its programs, visit [epocharts.org](http://epocharts.org) or call 860-365-0337.

## From Uniques to Antiques, Hebron's Piece of Mine Has it All

by Geeta Schrayter

There's a new business in town – although not everything inside meets the dictionary definition of 'new.'

Still, Hampton resident Earle Woodworth said whatever's found in Piece of Mine, the consignment shop he opened with his wife Jessica, is good quality, with something for everyone.

The "upscale consignment shop," as Woodworth referred to it, is located in the building at 7 Liberty Dr. that used to house the children's consignment shop Emma's Closet. The store consists of gleaming wood floors, large windows that send sunlight streaming in, and pretty chandeliers. A candle on the counter keeps the air fresh and fragrant. The items up for sale – and there are many – are arranged in a way that makes the store open and airy, something Woodworth said they purposely aimed for.

In order to prepare for running their own consignment store, Woodworth said he and his wife traveled to different consignment shops around the state and spoke with individuals who frequent them to find out what they liked and didn't like. As a result, they determined many consignment stores were too stuffy, and tended to smell a bit musty from clothes that had long been kept in storage.

And so, they made sure Piece of Mine is neither of those things. With plenty of room to walk around, customers are able to easily peruse a wide variety of items. There are accessories like pocketbooks and wallets, scarves and jewelry. There are pictures, books, poker sets, linens, pieces of furniture and housewares – many that are brand-new wedding gifts that didn't make the cut. From the unique – like a duck sculpted from newspaper – to the antique – like a 100-year-old table – the items at Piece of Mine run the gamut.

"There's a wide variety of everything," he said. "We don't limit ourselves."

And then, of course, there's clothing. Woodworth said the clothing is either new or gently used. Many items still have the original price tags, like a \$300 coat that had been marked significantly down. The sizes available run from petite up to 3X.

"There's a good selection of clothing for

everyone," he stated, including a "pretty decent" selection of men's wear, which Woodworth said isn't always the case in consignment shops. There are men's sweaters, shirts, jeans, pants, jackets and beyond, and "we're trying to expand but [customers are] just buying the items as fast as we put them out."

And that's the thing with a consignment shop, he said; if you see something you like, you better grab it while you can.

"It changes weekly," Woodworth said.

With quality goods and appealing prices, often times customers who don't purchase an item they like will come back to find it's been bought by someone else.

"You have to grab it while it's here," he said.

But for one customer on Tuesday, that wasn't the case. As she entered the store, she inquired about a cookie jar she had seen on a previous trip. The jar, she said, was the same one her children had when they were younger that she couldn't believe she'd found. After consulting with her daughter she was told to go back and get it – and luckily, it was still there.

"That's what makes it all worth it," Woodworth said. "It's such a good feeling."

When the work day is done, Woodworth said it's little moments such as the customer and the cookie jar that he and his wife will talk about at home.

"We just love what we're doing," Woodworth said. "We love that."

So far, Woodworth said the response to the store has been positive.

"The response has been really, really good and supportive," he said. "There are many repeat customers since there's always something new and because we feature a bit of everything."

And a customer who was perusing the items Tuesday wholeheartedly agreed.

"I like the variety," Candace Treadway of Lebanon said, adding the store had "great things."

"They had a beautiful quilt I bought for my 4-year-old daughter," she said. "The clothing, the prices – it's just phenomenal. It's just very nice."

As for the store's location, Woodworth said he and Jessica were familiar with Hebron and felt it had everything they were looking for, with



**At Piece of Mine, the new consignment shop in Hebron, new and gently-used items like clothes, accessories, furniture and house wares can be found for the savvy shopper looking for reasonably-priced quality items.**

the amount of traffic and the close proximity to Route 2.

"Hebron is just a nice town. It's an up-and-coming town and we wanted to be a part of that growth," he said. "Hebron is a very happening place."

Woodworth added he and his wife had always wanted to go into business together, and with five children, over the years they'd been to a number of estate and tag sales. Those two facts combined pointed the Woodworths in the direction of a consignment shop.

"We were always looking for good items at reasonable prices, and we always wanted to go into business together," he explained. "We wanted to have a consignment shop where we could have that."

And now, that's exactly what they've got.

Currently, customers who head to Piece of Mine will find a sale on winter sweaters and jackets: an additional 25 percent off. And this Saturday, the store will be holding an open house in conjunction with Liberty Square Collectibles at 105 Main St. Held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the event will celebrate the opening of Piece of Mine and feature refreshments at both locations, sales and free raffles. At Liberty Square Collectible's, a \$50 gift certificate will be raffled off, while at Piece of Mine, there will be a raffle for a spring gift basket.

Piece of Mine is closed Monday, and open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Thursday the store is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The store can be reached at 860-530-1632.



The Andover Volunteer Fire Department showed off its new ambulance at a gathering at the firehouse last Saturday morning. The fully-equipped vehicle was purchased for \$181,000, with money generated from the department's ambulance billing fund. The ambulance it replaces had served the town since 2005.

## Andover Fire Department Unveils New Ambulance

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Saturday, the Andover Volunteer Fire Department showed off the latest addition to its fleet of rescue equipment: a shiny new ambulance. Members of the department as well as some residents and town officials chatted and enjoyed pastries while the ambulance stood on display in the background.

Fire Chief Ron Mike explained the ambulance, a 2013 LifeLine on a GMC chassis cab, was purchased for \$181,000 from Eastford Fire and Rescue Sales, Inc. And Andover residents can rest assured they're getting the biggest bang for their buck – especially considering the purchase came at no cost to the taxpayers.

"This purchase was made through money generated from the ambulance billing fund at no cost to the residents of Andover," Mike wrote

in a press release. "This fund was set up 10 years ago and was earmarked for the purchase of medical and rescue equipment, ambulance maintenance and ambulance replacement."

Mike explained the last ambulance bought with tax dollars was in 1995. That ambulance was then replaced in 2005 with a LifeLine Ford Ambulance bought and donated by a town resident. That ambulance, Mike furthered, had begun to experience costly repairs in the last year, "thus requiring replacement." The new ambulance should provide 8-10 years of service.

"I think it's great," First Selectman Bob Burbank said of the purchase. "The ambulance is one of the key parts of the town as far as rescue is concerned. It's used far more than any other piece of equipment."

Burbank added the town should be grateful to have such dedicated emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

"Basically they're all volunteers giving a lot of time, both for the calls and the amount of training that they have to go through," he said. "If it wasn't for this dedicated fire department and EMTs the cost to the taxpayers would be far greater."

"I think it's marvelous and it isn't costing the taxpayers one dime," added Board of Finance Chairwoman Georgette Conrad. "I am so pleased with this."

Assistant Fire Chief Mindy Hegener said the town was fortunate the department was able to make the purchase.

"I just think that we're very fortunate that

we were able to replace it when it needed to be replaced," she said. "It benefits everybody – it's not for us [the EMTs]. I think the town is lucky."

Fire Captain Jen Whitcomb said the process of purchasing the new ambulance wasn't one that was done hastily.

"This has been an ongoing project for two years," she said. "We had a committee, and we found an ambulance to be similar to the other one so we could continue to provide good care to the town."

"The members of the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. are donating this ambulance to the residents of Andover," Mike added. "As always the Fire Department members appreciate the support of the town's people in all that we do."

## Plaza Suite Comes to Goff House in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

With a little something for everyone, the local community theatre group Podium Players' latest production of *Plaza Suite* is sure to please when it premieres this weekend at the Goff House in the Village Center.

The play was written by Tony Award-winner Neil Simon, who also penned *The Odd Couple*, *Barefoot in the Park* and *Biloxi Blues*, all of which went on to become hit movies after their theatre runs. *Plaza Suite* itself was also adapted into a 1970 film, *The Out-of-Towners*, which starred Jack Lemmon.

Podium Player's version will be produced by a theatre legend in his own right, albeit at a local level: David Schwartz. Involved in local productions since 1969, Schwartz first worked at the middle and high school level, where he produced and directed over two dozen Broadway plays. Schwartz was then instrumental in bringing Podium Players to East Hampton, directing the group's first two plays.

After taking over a decade off for family reasons, Schwartz returned to Podium Players in 2011, when he produced *My Fair Lady*.

Knowing a thing or two about theatre productions, Schwartz said Monday that the three-act *Plaza Suite* will boast possibly the best, most experienced cast he's worked with – one that's continued to get better.

"This is the most talented cast we've had," he said of the small, nine-member cast. "And it's an exceedingly talented cast."

The talented and experienced cast has allowed Schwartz to put all of his focus on the production, leaving the directing of the three acts to three of his talented cast members:

Michelle Falco, Jim Kane and Christine Hopkins.

In the first act, *Visitor from Mamaroneck*, directed by Falco, the story focuses on a struggling married couple, Sam and Karen Nash, played by Ed Hobson and Gwen Lawson. In an attempt to rekindle their marriage, the Nashes return to their honeymoon suite, where they instead break into an argument and Sam's secrets are revealed.

Hobson said the dialogue of the first act packs a punch. "It starts slowly with trivial arguing, but builds to an emotional crescendo," he said.

In the second act, *Visitor from Hollywood*, Kane, who also directs, plays Jesse Kiplinger, a Hollywood producer who comes to woo former high school flame and housewife Muriel Tate, played by Allison Mohler. Schwartz said Kiplinger comes off as "sleazy," but the audience is left wondering if he truly loves Tate – and if Tate is as innocent as she seems.

The final act is a farce, Schwartz said, featuring Norma and Roy Hubley, played by Hopkins and Jim Hetrick, who are preparing on their daughter Mimsey's wedding day. Mimsey gets cold feet and locks herself in the bathroom, as hilarity ensues.

"[Mimsey] thinks, 'Is this really what I want to do?'" Schwartz said. "But it's very humorous."

Schwartz said that, like most of Simon's works, *Plaza Suite* is "very unique" in that it mixes creative dialogue with storylines that make people think and feel a different way than they might expect to.

"There's a lot of pathos in his work,"



Cast members Ed Hobson and Gwen Lawson, the stars of the first act of Podium Players' upcoming production of *Plaza Suite*, work together to build the set for the classic Neil Simon play *Plaza Suite*. The play premieres tonight, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Goff House.

Schwartz said of Simon. "There's a lot below the surface."

The production will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m., and continue Saturday, Feb. 23, at the same time. For those that cannot make it this weekend, shows will be held again on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 3, at 2 p.m. The Friday and

Saturday shows will be seated cabaret-style – you may bring your own alcohol – and the Sunday show will be theater style. Tickets are available at the door, \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

The Goff House is located at 4 Barton Hill Rd, across the street from the Co. 1 fire station.

# Town, St. Peter's Again Talking Hebron Land Purchase

by Geeta Schrayter

In an effort to improve parking at Hebron Elementary School and address a safety concern on Route 85, several entities in town are discussing a potential property purchase that would potentially improve the situation – and offer up some other benefits as well.

Town Manager Andy Tierney explained the town currently leases a portion of land from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located next to Hebron Elementary School, at 30 Church St. Several years ago, the town made a proposal to purchase the land from the church, which encompasses some property they're already using and a ballfield utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department. However, the initial negotiations broke down and "never really moved forward."

But now, the town and the church are discussing the possibility once more.

Tierney said the purchase would afford more parking for the school and address a significant safety issue on Route 85, where cars mangle during student drop-off and pick-up and create a traffic jam.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Kathy Veronesi said traffic at the school has been an issue for years. Although the school has and will continue to see declining enrollment, she said the drop so far hasn't made an impact on the congestion. In addition, Veronesi said that while it was difficult to say if more kids are being picked up and dropped off than in previ-

ous years, based on some preliminary data roughly 150 kids are picked up each afternoon between the Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill schools – all adding to the issue. If kids rode the bus, Veronesi stated it would help alleviate some of the traffic. But on certain days, she said she knew some kids needed to be picked up for long-standing appointments.

Veronesi added addressing the traffic issue at the school was important not only to help get kids in and out of school as efficiently as possible, but for safety.

"Safety isn't just about making sure that the inside of your building is safe," she said. "Safety also includes what happens outside the building, including parking."

And successfully moving forward with the negotiations this time around could help address those areas.

"I think if we are able to move forward with the project in my mind, it appears to benefit the entire community," she said. "And while my priority with this project would be to safely, efficiently and effectively move traffic through the Hebron Elementary School, I also think that the open space and the ballfields are a benefit to the whole community."

Tierney said since the initial negotiations with St. Peter's never moved forward, the town has tried to address the situation at Hebron Elementary School in other ways.

"The town has been trying to mandate the

situation with all kinds of other attempts that either didn't get funded or were proven to not really solve the issues," Tierney explained. "So we finally stepped back and looked at the big picture."

One attempt that did help was the addition of a police officer to direct traffic during the congested time of day in the morning. Tierney said that "significantly helped the safety issue" while proving it is in fact a "major problem."

But the officer was never meant to be a permanent solution. So in looking at the big picture, it was decided the town should go back to St. Peter's to talk about the property.

Along with the traffic improvement, Tierney explained the purchase would help enhance the ballfield, by allowing for the town to increase its size. In addition, the area is already set up for water and sewer, so the field could be irrigated. Tierney said it's the only recreation field in town with those capabilities.

Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco said plans for the property and the field, if the land was purchased, are still in the "really early stages." But he, like Tierney, said the move was all about the "big picture."

"Everyone is involved. It's just trying to get everyone together to work in one direction," he said. "There are a lot of pluses for the town, but again, it's in the planning stages."

Tierney said there's also a tract of open space on the property which ties into a piece the town had already been given.

Selectman Brian O'Connell, chairman of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, said while predominantly, the purchase was meant to address the school safety issue and would benefit Parks and Recreation, the open space portion "will be an added benefit."

"We do, as a town, already have open space in that area and have contacts with other individuals about potential future open space opportunities," he said. "It does link into the town's open space plan."

O'Connell added the committee would be in favor of the purchase, saying "it makes sense."

"Obviously it would come down to the cost," he said.

On the church's side, Father Everett Perine said there was "very little to say" at this point, as there was a lot of background work in process.

"Negotiations at this point are just between representatives of the church and town," he said. "Once we figure out what the possibilities are we're going to sit down and consider the deal."

And this time around, those involved are hoping a deal that will prove beneficial to the entire community will be struck.

## Discussion Delayed on Possible Colchester Charter Violation

by Melissa Roberto

At its Feb. 7 meeting, the Board of Selectmen opted to wait on a discussion on whether First Selectman Gregg Schuster violated the town's personnel policy and charter – a claim that was initially made by the town clerk last month.

Town Clerk Nancy Bray communicated to the board in the Jan. 17 selectmen meeting that her and the town's tax collector, Tricia Coblentz, received letters in the mail stating their health benefits would be terminated as of Feb. 1 for failing to fill out bi-weekly time sheets. Bray told the board that she first received a request from Schuster to start filling out a time sheet in July – a task she said she has never been asked to do in the twenty years she's worked for the town. However, since July, Bray said Schuster has been accepting her weekly calendar as proof of her hours worked and that she was "shocked" by the letter she received about the removal of her benefits.

Also at the meeting, Bray informed the board that the town charter and personnel policy state that a change in an elected official's benefits is a decision that needs to be made by the Board

of Selectmen, rather than solely the first selectman. Selectman Jim Ford agreed, saying he believed Schuster did violate the town charter and policy by not consulting these changes with the board.

After a lengthy discussion at the meeting, the board agreed to rescind the letters sent to the town clerk and tax collector and agreed to fully discuss the matter as a board at a later date.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, Ford returned to the topic by requesting the board discuss Schuster's actions but his request was defeated by a 3-2 party-line vote, with Ford and fellow Democrat Rosemary Coyle voting in favor of the discussion, and Schuster and fellow Republicans Stan Soby and Greg Cordova voting against it.

The party-line vote was not the first to occur on the subject; at the Jan. 17 meeting, Ford made a motion to rescind the letters but it was defeated when Schuster, Soby and Cordova voted against it. (Later in the meeting, the board voted to rescind the letters after all, following a differently-worded motion by Soby.)

"It shouldn't be about politics; it should be

about making good decisions for the town," Coyle said this week, pertaining to the pattern of party line votes.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, Schuster said he did not want to have a discussion on whether he violated the charter without the town's labor attorney, Patrick McHale, present.

"It should be done in the presence with town counsel, who has provided legal advice throughout the whole situation, who has provided advice to this board and also has notes on what occurred in executive session and who can go ahead and let us know what happened," said Schuster.

Coyle said she would like confirmation by McHale in writing that he gave legal advice to Schuster on the subject.

While Bray and Coblentz did not lose their benefits on Feb. 1, Schuster said on Tuesday the board is in the process of scheduling a special meeting between the selectmen and McHale to discuss the matter but a date has not yet been decided.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, the board also briefly discussed the related topic of the town's per-

sonnel policy, which the board has been revising over the last year.

Schuster explained that his office set up a drop-off location for town employees to submit anonymous comments on the personnel policy on Jan. 24, and the board decided to extend the deadline from Feb. 8 to Feb. 19 to give employees more time to submit comments. On Tuesday, Schuster said "half a dozen" comments were received.

Coyle said she would like to receive the feedback in order to conduct "due diligence" and look at areas that concern employees before adopting the policy. She also suggested having an attorney look at the document before it is approved.

Schuster said the anonymous comments will be passed along to the board and discussed at a future selectmen meeting.

The Board of Selectmen met last night, Feb. 21, after press time; neither the personnel policy or Schuster's possible charter violation was on the agenda for the meeting. The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

## Marlborough Grand List Grows By Less Than 1 Percent

by Melissa Roberto

The town has released its Oct. 1, 2012, Grand List of assessable properties, and while a .635 percent increase may seem like a rather scant growth, town officials are pleased – considering the 2011 list saw a drop of nearly 10 percent from the year before.

The net Grand List totals \$567,990,570, an increase of \$3,587,761 over the 2011 list.

The Grand List represents Marlborough's net value of assessed property. The 2011 list saw a drop of 9.84 percent from the 2010 list, a dip town officials have attributed to a revaluation of properties that took place in 2011, which resulted in a drop in many homes' market value. First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski explained last week that towns are required by law to conduct a revaluation every five years, and noted that last year Marlborough was not alone in seeing a decrease in their Grand List as a result of revaluation.

Last year's drop was a "typical response," she said, but added that Marlborough's decrease on the 2011 list was not as steep as other towns

in the state.

The town's assessor, Marie Hall, said last week the 2012 Grand List demonstrates "a year of moderate growth in Marlborough." She added that although the increase is small, she's "just happy it went up."

The list's three categories include real estate, personal property and motor vehicle, and two of those categories increased in 2012. Real estate assessments totaled \$508,316,150, an increase of \$3,253,350, or .64 percent, over the prior year, and personal property assessments came to \$9,861,810, an increase of \$895,830, or 9.9 percent, from 2011. Motor vehicle assessments fell, however, totaling \$49,812,610, a decline of \$561,419, or 1.11 percent, from the 2011 list.

Hall said the spike in real estate was due to commercial construction and renovations, with some real estate construction as well. She attributed the climb in personal property assessments mainly to Connecticut Light and Power, which was assessed in town at \$3,931,380 on

the 2012 list, making the company the number one taxpayer for personal property in Marlborough.

Hall explained that the decline in motor vehicle assessments was primarily due to individuals who are either "hanging on to their cars or selling any additional luxury cars that are not a necessity to have."

Gaudinski agreed with Hall that while the growth is "slight," she is happy to at least see an increase in the Grand List. She explained that there were three deletions in terms of personal property in the last year – a mobile home on Jones Hollow Road, an "older" home, and a resident's garage that were all demolished. However, she said two of the three properties will be rebuilt within the next year which means the Grand List will "gain value in the near future" in personal property.

The top 10 real estate taxpayers on the Oct. 1, 2012, list were: Both LLC at \$3,311,700; Milborough Health Care Realty, Co. at \$2,579,500; Elliot Enterprises, LLC at

\$2,489,200; Robert H. and Mary C. Soleau at \$1,722,390; Robert M. Elliot at \$1,569,050; C&B Marlborough Associates, LLC at \$1,326,220; 369 North Main St. LLC at \$1,101,450; Country Barn Properties LLC at \$949,200; Mirza H. Baig at \$907,340; and A. Douglas and Nathalie D. Thibodeau at \$863,030.

In addition the other top personal property taxpayers include: Schneider Electric Motion USA Inc. at \$370,570; Marlborough Health Care at \$267,610; Cellco Partnership at \$199,600; Liberty Bank at \$173,510; Thomas Tapko at \$161,190; Knut Imshaug at \$125,350; Leasing Associates of Barrington at \$117,670; Three Fifty Nine LLC at \$111,260; and Randy Fuller at \$111,170.

Taxpayers unhappy with their appraisal can appeal them; the deadline to apply for an appeal has passed, and hearings are being scheduled. The Board of Assessment Appeals will complete appeals assessments by the end of March.

# Gaudinski Presents 2.13 Percent Increase in Marlborough Budget

by Melissa Roberto

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski updated her fellow selectmen on Tuesday with adjustments made to the proposed town operations portion of the budget, while also sharing for the first time the estimated budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year at a total of \$22,010,146, a 2.13 percent increase over the current year.

The proposal is an increase of \$458,847 over current year spending.

The proposed 2013-14 spending plan is broken into five categories: Marlborough's portion of the RHAM middle school and high schools budget at \$7,431,081; Board of Education budget at \$7,367,821; town operations at \$4,531,681, contingency, which Gaudinski said will stay the same as this year, at \$20,000; and debt at \$2,659,563.

Gaudinski explained to the board that she has proposed a new method of funding capital items for the 2013-14 fiscal year. In years past, the capital expenditures were a portion of the town's annual budget but this year Gaudinski said she has proposed to pay for capital requests by the town's undesignated funds. The selectwoman then explained that based on the June 30, 2012 audit, the proposed undesignated fund balance for 2013-14 is \$2,207,304, up from the 2012-13 fiscal year balance of \$1,865,554 – which Gaudinski said was “good news for us.”

The capital requests for the 2013-14 fiscal year include four improvements: a reserve for revaluation at \$40,000; a town hall generator at \$55,000; a new roof at the Richmond Memorial Library at \$35,000 that Gaudinski said “needs to be done;” and a new seven-yard dump truck at \$165,000. The requests totaled \$295,500, an amount Gaudinski said would be paid for by the town's undesignated fund balance.

Gaudinski added that she has created a policy for the capital funding proposal which includes the formation of a new committee that would be responsible for making priorities for replacing capital items in town. A draft of this policy is currently being reviewed by the town treasurer, and Gaudinski said she will present a draft of the policy to the Board of Finance. She also pointed out that if it were passed, the committee would not start until the 2014-15 fiscal year.

In addition, Gaudinski informed the board that the town will have an opportunity to vote on the budget and the change in capital funding separately during the annual town meeting this spring.

Also, Gaudinski presented the estimated tax levy for 2013-14 at \$17,827,306.80, a 2.19 percent increase, or .67 mills, over the current tax levy at \$17,371,617. The proposed mill rate also increased from the current year's 31.03 to 31.70.

Gaudinski also updated the board with adjustments made to the town operations budget that was originally proposed during the Feb. 5 selectmen meeting. The changes lowered the original 2.64 increase in the town operations budget to a 2.51 percent increase over the current year.

Gaudinski said one of the adjustments is a .5 percent increase in the placeholder for Teamsters Union salaries from the originally proposed two percent to 2.5 percent. The AFSCME salaries also were increased from a two percent to 2.5 percent. Gaudinski explained the reason for the increases was to “make sure there was enough in the budget” to cover the salaries.

The selectwoman explained that the placeholder increase for the Teamster Union's salaries causes an increase in three different areas in the budget: road crew payroll increased from

the proposed \$554,240 to \$557,700; transfer station payroll increased from \$78,392 to \$78,699; and a slight increase took place in the fire department and mechanic line item from \$33,492 to \$33,656.

Gaudinski explained that the placeholder increase in the Teamster Union salaries also caused an increase in the Social Security/Medicare tax line item from \$141,668 to \$142,077 and an increase in the deferred compensation plan for appointed personnel from \$163,968 to \$164,586.

Another adjustment was made to the probate court account. Gaudinski said the account had a “slight” increase from \$7,805 to \$7,849. Gaudinski also told the board the lease on the building – which is located on Austin Drive – is due to expire in November. The probate court is shared with East Hampton, East Haddam and Portland, and all four towns will need to decide whether to relocate the court or renew the lease, Gaudinski said.

In addition to the increases, Gaudinski also highlighted adjustments that produce decreases to the proposed town operations budget. A decrease was placed in the educational dues and expenses line item from \$1,200 to \$500 in the emergency operation center account. This decrease was based upon the amount of money used in past years, Gaudinski said.

Another lowered adjustment took place in the municipal solid waste line item under the sanitation account. The main proposal of \$70,000 was lowered to \$65,000 which Gaudinski said was based upon current usage. The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) will set new rates by March 1, Gaudinski said, which she said could poten-

tially adjust the line item again.

Selectman Dick Shea reflected on Gaudinski's entire proposal of the proposed town budget, and stated that it was “encouraging.” He also communicated his appreciation for the timely process of the budget.

“I think generally we're in better shape in terms of knowing what kind of shape we're in than we usually are at this time of year,” he said.

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Also at Tuesday's meeting, the board approved Marlborough's portion of the AHM Youth and Family Services budget. The budget totals \$1,101,358 and Andover, Hebron and Marlborough each contribute a portion based on the percentage of that town's students that attend RHAM middle and high schools.

Gaudinski explained that Marlborough's portion of the AHM budget would be \$81,368.44, a decrease of \$2,522.56, or 3.01 percent. She said the decrease is due to a decline in enrollment of Marlborough students at RHAM middle and high schools with a percentage rate dropping from 29.16 to 28.19 percent.

Also, the selectmen appointed resident George Hagi to the Commission on Aging, for a term that will expire January 2016. Hagi had been serving as an alternate on the commission; his term expired Jan. 3. He replaces Virginia McCullough on the commission.

The town budget is due to be presented to the Board of Finance Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m., at the media center at Marlborough Elementary School. The next regularly-scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

## Colchester Resident in Court on Sexual Assault Charge

by Melissa Roberto

A 21-year-old Colchester man appeared in court Wednesday on a first-degree sexual abuse charge filed against him last month.

Orion Huse, of 4 Tavern Ln., was charged Jan. 18 with first-degree sexual assault, third-degree strangulation and two counts of reckless endangerment, State Police said.

Huse is accused of sexually assaulting an 18-year-old Colchester woman in her apartment last September.

According to an affidavit on file at New London Superior Court, Huse and the alleged victim dated for nearly two years, from December 2010 until last summer. According to the affidavit, both Huse and the alleged victim confirmed to police two incidents involving knives. The first occurred in December 2010 when Huse pushed the woman up against a fence outside of her apartment complex and held a knife up to her, moving it in a “reckless and threatening manner” over the victim's chest and arms.

When confirming this incident to police, Huse said he thought the two were role-playing. “He was playing the role of the attacker and she was playing the role of the victim,” the affidavit stated.

The following spring, the affidavit said, Huse “shoved” a hunting knife into the alleged victim's mouth and instructed her to “keep the blade in her mouth.”

The alleged victim then dropped the knife, which cut Huse's hand, which led him to

choke the victim until she passed out. Huse told police he also felt this was role-playing.

According to the affidavit, the two ended their relationship in early summer of 2012. The alleged victim then entered into a new relationship with another male shortly after, but ended that relationship before September. In September, the woman told police, she and Huse were “hanging” at her Colchester apartment when he mounted her from behind and raped her, despite the woman's requests to stop.

According to the affidavit, Huse also “demanded” that the alleged victim call him by her ex-boyfriend's name.

Huse confirmed in his interview with detectives that the woman asked Huse to stop, but again he thought the two were role-playing.

The last contact the accused made with the alleged victim was in the form of an apology in an email sent Oct. 4, the affidavit said.

The alleged victim also told detectives that Huse also made statements while they dated saying he wanted to drug and rape her biological mother, and also rape her 1-year-old niece. According to the affidavit, Huse confirmed making the statements, but again said he thought it was role-playing, and told police he would've never followed up on it.

According to the state judicial website, the case is still in “pre-trial” status. Huse is next due in court March 27.

## Colchester Woman Sentenced in Fatal Accident

by Melissa Roberto

A Colchester woman who struck and killed a 63-year-old pedestrian last spring has received a six-month suspended jail sentence in connection with the accident.

Eleanor Ball, of 44 Hunter Court, was issued the suspension Jan. 25, along with a one-year conditional discharge, or one year of unsupervised probation.

Last October, Ball was arrested and charged with negligent homicide stemming from an incident that took place March 19. Police said

Ball was traveling eastbound on Melanie Lane at approximately 11:15 a.m. when she struck Doula Michaud, as Michaud was standing at her mailbox outside of her home at 49 Melanie Ln., State Police said.

According to police, Ball's Nissan Altima struck first the mailbox, then Michaud, with its front end. Michaud suffered serious head injuries and was flown by LifeStar helicopter to Hartford Hospital. She died from her injuries April 6.

## Snowy Roads Lead to Two-Car Crash in Colchester

Colchester Police said a two-car crash occurred at approximately 12:17 p.m. Feb. 8 on Route 149, while the roadways were covered with snow and slush at the start of the blizzard.

Police said Abigael Boone, 23, of 370 Gilead St., Hebron, was traveling northbound on Route 149 when her vehicle slid off the roadway and struck a Connecticut Light & Power utility pole. Dan J. Carroll, 57, of 500 Amston Rd., Unit 32, was then traveling

northbound on Route 149 when the front end of his vehicle struck Boone's vehicle. Carroll then veered off of the roadway and struck a tree.

Both operators sustained minor injuries, and Boone was transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department.

Boone was found to be at fault for the crash and was issued a verbal warning of traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Aside from the massive snowfall totals, perhaps the biggest news item last week was the announcement by Pope Benedict XVI that he'd be leaving at the end of the month. You don't have to be a Catholic to understand this is a big deal; it's the first time in nearly 600 years a pope had resigned from the post.

The pope cited deteriorating health as the reasoning behind his departure, and there have been comments since then about how frail the 85-year-old has gotten recently. Nonetheless, Pope Benedict's announcement was greeted with shock – and it sparked an immediate look back at the pontiff's eight years in office. This recollection led to a lot of criticism as well, as many – myself included – weren't very pleased with some of the pope's conservative stances. The pope has also been staunchly criticized for not doing enough about the sex abuse scandals that have been a huge black eye for the Catholic Church.

However, no matter your opinion of what Pope Benedict has said or done – or, perhaps, hasn't done – during his papacy, as the blog *HotDogma!* pointed out last week, there have been many far, far worse popes throughout history. Among them:

— Boniface VII, who served as pope from 1294 to 1303. During a quarrel with a powerful Italian political family, Boniface ordered the papal armies to raze the city of Palestrina, which killed 6,000 civilians, and also destroyed the home of Julius Caesar as well as a shrine to the Virgin Mary (who, you know, is pretty big with Catholics). In his *Inferno*, Dante locates Boniface in hell for his crimes of simony (the buying or selling of ecclesiastical pardons and offices), although I'd like to think the slaughter of 6,000 people had something to do with it.

— Benedict IX, who actually had three separate stints as pope, from 1032-44, in 1045, and again from 1047-48. Benedict left

the papacy to pursue marriage, selling the office to his godfather (something of a no-no). He later changed his mind and attempted to return to the papacy. But his godfather was still recognized as pope, and a third man, Sylvester III, although staked a claim to the title. Finally King Henry III of Germany intervened, installing Clement II as pope. When Clement died, Benedict seized St. John Lateran – the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome – but was ultimately deposed. Benedict was charged with simony and excommunicated. Pope Victor III later accused him of rape and murder, and St. Peter Damian labeled Benedict “a demon from hell in the disguise of a priest.”

— John XII, who was pope from 955-964, had quite the list of offenses. Among them, he: prayed to pagan gods while gambling and drank toasts to the devil; raped female pilgrims; was guilty of simony; had his confessor's eyes put out; and castrated an enemy cardinal before having the man executed. He is described in the Catholic Encyclopedia as “a coarse, immoral man whose life was such that the Lateran was spoken of as a brothel.”

— Pope Alexander VI. It might seem difficult to top guys like John XII or Boniface VII, but according to *HotDogma!*, Alexander VI, who served from 1492-1503, is routinely called the worst pope who ever lived. He likely got into the office by way of simony and, once there, he: made two of his sons archbishops; engaged in endless warfare; overturned bans on slavery; raided the papal treasury to pay for the military expeditions of his ruthless son Cesare, a cardinal archbishop; and he may have even had an incestuous affair with his daughter, Lucrezia. Just how, well, unpopular was Alexander? Well, when he died, his successor, Pius III, forbade the saying of a Mass for the repose of Alexander's soul, saying it was useless to pray for the damned.”

## Colchester Police News

2/12: State Police said Meghan Peck, 28, of 601 Old Colchester Rd., was charged with third-degree identity theft and obtaining controlled drugs fraud.

2/12: Colchester Police said employees of the Radio Shack at 119 South Main St. reported they were missing two headphone sets and two Apple iPods when conducting a recent inventory. Video surveillance suggested the items were shoplifted on Jan. 24. This case is being investigated by the Colchester Police.

2/12: Kevin McKelvey, 48, of 420 Parum Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to meet minimum insurance requirements, speeding, and failure to use turn signal, State Police said.

2/14: David Reyes, 22, of 157 Dickinson St., Springfield, Mass., was charged with first-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

## Marlborough Police News

2/11: State Police said Steven Roy, 51, of 78 O'Connell Rd., was stopped at a stop light heading east on North Main Street at the intersection of route 66 when he was rear-ended by Micah Beckman, 30, of 63 Maynard St., No. 2, Middletown. Roy was transported to Marlborough Clinic for reported neck and back pain, Police said.

2/13: Nancy Farr, 56, of 85 Lake Rd., was charged with failure to drive right and DUI, State Police said.

2/15: Sil Van Nguyen, 46, of 59 Wrentham St., Dorchester, Mass., was charged with DUI and reckless driving, State Police said.

2/18: State Police said John Ferguson, 72, of 39 Spruce St., Wethersfield, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

## Hebron Police News

2/10: State Police said Robert Lentini, 68, of 166 Woodville Rd., Hopkinton, R.I., was traveling north on Route 85 at approximately 11 a.m. when he slowed for traffic and was rear-ended by Jonah Propfe, 18, of 163 West St. Police said Lentini and his passenger, Kathleen Lentini, 64, of 166 Woodville Rd., Hopkinton, R.I., were transported to Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries.

2/18: Bruce Ford, 28, of 10 Tall Oaks Ct., Stamford, was charged with DUI, making an improper turn, traveling unreasonably fast for conditions, use of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than a half ounce of cannabis, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

2/11: Derik Ernest Waterman of Higganum was arrested for fourth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said. The charge stemmed from a November 2012 incident, police said.

So, there you go. Will Pope Benedict XVI go down as one of history's most beloved popes? Probably not. And like I said before, I'd welcome a more liberal pope next time, one more accepting of homosexuality and divorce, as well as one who's more open to women and married men in the priesthood. (As I've said here before, it's a little difficult for me to have a whole lot of sympathy for the Catholic Church over the dropping number of priests when there are likely a whole bunch of folks who would eagerly sign up if only the Church would let them.)

But was he the worst ever, or even one of the worst ever? I don't think so. He didn't order the killing of thousands; he didn't rape people; he didn't toast the devil. It's like when I hear of people drawing Hitler moustaches on pictures of President Obama. I want to seek these people out and say to them, “Look, do you know what Hitler did?” I mean, no matter what your feelings on Obama are, he's got a ways to go before he's at that level.

Historical perspective tends to be a good thing to have.

\* \* \*

I got an email over the weekend from a reader saying he was “really looking forward” to my column about a state senator from Newtown getting interrupted at a pro-gun control rally outside the state capitol last Thursday afternoon. What can I say; it's nice to be loved. Actually, considering the person who sent me the email also left me a voicemail a few weeks back calling for my retraction of my earlier comments about Neil Heslin getting interrupted by the anti-gun control types at a public hearing – the retraction I didn't make because it wasn't warranted – I couldn't help but wonder a little if he thought I'd indicate I was less appalled by the senator getting interrupted, because it didn't fit my anti-gun agenda.

First, here's what happened, according to the news site [CTNewsJunkie.com](http://CTNewsJunkie.com), a crowd estimated at 5,500 people gathered at the state capitol last Thursday to demand new laws strengthening gun control. It was a rally, plain and simple, with signs, chants, etc. One of those who spoke at the rally was Republican state Sen. John McKinney, who represents Newtown at the state level. He took to the microphone and spoke about how what happened in Newtown on Dec. 14 changed him as a person. And that's when things got a little ugly.

McKinney said “Beyond any laws that we may pass, each one of us can make a difference in making our society better,” and then was interrupted by chants of “pass the law.”

According to [CTNewsJunkie.com](http://CTNewsJunkie.com), the chants continued for several seconds, and McKinney, to his credit, waited them out, before continuing.

“Let me change what I was going to say,” McKinney said. “In Washington, D.C., Republicans and Democrats won't even sit down and talk with one another.” This led to a round of boos from the crowd, which McKinney followed by saying, “Here's what's okay and acceptable about our democracy: having differ-

ent opinions is okay and healthy for our democracy. Here's what's not acceptable: allowing those differences to be a barrier to making progress.”

McKinney said that in Connecticut, Democrats and Republicans do work together, and added that he's proud of his record – which includes voting for an assault weapons ban.

After stepping down from the podium, [CTNewsJunkie.com](http://CTNewsJunkie.com) reported, McKinney said shouting at people is not going to help solve anything; he added that there's too much of it on both sides of the debate, and it has to stop.

Okay, am I as appalled by what happened to McKinney as I was by what happened to Heslin a few weeks back? Frankly, no, because it's really something of an apples-and-oranges situation. One was a formal, indoor hearing; one was an outdoor rally, attended by thousands, waving signs and chanting slogans. The rules of decorum aren't exactly the same. While it was unfortunate McKinney was interrupted, I wasn't altogether surprised, and I'm guessing McKinney wasn't either.

Secondly, while I have no doubt McKinney was deeply affected by what happened in Newtown Dec. 14, perhaps more so than a lot of us (as I said, he represents Newtown; he was there, he was in the firehouse that dreadful, dreadful day as families received news of their loved ones), he also isn't the parent of one of the 20 children who perished in the shooting. Heslin is. As a friend of mine said after news broke of Heslin being interrupted at the hearing, if we can agree on anything in the gun control debate, “Let the guy who just buried his 6-year-old finish speaking” should be among the first items on the list.

That being said, I do think the interrupters were out of line at the rally last Thursday. The comments were, frankly, ruder than those lobbied at Heslin, and there was no need for them. Matt DeRienzo, the group editor of Journal Register Company's publications in Connecticut (which include the *New Haven Register* and the *Middletown Press*) was also at the event, and blogged about McKinney's interruption. He said the only reason he could think of that McKinney would be interrupted is because he's a Republican. And while I hope that's not the case, I wouldn't be surprised if it were true. Like DeRienzo, I can't really think of any other reason why folks would interrupt him.

The gun control debate already looks like it's heading down the Democrat-vs.-Republican path, and that's a real shame, and does such a disservice to the Newtown victims and their families. Common-sense gun laws shouldn't have to be a feature of a Democratic platform, or of a Republican one. We owe it to the families to do our best to ensure what happened at Sandy Hook never happens again. That's the goal here; not to see if the Democrats can win and the Republicans can lose, or vice-versa.

Simply put, this isn't a political issue; it's a human issue.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Eileen Duffy

Eileen (Thornton) Duffy, 85, of Salem and formerly of Westport, widow of the late James "Bob" Duffy, passed away Monday, Jan. 28, at Apple Rehabilitation in Colchester. Born Sept. 16, 1927, she was a daughter of the late John and Margareta (McHugh) Thornton.

Upon Bob's honorable discharge from the Marines, they married on Feb. 16, 1952 and moved from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Westport to raise her family. Together they retired to Salem in 2000.

Mrs. Duffy had worked as a secretary for Asiatic Petro in Manhattan.

She and Bob shared 59 years of marriage before he predeceased her on May 28, 2011.

She is survived by her five children: Deirdre and her husband Gregory Moran; Brendan and his wife Sharon; sons Patrick and Sean and a daughter Delia and her husband Michael O'Connor. Eileen has nine grandchildren: Bridget Moran O'Halloran, Caitlin and Eamon Moran, Jordan and Quinn Duffy, Lucas Duffy and Jack, Grant and Derek O'Connor. She also had two siblings, Bob Thornton and Frances Fussler.

Memorial services will be announced and observed in the spring. She will be laid to rest with her husband at the Salem Green Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Central Regional Office, 128 Providence St. Worcester, MA 01604.

## East Hampton

### Lena Ferrigno

Lena Ferrigno, 101, of Naples, Fla., wife of the late Joseph Ferrigno, passed away Thursday, Feb. 14. She was the daughter of the late Aristide and Adele Pellegrini of Portland. Born Oct. 16, 1911, she was a former resident of East Hampton and Colchester.



She was a former member of St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton and a member of St. John the Evangelist Church in Naples, Fla.

She leaves her daughters Lenora Bear and Barbara Kiley and was predeceased by daughter Nancy Buckley. She is survived by eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

Funeral arrangements will be made by Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton and are incomplete at this time.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Andrew D.V. Ferrigno Scholarship Fund, c/o Citizens Bank, East Hampton.

## Portland

### Lena M. Inferrera

Lena M. Inferrera, 92, of Portland, passed away Monday, Feb. 18, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Sebastiano and Sebastiana (Augeri) Russo.



Born on Feb. 10, 1921, in Middletown, she lived in Portland for most of her life. She worked as a nurses aide for many years before retiring in 1972. She was a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland and the Ladies Guild of the church.

She leaves a son and daughter-in-law, James J. and Roberta Inferrera of Portland; a sister, Helen Sutkowski of Portland; a special niece, Laura Sutkowski of Portland, a granddaughter, Laura; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Ann Marie Tuttle; three brothers, James, Salvatore and Joseph; and by four sisters, Minnie, Santina, Connie and Betty.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 21, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with a Mass later that morning at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial will be in St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends called Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of St. Mary 51 Freestone Ave Portland, CT. 06480 or to the Portland Food Bank 7 Waverly Ave Portland, CT. 06480.

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

## Hebron

### Margaret Ely

Margaret Ely, 99, passed away Sunday, Feb. 10. An icon in Hebron, Margaret was born in Hebron, Helen Margaret Ely, on July 2, 1913, to Arthur and Helen (White) Keefe. She grew up in Hebron, lived in Jacksonville, Fla., Hamden, Gales Ferry and Norwich, and Hughesville and Kingston, Pa., and finally returned to Hebron in 1966.

She retired from Travelers Insurance in 1986. With her husband Harold, she owned and operated Hillside Antiques and was very knowledgeable in that field. The couple shared 38 years of marriage before Harold predeceased her in 1973. Margaret was an active member of her community in many capacities.

She was a lifetime member of the original Hebron Woman's Club; the Hebron Historical Society; AARP in Colchester, Chapter 4019, where she was president for approximately three years; Hebron Douglas Library Association; Hebron, Marlborough and Colchester Grange No. 78; and the Connecticut State Grange. She was also a cherished and active member of the Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron, where she volunteered for many projects, including Meals-on-Wheels.

She lived her last years in Somerdale, N.J.

Survivors include two daughters, Carol Ann Herman and her husband Jack of Oriental, N.C., Judith Mulligan of Medford, N.J.; eight grandchildren and spouses, Sam and Lynn Sasso (East Hartford), John Herman, Jeffrey Herman and Hermoine (Manhattan, N.Y.), Leslie Culbertson and Scott (Pa.), Marlena and Mike Marchionne (Virginia), Danielle and Jay Hobart (Newington) Stephanie Ely and Jeff (Waterford), Susan Ely (Manchester); 13 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, Margaret was predeceased by her son Edward A. Ely; three grandsons, Eric Herman, Jody Sasso, Michael Ely; and four siblings.

She loved her home and her family very much and enjoyed spending all the holidays and gatherings with them. She enjoyed crocheting quilting, digging for old bottles, gardening, cross country skiing, hiking, feeding and watching the birds from her deck.

She will be greatly missed by her daughters, Carol and Judy, and all of her extended family and her many friends.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23, beginning at 1 p.m., with a calling hour, followed by the funeral service at 2 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

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

## East Hampton

### Margaret Keyser Schultz

Margaret "Peg" Keyser Schultz, 90, of East Hampton, and formerly of DeLand, Fla., passed away Saturday, Feb. 16, after a courageous battle.

Born Oct. 11, 1922, in Holyoke, Mass., she was a daughter of the late William J. and Philomena (Gifford) Keyser. She married William Joseph Schultz, Sr. on April 30, 1944. The couple shared 45 years of marriage before he predeceased her on May 25, 1989.

Peg was a communicant at St. Bridget of Kildare Church in Moodus and she also volunteered at My Father's House in Moodus. Peg was a volunteer for the American Cancer Society and the Volusia Hospital in DeLand, Fla. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary in DeLand, Fla. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family as a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her two children, Carol and her husband James F. Galvin Jr. of East Hampton, Janet R. Malouin of Templeton, Mass.; six grandchildren, Lisa Galvin, Matthew Malouin, William Schultz III, Donald Schultz, Stacie Schultz, Steven Schultz; many great-grandchildren; an adopted granddaughter, Lisa Marie Klem; many extended family, friends and her great-granddogger, Frances Rose.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her son, William Schultz Jr.; three grandsons, James Galvin III, Edward Schultz, Michael Schultz; and four siblings.

Friends attended calling hours Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Bridget of Kildare Church. Burial will be in Lakeview Cemetery at a later date.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 106 Franklin Commons, Route 32, Franklin, CT 06254-1800.

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

## Colchester

### Eileen Juanita Bowers

Eileen Juanita Bowers, 68, of Colchester, widow of the late Robert Thomas Bowers, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 21, at the Chestelm HCC in East Haddam. Born Jan. 2, 1944 in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late John and Eileen (Murphy) Beck.



She is survived by her three daughters, Kelly Damaj of Colchester and Kimberly Bowers of Waterbury and Krystn Bowers of Norwich; her brother, David Beck of Windsor; five grandchildren, Autumn Ladzinski, Robert Bowers, Nicole Bowers, Omyia Damaj and her very special 'honey boy' Timothy Damaj, of Tim's Bistro.

Her children and grandchildren meant everything to her; she especially enjoyed her times with Timothy, her grandson who has Down syndrome. They had a very special connection.

Eileen had a long battle with lung cancer and throat cancer as well as CREST syndrome. She was a strong woman who overcame tremendous challenges in her life. Her family loved her dearly. Mom, I miss you so much. I am so proud of you! I thank God for the times we had. I love you.

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

## Portland

### Gloria Clara Kunsey

Gloria Clara (Natalie) Kunsey of Portland, wife of the late John P. Kunsey, passed into eternity Saturday, Feb. 9. Gloria was born in Middletown on Jan. 7, 1931, daughter of Rocco and Rose (Maranello) Natalie. She was raised in Middletown and attended Middletown High School.



She is predeceased by sisters, Augusta Natalie of Portland, Elizabeth DeForest of Middletown, Beatrice Nasiatka of Stonington, Ursula Flynn of Middletown, Rose Acquarulo of Middletown, Anita Janke of Portland, and by brother Rocco Natalie Jr., of Cromwell.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Stephen and Elizabeth Kunsey of West Hartford, and David and Paula Slym of Portland; as well as grandchildren, Ian Kunsey and Amanda Rasch.

She is also survived by her sisters, Antoinette Salafia of Middletown, and Sylvia Morariu of Portland, as well as brother-in-law John Morariu and many nieces and nephews.

She is retired from Waverly Printing of Portland where she worked for many years both as a linotype operator and bindery worker. She is a former member of the Altar Guild of St. Mary's Church in Portland.

Once again, the family wishes to commend the staff of Portland Care and Rehabilitation for all of their kindness to Gloria as she was there for nearly two years. The level of love and compassion shown to her meant so much to all of us.

Funeral services for both John and Gloria will be held today, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends may call on Friday from 9 a.m. until the service at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter 2075, Silas Deane Hwy., Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

## Portland

### Theresa Prange

Theresa Prange, 84, of Portland and formerly of New Britain, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 17, in Portland. Theresa was born in New Britain Aug. 23, 1928, and was daughter to the late Otto and Cecilia (Reilly) Prange.

She is survived by extended family, including her niece, Shirley A. and Bob Neddo of Salem and nephew, Robert Babowicz.

Theresa was also predeceased by her sister, Elizabeth Babowicz and brother, John E. Prange.

A prayer service was held Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the New Britain Memorial Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain, followed by her burial in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain, where she is next to her parents.

To share any special memories you have of Theresa, visit [dignitymemorial.com](http://dignitymemorial.com).

## Portland

### Margaret Mary Suprynowicz

Margaret Mary (Hayes) Suprynowicz, 92 of Portland, beloved wife of the late Frank Suprynowicz, passed away Monday, Feb. 11, at Cobalt Lodge. Born in Middletown Jan. 13, 1921, she was the daughter of the late Patrick and Katherine (Quirk) Hayes and had lived in Middletown before moving to Portland in 1951.

She attended the Day Club Adult Day Center in Middletown where she enjoyed playing bingo, painting and entering exhibits in the local fairs. She was also a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law; Dr. Frank A. Suprynowicz Jr. and Dr. Wendy Spencer-Suprynowicz of Columbia, Md.; two daughters and son-in-law, Mary and James Davis of North Haven and Ann Marie Suprynowicz of Portland and her beloved sister and best friend, Eileen Heckart of Middletown, a nephew, John Patrick Hayes, two nieces, Patricia Guire Zaprzalka and Kathlyn Heckart (Weiss). She was predeceased by three brothers, Robert, James and Albert.

The family would like to thank the staff at Yale-New Haven Hospital for their professional and compassionate care and they will also be forever grateful for the love and care shown to Margaret during her stay at Cobalt Lodge Health Care.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 19, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass at the Church of St. Mary, Portland. Burial will be in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends called Monday, Feb. 18, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions in Margaret's memory may be sent to the Church of St. Mary Memorial Fund, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480 or to Yale New Haven Stroke Center, 800 Howard Ave., New Haven, CT 06520 or to the Day Club Adult Day Ctr., 32 Miner St., Middletown, CT. 06457.

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

## Marlborough

### Vanda M. Panaro

Vanda M. (Pace) Panaro, 87, of Glastonbury and formerly of Manchester, beloved wife of the late Mario A. Panaro, died Sunday, Feb. 17, at Marlborough Health Care Center.

She was born Nov. 28, 1925, in Pratola Peligna, Italy, beloved daughter of the late Mazzini and Liberata (Santilli) Pace, and came to the United States as a young girl and had lived in Manchester for over 30 years before moving to Glastonbury in 1998.

Vanda was a communicant of St. Dunstan Church in Glastonbury and had formerly attended Assumption Church in Manchester. She was a loving and supportive mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who loved to attend her family's sports activities and other events and especially enjoyed cooking for family gatherings.

She is survived by five children, John Panaro and his wife Dale of Greenville, N.C., Marie Paradis and her husband Joseph of Manchester, Michael Panaro of East Hartford, Angelo Panaro of North Orleans, Maine, Joseph Panaro and his wife Meg of Glastonbury; her sister Jennie Clementino of Margate, Fla.; eight grandchildren, Ann, Jessica, Amy, Leah, Mario, Megan, Aaron, Christopher; seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Mario Pace and Ezio Pace.

Mrs. Panaro's family would like to extend a special thanks to the nurses and staff of Marlborough Health Care for the wonderful care shown to Vanda during her time there.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Calling hours were held Thursday before the service. Burial will be private in Mount St. Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Dunstan Church, 1345 Manchester, Rd., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

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

## Colchester

### Florence Ferguson

Florence (Danieleski) Ferguson, 87, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Feb. 17, at her home. She was the wife of the late Robert Ferguson. She was born June 26, 1925 in Waterbury, the daughter of the late Thomas and Lena (Ronn) Danieleski.

She is survived by her daughters, Joann Spratto and her husband Nicholas Sr. of Southington and Linda Hoefler and her husband Douglas of Florida and Kathy Turycz, who was like a daughter to her, of Colchester. She also leaves four grandchildren, Robin Folcik, Nicholas Spratto Jr. and his wife Beth, Michele Parillo and David Hoefler; seven great-grandchildren; along with several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by six brothers and sisters.

The funeral services and burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

Donations may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St. 1-91 Tech Ctr. Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3045.

DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St. Southington is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, visit [dellavecchiafh.com](http://dellavecchiafh.com).

## Marlborough

### Stephanie B. Lovett

Stephanie B. (Parciak) Lovett, 98, of Marlborough, formerly of Manchester, beloved wife of the late Joseph L. Lovett Sr., passed away Thursday, Feb. 14, at Manchester Memorial Hospital with family by her side. She was born Sept. 28, 1914 in Manchester, daughter of the late Paul and Teofilia (Wierzbicki) Parciak.

Mrs. Lovett attended local schools and had been a longtime resident of Manchester and happily living her last few years with her son and daughter-in-law in Marlborough. She was a longtime communicant of St. Bridget Church in Manchester. After her schooling she worked at Cheney Mills and then as a waitress at Willie's Steak House along with her brother Wally. She will be remembered in love and devotion in helping her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was also an avid UConn Huskies women's basketball fan.

Mrs. Lovett is survived by her son, Joseph L. Lovett Jr. and his wife, Jacqueline of Marlborough; her daughter-in-law, Pamela Lovett of Niantic; her granddaughter, Jan Sciremammano and her husband, John of Colchester; her granddaughter-in-law, Mandie Lovett of Marlborough; and six great-grandchildren, Ashley, Brittney, Hayden, Savanna, Syris and Casey. She is also survived by two brothers, Charles Parciak of Enfield, and Edward Parciak and his wife, Sally of South Windsor, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Lovett was predeceased by her son, Richard Lovett; her grandson, Jon Lovett; a great-grandson, Tanner Sciremammano and her sister, Jeannie Silva; and brothers Whitey, Chet, Wally and Teddy Parciak.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Bridget Church, 80 Main St., Manchester. Burial followed in St. Bridget Cemetery, Manchester. Calling hours were Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Bridget School, Advancement Office, 74 Main St., Manchester, CT 06042, or to the CJ Foundation for AIDS, HUMC: WFAN Pediatric Center, 30 Prospect Ave., Hackensack, NJ 07601.

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

## Portland

### Joseph Trella

Joseph Trella, 76, of Meriden, died Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven. He was the husband of Dorothy (Kopala) Trella, her loving husband of 53 and a half years. Mr. Trella was also a resident of Great Hill Lake in Portland.

Born July 11, 1936 in Meriden he was the son of the late Peter J. and Aniela (Yara) Trella. Joe graduated St. Stanislaus School, Wilcox Technical School, where he was class Salutarian, and the Hartford State Technical College. He was employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft where he was a manufacturing engineer and from where he retired after 35 years of service.

To his family and friends, Joe was renowned as a domestic engineer, solver of numerous problems, builder of home improvement gadgets and instructor of practical ways to his children and grandchildren. He loved his lake property in Portland, telling funny stories and being surrounded by his children, grandchildren and friends. He also loved crabbing, mushroom picking, crossword puzzles and card games.

Joe was a man of immeasurable kindness and good character, and an incomparable role model who will be sorely missed but remembered in immeasurable ways in the hearts and minds of those he departs. Joe spent seven years in the United States Army Reserves. Active in clubs, Joseph was a longtime member of the Knights of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Czestochowa (Polish Knights), where he held many of its major offices. He also participated in the St. Francis Society of Portland and was a lifelong member of the Polish National Alliance. He was a parishioner of St. Stanislaus Church in Meriden.

Besides his wife Dot, Joe is survived by five children: Kenneth A. Trella and his wife Susan of Meriden, John Peter Trella of Southington, Karl Joseph Trella and Crystal of Wallingford, Karen Mather-Young and her husband Mark of Topsham, Maine, and Andrea Blakemore and her husband Darwin of Ashland, Mass. He leaves 14 grandchildren, Scott Trella, Chelsea Trella, Spenser Trella, Francesca Loparco, Nicholas Mather, Sarah Mather, Jessica Mather, Amy Blakemore, Benjamin Blakemore, Haley Blakemore, Katie Trella, Kaelyn Trella, Elizabeth Young and Sarah Young. He is survived by three brothers, Theodore Trella of Meriden, Ben Trella and his wife Marge of Meriden, Peter Trella of Salem and a sister Emily Bryda of Middlefield.

He was predeceased by four brothers, Casimer, Edward, Stanley and Henry Trella, and two sisters, Helen Tone and Stacia Murphy.

Family and friends attended his Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, Feb. 16, at St. Stanislaus Church. Burial was in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Calling hours were Friday, Feb. 15, at the Stempien Funeral Home, 450 Broad St., Meriden.

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

Memorial donations in memory of Mr. Trella may be made to St. Stanislaus School, 81 Akron St., Meriden, CT 06450 or to the Smilow Cancer Center, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508.

## Hebron

### Mark Edwards Hoskins

Mark Edwards Hoskins, 54, of Hebron, passed away Monday evening, Feb. 18, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Aug. 25, 1958, he was the son of the late Jonathan and Nancy Hoskins. Mark had been employed at AT&T as a U-Verse installer. Mark enjoyed his home and family.

He was a loving husband and father to his wife Deborah (Wilson) Hoskins and daughter Chelsea. He is also survived by his uncle and aunt, Richard and Cheryl Sloan of Maui, Hawaii; a niece and a nephew; cousins; his in-laws, Roger and Marlene Wilson of Wellington; his brother-in-law, David Wilson of Wellington; friends and his beloved dog Walker.

Mark's family will receive relatives and friends Saturday, Feb. 23, between 1-2 p.m., prior to services beginning at 2 p.m., at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Rte. 195), Willimantic. Kindly omit flowers. Mark's family suggests memorial donations to American Cancer Society, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), or American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Barbara Ann Jay Kennedy

Barbara Ann Jay Kennedy, 72, of Wallingford, formerly of Portland, beloved wife of Robert C. Kennedy, passed away peacefully Monday, Feb. 18, at MidState Medical Center, surrounded by her family.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., Jan. 11, 1941, a daughter of the late Cornelius and Harriet Margaret Beckett Jay, she was a longtime resident of Wallingford, Middletown and Portland. Before her retirement, she was employed by Jensen Fabricating and had previously worked at The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust and Shapiro's Department Store. She was an avid reader, enjoyed knitting, the performing arts, and spending days at the beach. But mostly, she loved spending time with her family.

Besides her husband Robert, she is survived by her son, Nicholas Messina and his wife, Elisha; her daughter, Theresa Coyle and her husband, Kevin; her daughter, Michele Messina; her son, Michael Messina; her step-son, Charles Wettish and his wife, Mary; her grandchildren, Samuel Messina, Mathew Messina, Bailey Messina, Meaghan Coyle, and Danielle Coyle; and her step-granddaughter, Jemma Wettish; her sister, Catherine Baron; her brother, Cornelius Jay; and numerous nieces, nephews; grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Her family will receive relatives and friends in The Yalesville Funeral Home, 386 Main St., Yalesville, section of Wallingford, today, Feb. 22, from 4-7 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 23, at 11 a.m., in The Yalesville Funeral Home. Interment will be private in St. John Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Greater New Haven Chapter, 2969 Whitney Avenue Hamden, CT 06518-2556 or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

To sign an online guestbook, visit [yalesvillefh.com](http://yalesvillefh.com).