



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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A memorial of flowers, balloons, ribbons, photos and stuffed animals formed at the scene of an early Tuesday car crash that claimed the life of Hebron resident Paige Houston. Houston, 17, would have started her senior year at RHAM High School later this month.

## Hebron Teen Killed in Crash

by Geeta Schrayter

When asked what comes to mind when friends and family think about Hebron resident Paige Houston, the most common reply is her smile. And it's that smile they'll now be missing, and it's a smile that's now missing from *their* faces, as they cope with her sudden death.

Shortly before 1 a.m. Tuesday Houston, 17, was riding in a 2000 Toyota Tundra with three friends when the vehicle went out of control and struck a tree, state police said.

Houston was riding in the middle of the backseat without a seatbelt, police said, and was thrown from the vehicle.

She died at the scene.

The other occupants of the vehicle, Connor McKee, 17, Andrew Burton, 16, and Zachary Trapp, 18, sustained non-life threatening injuries from the crash and were taken to area hospitals, according to police.

Houston, who was to start her senior year at RHAM High School later this month, was an honor student and active with the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading League. She had been chosen to be one of the cheerleading captains for the upcoming year.

Alicia Goode, who graduated in June and had been on cheer teams with Houston for about



11 years, had nothing but positive things to say about her this week.

"Paige [was] always really happy and really outgoing and friendly and a lot of fun to be around," she said. "I feel like that's why a lot of people were so shocked when we found out about [Tuesday], because she's just one to always put a smile on her face no matter what."

Goode said it was hard to believe Houston was gone.

"It doesn't seem like it's real," she stated. "It's heartbreaking because of the fact that it affects such a big group of friends of

ours, and the community is definitely impacted a lot by this because of everyone involved in the situation."

Goode added there was a lot of speculation about what happened, and while no one knew for sure, rumors had been going around that the group had been coming from a party.

Based on restrictions listed on the DMV website the driver of the car, McKee, should not have been behind the wheel, as state law prohibits drivers under 18 from being on the road between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. (McKee, according to published reports, just received his driver's license in March.) As a new driver, McKee was also not allowed to have anyone

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## WJJMS Project Heads to Voters

by Melissa Roberto

The fate of the Colchester building project that would combine William J. Johnston Middle School with a senior center and community center is off to the voters, as the boards of selectmen and finance approved the \$57.26 million project and sent it to a town meeting next month.

The Board of Finance signed off on the town meeting Wednesday – after First Selectman Gregg Schuster was repeatedly questioned regarding his opposition to the project.

The building project has been gestating since 2007. The town meeting for the \$57.26 million project will be the first public vote taken on the building initiative after two studies, several tri-board meetings between the selectmen, finance and school boards, and countless back and forth discussions between the town's Building Committee and Tecton Architects of Hartford who has been responsible for creating the project's specifications.

The project calls for an overhaul of the existing sixth- through eighth-grade middle school, including the relocation of a community center and senior center within the existing school space to be utilized by relative age groups in town.

At the existing middle school, the project

calls for renovations to house the sixth grade in its western wing, and a three-story addition to house the seventh and eighth grades. The plans locate the community center at the existing school; the facility would house the Parks and Recreation, Social and Youth Services Departments. The community center would include a gym, as well as a health room, game room, counseling room, technology room, lounge and library.

The plans also call for the senior center to be at the existing school, in the cafeteria wing. Its offerings would include a bistro/café, gift shop, lounge, library, counseling space, health room, hair salon and more.

The project's price tag of \$57.26 million is slightly higher than the number that had been communicated in a tri-board meeting held in June. On Wednesday, Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov explained the reason the price went up from \$56.97 million in June to \$57.26 million is due to the additional costs of bonding for the project.

The \$56.97 million covers solely the construction costs for the project, which hasn't changed since it was scaled back from the project's initial shocking price tag of \$68.5 million. Due to construction of the existing

middle school, there is an estimated state reimbursement of \$19.7 million; the net cost to the town is estimated at \$37 million – not taking into account that a grant of up to \$750,000 could be issued from the state for construction of the senior center. Officials plan to apply for the grant if the project is approved.

Last Thursday, the Board of Selectmen voted 3-1 to approve the project to a town meeting, with Schuster casting the lone dissenting vote. (Selectman Greg Cordova not in attendance.)

On Wednesday, the Board of Finance unanimously supported the project, with Thomas Kane not in attendance. But before the vote was taken, Tarlov targeted a series of questions to Schuster, asking him to explain what Tarlov felt was Schuster's change of heart of opposing the project.

Schuster said he "never" changed his decision on the project. Tarlov, however, voiced concerns with that response, reminding Schuster that the Board of Selectmen had voted unanimously twice during the month of June supporting the project.

Schuster informed the finance board that his "major" concern with the project had to do with its price tag, and the impact it would have on taxpayers.

"I have so many people coming up to me with concerns – nevermind a project like this – they just can't afford any taxes," Schuster said, adding those concerns primarily come from the senior population in Colchester.

Additionally, Schuster said he was concerned with the scope of the project; while he said he felt the school's portion was appropriate, he was uneasy about the relocation of both the senior and community centers at the school's campus.

"I still think we need to look more at a stand alone senior center," Schuster said. "Users of the senior center have not made an interest in being there."

The first selectman added that the lack of pool at the community center prompted another one of his concerns for "still not meeting a lot of the needs of the community."

Alongside the decision-making for the building initiative, town officials' concerns have grown over the last year in regards to the senior center – which has already undergone repairs and is still in need of many more, Building Official Tim York has said – and the youth center, which Tarlov said in June was not in the best shape. Both the senior and community centers stand on Norwich Avenue. Officials have

WJJMS Project Page 2





Hebron resident Alicia Goode (bottom), who was a cheerleader with the late-Houston (top) for about 11 years, described Houston as “really happy” and well-liked. Houston, who passed away in a car accident Tuesday, had been chosen to be one of the cheerleading captains for the upcoming year.

**Hebron Teen cont. from Front Page**

under 20 years of age in the car with him.

Amid tears this week, Houston’s brother Cody, 16, said he’d miss his sister’s “shining personality.”

“She was extremely outgoing and that’s how she made a lot of friends, and nobody was ever mean to her because she was just a really nice person,” he said.

Houston was only a little over a year older than Cody, which meant the two of them had been in the same schools over the years. And while Cody said the two had their ups and downs, as siblings tend to do, just within the past two months “we got really close.”

“Having her around made me comfortable,” he said.

Cody called his sister “amazing,” and said she lit up a room when she walked in.

“It’s hard to see her go, but I know that she’s watching over me and she loves me and she just wants me to be happy – and my family,” he said.

In addition to Cody, Houston is survived by family members who include another brother, Shane; her parents; and grandparents Hayden and Florence Houston who are well-known in town for running the Hebron Pharmacy for about 38 years.

Like Goode, Town Manager Andy Tierney said the accident had impacted the entire community and was “very tragic.”

“The whole town is mourning the loss,” he said. “It’s a small, tight-knit community over here and it hits home when something like this

happens.”

Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski agreed, calling what happened “truly a tragedy.”

“I don’t think any parent should have to bury their child,” he said. “Obviously we feel very, very sad that we’ve lost a member of the RHAM community.”

Grief counselors were made available Tuesday night, and when school starts in just a few weeks, Siminski said coping with Houston’s loss is “the next hurdle” the school will need to pass.

“We need to do some planning because we anticipate there might be some issues for the kids coming back to school,” he said.

But those who knew Houston are already finding their own ways to deal with the loss. A makeshift memorial of ribbons, balloons, flowers, photos and stuffed animals has formed at the scene of the crash. A vigil was held in Houston’s memory at RHAM High School Tuesday night, and on Wednesday, students took to painting a rock at RHAM Middle School – one that usually receives a fresh paint job at the end of each school year – also in Houston’s honor.

Others have taken to Twitter to express their sadness.

“Everyone tell your friends how much you love them [because] no matter how much I love Paige I haven’t told her and now my best friend is gone. Pls,” tweeted Tamer Nichols, who was



Houston’s brother Cody said he’d become particularly close to his sister in the two months leading up to the accident that claimed her life. He said he’d miss her “shining personality,” and called her outgoing and “a really nice person.”

also on the cheerleading team at RHAM.

Ashley Fochi, another cheerleader, said Tuesday “I can’t believe something like this can happen to such an amazing person. We all love you so much. RIP Paige, you will be missed.”

Burton, who had been in the front passenger seat of the vehicle that night, took to the social networking site to express his emotions.

“I honestly don’t know what to say I’m so sorry Paige you were an amazing girl and I’ll never forget that beautiful smile,” he wrote Tuesday.

And for Josh Cuevas and Sarah Naumec, the site was a way to help spread the word about a fundraiser they’d started for Houston’s family.

On Wednesday, Cuevas, who graduated this year and had known Houston for five years, said she had a “huge smile and amazing laugh” and he was “devastated” by the news.

In response to the tragedy, Cuevas said he had linked up with Naumec, a friend and fellow graduate, who had known Houston since they began cheering together in fourth grade, to sell bracelets in her memory.

“Me and Sarah were just talking and we wanted something that could actually kind of keep her spirit around and alive,” Cuevas explained.

The idea for a bracelet came about after he had seen his cousin wear one when he similarly lost a friend.

“I thought that was a good way to keep her spirit alive and remind RHAM students of Paige

and her passing and remind them of what occurred and [also] remind them not to drink and drive,” Cuevas said. [At press time, the crash is still under investigation, and no cause has been determined.]

In addition, the sale of the bracelets would raise money to be used for a charity of the Houstons’ choice. The sale of the bracelets and consequent fundraising has been dubbed “The PK Project” by the family.

Cody heralded the project on Twitter late Wednesday, tweeting “lets turn this tragedy into something positive...” and ending with the hashtag “ThePKProject.”

The bracelets Naumec and Cuevas are selling cost \$5 and read “R.I.P Paige Houston,” along with the date of her death and the phrase “hakuna matata,” which hails from the Disney film *The Lion King* and means “no worries.”

“She had ‘hakuna matata’ tattooed on her foot,” explained Cuevas. “It was one of her favorite sayings.”

And now, it’s a phrase those who knew her have taken to saying, along with an Incubus lyric she liked – “Whatever tomorrow brings, I’ll be there,” – to bring comfort as they come to grips with what happened, and hold onto their memories of Houston and her smile.

Those interested in purchasing a bracelet in memory of Houston can call Cuevas at 860-416-7270 or Naumec at 860-205-5143.

An obituary on Houston’s passing appears on page 10.

**WJMS Project cont. from Front Page**

also highlighted heavy wear and tear at WJMS, which they said is in need of repair.

A confused Tarlov continued questioning Schuster over the project Wednesday, asking him what his plans were if the WJMS project fails. Schuster mentioned a stand-alone senior center, and shared the idea of bringing YMCA to Colchester that could house a community pool. This led Tarlov to voice frustrations about not receiving information of cost alternatives when asked.

“I have found this very difficult over the last two months trying to get the information,” he said. “I’m very comfortable with the numbers that came out of the building committee. But in terms of trying to assess the costs of the alternatives, trying to get the information that we needed from staff has been very difficult.”

Tarlov mentioned a report given by Jim Paggioli that was requested by the finance board earlier this summer to be “vague” though the finance board asked for additional information “multiple” times. Tarlov then asked if his fellow board members felt they received the information the board had sought and vice chair Rob Esteve simply said “no.”

Tarlov added that Schuster missed three out of the four finance board meetings where the WJMS project was the topic of discussion; one of which Paggioli was absent from as well. Schuster informed Tarlov he “can’t attend ev-

ery meeting.”

Schuster asked Tarlov to “please” let him know any additional information they may need in the future and he’d be “happy to provide it” – pointing out that Tarlov’s communication concerns were the “first” he heard of them. A persistent Tarlov said the board will make multiple requests in the future, adding “we couldn’t even directly talk to staff about the project” because the board was told it had to go through Schuster with any questions.

“That’s a typical thing as a chief executive officer,” Schuster said of his responsibilities for distributing information. The first selectman added he never “filtered” any information he submitted to the board, in response to a comment made from Tarlov.

Lastly, Tarlov reminded attendees how the finance board views the project – regardless of its outcome at referendum.

“We know there’s a cost to not doing the project,” he informed. “The taxpayers – they’re not voting to spend money or not to spend money.”

Tarlov explained this had to do with the looming concerns of all three current structures. Without the project, he said, those buildings still need to be repaired.

Wednesday’s finance board meeting wrapped up with comments from members sitting in the crowd.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle – also the selectmen liaison to the building committee behind the project – clarified information brought up regarding the senior center Wednesday. She spoke of the senior center study group report conducted before the project was designed included a survey of senior citizens. The results showed a majority of the people that answered the survey supported the multi-purpose project, Coyle said. Additionally, Coyle recalled a visit herself, building committee member Pam Scheibelein and school board chairman Ron Goldstein made to the senior center in the spring where seniors at the center voiced support of the three-part proposal.

Selectman Jim Ford voiced his support of putting the project to the voters. After the meeting, he stated his biggest concern was to get the truth out about what the project entails to the public.

The building committee’s chairman, Tom Tyler, was present at Wednesday’s meeting. He said after the meeting he explained to those present why there was no pool included in the project.

“The building committee in fact approached the Board of Selectmen several times and requested they take action on whether we should or should not include a pool,” Tyler said, “and their lack of action is the reason why there is no pool included.”

After the meeting, Tyler said the committee’s next step now that the project is heading to voters is to educate the community about the project’s details.

“At this point the building committee’s role is not advocacy, it’s education,” Tyler said. “Our job is really just to do what the board of selectmen asked us to do to develop the schematic details and then present that information in an unbiased format to the community.”

The town meeting on the project will be held Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall. A referendum is slated for Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., also at Town Hall.

Prior to the Sept. 18 town meeting, two public information sessions will be held to inform citizens of the project on Sept. 3 and Sept 9; time and location for the sessions still need to be determined. The building committee behind the project will also be present at the four Colchester school open houses next month to discuss the proposal.



# Colchester Town Meeting Set for Blight Ordinance

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen last week set a town meeting for next Thursday night, for discussion of a new blight ordinance – which nearly 250 residents recently let the town know they want.

Resident Bob Prentiss delivered a petition of 242 signatures to Town Hall in May. He formulated the petition in hopes that the selectmen would “draw up a strong blight ordinance with teeth to protect the value of home and property owners,” a letter attached to the petition states.

The letter – which Prentiss read aloud to the selectmen at one of its June meetings – highlights what pushed Prentiss to petition for the institution of a blight ordinance. He stated he lives on Norwich Avenue across from “two depressed houses owned by two different people who don’t even live in Colchester and could care less what the property looks like.”

“This has had a negative effect on the value of my home, according to my appraiser,” Prentiss furthers in the letter.

In June, Prentiss informed the board that 242 of the 249 people he interviewed signed the petition – including “many” residents from two neighborhoods with similar concerns of nearby blighted properties. In the letter, Prentiss said

he speaks on behalf of the citizens he encountered, stating they felt “there was nothing they could do about it because there was nowhere they could go to address the problem.”

While the petition did not specify the language to include in a potential ordinance, it did request the selectmen develop one, and Prentiss provided copies of surrounding towns’ blight ordinances.

At meetings over the subsequent two months, selectmen seemed to agree it was time to discuss a potential ordinance. However, they weren’t sure how to respond to the petition because it lacked language of an ordinance. In June, selectman Jim Ford explained to Prentiss what the board was concerned with.

“Just so you understand the discussion we’re having – it’s a process issue,” Ford told Prentiss at the time, stressing that the board was not opposed to a blight ordinance. “There is no actual language proposed in the petition, so we’re not sure if it’s legal or proper. I think most of us agree we should be discussing it. It’s just the manner of how we go ahead and discuss it.”

At a July meeting, the selectmen agreed to seek legal advice from the town attorney, em-

ployed by Shipman and Goodwin. Last week, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said counsel advised the board to schedule a special town meeting in response to the petition to be in accordance with the town charter.

The board unanimously approved at its Aug. 1 to schedule the town meeting for Thursday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Selectman Greg Cordova was absent from the meeting.

Additionally, the board unanimously approved a resolution from Schuster that will be read at the town meeting. The resolution states what process the board feels is best to take in regards to a blight ordinance, which primarily, members discussed, is to form a task force charged to research and develop a blight ordinance before one is adopted.

“It should be done in a logical, thought-out manner so we can make sure that first, it’s fair to citizens and second, something we can enforce,” Schuster said to fellow board members who shook their heads in agreement.

Soby agreed that enforcement is necessary when it comes to the issue of blight.

“The enforceability piece has always been questioned,” Soby said, recalling a similar pe-

tion made to the board in 2007.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle was also on board. She voiced her support of the resolution, which will be read at next week’s town meeting.

“It really sets the tone for what we believe the process should be,” Coyle said of the resolution. “I think we need to develop something in Colchester that is practical to put in place and meet the needs of our constituents.”

Prentiss did not attend last week’s selectmen meeting, but earlier this week said he plans to attend the town meeting. He also seemed pleased with the selectmen’s stance on the issue.

The selectmen’s idea to develop a task force “would be very good,” Prentiss said. “That’s why I say it needs to be [created] with a lot of teeth in it. I think the town needs to use common sense when doing this.”

Prentiss added that he hopes an ordinance is adopted in the future that enforces property owners to maintain and “take care of” their properties.

“I want the ordinance to make them fix [their properties] up or tear them down,” he said.

# Marvin’s Midway Auto Opens in Familiar Spot in Colchester

by Melissa Roberto

Bert Marvin of Colchester admits he was not born into a family of avid sports fans. The 45-year-old doesn’t have the greatest working knowledge of computers either.

But if there’s one thing Marvin knows how to do well, it’s fix cars – which is why he recently brought his business, Marvin’s Midway Auto, to town, right down the road from where he lives. The business is actually in the same exact location where his hands first became drenched in car grease – the same location where his grandfather, father and uncle did the same.

“This is what we did,” he said of his family from inside of the garage.

Formerly located in New London, Marvin’s Midway Auto opened its doors at 28 Amston Rd. last Friday, Aug. 1. The business sells used cars, services all cars and trucks and offers 24-hour towing.

The relocation brought the Marvin family tradition of servicing cars in Colchester full circle.

In 1940, Marvin’s late grandfather, Wilbert Marvin, opened his full service garage called Marvin’s Midway Garage on South Main Street. In 1971, Wilbert Marvin moved to the Amston Road location, to open Marvin’s Toyota. Upon his passing in the mid-1980s, his son Everett – Bert’s father – and brother Walter took the business over, and ran it for the next 15 years.

Marvin said he was often dropped off at the Amston Road garage after school – “playing with this and playing with that, wrecking this and wrecking that,” – and spent his summer vacations there, too.

And it didn’t take him long to follow in his family members’ footsteps. At 15, Marvin started working on cars alongside his dad and uncle. After graduating from St. Bernard High School in Uncasville in 1986, he received his

automotive repair certification from Porter and Chester Institute in Wethersfield.

Marvin continued to work at Marvin’s Toyota until he branched off to open his own business, Colchester Auto, on Norwich Avenue, which stayed open for a couple of years. Meanwhile in 2000, Marvin’s uncle and father sold the Marvin Toyota franchise. For the last 10 years, however, Marvin serviced cars at a new business venture, Marvin’s Midway Auto, in New London – carrying on the family name.

But Marvin never moved out of town, and he said driving by the Amston Road garage – which had been vacant for the last five years – each morning on his way to New London got him thinking. The property was still owned by his family, he explained, so he got the approval from his kin to move in and open up shop.

Only open for a week, Marvin said so far things have started off well in his new – but also familiar – location. On his first day, one of his customers from New London ventured to the Colchester garage to get an oil change. During the first weekend, Marvin said there were some overnight towing calls from the Colchester Police Department he responded to.

Though it’s certainly not the only automotive garage in town, the experienced auto technician/owner said he’s carrying on a family business that’s well known to Colchester citizens.

“There’s a lot of history of Marvins in town,” he said. “I think Marvin is a very respected name as far as the service industry in Colchester.”

But he said he didn’t come to town with intentions of knocking other businesses out. In fact, Marvin said he believes there’s “enough work out there for everybody.”

Though there was a period of time when the Amston Road garage was in his rearview mirror, Marvin said “it’s definitely pretty cool” to be back. The garage that is once again his work-



**Bert Marvin stands outside his new business in Colchester, Marvin’s Midway Auto. The business is located at 28 Amston Rd. – in the exact same spot his grandfather once owned an auto garage.**

place is complete with a picture of his grandfather standing outside of the original Marvin’s Midway garage.

Aside from fixing cars, Marvin raced open wheel modified cars for 20 years. Now he watches his 9-year-old son Anthony do the same with bandolero and quarter midget cars, which he maintains when he gets home from work. In addition to running his own garage, Marvin is also known around town for the nearly 30 years he’s volunteered as a firefighter.

The business owner admits he never turns

away a customer with an automotive need.

“I’ll work on anything,” he said.

From working on brakes, exhaust pipes, wheel bearings to tune ups and oil changes, Marvin furthered “whatever needs to be done on a vehicle we’ll do it.”

Marvin’s Midway Auto is open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It is closed Sundays. It also offers 24-hour towing. To reach Marvin’s Midway Auto readers can call 860-537-4900.



# Armed Robbery Reported in Colchester Library Parking Lot

by Melissa Roberto

An elderly woman was robbed at knifepoint last week after getting into her car at Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Police said.

At approximately 11:17 a.m. Friday, Aug. 2, Colchester Police responded to the local library after receiving a call from an 85-year-old Colchester woman who reported a white male approached her vehicle with a small knife demanding money.

The alleged victim told police she was approached sometime between 10:30-11 a.m., moments after entering her vehicle after leaving the library with books. The woman said as soon as the male demanded money while holding a small knife that she told the police “looked homemade” she immediately opened up her wallet. Police said the robber took the only money she had on her, \$15 cash.

The woman reported the male was approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall and 140 pounds wearing a tan baseball hat, a dirty orange shirt and dirty tan pants, according to a Colchester Police press release. It is believed the suspect left on foot behind Noel’s Market.

Colchester Police Officer Jonathan Goss said the woman reported the incident “a little late” after it occurred. State and Colchester Police responded to the scene and, when one became available, used a canine to track the suspect’s footsteps. However, Goss said of-

ficers were unable to locate the suspect and are still investigating the case.

Goss said Colchester Police are trying to track down the suspect by using video surveillance of nearby local businesses. Goss said the alleged victim reported the suspect looked as if he had been sleeping outside for a considerable amount of time.

Goss added that robberies are not common in Colchester.

“We don’t get a lot of robberies in Colchester, so it was pretty atypical,” he said. “It also happened in the center of town in a busy area.”

Cragin Memorial Library Director Kate Byroade said the incident was the “only” robbery she could recall occurring at the library.

“This is extremely rare,” she said.

Byroade said a state police officer made library personnel aware of the incident. She added the alleged victim came in on Monday to explain what happened.

“I was very relieved that she was safe and okay,” said Byroade.

Goss said if the suspect is identified, he would be charged with first-degree robbery as well as other charges, involving crimes against the elderly.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

# Public Hearing Set for New Field in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday set a public hearing for a proposed recreational field to be built in the wooded area behind Andover Elementary School.

The project has been in the works since 2007, and includes the construction of a multi-use field which would be used mainly for soccer and lacrosse, along with a walking track, and a pavilion if the funds are available.

The town has already been awarded a \$225,000 grant for the field which is to be combined, with an additional \$225,000 grant originally awarded to help build a new senior center. When the cost of the center was estimated to be too much for the town at over \$1 million, the money was coupled with the field grant.

The complex was originally proposed to be located by the ball fields on Long Hill Road, but plans changed once the engineers hired for the project discovered the property came into wetlands.

As a result, a couple of other locations were considered in town, but it was the town-owned property behind the elementary school that panned out.

The Board of Education accepted the concept and plans for the field in June, and the selectmen approved moving forward with the next steps at their July meeting.

On Tuesday, the board set a public hearing

date for Sept. 10, with an alternate date of Sept. 12, “if for some reason the 10th doesn’t work out,” said First Selectman Bob Burbank.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, the board approved a bid for the purchase of a new dump truck from Peterbilt of Connecticut Inc.; in the amount of \$163,671 to be paid over five years.

The town received three bids for the truck and reviewed a contract with the State of Connecticut, and Burbank said he didn’t recommend going with the least expensive. (Nutmeg International Trucks Inc. came in with a bid of \$158,916.82 while a contract for a truck from the state would amount to \$156,978.20.)

Burbank explained he had talked to the road foreman, who recommended going with Peterbilt.

The truck offered, he said, “is only a couple thousand dollars more per year, has a far more efficient engine and the quality of the vehicle is substantially better.”

The new truck will replace a 1986 truck currently in the town’s fleet.

Approval of the bid to Peterbilt of Connecticut Inc., was approved unanimously.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m., in the Town Office Building.

# Slew of Motor Vehicles Damaged at Colchester Business

by Melissa Roberto

Seven cars were damaged in a slew of vandalism at Reliable Auto Center last weekend, Colchester Police said.

On Saturday, Aug. 3, at approximately 7:55 a.m., Colchester Police responded to a report of four motor vehicles with slashed tires and two vehicles with scratched or dented doors.

Police said the damage is believed to have taken place sometime between 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2 and 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3.

Investigating Officer Bryan Kowalsky said earlier this week an additional vehicle, an oil truck owned by Reliable Auto, was found Monday sitting in a different parking lot

owned by the business, with a flat front tire that had apparently been slashed. Kowalsky could not confirm whether the oil truck was related to the overnight incidents over the weekend, but said that “may have” been the case.

Kowalsky said Colchester Police does not have any suspects or leads. The business does not have video surveillance, he said, making it difficult to obtain identification of a suspect(s).

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Kowalsky at 860-537-7270.

# Portland Man Pulls Knife at the Movies

by Elizabeth Bowling

A Portland man was arrested Tuesday night at Metro Movie Theater in Middletown after threatening a fellow moviegoer at knifepoint during a showing of *Grown Ups 2*, Middletown Police said.

Jayquan Tyshawn Howard, 19, was reportedly being “extremely loud and yelling” during the movie showing in theater No. 6, police said. After the moviegoer sitting directly in front of him turned around and told Howard to “shut up,” Howard pulled out a knife and threatened to “handle this right now,” according to a report submitted by Middletown police officer James Remotti.

The moviegoer who told Howard to “shut up” exited theater No. 6 with his friend and was followed into the lobby by Howard and

his friend, knife in hand. However, Howard and his friend suggested fighting without weapons, and then walked back into theater No. 6, with no fighting having taken place according to the report.

Police responded to the scene and ordered Metro Movie Theater management to stop the film and turn on the lights in the theater. Officers “surrounded all entrances and exits,” the report read. The two moviegoers in front of Howard had described him to police, and when he exited the theater, police said, he was detained on the spot.

Howard was arrested for possession of a dangerous weapon, second-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree threatening and breach of peace.

# LifeStar Called for Scooter Crash in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

LifeStar was called to Hebron Tuesday night in response to a scooter accident on Route 316, state police said.

A little before 8 p.m. Tuesday David Nelson, 43, of Hebron, was traveling west on Route 316 approximately two-tenths of a mile west of Loveland Road when the 2012 TaoTao scooter he was driving began to swerve for an undetermined reason, police said.

The vehicle briefly left the northern shoulder of the roadway then returned to the road where it fell and slid for approximately 20 feet before coming to a stop, said police.

Nelson was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar due to an “incapacitating injury” sustained in the crash, police said; as of Wednesday evening he remained in intensive care.

The accident remains under investigation.

# Following Crashes, Police in Hebron to Step Up Presence

by Geeta Schrayter

In hopes of getting drivers in town to slow down and curb the number of crashes that have taken place recently, Town Manager Andy Tierney said Wednesday he has asked state police to increase their presence in town.

And police agreed.

Tierney said he spoke with Master Sergeant Robert Grega out of Troop K in Colchester, and told him there had been a number of recent incidents in town that may have been related to speeding. In response, Tierney said he expected police presence to increase.

“We’re trying to be a little bit proactive, so we’re trying to get the word out to residents that there will be an increased presence,” he said, urging residents to “use caution and not speed.”

Tierney said residents have complained about speeding, and there has also been a “recent spike” in the number of crashes that have occurred in town. For example, there was a crash early Tuesday morning that claimed the life of a RHAM High School student, a scooter crash Tuesday night on Route 316 that sent one person to Hartford Hospital via Lifestar, and a rollover crash on Stage Harbor Road Wednesday morning (the crashes, it should be noted, are still under investigation, with the causes yet to be determined).

“A lot of residents have made complaints of speeding and asked for radar enforcement or signage,” he said. “With so many accidents – it’s an indicator we need to combat that a little bit and the only way we know how to do that is with more enforcement.”

While noting they weren’t all related to crashes, Tierney said there were around 30 calls into the fire department last month.

“There’s starting to be more and more [calls] and the responses from the fire depart-

ment have increased in recent weeks,” he said, adding another impetus for slowing people down was the start of the school year at the end of the month.

On Wednesday, Grega said an increase in enforcement on secondary roads was already in place and had been initiated when Major Michael Darcy took over the district at the beginning of the year.

“We have been doing that in all our towns,” he said. “It’s been a district-wide memorandum that we will concentrate enforcement efforts on secondary routes – [Routes] 85, 66 and so on – and we have been doing that.”

But Grega added Hebron seemed to have “a black cloud over them” lately, and said police presence in the area would in fact increase.

“We may put a little saturation patrol in Hebron for a little while,” he said. “There’ll be a bigger presence anyway, especially with the [Hebron Harvest] Fair coming up.”

Like Tierney, Grega urged residents to “pay attention to the rules of the road.”

Tierney added he didn’t want residents to get tickets, which he acknowledged can be expensive, but action needed to be taken.

“We’ve tried to be as graceful as we can and still maintain public safety in town, but now it’s to a point where [speeding is] a glaring problem,” he said, “so we want to step it up.”

In addition, Tierney said he hoped parents would talk to their kids about driving “and we can prevent some of these accidents” in the future.

“We’re just trying to get the speeds back down to the posted limit and slow people down,” he added.

# MES Principal Moving On

by Melissa Roberto

Marlborough Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf has announced he will leave pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade elementary school after the start of the school year to take on another role.

Nierendorf has helped lead MES for three years. His leadership skills will be utilized in the near future at EASTCONN, one of the six regional educational service centers (RESCs) in the state, to fill the role of director of teaching and learning. It won't be a completely new experience, though, as Nierendorf has worked for another RESC in the state before.

Though the EASTCONN role differs from a school administration position, it will allow Nierendorf to be closely tied with 36 school districts in the northeastern region of the state, including Marlborough.

RESCs provide instructional and operational services for district administrators and teachers. As director of teaching and learning, Nierendorf will provide professional development services for general teaching and learning. In particular, some of the key initiatives he'll provide districts guidance with are new statewide initiatives like the Common Core State Standards, the new method of Smarter Balanced testing and System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) – three initiatives Nierendorf has been active in planning at MES since his arrival to the district.

"Scott came in at a time when there were so many changes being mandated by the state," Superintendent of Marlborough Schools David Sklarz said earlier this week.

Sklarz has already been in talks with Board



of Education Chairwoman Ruth Kelly about what the proper transition plan should be to fill Nierendorf's position. The superintendent said the local Board of Education will be the first group he communicates the plan to next week in a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 6 p.m. at the MES library.

Sklarz said the news of Nierendorf's departure was unexpected.

"It came as a surprise to all of us at MES, so we're really taking our time," he said. "We're looking to implement a transition plan that would almost be seamless moving forward."

Though the initial discussions of a transition plan began this week, Sklarz said the "biggest" priority in establishing a process is to make sure it is "participatory."

"That's the most important message," Sklarz said. "And it's going to be thorough."

The superintendent furthered his vision of the process.

"It's going to be an expensive recruitment process to try to find the best pool of candidates that we can while making sure it's a real participatory process – including parents, the community, of course, teachers and the Board [of Education] from beginning to end," Sklarz said.

Sklarz said selecting a new principal – one he envisions is capable of driving out future state mandates and the two feasibility studies MES administration is currently pursuing – is something that will take time.

"We're looking at different options and at some point we will begin an intensive recruitment process and that'll certainly take a great deal of time," Sklarz said.

The superintendent admitted it wasn't the "best" time to let the community know of Nierendorf's impending departure because people are out of town on vacation. But students, and parents, will still have time to say their goodbyes. Nierendorf will greet MES students during their first few days of the new

school year – and perhaps even its first few weeks. Nierendorf's final day has not yet been decided; he said he expects to remain at MES until "early to mid-September."

Nierendorf stressed he wasn't looking for a new job; rather, he was approached with it.

"I wasn't looking for this opportunity but [new opportunities] come about so infrequently," Nierendorf said. "It seemed like a good fit."

The principal admitted leaving MES was a tough choice to make.

"It was a very tough decision to leave Marlborough because of all the great things going on here," he said.

"I love Marlborough," Nierendorf added. "This has been a great experience. It's a fantastic school with a supportive parent community."

The principal explained he was contacted by EASTCONN when the position opened up due to a retirement. He described it as a "rare opportunity and one that really matches my past roles."

Prior to coming to Marlborough, Nierendorf was the Assistant Principal at Charter Oak International Academy for three years. Before that, he held a similar position to the new role he will undertake, director of educational technology, for Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), an RESC out of Hartford. In that position, Nierendorf was responsible for coordinating professional development, programs and services with a focus on technology for 36 school districts.

Nierendorf's new boss, EASTCONN Executive Director Paula Colen, said she is "thrilled" he will fill the "all-encompassing" position.

"He has a unique set of skills and experiences for this particular job at a service center in that he's been in public schools as a principal but has also worked at a RESC," said Colen. "Having him come from one of our districts is an added bonus."

Nierendorf said he remains committed to

making sure he leaves MES in a good place.

"As I prepare to leave I want to make sure the school is in very good shape for the upcoming school year," he said. "I'm fully committed – and I've said this to Dr. Sklarz and my staff – to making sure that we have a strong start to the school year."

Additionally, Nierendorf has been working throughout the summer months alongside Sklarz and assistant principal Dr. Maureen Ryan working on two feasibility studies: a world language study and full-day kindergarten study.

The administration is expected to report to the Board of Education with the results of these studies in October. While the future principal will be responsible for seeing the studies through their end – and perhaps implementing any future changes at the school – Nierendorf said "much of the work" for the studies will be done by the time he leaves.

Nierendorf said he also feels the 2013-14 school year at MES to be a "very exciting" year.

"I see a lot of reason for hope to this school that success will continue. It's been a privilege for me to be a part of it for three years."

Sklarz said Nierendorf will be missed.

"Anytime a principal moves on I think there's a sense of loss but it's the same sense of loss we've had when curriculum specialists and teachers moved on," Sklarz explained. "When that happens they are missed but everybody also wishes them well as they find new opportunities because they're talented."

And, Nierendorf said, his new position will ensure he won't be a stranger.

"I'm still going to keep tabs with Marlborough Elementary – just from a distance," the principal said.

The Board of Education will hold a special meeting next Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 6 p.m. at the MES media center to update the board on staffing changes and to discuss the plan for an interim principal position.



# Hebron Eagle Scout Treks Appalachian Trail

by Geeta Schrayter

For Hebron resident Michael Begansky, 24, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 2006 in no way meant the end of his Boy Scout-like experiences.

Begansky, who joined the scouts in 2000, then became a scout leader and, just last month, completed a “thru-hike” along the Appalachian trail – that is, he completed the entire trail, backpacking 2,185.9 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine.

It’s a feat that, according to the Appalachian Trail website [appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org), thousands of hikers attempt each year. However, the site said, “only about one in four make it all the way.”

For Begansky, who began the journey March 9 and finished July 26 – averaging out to hiking about 15.6 miles per day – the hike was a dream come true. He said this week while he was in the Boy Scouts, he took part in backpacking excursions throughout Connecticut and the surrounding areas including Bear Mountain, a portion of the Appalachian Trail in the western portion of the state.

Bear Mountain had been his favorite part, he said, and those Boy Scout experiences were what made him decide to hike the entire trail.

“I fell in love with it,” he stated, adding hiking the Appalachian Trail was the “opportunity to live a dream.”

Begansky worked at Foxwoods for a year prior to his hike in order to save up money. During that time, he prepared for the trip by reading books, watching YouTube videos and participating in online forums.

“I was always on the computer looking up information,” he said.

Then, “things kind of fell in place” for him to head off on his journey and he quit his job. It was a move he said was “well worth it,” even though he’s currently looking for a new one now that he’s back.

It helped that Begansky had – and was grateful for – the support of his parents and Boy Scout Troop 28 out of Hebron. In addition, Begansky felt it was the appropriate time to complete the hike since he was young and able: and so he did just that.

The journey – which has a total elevation gain equivalent to climbing Mount Everest 16 times – involved sleeping in tents, shelters and hostels. For the most part Begansky said he stayed in shelters, three-walled structures placed all along the trail. However, if a particular shelter was full or he didn’t reach one at the end of the day, he’d pitch a tent. On other occasions, he spent the night at an inn or hostel in a nearby town.

As far as cuisine, the meals rarely varied. For

breakfast, Begansky would eat Pop-Tarts, cereal bars or instant oatmeal and instant coffee.

“There was really no lunch,” he said, “just snacking nearly every hour on protein bars or candy bars.”

Dinner was the biggest meal, and typically consisted of Ramen noodles, rice and pasta sides and dehydrated meals.

Throughout the journey, Begansky saw his fair share of animals: from deer and raccoons to porcupines, rattlesnakes and black bears, as well as moose in Maine and wild ponies in Virginia.

Begansky said one of his favorite parts of the trail was the southern part of Virginia. As he made his way through Grayson Highlands State Park, he saw some of the wild ponies roaming about.

“That was neat to see,” he said.

A range of weather was also encountered and proved to be a challenge on more than one occasion.

In the Smoky Mountains for example, Begansky said hikers were caught off-guard when they encountered snow, ice and temperatures in the single digits.

“Locals told us it was worse than normal,” Begansky said, adding he had heard that was the part where most people gave up the trek.

“We were hiking in snow up to my knees and higher,” he said. “It was definitely a mental thing to keep trekking through that.”

While there were also sunny days, Begansky said that, in addition to the wintry weather, there was rain for about a month straight.

“At first that was horrible,” he said. “It brings you down. But you get used to it.”

Begansky said there came a point where he simply stopped wearing a raincoat – it was raining so much he figured he was just going to get wet anyway.

“The worst part,” Begansky stated, “was putting on wet clothes in the morning. But it had to be done to accomplish this journey.”

Other challenges Begansky faced included shin splints in both legs that lasted for about a month.

“Sometimes the pain was unbearable,” he said. “It would slow me down, but I kept telling myself I wouldn’t let it take me off the trail.”

Like most hikers, Begansky started the journey alone but linked up with other hikers along the way. And, also like most hikers, Begansky had a trail name: Eagle Runner, due to his being an Eagle Scout and a runner.

For about a month Begansky journeyed with a hiker called Zizi Topless. Then, Zizi finished the section he was hiking and Begansky started up with three other hikers: “Hurry,” “Scraps”



Hebron resident Michael Begansky recently completed a hike along the Appalachian Trail. The journey lasted 140 days and took him 2,185.9 miles from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine.

and “Woo Gwei.”

At one point, Begansky thought his shin splints would split him up from the others.

“I was going to break off and have the guys go on, and rest,” he said, but he ended up pushing through and in the end, it was two of the other hikers – Scraps and Woo Gwei – who ended up getting sick and ending their journey.

“I can say this was definitely a physical and mental challenge,” said Begansky, explaining while some days it was something physical like the shin splints that made him want to stop, other days “you just didn’t want to hike – but my legs kept moving and I kept moving north.”

Although there were challenges, there were also rewards, like the views offered up at the various summits. Begansky sited the White Mountains in New Hampshire as one of his favorites. He called the elevation change – the area includes 6,288-foot Mount Washington – shocking, but the view was a “great reward.”

“It was breathtaking and totally beautiful,” he said. “The pictures don’t do it justice.”

Begansky was also a fan of meeting other hikers from all over the world, and what is commonly known as “trail magic,” random acts of kindness from strangers who become known as “trail angels.” These bits of “magic” are frequently coolers left at trail heads filled with snacks, soda – or even beer. Other times, someone may give hikers a ride into town or offer up

an invitation to come home for a shower and a hot meal. On Begansky’s journey, he experienced all of the above.

He found coolers, was invited for breakfast, a hot shower and to do laundry at someone’s home, and given a ride to town to purchase fuel canisters and new supplies by a woman in Virginia. As they got to talking, the woman then asked Begansky and Hurry what they missed the most. When Hurry mentioned fruit, she gave the men \$20 to purchase some, then brought them back to the trail.

Then, of course, the biggest highlight was achieving the ultimate goal: gazing out from the top of Mount Katahdin.

“I can’t even describe [how it felt],” he said. “There were 50-60 mile-per-hour winds up top and rain, but you didn’t care. I was working toward a goal and chasing a dream and that [weather] wasn’t going to stop me.”

And now that the venture has been completed, Begansky said the experience taught him about achieving his dreams.

“If you work hard toward a dream and chase that dream, it can be accomplished,” he said. “Every day brought me closer. There were many obstacles that slowed me down but I definitely overcame them.”

To watch Begansky as he participates in his thru-hike, go to [YouTube.com/redrunnerjumper](http://YouTube.com/redrunnerjumper) to view his video uploads from the journey.

# Improvements Made to East Hampton Cemeteries

by Elizabeth Bowling

Each of East Hampton’s town-owned cemeteries have been given some sprucing up in the past 18 months, thanks to the town’s cemetery board.

Kevin Reich, chairman of the cemetery board, said the board oversees five of East Hampton’s cemeteries on behalf of the town. Those five plots include Skinnerville Cemetery, Young Street Cemetery, Hog Hill Cemetery, Selden Yard Cemetery and Tartia Cemetery.

According to Reich, the cemetery board works “in close cooperation with the public works department and the public works director.”

The interim public works director was Pete Johnston, but now newly-hired Philip Sissick will take over the role.

The public works department provides the manpower to mow the lawns every three or four weeks and do other regular maintenance, Reich said.

Reich spoke proudly of the board’s accomplishments in recent years. “We’ve moved quite a bit forward in the last five years,” he said.

In the last five years, flagpoles have been installed in each of the five cemeteries; in the last three years, the town purchased just over one acre of land adjacent to Young Street Cemetery with plans to expand; in the last two years the board “reclaimed” the cemeteries to the extent of their property lines, as well as removed trees and maintained the properties. Additionally, some of the rock walls were repaired at the Hog Hill and Selden Yard cemeteries to improve the appearance of the cemeteries.

The improved appearance of Tartia Cemetery is particularly outstanding.

“If you were here three weeks ago you wouldn’t recognize the place,” Reich said about Tartia Cemetery specifically.

So far improvements that have been made to Tartia Cemetery include cutting down about five trees, stump removal and fence replacement for a fence that was “in need of repair,” Reich said. Arrow Fence, an East Hampton company, was hired to replace the black chain fence and install a new entrance gate.

Referencing an interesting bit of local history, Reich said, “What’s unique about this cemetery is that all the names aren’t facing the street” because the road used to be on the opposite side of cemetery.

Reich explained that Tartia Cemetery – which was established in 1777, despite its signage that reads “established in 1776” – is closed now, meaning no more burials can be done there.

Also, once Skinnerville Cemetery’s remaining five to 10 spots are filled there will be no more room in the town-owned cemeteries for indigents who do not have family to bury them, Reich explained. Those burials are “the responsibility of the community,” he furthered.

“This is probably the biggest job we’ve done,” Reich said about the work done to Tartia Cemetery, calling it a “much more involved process” than the other four cemeteries.

But soon the additions to Young Street Cemetery will take the cake for “biggest job” and “most involved,” not to mention most expensive.

In last year’s budget, the town included \$20,000 in the capital improvement plan. Reich said that the money was “set aside for us to hire a consultant to make a master plan for additions to Young Street Cemetery.”

That funding will be in addition to the \$5,000 annual budget for the cemetery board to maintain the five cemeteries.

But the result will be worth it – Young Street Cemetery’s expansion will “probably fulfill the



Shown here is Tartia Cemetery on Wednesday, shortly after the installation of the new fence surrounding the property. Work at the cemetery, located on Tartia Road, is still being done, but improvements should be completed by the beginning of next week.

community’s needs for the next 100 years,” Reich said.

Regarding a timeline for the Young Street Cemetery expansions, Reich said the board hopes to hire a consultant this fall, and seek out proposals and put together a plan by spring. But, he said, the actual opening of the cemetery isn’t expected for “a number of years.”

In the meantime, Reich plans to “just keep

chipping away at what we need to do to bring improvements to what we have.” That will include repairing the headstones, cleaning them, and maintaining them on a regular basis, he said.

“My goal is to do as much as we can to care for these cemeteries because those laid to rest were instrumental to the founding of this community,” Reich said.



# East Hampton Man Behind Fake Bomb Gets Probation

by Elizabeth Bowling

The man who planted a fake bomb in front of East Hampton Middle School in January was sentenced last Thursday, Aug. 1, to three years of probation, according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office.

Sean Doran, 21, a resident of East Hampton, was also ordered to perform 150 hours of community service and pay a \$1,500 fine for his illegal actions earlier this year. Doran was sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Alvin W. Thompson in Hartford last week.

According to court documents, at approximately 8 a.m. on Jan. 12, 2013, East Hampton Middle School custodians found a package leaning against the front doors of the school, the press release stated. The box, which had a timer attached to the top, was approximately 12 inches by eight inches by four inches and was taped together with orange and red duct tape, the press release stated.

The school employees contacted the East Hampton Police Department, which then notified the Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad. The Bomb Squad determined that the device did not actually contain any explosives. No other potentially dangerous items were found that day at any East Hampton schools, East Hampton's Sgt. Michael Green told the *Rivereast* in January.

A review of East Hampton Middle School's surveillance video from Jan. 12 revealed

Doran stepping out of a silver Toyota Corolla, driven by Kyla Sypek, and placing the fake bomb at the doors of the school around 1:45 a.m.

East Hampton police stopped the same motor vehicle around 12:30 that afternoon and the two in question admitted to being at the school earlier that morning and planting the fake bomb. They were then arrested and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, first-degree threatening and first-degree breach of peace.

According to the press release, Doran pled guilty April 22 to one count of intentionally conveying false or misleading information and a hoax.

"Sypek was not charged federally," according to Tom Carson of the U.S. Department of Justice public information office.

Doran and Sypek made the fake bomb out of debris they found at Strategy Plus Paintball on Bear Swamp Road, Green told the *Rivereast*.

East Hampton Middle School principal Nancy Briere said, "Our school community is pleased to see that the case has been resolved to the satisfaction of the court system."



# East Hampton Receives Federal Housing Grant

by Elizabeth Bowling

An \$800,000 grant has been awarded to East Hampton, by the state, to be used toward improvements to Chatham Acres senior housing complex, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced last Wednesday, July 31.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Small Cities grant will go toward renovations to the town's 40-unit senior housing complex, according to Malloy's statement.

Housing Authority Director Judie Bobbi said, "We're thrilled that we were awarded the grant. We had applied back in the beginning of April."

Bobbi said that the Chatham Acres residents – who are, on average, in their early 80s, she said – are "very excited" for the renovations.

The work will include repaving the sidewalks and parking lot at Chatham Acres, Bobbi said. Additionally, each unit's bathroom sink will be replaced with a vanity and each kitchen will upgrade from a 20-inch electric oven to a 24-inch electric oven.

The roof also needs to be replaced because the shingles are defected, Bobbi said. The defects were discovered after Hurricane Irene, when the shingles were only 10 years old at the time.

She said walk-in showers will replace the bathtubs to make the apartments more handicapped accessible.

The statement from Malloy also noted that the grant will go toward installing new energy-saving hot water heaters and replacing two booster pumps.

The process is scheduled to begin sometime in mid- to late-fall and it must be completed within two years, Bobbi said.

"The federal Small Cities program is an important resource for cities and towns that are undertaking important housing initiatives in their communities," Malloy said in the press release.

Town Manager Mike Maniscalco echoed Malloy's emphasis on the importance of East Hampton's housing initiatives. He said, "Chatham Acres is an integral part of our community as it serves our senior citizens, especially those under a tight budget. Through the implementation of this grant, we will ensure them a place to live in East Hampton for many years to come."

According to the statement from the governor's office, the state awarded nearly \$12 million to 26 cities and towns in Connecticut for affordable and senior housing, economic development, and other local revitalization projects.

Malloy said, "These municipalities are making much-needed improvements to existing housing, creating more affordable housing options, and improving the quality of life for every resident. I thank our federal partners and appreciate the work the leaders of these communities are doing."

The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program is administered by Connecticut's Department of Housing.

## Portland Police News

8/3: Lowell Brandenburg, 35, of 160 Cox Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct, risk of injury to a minor and interfering with police, Portland Police said.

## Marlborough Police News

7/31: State Police said Maribel Agosto, 34, of 73 Old County Rd., Windsor Locks, was traveling in the right lane on Route 2 eastbound half of a mile west of exit 12 when she drifted into the left lane and swerved hard into the right lane, striking the wire rope guard rail. Upon striking the wire rope, Agosto's vehicle went down into the ravine, coming to an uncontrolled final rest after striking vegetation, Police said. Agosto was transported to Hartford Hospital by the Glastonbury Fire Department for minor lacerations.

8/2: State Police said Thomas M. Prince, 49, of 8 Summer Ln., was charged with making an improper turn and DUI.

8/3: State Police said a three-car crash oc-

## Hebron Police News

7/31: State Police said Amber Hungerford, 26, of 6 Lakeview St., East Hampton, was charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane and possession of drug paraphernalia.

occurred at approximately 9:30 a.m. on East Hampton Road 200 feet east of School Drive. Police said Joseph Clemens Jr., 53, of 47 Johnson Rd., was stopped in the proper lane on East Hampton Road waiting to turn left into the Marlborough Village Green Plaza when Elton H. Turek, 52, of 32 Roberts Rd., struck Clemens' vehicle from behind, pushing it into the westbound travel lane. Clemens' vehicle then struck the vehicle of Tara Couture, 29, of 35 North Main St., East Hampton, head-on. Police said all operators were transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department for non-evident injuries.

## Colchester Police News

7/24: State Police said Michael Sheridan, 19, of 75 Jaffee Terr., was charged with failure to wear seatbelt, disobeying signal of an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics, interfering with an officer and breach of peace.

7/30: Colchester Police are currently investigating an evading accident that occurred in the parking lot of Family Pizza at approximately 8:05 p.m. Police said there is no available description of the evading vehicle. If anybody was a witness to this incident or has any information, call Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

7/30: Colchester Police said Ryan Henk, 22, of 297 Old Hebron Rd., was arrested on two

active arrest warrants for two counts of third-degree burglary and one count of fourth-degree larceny.

7/31: State Police said Jessica L. Dessert, 31, of 47 Russell St., Jewett City, was arrested on an active arrest warrant for second-degree making a false statement.

8/1: Colchester Police said Dominic Tarquino, 26, of 491 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with interfering with an emergency call and disorderly conduct.

8/3: Colchester Police said Charon R. Livingston, 27, of 52 Spring St., Middletown, was charged with breach of peace, third-degree assault and third-degree strangulation.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Lillian Mae Plourde

Lillian Mae Plourde, 83, of East Hampton, widow of the late Camille J. Plourde Sr. died peacefully Wednesday, July 31, in Portland Care and Rehabilitation. Born Sept. 13, 1929, in Caribou, Maine, she was the daughter of the late William R. and Irene (Daigle) Cote.

Lillian had lived in East Hampton since 1959 and was a lifelong active member of St. Patrick Church, St. Patrick Guild, and RICA at St. Patrick Church. She was also a past member of the East Hampton Garden Club.

She is survived by her three sons, Camille Joseph Plourde Jr. and partner Kathleen of East Hampton, Thomas E. Plourde and partner Tracy of East Hampton, Anthony J. Plourde and partner Louise of Enfield; two daughters, Deborah G. Hawkins of Portland, Elizabeth M. Steinkamp and husband Steven of Portland; two brothers, Dennis Cote of Virginia, Edward Cote of Illinois; sister, Jeanice Mora of New Jersey; five grandchildren, Levon Plourde, Daniel Plourde, Jennifer Hawkins, Ryan Plourde, Brianna DiBuono Plourde; and great-granddaughter, Adriana Plourde.

She was predeceased by her brothers and sisters Roland Cote, Sheldon Cote, Keith Cote, Philip Cote, Geraldine Garripy, Gloria Eon, Arlene Tito, Amanda Shea, and Delores Cote.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Sunday, Aug. 4. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, Aug. 5, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church Repair Fund P.O. Box 177 East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

## Marlborough

### Mildred E. Baldwin

Mildred E. Baldwin, 89, of Marlborough, widow of the late William J. Baldwin, died Thursday, Aug. 1, at Middlesex Hospital. Born July 31, 1924, in Quaker Hill, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Albertina Davis.

Mildred had been a resident of Marlborough for 61 years. She was an active member of the Marlborough Congregational Church, and a former 4-H Leader. She enjoyed gardening, bird watching, knitting and baking. Mildred was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her son Ronald Baldwin and his wife Cindy of East Hartford, two daughters Tina Baldwin of Middletown, Dorothy Daniel and her husband Harry of Windsor Locks, and her two wonderful grandsons whom she truly adored Zachary Daniel and Tyler Baldwin.

Besides her parents and her husband William of 63 years, she is predeceased by a brother, Gilbert Davis, and two sisters, Charlotte Schlough and Marion Cigainero.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Aug. 6, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiating. Burial followed in Marlboro Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday morning before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Marlborough Congregational Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

## Portland

### Josephine Grabek

Josephine (Harzevitch) Grabek, 94, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, wife of the late Julius Grabek, died Wednesday, July 31, at Wadsworth Glen Heath Care in Middletown. She was born in Taftville, daughter of the late Felix and Teofila (Pliska) Harzevitch.

Prior to retirement, Josephine was an inspector at Remington Rand and New Departure. She also was a wonderful caregiver for a dear friend.

Josephine leaves her niece, Elizabeth Picaut and her family with whom she lived with the past 13 years and several nieces and nephews. She was the monarch of five generations of nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by five sisters and two brothers.

Her funeral liturgy was held Wednesday, Aug. 7, at St. Pius X Church, Middletown. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to a charity of the donor's choice. To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Mathilda Infante

Mathilda "Tillie" Infante, 68, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Aug. 3, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born April 4, 1945, in Hartford, she was a daughter of the late Charles and Evelyn (Russell) Giordano.

Tillie was a graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester and went on to work for Pratt & Whitney for nearly 35 years before her retirement. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening but her greatest joy was found in her family, to whom she was ever devoted.

She leaves her husband, Nicholas Infante; her daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Dale Martin of Colchester; three grandchildren, Brooke and Paige Carlson and Nichole Martin; three sisters, Mary Blinn of Broad Brook, Evelyn Bayles of Columbia, Md., and Diane Riemann of New London; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a daughter, Sandra Lee Carlson; and a brother, Thomas Giordano.

The family received guests Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Aug. 8, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Burial followed in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her 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

### Thomas Aquinas Martel Jr

Thomas Aquinas Martel Jr., at the age of 67, passed away Thursday, July 25, in Colchester. Tom was born in Cambridge, Mass., on May 28, 1947, the son of Thomas and Eleanor (Daylor) Martel Sr.

Seeking freedom, Tom joined the navy at a young age. He served in the Navy for 20 years. Tom was stationed in Rhode Island, Maryland, Illinois, California and Virginia. He served on six ships and traveled the world. Tom loved people and places. He enjoyed his work and teaching. He retired as an OCS while station in Manassas, Va., in 1983. He moved his family to Rhode Island and later in 2002 to Colchester Ct. Tom worked a series of civilian jobs as a defense contractor and later as a truck driver until his illness.

Tom searched the world over until he met his wife Sheila in 1967 in Maryland. They were married a year later. True to the words of their special song, "I'll never find another you".....they were married for 45 years.

In his spare time, Tom enjoyed calligraphy, music and was a talented photographer.

A good brother, husband, father and grandfather, he is survived by his wife Sheila M Martel of Colchester, and daughters Victoria Martel of Sarasota, Fla.; Dianna Henderson Fembleaux of Kinnelon, N.J.; his two grandsons Alexander Henderson and Andrew Henderson also of New Jersey; his siblings Denise Lepere of Everett, Mass., Christopher Martel of Johnston, R.I., Kathy Kalinowski of Randolph, Mass., as well as nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother, father as well as a sister Elizabeth Martel and a brother Richard Martel.

His request was to have a memorial on Loom Mountain in New Hampshire to celebrate his life.



## Amston

### Paige Kendra Houston

Paige Kendra Houston, 17, of Amston, beloved daughter of Kenneth and Michele (Stephens) Houston, passed away tragically Tuesday, Aug. 6, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.

She was born Jan. 17, 1996, in Hartford, and was entering her senior year as an Honor student at RHAM High School in Hebron, earning High Honors at the end of her junior year. Throughout her academic career, she was active in cheerleading with the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading League. While in RHAM youth cheerleading, her team placed sixth nationally at competition in Florida. During high school, she continued to excel as both an assistant coach for the past three years with RHAM youth program, and had been chosen to be one of the cheerleading captains for the upcoming year at RHAM High School.

Paige's dream after graduation was to go on to study early childhood development at ECSU.

She loved to be around people, whether working at the family business, Hebron Pharmacy (now CVS), or spending time with her family and many friends.

In addition to her loving parents, she leaves two brothers, Cody and Shane, both at home; her grandparents, Hayden and Florence Houston, Jr. of Hebron and Ronald and Peg Stephens of Toms River, N.J.; her great grandmother, Dorothy Stephens of Toms River; uncle, Keith Houston; uncle, Harold Evans; uncle, Kevin Stephens; uncle and aunt, Dennis and Lisa Stephens; aunt and uncle, Linda and Keith Humphris; uncle, Marc Cappell; cousins, Scott, Christine, Phillip, Stephanie "Big Sis", Joseph and Kathleen; and many other cousins and extended family members, her beloved dog, Bella; as well as her countless friends, to whom she was affectionately known as "Paigeysmallz," due to her small stature and big heart.

The family will receive guests 4-7 p.m. today, Aug. 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron. Interment will follow in the New Hebron Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading, P.O. Box 209, Hebron, CT 06248.

## Amston

### Thomas S. Zappala

Thomas S. Zappala, 99, of West Hartford and Amston, beloved husband of the late Mildred (Patriss) Zappala, died Wednesday, Aug. 7, at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center. Born in Lawrence, Mass., he was a resident of West Hartford for over 60 years.

Thomas was employed for many years in the construction trade and retired from Bartlett, Brainard and Eacott. He was proud of his work on various notable buildings in Connecticut and he had the same pride of his house he constructed on Amston Lake. He loved gardening, especially tending his tomatoes, always wanting to be the first to harvest. But his true love was his family and having their classic Italian Sunday dinner. Tom was a World War II, U.S. Army veteran and a lifetime member of the V.F.W., Hannon-Hatch, Post 9929.

He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law Susan and Thomas Tofil of West Hartford; a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Cindy Zappala of Rancho Mirage, Calif.; four grandchildren, Thomas Tofil, Matthew Tofil and his wife Kelly, Karen Carter and her husband Mike, and Gina Zappala and her husband Marco Bargellini; his great grandchildren Cassie and Alex Carter, Nicolo Bargellini and Joey and Evan Tofil; a dear friend Nancy Walker and many nieces and nephews.

Thomas was predeceased by a brother and a sister.

Funeral procession will be Saturday, Aug. 10, at 9:30 a.m., from the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial, at 10 a.m. in St. Brigid Church, West Hartford. Burial with military honors will be in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Calling hour will be prior to the funeral procession from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, 114 Woodland St. Hartford, CT 06105.

Online condolences may be made at [sheehanhilbornbreen.com](http://sheehanhilbornbreen.com).

## Amston

### Richard Bruce Watkins

Richard Bruce Watkins, 91, of Manchester, formerly of Amston, passed away Sunday, Aug. 4. He was born on Sept. 3, 1921, to C. Elmore and Iva J. (Smith) Watkins in Manchester, where he was raised with his two sisters.

He graduated from Manchester High School in 1939 and from Tufts University in 1943, where he was on the football and track teams. His family spent summers at Camp Bethel in Haddam, where he met the love of his life, Iva June Whitney of Melrose, Fla. They married July 18, 1943, and just five weeks later he left to serve in the U.S. Marines during World War II, leaving June to wait and pray for his safe return.

He served in the South Pacific as a platoon leader on Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, Okinawa, and China, earning a Silver Star, a Gold Star in lieu of a second Silver Star, and a Purple Heart. He retired with the rank of captain. It was two long years before they had the reunion of a lifetime and then settled in Manchester, where they raised their four children. Bruce wrote his memoir, *Brothers in Battle*, about his war experience ([brothersinbattle.net](http://brothersinbattle.net)) and returned to Peleliu for the 55th anniversary of the battle.

Bruce was owner and manager of Watkins Bros. Furniture and Watkins Funeral Home in Manchester from 1946-81, and then worked at Manchester Hardware where he was an assistant manager and furniture repairer. He later ran his own business repairing antique furniture.

Bruce was a man of service. In Manchester, he helped to organize the early Manchester Road Races (1946-90) and was a timer for 18 years. He was a member of Kiwanis for 32 years, president of Manchester Chamber of Commerce 1955, and chamber board member 1954-1965. He received the "M" award from the Manchester C of C in 1983. He served on the Red Cross Board, town Development Committee, Recreation Department Committee, and as secretary of the Parking Authority. Bruce attended South United Methodist Church for many years, where he served on the board of directors, trustees, pastor relations, and also as chairman of fundraising.

Bruce served as president of the Camp Bethel Association in Haddam from 1964-70 and 1984-85. Bruce and June passed on their love of Camp Bethel and their faith in God to their children. They later lived in Amston for over 20 years and attended Gilead Congregational Church, then moved back to Manchester in 2003. Upon June's passing in 2010, Bruce made his home in Manchester with his daughter and son-in-law for his remaining years, and became a member of the Manchester Church of the Nazarene.

Bruce was a devoted family man who will be greatly missed by his children and their spouses, R. Lee Watkins, and his wife, Mary, Sue (Watkins) Donnelly, and her husband, Michael, Ralph Bruce Watkins, and David E. Watkins, and his wife, Nancy; his grandchildren, Jason, Adam, Lauren, Hannah, Benjamin, and Rachel; his great-granddaughter, Mckenzie; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, June, and his sisters, Ruth and Marian.

A memorial service will be held at the Manchester Church of the Nazarene, 218 Main St., Manchester, Sunday, Aug. 11, at 2:30 p.m.

Burial with military honors is private in the East Cemetery in Manchester.

Memorial donations may be made to Camp Bethel Association, John Wolcott, 55 Bretteon Woods Drive, Cranston, RI 02920; the Manchester Church of the Nazarene, 218 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040; or to the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.

To leave a message for his family, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## More Obituaries on Following Page



## Colchester

### Vera Kaszczynek

Vera Kaszczynek, 101, formerly of Colchester, died Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013 at the Taylor Health Center in Bath, N.Y.

Vera was born May 10, 1912, in Skole, Ukraine. The Second World War in 1943 caused the loss of her husband, and forced her, and her family, to leave the Ukraine. She spent six years in Germany and in 1949, under the United Nations program for displaced people came to the United States with her two young boys, Raymond, 12, and Semon, 9.

She lived in Philadelphia for four years and then moved to Connecticut where she lived for 17 years in various towns, finally settling in Colchester. In 1970, upon the request of her son, Semon, she moved to Bath, N.Y., where she lived until her passing. Vera was also a member of the North Cameron Grange 355.

Her life was not an easy one; many changes, many new challenges and many uncertainties. If she had not been a strong woman she would have fared poorly. She was a strong woman and her main mission in life was to raise, nurture, and protect her two sons. She was loved and will be missed many times over.

She was predeceased by her husband, Walter Kaszczynek, and her son, Raymond Kaszczynek, her sister, Daria Manylo. Vera is survived by her son, Semon Kaszczynek, and his wife Jane, daughter-in-law, Christine Kaszczynek, granddaughter, Laurie Cooper, granddaughter, Debbie Fontaine, her sisters, Anna Dacyk, and Zenya Towpaz.

The family of Vera Kaszczynek would like to extend the sincerest thanks to the staff of the Steuben County Health Care Facility for the kind and loving care they gave Vera.

Calling hours were held at Fagan's Funeral Home, 31 West Morris St., Bath, N.Y., on Monday, Aug. 5. Burial will be in Colchester.

It was Vera's wish that in lieu of flowers donations to be given to St. Mary's Church, 180 Linwood Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

Online condolences may be left at [fagansfuneralhome.com](http://fagansfuneralhome.com).

## Marlborough

### Howard D. Weiner

Howard D. Weiner, 66, of Marlborough, beloved husband of 44 years of Nancy Weiner, passed away peacefully Thursday evening, Aug. 1, surrounded by his family at Hartford Hospital. He was born on Dec. 28, 1946, in the Bronx, N.Y., to the late Robert and Lillian Weiner.



Howard leaves, to cherish his memory, daughter Jami Weiner (Jason Baumgartner) of Kent and Rebecca Phillips of Hebron. He was adored by granddaughters Blake and Emery Baumgartner and nephew Jacob Phillips. He is also survived by brother, Gerald Weiner (Tina) of Woodbridge, and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews.

Howard proudly worked as general manager for Connecticut Propane and Petroleum in Marlborough, a job he excitedly arose for each morning up until his death. A true family man in every sense, Howie looked forward to each family event and loved spending time and vacationing with those closest to him. With no task too big, Howard was always willing and available to help anyone who asked.

A beautiful graveside service was held Sunday, Aug. 4, attended by many friends and family. Donations can be made, in Howard's name, to the American Cancer Society ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)).

To send notes of condolences, visit [weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm](http://weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm).

## Hebron

### Kenneth W. Even

Kenneth W. Even, cherished husband of Gail (Goff) Even, died peacefully under hospice care Friday, Aug. 2.

Born Sept. 26, 1939, to the late Charles and Geraldine (Dunlop) Even, he was a 1957 graduate of Wethersfield High School and 1961 graduate of the University of Connecticut. After serving in the U.S. Army (Artillery), he started his career in Information Technology, working in varied industries until his retirement.

Besides his wife of 52 years, he leaves his devoted daughters Jennifer Even Melton and her husband Jeff and Joanne E. Even; grandsons Robert and Thomas Melton; a brother Charles Allen Even; four nephews; a niece; and three entertaining granddogs.

A longtime resident of Wethersfield and most recently of Hebron, Ken was an avid model ship builder and woodworker, and derived great satisfaction from designing and building his customized workshop.

The family appreciates the compassionate care provided by the staff at Salmon Brook Transitional Care Unit in Glastonbury and Masonic Hospice.

There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

To share a memory or leave condolences for the family, visit [Legacy.com](http://Legacy.com).

## Hebron

### Susan S. Bailey

Susan S. Bailey, 67, of Hebron, died peacefully at home Thursday, June 27, after a 15-year hard-fought battle with multiple sclerosis. Born July 23, 1945, in Yonkers, NY, she was the beloved daughter of the late James T. and Edith R. Schofield of Westmore, Vt.



Susan attended public schools in Greenwich, and received a full scholarship from Smith College, graduating in 1967.

She worked for over 35 years as a highly-respected senior systems analyst and programmer, starting her computer career long before there was Internet.

An avid reader, bird watcher and NFL Patriots fan, she also enjoyed playing the piano, sewing, boating, fishing and kayaking.

She is survived by husband, Ralph Bailey of Westmore, Vt.; daughter Lynn Witty and her husband Sean, of Newton Center, Mass. and son Ken Bailey and wife Deb of Daniel Island, S.C.; and five grandchildren, Jacob, Luke, Ethan Henry, Caroline and Lauren; also her brother James F. Schofield, of Santa Cruz, Calif.

Adventurous, Avant Garde, an amazing woman with an incomparable sense of humor, Susan had both of her children in Latin America. Her red hair was her crowning glory. She will be missed by many for a very long time.

Interment was at Lake View Cemetery in Westmore, Vt.

Should friends desire, contributions in her memory may be made to the MS Society or the VNA.

## Colchester

### Alice Fedus

Alice (Sklarsky) Fedus, 93, of Colchester, widow of the late Steven F. Fedus, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 7, at home, with her loving family at her side.



Born on a family farm in Hebron April 26, 1920, she was a daughter of the late Nicholas and Olga (Von Prittiz) Sklarsky. Early on, she attended a one-room schoolhouse in Hebron before moving to Colchester with her mother and five siblings, as her father needed to pursue work in New Jersey during the Depression.

Alice was a gifted student with aspirations of becoming a math teacher. However, she met her future husband, Steven, while in high school and they were married shortly after her graduation from Bacon Academy in 1937.

Together, they pursued entrepreneurial endeavors of both operating a chain of laundromats and building a family restaurant in Colchester. The Chestnut Lodge would grow into the town's most popular venue during their nearly 50 year career as owner/operators. Following her "retirement," she would continue to share her talents in bookkeeping, hosting and managing along with her son at the Yantic River Inn Restaurant until the age of 82, with bookkeeping duties until age 90.

Aside from her skills and experience in business, she became involved in politics in the 1970s, serving as the State Central Committeewoman from the Second Congressional District along with Vincent LaDonne of Norwich. Over the years, she worked on the campaigns of Bob Steele, Gov. Thomas Meskill and Senator (later Gov.) Lowell Weicker.

Alice was a gracious lady and the sunshine of the day when she entered a room; resilient, hard-working and full of love for family and friends.

She was the caring and loving mother of Stephen (wife, Lee) and Diana Fedus; grandmother of three, Eric Fedus (and wife, Teresa), Daniel Fedus, and Christy Fedus (and husband, Sergio Leon-Chantres); great grandmother of four, Sarah, Faith, Liberty and Stephen; sister to Jenny Sawyer; and sister-in-law to Carol Sklarsky.

She was predeceased by her brother, Nick; sisters, Anne, Katherine and Emily; and her granddaughter, Sandra Ellen.

The family would like to thank her longtime faithful friend, Sharon, as well as all of her devoted caregivers.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, 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 the family plot at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester-Hawyard VFD, 18-54 Old Hartford Road, Colchester 06415; the Abundant Life Church, 85, Skinner Road, Colchester 06415; or to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 96280, Washington, DC 20077.

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