

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 39, Number 8

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

June 13, 2014



Burn, Baby, Burn... Gilead Congregational Church held a mortgage-burning party May 31, to celebrate the five-year payoff of the mortgage on the church's \$1.4 million Fellowship Hall. The event featured food, music, a magic show and more – but the highlight of the night was no doubt watching the mortgage go up in flames.

Belltown Budget Cut, Now \$40.29 Million

by Elizabeth Bowling

After going through the ringer yet again with both the Board of Finance last week and the Town Council earlier this week, the proposed East Hampton budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year now stands at \$40,285,926, or \$264,394 less than the amount voters shot down at referendum last week.

The new budget is an increase of \$1,047,951, or 2.67 percent, from current year spending.

The leaner spending package will head to a town meeting next week, with a referendum scheduled for June 26.

It will be the town's third trip to the budget referendum well. A proposed budget of \$40.87 million was rejected 1,180-839 May 6, and a \$40.55 million spending proposal was shot down June 3, by a 1,140-839 tally.

The Board of Finance met last Thursday, June 5, and voted to trim the budget by \$174,356, bringing it to \$40,375,964. The finance board allotted \$28,265,097 to the Board of Education budget, with the remaining funds going toward town government. The budget called for a mill rate of 27.22.

The lighter budget was a result of the following cuts: the police captain position, saving \$17,806 in employee benefits and an additional \$41,942 from the police department; a part-time position at the senior center, which saved \$13,000; a 50 percent reduction in funding for the Middle Haddam Library, down from \$20,000 to \$10,000; removing \$75,000 from the budget for the Sears Park boat launch; and re-

moving \$16,608 for playscape replacement at Memorial Elementary School.

Additionally, the Board of Finance cut the education budget by \$107,700, but reinstated \$107,700 to capital funding.

The Board of Finance proposal passed with a vote of 3-1, with chairman Ted Turner voting against it.

Turner had been a strong proponent of the police captain's position throughout the budget process. He reiterated those feelings last Thursday. "I'm fully in favor of the captain's position," he said.

Additionally, he went into last Thursday's meeting in opposition of further cuts to the education budget. He said Thursday, "We've cut Board of Education right down to the bone – my opinion, not speaking for the rest of the board."

Board members Don Coolican, Mary Ann Dostaler and Dean Markham voted for the proposed budget. Members Lori Wilcox and Alan Hurst were absent.

However, only some of the finance board's changes from last Thursday stuck after facing off with the Town Council Tuesday. After much discussion, the council reduced the Board of Finance's proposal an additional \$90,038, bringing the budget total to \$40,285,926 for the third referendum later this month.

The council's proposed budget differed by the Board of Finance's proposal in the follow-

See **Belltown Budget** Page 2

Gorgas Selected by Seattle in MLB Draft

by Elizabeth Bowling

East Hampton High School senior Marvin Gorgas has a lot to look forward to after he graduates June 18. But unlike many of his classmates, Gorgas won't be enjoying a summer vacation on Lake Pocotopaug before heading off for freshman year of college.

Instead, Gorgas will head to Arizona June 23 to begin his career with the Seattle Mariners.

The EHHS baseball star was drafted by Seattle in the 13th round of the Major League Baseball draft last weekend.

Gorgas recalled his feelings throughout the three-day draft in a phone interview this week.

The draft started last Thursday; Thursday came and went, and Gorgas wasn't drafted. The same thing happened on Friday. Still, Gorgas said, "I was calm the whole time; I wasn't worried too much about it. I was just relaxed. I just kind of looked at it as no big deal, and if it didn't [happen] it didn't."

He furthered, "Everybody was nervous for me, and I was just trying to stay calm and not over think it."

Gorgas finally got the call from a Mariners scout at around noon on Saturday, the last day of the draft.

"I was happy," Gorgas recalled. "I got butterflies in my stomach. I was ecstatic."

Tuesday afternoon, at 3:30 p.m., Gorgas officially signed on to be a Seattle Mariner.

"I'm certain this is the right path for me," Gorgas said, noting that he has no regrets regarding going straight to the MLB instead of playing baseball in college. He said he always wanted to pursue his dream of playing professionally "as soon as possible."

The 18-year-old pitcher moved from Puerto Rico to East Hampton when he was in seventh grade, and now, as a senior, is known for his 95 m.p.h. fastball.

Gorgas was presented with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Education at its meeting Monday night. Board of Education Chairman Ken Barber said the purpose of the plaque was to thank Gorgas for what he brought to the school system.

EHHS Principal John Fidler spent a few min-

utes introducing Gorgas – with whom he's built a relationship over the past six years – to the board and those in attendance at the board meeting Monday.

"Right from the start, he's been a gentleman; he's been a role model," Fidler said. "That's always how he's carried himself."

Fidler then explained that Gorgas' character is noticeable on the baseball field, too.

"These last couple years, any time there's been a game, there's been three, four, five radar guns pointed at him and another three or four [or] five guys taking down some stats," Fidler said of the pressure that has been on Gorgas throughout his high school baseball career. "So while the rest of us can lean on the fence, or the rest of the ballplayers just enjoy that junior [or] senior year, Marvin had a lot of weight on his shoulders."

Regarding the MLB draft, Fidler said, "He had the whole town pulling for him."

"We wanted to see you go in as high a round as possible," Fidler furthered. "But we're certainly proud."

Fidler also praised Gorgas for his role on Team USA Baseball.

"Marvin started the year with USA Baseball," Fidler said. "At the end of the summer, there were some tryouts."

Fidler furthered, 144 athletes between the ages of 15 and 18 tried out, but only 20 were selected to represent the USA in Taiwan and won the World Class Baseball Championship. Gorgas was one of those 20 players.

"Marvin was a big factor in that," Fidler said of Team USA taking home the gold.

Then it was Gorgas' turn to address the board and its audience.

"It's definitely been a journey being here," Gorgas said. "It's been an honor being part of this school and all the friends and family I made."

He thanked Fidler and a few of his teachers in attendance for their support. He thanked Fidler specifically for allowing him to go to Taiwan. "Without you I wouldn't be here right now," he said.

See **Gorgas Selected** Page 2

Belltown Budget cont. from Front Page
ing areas: the council reinstated the \$13,000 part-time senior center position; it reinstated the \$10,000 to Middle Haddam Library; it cut the \$82,650 facilities foreman position (but agreed to consider filling that position at a later time); it reduced \$10,000 from the village water system; it reduced \$20,388 for police cameras from capital funds. Those numbers call for a 27.14 mill rate, which is a 0.51 mill increase or 1.92 percent increase from current year spending.

That means for a taxpayer with property assessed at \$200,000, annual taxes would be \$5,428, up from the \$5,326 they pay now. Broken down further, that would be about \$8.50 per month.

The budget was approved with a 5-2 vote, with Democrats Kevin Reich and George Pfaffenbach voting against.

But just in case the proposed budget fails at its third referendum, the council unanimously approved a temporary mill rate that matches the current year's mill rate: 26.63. This was a precautionary measure that will only go into effect July 1 if the budget fails a third time.

Tuesday's Town Council meeting drew more than 100 East Hampton residents, a good portion of whom opted to speak during public comment.

Most of those who spoke opposed further cuts to the education budget. Many parents expressed concern regarding children attending magnet schools rather than East Hampton public schools.

After more than an hour of public comments, councilman Ted Hintz kicked off the budget discussion by proposing an additional \$90,000 to be taken off the education budget. Even with that reduction, he said, the overall education budget would still increase by more than 2 percent from current year spending.

Hintz had the support of his fellow Republican council members, but the Democrats resisted further cuts to the education budget. Reich, for example, was opposed to any further cuts to school spending – including the \$107,000 reduction the finance board made last week.

"I really do have a problem taking any more money out of the Board of Education [budget]," Reich said. "The technology [in the school system] is woefully behind."

He said he would prefer for the finance board's \$107,700 cut to come out of capital, rather than education. Council chairwoman and fellow Democrat Barbara Moore, however, said the \$107,700 should be left the way the Board of Finance proposed it.

Hintz also called for a reduction in capital of \$20,388, which was set aside to pay for police cameras. He suggested using other funds for pay for those cameras instead of including funding for them in next year's budget.

He also suggested a reduction in the village water system of \$23,532, and also pitched pulling the facilities foreman position – which had

a \$82,650 price tag – from the proposed budget.

Hintz then suggested the council reinstate the \$13,000 part-time senior center position that the Board of Finance eliminated the week prior, as well as reinstating the finance board's \$10,000 cut to Middle Haddam Library.

Council members Patience Anderson and Mark Philhower supported their fellow Republican's proposal.

Democratic councilmen Phil Visintainer and Pfaffenbach agreed with the Republicans about reinstating the \$23,000 for the senior center part-time position and the Middle Haddam Library – but that was where their agreements with the Republican's proposal ended.

Visintainer said he was opposed to any further cuts to the Board of Education budget, and he was opposed to cutting the facilities foreman position.

"The town facilities desperately need attention," Visintainer said.

Also regarding the importance of a facilities foreman, Pfaffenbach said, "We've got some deplorable conditions around here that need addressing."

"We spend money to prevent problems. If we don't have a person overlooking these buildings and fixing things as they come up and things continue to deteriorate – this guy's going to save us money," he continued. "This is a position that prevents ongoing expense. ... There's only one thing more expensive than maintenance and that's no maintenance."

Reich, like Pfaffenbach, had a problem with eliminating the facilities foreman from the budget.

Philhower, however, insisted the position be cut, but suggested the current Board of Education Director of Facilities Don Harwood take on some of the responsibilities a town facilities foreman would have been responsible for.

"There is no town the size of East Hampton that has two facilities people. Absolutely not," Philhower said. "It's absolutely insane."

Hintz felt similarly.

"I'm opposed to having two full-time people do the same job that we've always had one person doing," he said, acknowledging that the town previously employed one facilities foreman to be responsible for all school and town facilities.

Hintz suggested that the council cut the facilities foreman position from the budget and find the funds in some other way. For example, he noted there would be "cost savings" due to a town employee who will be retiring.

A town meeting will be held Thursday, June 19, at 6:15 p.m. at Town Hall to approve the date of the third East Hampton budget referendum, currently scheduled for Thursday, June 26, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

Gorgas Selected cont. from Front Page

Board of Education member Josh Piteo then asked Gorgas for an autograph – a request Gorgas may get a lot, now that he is a professional ball player.

So what's next?

"Now I get shipped to Arizona once I graduate and I start Rookie Ball there and hopefully from there I just keep improving... and work my way up," Gorgas said.

Gorgas will head to Arizona June 23, less than a week after graduating, and his stint there will last four months.

However, Gorgas doesn't think he'll get homesick because "I went through it with Team USA," he said. "I have some experience."

After his training in Arizona, he gets to come home for a bit before spring training begins.

He said he won't know where he will do spring training – whether he will play Single A ball, or something else – until a later time.

"So," he explained, "I don't really have a clear state of mind where I'll be for spring training."

Regardless of where he goes, Gorgas can certainly rely on his biggest fans rooting for him from home in East Hampton.

There will be a town send-off for Gorgas at Sears Park June 22 from 3 to 6 p.m. rain or shine. Members of the public are invited to stop by. Snacks will be served. For more information, or to volunteer to help out, email Beth Vickery at bvickery@sbcglobal.net.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

First off, congrats – big congrats – are in order for East Hampton's Marvin Gorgas, who, as was expected, was selected by a major league team in last weekend's baseball draft.

The hard-throwing East Hampton High School senior – his fastball has been clocked as high as 95 m.p.h. – was taken Saturday by the Seattle Mariners, in the 13th round of the draft. He was the 381st overall pick.

It's been a fantastic spring for Marvin; he went 9-2 for the Bellringers, with an ERA of 0.85. He tossed four consecutive shutouts – including a no-hitter hurled against rival Cromwell. But this is the icing on the cake – a big heap of icing, I'd say.

Marvin is expected to join the rest of Seattle's newly-chosen prospects out in Arizona in a few weeks. And hopefully, in just a few short years from now, we'll be seeing him take the mound at Safeco Field. That'd be a sight.

I know Marvin worked hard to get to where he is. It'll be fun to follow his career as he heads west and gets to play out his big-league dream.

* * *

It's back to civilian life for Portland's Erin Brady, whose one-year run as Miss USA came to a close Sunday night. The time had come for Erin to pass the crown on to the next lucky woman – who turned out to be Miss Nevada, Nia Sanchez.

During Erin's reign as Miss USA 2013, she traveled the globe, attending movie premieres and high-profile sporting events, sure, but she also visited children's hospitals and worked with scores of charitable organizations, from Camp Sunshine to the Wounded Warrior Project and more. She seemed to love every minute of it – and in a video she posted over the weekend, just as her term in the Miss USA office was about to expire, Erin briefly recapped her experience, and got a little teary as well.

"I think this year has allowed people to see my heart," she said, and added, her voice breaking, "And I'm just so lucky that I had a chance to live this amazing life for one year. ... I got to live the time of my life, so thank you."

On her Twitter feed on Sunday, Erin wrote, "Today is one I'll never forget. The beginning of the next chapter in my life." It'll be interesting to see what that next chapter will be. Before the Miss USA crown came calling, Erin had been working for Prudential in Hartford, and she has a degree in finance from Central Connecticut State University. She told the Associated Press she plans to go to New York – where she had a luxury apartment for the past year, as one of the Miss USA perks – and pursue a job that can use her knowledge to serve a global market.

Plus, she's got a wedding ahead of her. Her boyfriend Tony Capasso proposed to her in late 2011 – long before Miss USA. A wedding had been planned for Nov. 9, 2013, but that had to be postponed for two reasons: one, it was the same date as the Miss Universe pageant, which, as Miss USA, Erin would be competing in; and two, getting married would sort of invalidate the whole "Miss" part of "Miss USA."

But now, with her reign over, Erin can go ahead with the wedding, and indeed, it's planned for later this year.

* * *

On Monday, the UConn men's and women's basketball teams appeared at the White House to meet with President Obama. That much is probably not news to any of you, as it was – quite understandably – all over the local media Monday night and Tuesday.

What you may not know is that same day, Mets second baseman Daniel Murphy was also at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., speaking to a crowd about being a working dad. I've been a huge Murphy fan for years, but he's not exactly a household name, one of baseball's superstars. So why exactly was he speaking about fatherhood at the White House?

This year, Murphy missed the first two games of the season in order to be with his wife, who had gone into labor with his first son. Noah Murphy was ultimately born about an hour before the first pitch was thrown on Opening Day.

The move would have likely gone largely unnoticed by anyone who's not a Mets fan – it's called paternity leave, and it happens all the time – were it not for a few New York sports talk radio hosts, who took to the airwaves to blast Murphy for taking leave, and missing the start of the season. (Granted, it probably didn't help the Mets lost both the games Murphy missed, and the hosts probably felt Murph – who's been one of the team's most consistent hitters the past few seasons – may have made a difference.)

One host – former football great Boomer Esiason – even went so far as to say Murphy should've suggested his wife schedule a c-section before the season started, to ensure he could suit up in the orange and blue for Opening Day.

The comments sparked something of a national outrage. Articles were written supporting Murphy. National TV shows like *Today* discussed the issue. Huggies even donated, in Murphy's honor, 75,000 diapers to The National Diaper Bank Network, which provides diapers for babies in need.

Some of the talk show hosts apologized. Esiason, in addition to apologizing profusely, even made a hefty donation to March of Dimes.

And now, a little more than two months later, Murphy found himself at the White House, speaking at the Working Families Summit about being a working father, and about parental rights.

Though Murphy hardly needed to defend his actions, he did offer up an explanation Monday as to why he opted to skip Opening Day. And you know what? It was a pretty terrific explanation.

"When Noah asks me one day, 'What happened? What was it like when I was born?', I could have answered, 'Well, Stephen Strasburg hung me a breaking ball that day, son, and I slammed it into the right-field corner,'" Murphy said. "But I think it's going to go so much further in that I'm the one who cut his umbilical cord."

"And long after they tell me that I'm not good enough to play professional baseball anymore, I'll be a father. And I'll be a husband," he continued. "So that was a reason on the front end that I wanted to be there for my wife and for my son."

Well put, Murph. Like I said, I've been a big Murphy fan for years, and that statement just made me respect the guy even more.

* * *

See you next week.

Top PHS Students Prepare to Graduate

by Elizabeth Bowling

Portland High School's top two ranking seniors were only one class period away from the start of their final exams when they sat down to talk with the *Rivereast* Tuesday morning.

Valedictorian Megan Errichetti and salutatorian Marisa DiMare shared their thoughts on the future, and reflected on the past four years at PHS.

"I'm already nostalgic," Errichetti said of her upcoming graduation. "I'm excited. I was more excited a couple months ago, but now the reality is hitting and I'm getting more sentimental."

Regarding the speech she will make at graduation Wednesday, Errichetti said, "I pretty much finished."

She gave a sneak peek as to the theme of her speech. "My speech is mostly about what you really learn in high school," she said.

DiMare, on the other hand, has put some thought into her speech but is yet to write it. She said she's putting it off because she's not looking forward to public speaking. But in summing up her thoughts on graduating, DiMare put it simply: "I'm happy it's over."

Looking ahead beyond Wednesday's graduation ceremony, the top two graduating seniors discussed their plans for college.

Errichetti will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts in the fall, where she will study mechanical engineering. She said her ultimate goal is to work in clean energy or sustainability.

"My dad is a mechanical engineer and I've always liked math and science," the valedictorian said of her decision. She added it's a great field to get into, "especially as a woman."

But going to WPI wasn't an easy decision. "I was very hesitant at first," Errichetti said of attending a technical school because math and science aren't her only passions. She also considered studying music because she's passionate about playing piano, singing and performing in musicals – but she said her "practical side won out."

Even so, she plans to get involved in WPI's theater and drama program, and continue having music be an important part of her life.

"I can get involved with a bunch of different clubs," Errichetti added. She also said attending a small school would give her similar opportunities to succeed like she did at PHS.

"I wanted a smaller school, especially coming out of a place like Portland," she said. She called WPI "welcoming," and a "perfect match" for her.

Errichetti will attend WPI on a merit scholarship.

In addition to her musical extracurricular activities like the PHS drama club, which puts on a show once every two years, Errichetti played four years of PHS soccer and two years

of basketball. She is also the National Honor Society president and the Tri-M Music Honor Society president.

Like Errichetti, DiMare also played soccer for four years at PHS. She was the starting varsity goalkeeper, and was named team captain her senior year. She played premier soccer for a number of years, as well. DiMare anticipates playing club soccer in college, but does not intend to continue her soccer career at a competitive collegiate level.

DiMare also participated in Math League for the past three years. She was named the highest-scoring sophomore her first year in Math League, and was the team's highest scorer her sophomore and senior years, she said. She is also a member of the National Honors Society and Tri-M.

Come fall, DiMare will attend Ohio State University, where she will study math in the honors program.

The salutatorian said she "wanted to get the whole far-away-from-home experience." She said she was drawn to Ohio State University in particular because she knew she wanted to attend a "huge school" that takes pride in its sports teams. Another appealing aspect of Ohio State University was a scholarship that essentially cut her tuition costs in half, she said.

She chose to study math via "process of elimination," she said. "I don't like English, and math comes so easy to me that I like doing it."

DiMare explained that class rankings closed in April, and she and Errichetti learned of their high ranking just two weeks ago.

"It was very close between us," Errichetti said. "Especially these last two years."

Asked what their secret was to being the top students in their class, DiMare said motivation.

"I'm a major perfectionist, so anything less than 100 [percent] – I can't do it," she explained. "So that motivated me."

DiMare suggested that incoming seniors seeking the top spots "keep it balanced and don't fall behind in anything." For example, she said she had to balance soccer, homework and college applications, which was "pretty overwhelming." She laughed, "I don't think I watched TV at all."

Both girls applied to their respective schools "early action," which means their fall semesters were extra busy in terms of sending out college applications.

Errichetti agreed that senior year was a balancing act.

"Everyone says junior year is the hardest because of the SATs," she said, "but I say 'wait till senior year,'" which she referred to as "emotional turmoil."

Errichetti said her motivation, like DiMare's, came from within – though she had plenty of support from her family. She explained she has



Portland High School valedictorian Megan Errichetti, right, and salutatorian Marisa DiMare will graduate with their fellow senior classmates Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m. at the high school.

two older brothers who did well in school so she put pressure on herself to perform well, too.

Another key ingredient to her success, according to Errichetti, was appreciating her education.

"People don't realize how important learning stuff is," she said. "Knowledge is one of those things that's really important."

Errichetti wished to thank her brothers and parents for supporting her in this first chapter of her life.

DiMare also wanted to thank her family for "helping me get through everything," she said.

DiMare also said she wanted to thank her favorite teacher, William Varas, who led Math League and taught her favorite class, advanced placement (AP) calculus, which she took her junior year.

"I like math and I love the teacher," she said.

DiMare's favorite class this year specifically was AP chemistry – "even though it was the most impossible class ever," she said.

She said she liked that she was one of only five students in the class.

Errichetti's favorite class this year was on the other end of the spectrum – University of Connecticut English (for which she could earn college credits). She liked it because "we got to

see lectures by Wesleyan [University] professors about the books we read," she said.

She said taking a course at Wesleyan, in Middletown, gave her a taste of "the college experience." She furthered, "We got to do a lot of discussions."

Errichetti's favorite teacher is chorus teacher Samuel Tucker. "He's just really nice and down to Earth," she said of Tucker.

PHS Principal Andrea Lavery raved about this year's valedictorian and salutatorian.

"They're two absolutely amazing girls who have different strengths," she said, noting that they "rose to the top" in middle school. "We knew back in middle school that these two would probably be [No.] 1 and 2."

Lavery described Errichetti and DiMare as "humble," "hard working," and "the kind of students we want to represent Portland High School."

She concluded, "This whole senior class is such a nice group."

The PHS Class of 2014 graduation ceremony is Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m. on the high school soccer field, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved indoors to the high school auditorium.

Town Meeting on Colchester Budgets Next Week

by Melissa Roberto

A town meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, June 17, for Colchester voters to decide whether the third versions of the town operations and Board of Education budgets will head to referendum later this month.

The town has been trying since May 6 to get a spending package approved for the 2014-15 fiscal year. On May 6, the budgets – which totaled \$53.65 million – were both shot down at referendum; the town budget fell by a 1,108-724 vote, while the school spending plan lost by a 1,194-640 tally.

The outcome was the same on May 29, when a combined \$53.37 million spending package was rejected; the town budget fell 1,428-1,108, while the education one went down by a 1,437-1,104 vote.

After the May 29 defeat, both budgets were trimmed by \$377,000. Combined, the spending plans now total \$53 million, with a majority of that amount, or \$39.66 million, making up the Board of Education budget and the remaining \$13.33 million making up the town operations budget.

The new spending packages represent an increase of 1.47 percent, or \$769,973, over the current fiscal year.

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov said last week a total of \$1,250,000 in cuts have been made to the budgets since they were first presented to the finance board earlier this year.

Should the lesser budgets pass at referendum scheduled for June 24, the mill rate would climb .29 mills, from the current mill rate of 30.28 to

30.57. Listed on the town's website is a break down of how this proposed mill rate for the coming year would impact taxes. For example, if a home has a market value of \$200,000 and is assessed at \$140,000, the annual increase to taxes would be \$40.60, which comes out to an increase of \$3.38 per month. That annual tax increase would rise to \$46.69, or \$3.89 per month, for owners of a home with a market value of \$230,000 that is assessed at \$161,000.

First Selectman Stan Soby stressed the importance of individuals coming out to the town meeting next week.

"We certainly hope that people will attend the town meeting to ask any questions they have," Soby said. "We encourage everybody to exercise the right to vote on the 24th."

Additionally, Soby explained he's aware that there have been "some fliers that may not have the accurate info" about the budgets circulating around town.

"So we ask people to look at the town website or contact the [first] selectman's office and we'll answer any questions that people have in regards to the budget," Soby continued.

The proposed budget and other information regarding it can be found on the Colchester website at colchesterct.gov. The town meeting will be held at Town Hall at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, and the referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 6 a.m.-8 p.m. The first selectman's office can be reached at 860-537-7220.

New Management Brings Back Marlborough Pizza

by **Melissa Roberto**

Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant is no longer a thing of the past.

The authentic Italian cuisine everyone in Marlborough knew and loved is back, under new management who are looking to revitalize the popular eatery with new innovations.

That's what new owner Nickolas Topintzis explained this week inside the restaurant. He pointed to its new menu which highlights its new slogan: "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow!"

The stand-alone restaurant, located at 7 Independence Dr., opened as Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant back in the late 1980s by original owner Nick Aivioltis. In 2007, Aivioltis sold it to new owners, who transformed the location into the Route 66 Diner. However, the restaurant was put back on the market again last month – and Topintzis, a commercial real estate broker, responded rather quickly.

"I have a lot of experience with restaurants," Topintzis explained.

The Greece native came to the United States 25 years ago. He obtained his bachelor's degree in economics from Central Connecticut State University and spent his weekends working inside his uncle's restaurant. After graduating college, Topintzis owned two Italian eateries of his own: the first in Wolcott, and another in Rocky Hill.

Topintzis explained his interest in buying the restaurant was for two reasons. He recalled the history and success of the original Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant, and also dished that authentic American and Italian cuisine is his specialty.

"Whether working at restaurants or selling them, I pretty much know all of the restaurants around Connecticut," Topintzis, a Wethersfield resident, said.

The new owner has spent the last month re-vamping the restaurant. The first task was reinstating its original name. Asked why the name was brought back, Topintzis' answer was simple: "Because that's where it belongs!"

"Everybody knows it like that," Topintzis said of the local restaurant. "It belongs to the town. It was a successful tradition here in Marlborough. People enjoyed it and we want

to bring that back."

Another "very important" aspect of revitalizing the restaurant was offering a new menu, which features some old traditions Marlborough residents may remember, he said.

"We're bringing back the old-style famous Marlborough pizza pie, which was very successful," Topintzis said.

Topintzis said that pizza is "Greek-style pan pizza" which is the same kind of pie Aivioltis made for nearly 30 years. Each morning, Topintzis cooks dough and bread from scratch.

"I got a lot of pointers from Nick, the original owner," Topintzis explained. "It's a pan pizza with a medium crust – not too thin and not too thick."

Aside from the pizza, the rest of the menu is prepared by Chef Marco Mayen. A lunch menu is offered each day, and breakfast is served on the weekends.

The menu features an array of Italian dishes from signature chicken and veal entrees to choose from, as well as "fresh seafood and a lot of good salads," Topintzis explained. The menu also offers grinders and calzones, and pasta in just about every form imaginable – from spaghetti, fettuccini and linguini plates to stuffed shells and ravioli.

Even down to the baked-fresh-daily desserts, Topintzis said Mayen, who also co-owns the restaurant, is "really good."

The traditional plates aren't the only thing diners will find on the menu. Topintzis explained new dishes will be offered daily.

"Everyday we have different specials for lunch and dinner," the seasoned restaurant owner said. "We do a lot of innovative things here."

Even local businesses are made aware of the restaurant's daily specials. Topintzis explained the restaurant accepts corporate accounts. A fax is sent daily to local businesses notifying employees of the restaurant's daily specials. The owner said those meals can be delivered right to the businesses. Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant also offers catering for local offices.

"If they need something we'll deliver to them," Topintzis said of area businesses.

In addition to the food, Topintzis said something he holds as a top priority at the new res-



Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant is open under new management. The restaurant, which went by the same name in the late '80s, '90s and early 2000s, features a new menu offering authentic American and Italian cuisine.

taurant is creating a "quiet and peaceful environment." The restaurant, full of many booths and inviting decor, can hold 96 people.

"It's a comfortable environment here," Topintzis said. "It's a free-standing building and it's not in a plaza next to something else."

With the menu and environment in tact, the only thing Topintzis said he's still working on is getting to know all of his new customers.

"We want to get to know everyone," he said. "We want them to be out of here smiling for the service and the food. That's the idea."

And while the owner said he's received "excellent feedback" during his first month, he's aware the restaurant will take "a little time to get its vibe back."

With that said, Topintzis said he's also "open to suggestions."

"I love people's opinions. Come try it, and give us a chance," the Greek owner said. "If something is wrong obviously I'll fix it. Our

goal is to make people happy."

The grand opening of Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant was held Tuesday. The restaurant has offered grand opening specials all week that will continue into next. With every purchase of an entrée comes a free dessert. Topintzis encourages hungry locals to come take advantage of the deal, and to also call ahead for daily specials, including ones specifically for Father's Day.

Marlborough Pizza & Restaurant, located at 7 Independence Dr., is open Monday-Fridays 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Diners can eat in or carry out. The restaurant can be reached at 860-295-8181.

Topintzis pointed out this week he hopes to see many from the community return to the traditional restaurant and say 'hello.' As stated on the menu, he wants the dining experience to "feel like home."

Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional | Regional

Berkenstock Up for Probate Judge Re-election

by **Elizabeth Bowling**

Last month, Republican delegates from East Hampton, Portland, Marlborough and East Haddam held a convention and unanimously nominated Judge Jennifer Berkenstock to run for re-election for Judge of Probate in the Region 14 Probate District.

The Republican is running unopposed in November for her second consecutive four-year term. She said in a phone interview Monday, "I feel very honored by that."

Berkenstock has lived in East Hampton since 1988 and worked as a probate lawyer for 15 years, and a probate judge the past four.

"I really enjoy what I do," she said. "I think it's a really good fit with my skill set and it was a pretty easy transition for me from being a probate lawyer to a probate judge."

"I did keep my campaign promise, which was to close my probate law practice," she said, "so I could focus on my judgeship."

And focus she did.

A press release sent on behalf of Berkenstock last month highlighted some of her accomplishments from her first term. First, it stated, she oversaw "a smooth transition from four smaller courts into one regional court."

She called that consolidation "the big thing" she worked on during her first year in office. She explained 117 probate courts from across the state were downsized to 54.

"Our particular district was very much affected, because we had four towns merging down to one court," she said of the major transition.

The merge called for the preparation of a new

court in Marlborough, as well as the hiring of staff – all coming from different courts and learning to work together. "They did a terrific job," she said of the staff.

Additionally, the press release said Berkenstock "brought the probate records up to date with the required digital recording and freed up space in each of the four town halls."

She referred to the endeavor this week as tackling a "big records project."

Essentially, she explained, there was a backlog of cases that needed attention and court records that needed updating.

"All probate records are kept in perpetuity," Berkenstock said. "They are all scanned and kept digitally."

All those cases and records were, in fact, brought up to date thanks to the help of temporary staff, which the state paid for and was thus of no cost to the towns, Berkenstock said.

In addition to the consolidation and digital updates, Berkenstock had a handful of other accomplishments over the course of her four-term term. According to her press release, she presided over hundreds of cases and worked on three different committees of judges and clerks from around the state to improve the probate system.

The first of those three committees was the Procedures Review Committee, where she worked to simplify probate forms. She explained the committee works on making the forms comply with new laws that are passed. It then works to simplify the forms. This is done, for example, by changing the font on a form or simplifying "some of the more archaic lan-

guage," she said, thus making forms "more user-friendly."

One example is the Financial Report form, which, according to Berkenstock, makes it easier for people to summarize the financial position of an estate.

Berkenstock affirmed, "It wasn't just me" who brought form simplification to fruition; rather, she said, "the whole committee was behind it."

"It's been pretty well-received," she added of the work done by the Procedures Review Committee.

Berkenstock also served on the Public Information Committee, where she worked to provide information to the public about the probate process, as well as the Floating Clerks List Committee, which she formed and chaired, and which serves as a resource for courts to find staffing on short notice. The Floating Clerks List Committee also provides cost savings by helping courts find staff coverage without the expense of hiring additional permanent staff, the press release stated.

"I would like to see it used more," Berkenstock said of the work done by the committee. "I'm going to keep working on it and putting out information. So far, when it has been used, it's been successful."

Berkenstock said that in her second term, "I'd like to continue with my work on the committees." She furthered, "I think that the work that I do on committees is important in trying to improve the system."

She also took a moment to reflect on her first four years in office.



Jennifer Berkenstock

"Part of the job that I really enjoy is working with the public and being in a position to help people whenever I can. As far as the hearings go, members of the public have been very respectful," she said. "I haven't had to use my gavel once. People have remained calm and professional during the hearings."

She concluded, "I've really enjoyed it. The people I've met have been very enjoyable."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4.

East Hampton School Board Recognizes Retiring Educators

by Elizabeth Bowling

The East Hampton school district is in the midst of wrapping up the 2013-14 school year – that means final exams, graduation, and, for some, retirement.

The Board of Education Monday recognized two such retirees for their years of dedication to the Belltown school system.

Superintendent of Schools Diane Dugas said of recognizing the retirees, “This is with mixed emotions that we do this.”

Dugas first recognized Kathy Sorrell, who has been an educator for 38 years – 32 of which were at East Hampton schools.

According to Dugas, Sorrell graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1972 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education. She began teaching in 1976.

“Seems like just yesterday,” Dugas laughed knowingly. To which Sorrell replied, “Yes it does.”

Sorrell entered the East Hampton school district in 1982, when she became the physical education and health teacher at Center School. Over the course of her time in town, she also taught at Memorial Elementary School, and is currently at East Hampton High School, Dugas said.

“She successfully served as the K-12 P.E. and health coordinator since 2010,” the superintendent added. “During her tenure, she has nurtured young athletes, building confidence and stamina through her coaching of cross country, field hockey, and track and field.”

Dugas also mentioned the “lifelong friendships” Sorrell established with her colleagues.

In her retirement, Dugas said, Sorrell plans to do ballroom dancing, yoga, gardening and sewing. She also plans to visit her daughter in San Diego, Calif.

Dugas thanked Sorrell on behalf of the Board of Education and the district, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a parting gift.

“For the lives that you’ve touched, thank you,” Dugas said to Sorrell.

Next to earn a well-deserved “thank you” was LuAnn Hardacker, who spent 36 years in education – 12 of which were dedicated to the East Hampton school district.

Hardacker graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and went on to get her master’s degree in math. She also did a sixth year in reading and language arts, according to Dugas.

Hardacker began her teaching career in 1978. She came to the East Hampton district in 2002, where she served as a reading/language arts teacher. Over the course of her career in East Hampton, she also served as the K-5 language arts co-chair, and is currently the K-12 language arts coordinator.

“LuAnn leaves a legacy of not only impacting students, but impacting the practice of colleagues,” Dugas said. “She’s been instrumental in the development of curriculum, programming and professional development for teachers K-12 and, most recently, the shift to the Common Core State Standards.”

Hardacker’s plans for retirement include traveling, cooking, spending time poolside, and spending time with her black lab and family, Dugas said.

Dugas said to Hardacker, “On behalf of the Board of Ed and the district, we thank you for your service and the impact that you leave on children and your colleagues.” She concluded, “Thank you for inspiring others,” and presented Hardacker with flowers and a gift.

Both teachers earned standing ovations from the meeting’s audience.

School board chairman Ken Barber called the retiree’s years of commitment “commendable.”

In the spirit of reflection, Dugas spent a few minutes looking back on the 2013-14 school year, and then discussing the budget for the coming year.

“We’ve had some really great accomplish-

ments,” she said – though she noted that the board is “challenged” by not knowing its budget for next year.

Even so, Dugas recalled some specific accomplishments from the current year, including putting forward a full-day kindergarten feasibility study, focusing on technology, and presenting a “transparent” budget at the beginning of the budget season.

Barber came back to the budget topic later in the meeting. He said the education budget must cover contractual obligations, thus leaving the board with “little wiggle room” – as board member Scott Minnick put it – to address programming.

Minnick furthered, “We have so many increases on big-ticket items that are out of our control.”

Barber informed that board that he had a conversation with Dugas Monday afternoon, in which she told him she would like to forgo a raise due to the budget failing.

Despite all the unknowns surrounding next year’s education budget, some funds for technology were approved Monday by the school board. The board happily accepted a \$16,315 donation from the Elementary PTO to Memorial Elementary School for the purchase of technology, and another \$7,000 to Center School for the same purpose.

Also on Monday, members of the Professional Development-Evaluation Committee presented the Board of Education with proposed changes to be made to educator evaluations for the 2014-15 school year, which board members unanimously approved.

According to committee member Matthew Warner, changes for next year are broken down into three areas: the evaluation process elements; student learning outcomes (SLOs) and stakeholder feedback; and observation of practice elements.

The first changes, relevant to the evaluation

process elements, include which teachers are evaluated and how. This year, only one third of all East Hampton teachers were evaluated using the East Hampton Educator Evaluation and Development Model, but next year every teacher will be, Warner said. In fact, evaluation rubrics were created this year for support specialists – with input from support specialists – so that they, too, can be evaluated next year.

Warner also explained teachers that rated “exemplary” or “proficient” during the 2013-14 school year and teachers who are new to the plan can look forward to one formal observation by the end of January next year, as well as one informal observation and one review of practice.

Committee member Carrie Benigni explained there wouldn’t be “too many changes” to the SLOs for next year. Similar to this year, each teacher will have one or two SLOs. The difference is there will be no state assessment utilized for the evaluation of teachers for next year.

Regarding stakeholder feedback, Warner said a survey sent home to parents will be “streamlined.”

Benigni also noted the rubric that evaluates effective teaching has been reduced from six domains to four. Two domains were not removed; rather they were integrated into other domains.

Fidler affirmed, there are no changes planned for next year in terms of the administrator evaluation program because the focus of the committee this year was teacher evaluations.

Feedback on East Hampton’s plan is expected from the state by July 3, according to Assistant Superintendent of School Tim Van Tasel.

The next regularly-scheduled East Hampton Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.

Meet the Top Two Belltown Scholars

by Elizabeth Bowling

In five short days, the members of the East Hampton High School senior class will officially become alumni.

However, despite the impending commencement, the Class of 2014’s top two students continue to dedicate their time and effort to preparing for final exams, which started this week.

Those same two graduates have important roles to fill come Wednesday’s graduation ceremony. Valedictorian Shayla Belanger, 18, and salutatorian Brianna Woodbury, 17, will speak in front of their friends, families, teachers, school and district administrators and Board of Education members, and sum up their four-year high school careers, and express their goals for the future.

Woodbury said in an interview last week that her speech “hasn’t come to pen and paper yet.” She added, “It’s hard to wrap up four years of your high school career to three pages.”

Regarding the upcoming graduation in general, Woodbury said, “It’s scary and exciting,” because the future is “so unknown.”

Belanger said graduation is “really bitter-sweet, because we’ve spent so much of our lives with this group of people.” But, she added, “It’s also really exciting to know this is a new chapter.”

That “new chapter,” for both girls, will take place at the University of Connecticut’s main campus in Storrs starting in the fall. The two will each be attending UConn on full-tuition scholarships.

But the similarities in their studies end there. Belanger will study marketing and Woodbury will study molecular cell biology on a pre-medicine track.

Woodbury said of going to the state school, “It’s the perfect distance” from home. She furthered that her decision to attend UConn was solidified when she visited the campus because “it just felt right.”

Belanger added, “And it’s so much bigger than here!”

But that’s not to say the two ambitious Bellringers would ever forget their roots.

Asked to reflect on their time at EHHS, the top two graduates recalled their extracurricular involvements from the past four years.

Belanger played volleyball at EHHS for four

years – this year she was named team captain. She is also involved in Spanish Club, National Honor Society, Interact Club, Special Olympics, Dance Team and Drama Club. Additionally, she’s the secretary of the school’s Future Business Leaders of America club.

Woodbury is involved in Interact Club and the Special Olympics, and is the treasurer of National Honors Society and the current president and past vice president of French Club. She also played tennis for the first three years of her high school career.

The two also reflected on their favorite classes from the past year.

Woodbury said her favorite class this year was advanced placement (AP) statistics.

“I was never really strong at math,” she said, “but once I got into AP stat I knew I could do more than I always thought I could.”

Woodbury said she enjoyed connecting math to the real world in her statistics class. She said her AP statistics and biology classes this year helped her figure out what she wants to study in college.

Belanger took three AP classes this year – statistics, literature and psychology – and said her favorite was AP psychology.

“I just love seeing how people’s minds work and why people do what they do,” she said.

Asked if she had a favorite teacher at EHHS, Belanger said, “I really don’t know if I could choose, because they’ve all been really supportive and you can go to any of them.”

Woodbury agreed and added, “Our success here is attributed to the fact that teachers are willing to stay late with us or spend their free periods with us.”

In addition to her teachers, Belanger wished to thank her parents and grandmother for their support over the years.

“They’ve just always been so supportive,” she said. “I can’t thank them enough.”

Woodbury thanked her family, too, specifically her parents and siblings “for always encouraging me and always keeping me going.”

Woodbury said the top-ranking students for the EHHS Class of 2014 had changed throughout the past four years, but she and Belanger were named the top two in a final count this winter.



East Hampton High School valedictorian Shayla Belanger (left) and salutatorian Brianna Woodbury are set to graduate with their fellow senior classmates Wednesday, June 18. Both girls will attend the University of Connecticut in the fall.

A note to incoming seniors seeking the top spot: Belanger said the biggest challenge in earning the No. 1 spot in class rank was “consistency” in terms of constantly working hard.

EHHS Principal John Fidler had nothing but praise for Belanger and Woodbury in a phone interview this week.

“Shayla is one of the most well-rounded students we have,” Fidler said of the valedictorian. “She’s highly academically motivated but she’s also been a key member of our volleyball program and bringing that to success, and [is] an incredible acting and singing talent.”

He called Belanger “the kind of student we like to see coming out of East Hampton” and said her “people skills” will help her to suc-

ceed in her chosen field of study.

He also noted Woodbury’s community service and academic accolades. He said he has “absolutely no doubt that she’ll be successful.”

“Brianna put a lot of time into the French Club and they do an incredible amount of work in support of programs in Haiti,” Fidler said. “They raised a significant amount of money that they donate.”

Both students, Fidler concluded, are “two excellent examples of what we hope to see in our students.”

The graduation ceremony for the EHHS Class of 2014 is Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the high school.



Along with the day-to-day activities of Hebron Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz (left) and Assistant Town Clerk Ann Hughes (right) – which are numerous and varied – the two work to preserve the town’s past through the organization, preservation and transcription of records and books dating back to the 1600s.

Hebron Clerks Ensure the Town Remembers

by Geeta Schrayter

They were once called “Remembrancers,” and have been around since before Biblical times. As such, municipal clerks are the oldest public servants in local government along with the tax collector.

According to the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, the word “clerks,” as we refer to them today, developed from the Latin “clericus.” During the Middle Ages, education was limited to the clergy, so the word also came to mean “scholar,” or one who could “read and write, and thus serve as notary, secretary, accountant and recorder.”

Thankfully, times have changed since the Middle Ages, and education is much more accessible. But the work of a clerk remains just as varied and important, as can be seen through the efforts of Hebron’s own Remembrancers, Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz and Assistant Clerk Ann Hughes.

Their aim, according to Pomproicz, is to stay “on top of what we need to do to move into the future but also preserve our historical information as well.”

“We work in the day with our present stuff, thinking about the future, but also not losing anything from the past,” she explained.

To do that, there are various projects both clerks have undertaken. For example, the two have been working to index and provide all of the town records online.

“We have a goal of getting everything in,” Pomproicz said, calling the process “a lot of work,” but work “that benefits everyone in the long run.”

Along with land records and the likes, the town’s vital records – including births, deaths, marriages and military information – have been microfilmed, which preserves the information and makes it easier to look through, while also keeping it safe should disaster ever strike.

“We have to keep in mind disaster recovery,” Pomproicz explained. “If something should happen to the building, we’re trying to make it so all the information we’re able to retrieve. If we have to move the office up to Ted’s Supermarket, for example, because something happened to our building, we should be able to get computers installed where we are and be able to access the information so we can still pro-

vide birth certificates to people and land records – none of that should be lost.”

Other jobs Pomproicz is hoping to tackle include making the town maps accessible online. Currently, the map collection gets microfilmed and linked to the computer system in the office, but Pomproicz hopes to eventually make it accessible on computers outside Town Hall. This, she said, would prove helpful to individuals like researchers and appraisers.

“There’s a cost involved, but it’s worth it if you need something but our office is not open,” she stated. “A lot of researchers and appraisers, they’ll do a lot of their pre-work via the Internet with information provided for free,” then when they come into the office, their homework is done, so they “get it, pay, print and go.”

Along with work on current records that come into the office, work has also been done – and continues to be done – to preserve records from the days of yore.

Along with the plastic three-ring binders that contain printed documents from recent years, there are a number of older books in the town’s possession – books filled with faded yellow paper, and writing in calligraphy created from ink, a pen and a hand, as opposed to Times New Roman and the latest laser jet printer. These books contain glimpses of the town’s past, and show how things have changed – yet stayed the same.

“One of the things we found,” Pomproicz shared, looking at a book from the early 1700s, “is that there was a welfare system – although they didn’t call it welfare – and a taxing system, a political system, a religious system; many of the same things. Times have changed, but times have not changed at the same time.”

Pomproicz said going through the historical records “is always fun for us.”

These historical records include handwritten vitals dating back to before 1600 – all of which Hughes has indexed.

“The really huge job was the one that Ann did, indexing all those records,” she said.

Other books the town has includes Gilead Congregational Church records from 1752-1882, the 1887 records of the Hebron Veteran Soldiers Association (which is now the American Legion), and an early land records book with information dating as far back as 1710.

The Gilead Congregational book, Pomproicz explained, contained all the business of the town from that period.

“This little book gives you glimpses of the politics, because the politics were done through the church,” she stated.

The book, which has been typed and put into electronic format for preservation, also contains information on births and marriages, and is helpful for people researching their family who have hit a dead end. This was the case a few weeks ago when, Pomproicz said, two individuals who couldn’t find the information they were searching for in the town’s vital records, found them in the church book.

“It’s worth its weight in gold,” she stated, and added, “There’s no monetary value on this – the info is what’s so important.”

The book from the Veteran Soldiers Association, Pomproicz furthered, contains the business of the association, and “this little tiny bit of info may provide a clue someday to researchers.”

The early land records book, meanwhile, shows how property lines used to be determined. One such piece of land is described in the book as “beginning at the black oak tree, which stands [by] a brook running northerly... running from the above tree east northeast one hundred rods to a heap of stones...”

Another entry states, “Joseph Young hath 30 acres of family land out to him” which begins at a chestnut tree.

Another aspect to preserving the town documents is ensuring all of them – old and new – are kept in the best storage, which includes a number of climate-controlled vaults in the Town Office Building, and cabinets that allow for better organization and easier perusing.

“Space-saving is a big part of what we always have to think about,” said Pomproicz, as she spun some new, rotating cabinets.

She added, “As town clerks, we really are record managers.”

In addition to the above, the clerks have also worked to preserve the past through a number of oral recordings that document early history in town, through the words of those who lived it. Recordings are available for loan from the office that include discussions on World War II, what school was like in the old one room

school house in town, and various individual stories from residents.

“We just have great stories,” Pomproicz said. “Family stories, growing up in town, living through hurricanes, the Depression – it’s just so much fun to talk to these people.”

She added, “Whether we’re working on the real old antique documents or if we’re working with what we’re doing today – it’ll matter to somebody down the road.”

And while all of the above may seem like more than enough to keep a person or two busy, it is just one of the many facets of the clerks’ work – work which is paid for with grants the clerks have been able to procure, and supported by their regular budget.

June is considered a “very busy” month for the clerk’s office, Hughes said, since it’s dog licensing month. On June 2, the two had already received 138 license renewals. They had also that day already assisted a resident who had a concern over the condition of his road, had accepted land records and birth records, were anticipating a marriage license request and were brushing up on their homebirth laws.

“Every day is different,” said Hughes, who has been in the position for 12 years.

“That’s probably one of the things that keeps it from getting boring,” added Pomproicz, who has been the Hebron town clerk for 15 years.

Speaking on who may benefit from a trip to the town clerk’s office, Pomproicz said, “Anyone can come in to see us, and if we can’t help then we can point them in the right direction. We do a lot of that.”

“We’re kind of the information center,” furthered Hughes.

A center that, as Town Manager Andrew Tierney said, provides “nothing but smiles” along with that information.

“They’re always bright and chipper and try to help any resident or person that comes in and calls in any way they can,” he stated. “They’re just great.”

And it’s because of that greatness and hard work that it’s no wonder the position has been around for as long as it has been, ensuring the town always has a way to move forward while looking back, and someone they can turn to for any issue that may arise.

Andover Library Friends Turn 25

by Geeta Schrayter

The Andover Friends of the Library, it could be said, are more than just “friends.” They’re supporters, fundraisers, event planners, cheerleaders, promoters and more all rolled into one, and all with a single focus: the Andover Public Library.

Made up of Andover residents, the Friends first met in May 1989, meaning they recently celebrated 25 years in their role – or roles, rather – helping the library in a variety of ways.

The group, explained President Janice Bazzani, “came together out of their interest in good library services as well as trying to support increasing the facilities and the services of the library, and to essentially enrich the cultural opportunities available to all of our Andover citizens.”

The Friends group is an incorporated non-profit, tax exempt organization that sponsors fundraisers and special projects “and attempts to generate public interest in the library,” Bazzani furthered.

Fundraisers include an annual spring auction – which is the group’s largest fundraiser and generated over \$5,000 this past year – as well as annual holiday gift-wrapping at Barnes and Noble for tips.

“Then, by doing that,” she said, “we hope to procure materials that are beyond the scope of the library’s budget which is limited, as in all towns.”

Using the funds they receive, the group regularly budgets for new print and audio books, programming, and passes for state beach parking in the summer and discounted or free admission to various museums.

Bazzani said the group has also paid for some upgrades and maintenance work at the library, such as a transition from paper to plastic cards, the purchase of a swinging message board, a flag pole and flood lights for the building, as well as different kinds of carts, display racks and shelving over the years.

In addition, the group sponsors a free summer concert and a yearly Christmas visit to the library from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, something Bazzani called “a lovely, happy event” with cookies, gifts and free books for the children.

Friends member and past president Dianne Grenier shared some of the other ways the group has assisted, including hosting author talks, sponsoring a piano concert at First Congregational Church, installing an outdoor drop box and providing a yearly scholarship to an Andover high school student.

“So for over 25, years we’ve been pretty busy which is good,” Grenier stated. “The Andover

Public Library is a source of great pride to residents; it may be small in size but it’s big in spirit and service.”

And that pride will surely grow when a new library sign is installed, which Bazzani called the largest project the group has undertaken since she’s been president.

(Bazzani has been president since 2011, when she took over for Grenier, who had been in the same role since 2005.)

Over \$2,000 has been raised for the sign through the sale of raffle tickets for a handmade quilt. Those funds will be combined with some of the group’s auction proceeds to pay for the purchase, which Bazzani said she hopes will be installed this summer.

“We’re also going to be improving the landscaping around the sign,” Bazzani explained. “And the next project we have in mind is to do one of those donate-a-brick fundraisers” to create a walkway.

Looking forward, Bazzani said the group would also like to help build the library’s social media presence to target a younger audience, and is aiming to be ready to assist when the time comes to expand upon or build a new library, by putting a portion of their fundraising proceeds into a building fund each year.

“We know most of [that planning] will fall under the responsibility of the actual library board as opposed to the Friends board but we want to be there and ready to support whatever those future goals are,” she stated.

According to Bazzani, the Friends of the Library’s mission is “really about ‘what does the library need and want?’ so we just try to support that on many different levels.”

And that support hasn’t gone unnoticed by the likes of library director Amy Orlomoski.

“Certainly, the budgetary assistance they offer us is extremely valuable,” she said. “And it’s good to have a supporter in the community – someone who can kind of speak for us when we can’t necessarily speak for ourselves.”

The group, Orlomoski added, has “obviously been very instrumental in keeping the library visible in the community. They promote our events, they sponsor some events that we do, they bought different things for us ... [and] every year they contribute money for us to purchase museum passes for public use, and contribute to our DVD and audio book budget every year.”

The Friends, in sum, help make sure the library remains a focal point in the community, which then helps Orlomoski and the rest of the library staff achieve their goals.



The Andover Friends of the Library recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. Shown here at their semi-annual meeting June 9 are, back row from left, LeeAnne Maier, membership chair; Mimi Boxwell, treasurer; Janet McCall, scholarship chair; and Joan Foran, member-at large. Front row from left, Janice Bazzani, president; Jean Mamonas, secretary; and Julie Victoria, vice-president. Photo courtesy of librarian Amy Orlomoski.

“We just like to try to get folks involved in reading and learning new things, and there’s just so much available at the library,” Orlomoski stated. “We think it’s your best tax dollars at work here – other than the school district of course – but the library is really for everyone.”

Grenier had similarly nice things to say about the library: “They have a wonderful staff there and they can get you anything you want. If they don’t have it right there they can get it in a couple of days” she said, adding she felt the community pride in the library could be seen through the fact the Friends have maintained a membership of over 100 members for the last eight years.

“We have, since 2006, had over 100 members each year – in a little town like Andover, to get 100 members to join anything, that’s a big deal!” she exclaimed.

And keeping that number up is something Bazzani called important.

“It’s been important to kind of keep that go-

ing to show – whether it’s applying for grants or for the rest of the community – that even though it’s a small town [the library] a worthwhile cause to support,” she said.”

To join in that support, Bazzani explained people need only donate the applicable amount each year: \$3 for seniors or youth, \$5 for an individual, \$10 for a family, \$25 for businesses, \$50 to be considered a patron, or a one-time donation of \$100 to be considered a lifetime member.

Although being an active member who participates in the events and fundraisers and attends the meetings is recommended, she added it isn’t necessary.

“There’s no mandatory participation,” she said. “It’s just about getting the numbers up to support the library.”

Membership forms are available at the library, which is located at 355 Route 6. For more information, contact the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com.

East Hampton Police News

6/2: Christopher A. Scaplen, 29, of 24 Flanders Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

6/2: Douglas Fellows, 20, of 43 Peach Farm Rd., East Hampton was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without proof of insurance, failure to have headlamps of proper color and unauthorized lamp color, police said.

6/4: David Lawrence Gaudino, 55, of 75 Meadowbrook Ct., West Haven, was arrested and charged with two counts of violation of probation, stemming from two separate incidents, police said.

Andover Police News

6/4: State Police responded to a two-car accident at 4:05 p.m. on Route 6. Police said a vehicle driven by Dylan Mackade Gellert, 18, of 4 George St., Windham, struck the rear end of a vehicle parked on the right side of the east-bound travel lane. Police said the parked vehicle was occupied by Barbara L. Prabucki, 64, of 182C Homestead St., Manchester, who was transported to Hartford Hospital by the Andover Fire Department for minor injuries. Police said Gellert was found at fault and issued an infraction.

Hebron Police News

6/3: State Police said Mario Valensuela, 28, of 38 Meadow St., Wallingford, was arrested and charged with improper use of a marker, insurance coverage fails to meet minimum requirements, speeding, DUI, disregarding a no passing zone, and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

6/4: State Police said John O’Sullivan, 66, of 28 Barbers Way, was arrested and charged with DUI and making restricted turns.

6/6: State Police said James McDougal, 18, of 20 Brighton Rd., was arrested and charged with for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics, traveling unreasonably fast, window tints with no tint inspection sticker and possession of alcohol by a minor.

6/7: State Police said Cody Gagne, 25, of 109 Wellswood Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

Marlborough Police News

6/7: State Police said Luis Alberto Aguilar, 19, of 54 Roosevelt St., Hartford, was traveling westbound on Route 2 approximately one mile west of exit 13 when he drifted to the left side, struck the wire rope guide rail, causing his vehicle to flip over. Police said the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department transported Aguilar to Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries.

Colchester Police News

6/3: Colchester Police responded to a disturbance on Westchester Road which resulted in the arrest of Nancy F. Taylor, 49, of 514 Westchester Rd., Apt. 2, on charges of risk of injury to a child, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

6/4: State Police said Joy Carlson, 56, of 283 Westchester Rd., Apt. 20, was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

6/4: Colchester Police arrested Stephen H. Downing, 37, of 29 Pierce Ln., for an outstanding arrest warrant on a charge of first-degree failure to appear.

6/5: Colchester Police said Ali Eslami, 34, of 41 Forest Dr., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

6/6: Colchester Police said Christopher D. Palamar, 42, of 402 Lake Vista Dr., East Hampton, was taken into custody on charges of first-degree criminal trespass, third-degree criminal mischief and simple trespassing.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Dorothy Cyr

Dorothy "Dottie" (Kemp) Cyr, 72, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Warren Cyr, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 4, at Middlesex Hospital after a long illness. Dorothy was born Aug. 18, 1941, on her mother's birthday, in Burlington, Vt., daughter of Grace (Purinton) and Ralph Dewey Kemp.



Besides her husband of 53 years, she leaves her two sons, Michael Cyr of Vernon, CT, and Daniel and his wife Yukako Cyr of Great Neck, N.Y., and her devoted sister, Beverly Briatico of Bristol.

Dorothy was an avid quilter and proprietor of Oak Ledge Quilting for 15 years, and has won numerous awards for outstanding workmanship. A devoted wife and mother, she will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Her family received relatives and friends Saturday, June 7, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Dorothy to St. Patrick Church Repair Fund, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Eleanor Wood

Eleanor (Nichols) Wood, 91, of Colchester, widow of the late George M. Wood, passed away Wednesday, June 4. Born Jan. 15, 1923, in Barre, Vt., she was a daughter of the late William and Nora (Miner) Nichols.

A proud veteran of World War II, she served with the U.S. Army (WAC) 1127th Service Command Unit. Shortly before her honorable discharge, she wed George May 20, 1946. Together they shared 57 years of marriage before he predeceased her on Mar. 23, 2004. After settling in Connecticut, Mrs. Wood worked as an inspector for Pratt & Whitney.

She leaves numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her 14 siblings.

The memorial liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 21, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. The family will receive guests at the church starting at 10 a.m. Burial with military honors will follow in the New Lebanon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105, or to St. Joseph Living Center, 14 Club Rd., Windham, CT 06280.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Kathleen Ann McLaughlin

Kathleen Ann McLaughlin, "Huggles the Clown," 65, of Hebron and formerly of Rocky Hill and Manchester, passed away Thursday, June 5, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born July 17, 1948 in Hartford, she was a daughter of the late John and Dorothy (Cahill) McLaughlin.

Early on, Ms. McLaughlin had worked in various positions with SNET. However, her greatest passion and vocation was found in being a therapeutic clown, traveling extensively and teaching across the world over the past 20 years.

She leaves two brothers, John "Jack" and his wife, Pat of Manchester and Charles "Chuck" and his wife, Kathryn of San Diego, Calif.; nieces and nephews, Carolyn Trantalis and her husband, William and their two sons, Nikolos and Christian of Colchester; John McLaughlin and his wife, Christina and their two children, Christina and Jack of San Diego, Calif.; and Robert McLaughlin and his wife, Julie, and sons, Ryan and Jake of Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the World Clown Association, P.O. Box 12215, Merrillville, IN 46411 - www.worldclown.com.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Everett Leroy Stone

Everett Leroy Stone, 64, of Hebron, beloved husband of Amy (Rohde) Stone, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, June 1. Born Oct. 21, 1949, in Norwich, he was a son of the late Darwin Everett and Alice (Markham) Stone. A graduate of the University of Miami, he worked as an application architect senior principal leader for 30 years with Computer Sciences Corp.



He was a gifted musician who shared his talent singing and playing with the "Elder Friends Band" for the residents on Fridays at the Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester, and was also a gifted luthier, handmaking acoustic guitars as treasured gifts to family and friends (but never selling them). He was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron.

In addition to his loving wife of 14 years, he is survived by two daughters, Meaghan Stone of Hebron and Meryl Smith and her husband, Kevin of Saint-Sauveur, QC, Canada; a brother Ronald Gallant of Ottawa, ON, Canada; his best friend and fellow band member, Gary Horton of Hebron; his mother-in-law, Jean Rohde of Hebron; brother-in-law, Richard Rohde and wife, Diane of Ashland, N.H.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of his Life will be observed at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 14, directly at St. Peter's Church, 30 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron.

Everett's final gift of generosity - in death as he did in life - was in giving life through tissue donation.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the St. Peter's Memorial Garden Fund at St. Peter's (where he will be laid to rest), the Hebron VFD/EMS, P.O. Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248 or to the charity of one's choice.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Michael E. Kirkby

Michael E. Kirkby, 37, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Michele Lea (Buchanan) Kirkby, died unexpectedly while on vacation in Puerto Rico. Born May 31, 1977, in Hartford he was the son of Kenneth Kirkby of Burlington and Carol Leichner of Winsted. Michael was employed by ESPN as an IT professional for 13 years.

Mike was a loving husband, son, brother, uncle and friend. His love of life, laughter, music, travel, and food will remain in the hearts of all that loved him. Mike taught us that life is an adventure full of new faces, new places, and of course, the next Dave Matthews concert.

Besides his wife Michele and his parents he is survived by his grandmother, Edna Kirkby; stepmother, Dianne Kirkby; a brother, Andrew Kirkby of Burlington; a sister, Kristen Michalski of New Hartford; two step-sisters, Stacey Newcomb of Pennsylvania, Jessie Newcomb of New York; and his two beloved nieces, Sienna and Calla, and his beloved nephew, Clark.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, June 9. A funeral service was held Tuesday, June 10, in the Spencer Funeral Home. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06118.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Robert Preston Graveside Services

Graveside services for Robert F. Preston, 61, of River Road in Hebron, formerly of Middletown, will be held Monday, June 16, at 1:30 p.m., in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill.

Preston, 61, died Monday, March 10, at his home. Known to his friends as Bob, he was a life-long Middletown resident and also maintained a home in Hebron.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to St. Vincent DePaul, PO Box 398, Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Barbara Ann Kuna

On Monday, June 9, surrounded by her family, Barbara Ann (Gill) Kuna, 86, beloved wife of the late Edmond A. Kuna, a resident of West Hartford for over 50 years and most recently from Marlborough, passed peacefully from this world to that of her dear Lord.



She was in the home she shared with her daughter and family in Marlborough, for the past four and a half years, which brought her much love and happiness.

Barbara was born in Denver, Colo., on Oct. 6, 1927, in her grandmother's home. She enjoyed a wonderful childhood with her six siblings and a much loved foster sister, Bernadette. She grew up on a poultry farm and adored living in what she called her "cool Colorado."

Barbara's family moved to Meriden, where she attended and graduated from Teacher's College of Connecticut (known now as Central Connecticut State University). She worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, where she met her future husband. She taught third grade at Hanover School in Meriden, where she loved and cared for each and every one of her "children."

She married Edmond Kuna June 23, 1956, and they welcomed their daughter, Marie Stefanie, the following year in April. They moved to West Hartford and settled into the Boulevard neighborhood that she was proud to call her home for over 50 years. Barbara continued to enjoy teaching and was a well sought-after substitute teacher for the West Hartford school system for many years. She also enjoyed numerous "long-term" substitute assignments, where she was the primary teacher for the school year.

Barbara was a gifted seamstress and artist, primarily in oils, and enjoyed taking art classes. She and her husband, Edmond, enjoyed ballroom dancing and were both avid gardeners. She was a devoted member of the St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church in West Hartford.

Barbara leaves two daughters and their husbands, Marie Kuna-Robertson and her husband, Doug Robertson, of Yarmouth, Maine, and Barbara Ann (Kuna) Meyer and her husband, Doug Meyer, of Marlborough. She leaves five grandchildren, Ian Robertson of Portland, Maine; Li-ana Robertson of Cambridge, Mass.; and Gina Robertson, attending Scripps College in California; Caroline Meyer and Ethan Meyer of Marlborough. She also leaves her much loved nieces and nephews and four siblings, Mary Louise (Gill) Masler, Madelyn (Gill) Panek, Frank and Margie Gill, and Frances (Gill) and Gene Sewolt. In addition, she leaves two sisters-in-law, Gloria Gill and Jean Gill.

Besides her husband, she is now united with her parents, Edward and Marie Gill; her brothers, Edward and Walter Gill; an infant brother, Patrick Gill; and her granddaughter, Olivia Rose Meyer.

Barbara was blessed by the love, care and devotion of West Hartford Internal Medicine physicians and staff, her special Polish caregivers and the care and compassion of her Masonicare Home Hospice team.

In lieu of flowers or donations, Barbara's family asks that you please take the time to reach out to your own living parents, take them to dinner, take them out for the day and let them know they are loved. For those whose parents have already passed, embrace them in prayer, knowing they experience eternal peace and God's love.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, June 14, at 10 a.m., in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Everyone is asked to meet at Church. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. Calling hours will be today, June 13, from 5-7 p.m., at the Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., West Hartford.

Online condolences may be made at SheehanHilbornBreen.com.

Andover

Ann G. Kidder

Ann G. Kidder, 89, of Granby, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 7, 2014 in Granby. Born in Andover Aug. 10, 1924, daughter of the late Jonathan Hunt, Sr. and Rebecca (Dunham) Hunt, she was raised in Andover and had lived in Hartford and West Hartford for many years, before moving to Granby 15 years ago. She worked at the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford for over 20 years until her retirement.

Ann loved music and dancing and during her retirement she enjoyed ballroom and square dancing with her friends in West Hartford. Ann was always active and enjoyed exercising, walking or taking art classes in drawing, embroidery, or ceramics. Most of all, Ann will be remembered as a loving and caring mother who was always dedicated to her two sons and her family.

She leaves two sons, Kenneth Kidder and his wife Christine of Granby and Larry Kidder of East Granby; a brother, Ellis Hunt and his wife Jean of Stafford Springs; and her granddaughter, Holly Kidder of Guilford.

She was predeceased by her husband, Purmont E. Kidder; three brothers, Robert Hunt, Russell Hunt and Jonathan Hunt Jr.; and a sister, Virginia Palmer.

Her family will receive friends today, June 13, from noon-1 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m., at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford.

Memorial donations may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Amston

Winifred Pierce Krohn

Winifred Pierce Krohn, 97, died Sunday, June 8, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was the widow of Lester F. Pierce, and Walter Krohn. She was born in Amston, daughter of William F. and Lizzetta (Slater) Brehant.

She graduated from the Willimantic State Teachers College in 1939 and was an educator in the Norwich School system for 33 and a half years, until her retirement. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Norwich, O.E.S. Sachem Chapter 57, the Norwich Grange and the National Retired Teachers Association, as well as the Connecticut Retired Teachers Association. She was also active in volunteer work.

She is survived by four daughters, Gail Tracy of Bozrah, Joan Seidel of Franklin, Nancy Nelson of Norwich and Karen Bakoulis of Norwich, as well as 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Besides her husbands, she was predeceased by a brother and two sisters.

Funeral services were Thursday, June 12, at the Church and Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich. Burial followed in Plains Cemetery, Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be made to the Connecticut Chapter of the American Parkinsons Assoc., P.O. Box 718, Old Mystic, CT 06372 or to the Vitas Hospice, 628 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Visit churchandallen.com to leave an online tribute or condolence.

Cobalt

Guy Norris Farnsworth

Guy Norris Farnsworth, 73, of Cobalt, died Saturday, June 7. He was born Oct. 18, 1940, son of the late Philip and Dorothy (Monarque) Farnsworth. He was a graduate of Glastonbury High School, Class of 1958.

He will be especially missed by his life partner, Helen Coleman, with whom he enjoyed a full wonderful life on the Connecticut River in Cobalt. He also is survived by his son, Brian Farnsworth and Shelley Miles; granddaughters, Taylor Farnsworth and Allison Thompson; a brother, Philip Farnsworth; a sister, Donna Indomenico and husband Pat; a sister, E. Marie Metcalf; his cousin, John Sandstrom and his wife Dorothy as well as their son, John.

Guy was predeceased by his wife, Sandra Abrahamson Farnsworth, and two sons, Guy Jr. and Mark Farnsworth.

Guy was a veteran of the U.S. Naval Submarine service and a lighting engineer for LSI. He will also be missed by his many friends in the Porsche club and golf league. He was a wildlife enthusiast, a gourmet cook and enjoyed collecting antiques and traveling.

A memorial service will be held today, June 13, at the First Congregational Church of Coventry, 1171 Main St., Coventry, at 1 p.m. His burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice on the seventh floor at the Middlesex Hospital.

More Obituaries on Following Page

Colchester

Edward George Wengloski

Edward George Wengloski, 86, of Lebanon, widower of the late Rose (Sanzone) Wengloski, passed away at Harrington Court Sunday, June 8, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Born Oct. 3, 1927, on the family farm in Lebanon, he was a son of the late Michael and Mary Wengloski.

A lifelong resident of Lebanon, he operated a family farm for many years and after "retiring", owned and operated Wengloski Construction. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic and devotion to his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include two children and their spouses, Dennis and Marilyn Wengloski of Lebanon and Deborah and Michael Johnson of Willimantic; four grandchildren, Dennis Jr. and Becky Wengloski, and Derrick Wengloski, all of Lebanon, Kelcey Johnson of Canterbury and Tyler Johnson of Willimantic; two great grandchildren, Cody and Ethan Wengloski; a brother and sister-in-law, Nicholas and Irene Wengloski of Lebanon; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his beloved wife of 57 years, who predeceased him Dec. 11, 2008, he was predeceased by a brother and sister-in-law, Isidore and Theresa Wengloski.

Friends called Wednesday, June 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service that morning. Interment followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at Harrington Court in Colchester for the excellent care and concern offered during his illness.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Donald McEnaney

Donald "Red" McEnaney, 82, of Middletown, went to join his high school sweetheart, best friend and wife of 50 years, Patricia (Welch) McEnaney on Saturday, June 7, at Marlborough Health Care and Rehab Center.

Donald was born Nov. 4, 1931, to Mary (Barry) McEnaney and John David McEnaney in New Britain General Hospital. He attended local schools and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in February 1949. He graduated from Radar School and volunteered for Korea on June 27, 1950, arriving in Korea in early July 1950. He served three and a half tours in Korea with a mobile radar bomb scoring unit. Among his decorations are the Korean Conflict Service Medal with Five Battle Stars, the Presidential Citation, and the South Korean Presidential Citation.

Upon his discharge honorably, in October 1952, he attended Bentley College in Boston and the University of Connecticut. He married his beloved wife Pat on Sept. 10, 1955. He worked 33 years in the U.S. Postal Service in Hartford, retiring as supervisor of mails in 1986. He then worked 16 years as a sales rep and merchandiser for Hershey Corp., retiring in 2002.

He was a member of St. Joseph Church, New Britain; was a lifetime member of the 502nd Tactical Control Group; the New Britain Quartette Club and Hartford Surf Club.

He is survived by his sons, Kerry of Naples, Fla., and Scott of Colchester; a daughter, Colleen Collins and her husband Russ of East Hampton; two grandsons, Sean and Jamie; and a great-granddaughter, Tessa DeBarge; a brother-in-law, Donald Welch and his wife Barbara of Groton, Mass.; a very special sister-in-law, Judith, a friend without whose loyalty and assistance though my lengthy illness, he would never have made it this far. He leaves numerous cousins, nieces and nephews and his faithful companion, his dog Greta.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by brothers, Francis, John and Barry McEnaney, and two sisters, Maureen and Kathleen.

My deepest thanks to Melanie Stoddard RN and all the staff at the George Bray Cancer Center at the Hospital of Central Connecticut; his family also thanks the entire staff at Marlborough Healthcare and Rehab Center.

Calling hours were Wednesday, June 11, at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that morning at St. Joseph's Church, New Britain. Burial with military honors was in Wilcox Cemetery, East Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude's Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Share a memory or note of sympathy with Donald's family at carlsonfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Kevin Richard O'Neal

Kevin Richard O'Neal, 41, of Cromwell, formerly of Portland, went to Heaven to play music with his Creator and Lord, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, June 4. Kevin was born June 8, 1972, son of the late Richard "Dick" and Mary (Burr) O'Neal.

Kevin was raised in Portland and following his graduation from High School, moved to Florida where he followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career as an electrician. Kevin was a very proud and extremely skilled electrician. Kevin also shared his father's love of model car building, constructing hundreds of models.

Kevin was a tremendously talented drummer and played in many bands with other incredible musicians whom he was lucky enough to call his friends. Kevin was always a very passionate Kansas City Chiefs fan dating back to before they were good!

Kevin married his soulmate Lori (Labbadia) O'Neal on May 4, 2013, and they just celebrated their first wedding anniversary. Kevin and Lori met in 4th grade and found each other again years later at which time they both knew that they had finally found true love.

Besides his beloved wife, Kevin is survived by his two stepsons, Kevin and Daniel McKnight of Cromwell. Kevin was very proud to be their stepdad and his continually-growing relationships with Kevin and Daniel were something he held close to his heart.

Kevin is also survived by his devoted sister, Dr. Kerry O'Neal of Cromwell, her husband, Jason Solomonides of Cromwell, and their twin daughters, Alexis and Keira. Kerry has always been the best big sister anyone could ever ask for and Kevin cherished their relationship more than anything else. Kerry's husband, Jason, was truly a brother to Kevin and they spent many hours restoring his father's El Camino, while discussing a myriad of subjects. Kevin was particularly proud of the immense honor given to him of being named godfather to his two nieces, Alexis and Keira. Having these amazing girls in his life brought him incredible joy with many unforgettable and cherished moments.

As well as the above mentioned family, Kevin is survived by his much-loved best friend Rabbit (his dog), in addition to a multitude of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and loved ones.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 14, at 10 a.m., at the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the funeral home this evening, June 13, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you please hug someone you love and let them know how much they mean to you.

Memorial donations may be made to First Step Behavioral Health, Attn: Marge, 3685 N. Federal Highway, Pompano Beach, FL 33064.

Portland

Ricardo W. Sylvia

Ricardo W. (Rick) Sylvia passed away Wednesday, June 11, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born in Westerly, R.I., on Dec. 9, 1937, he was the son of the late Arthur and Mary Tavares Sylvia.

Mr. Sylvia was educated in the Stonington Schools and Bryant College. He served in the U.S. Army, from 1959 to 1962, as an electronics operator, at the Nike sites located in Portland and Swedesboro, N.J.

Mr. Sylvia worked in the accounting field for different industries, retiring in 1999. He spent many years as an usher at St. Mary Church of Stonington and served on their finance committee.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, of 47 years, Carole Higginbotham Sylvia and his daughters and their husbands; Heidi and Andrew Schilke, Holly and Christopher Miller, along with his pride and joy, his grandchildren, Nicholas, Sara and Alison Schilke, Emma and Nathan Miller. He also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Sylvia was predeceased by his brother Robert Sylvia and sister Clementine Clay.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 95 Main St., Stonington, CT 06378. Burial will follow in Stonington Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Mr. Sylvia's memory to the American Lung Association, 260 West Exchange St., Suite 102-B, Providence, R.I. 02903.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, 121 Main St., Westerly, R.I.

Colchester

Timothy J. Driscoll

Timothy J. Driscoll, 86, of Cherry Valley, N.Y., passed away Friday, May 9, at Bassett Medical Center, Cooperstown, N.Y. He was the son of the late Anne (Baker) and Tim Driscoll. Tim was a graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester, Conn., and a World War II veteran who severed his country in the U.S. Army.

After retiring from farming in Connecticut, he moved in 1978 to Cherry Valley, where he was employed by the Cherry Valley School System as a custodian.

He was an avid reader of poetry and a model train collector.

Tim is survived by a niece and several nephews. The family would like to thank Frank Clough and Tom Padalona for the support shown to Tim.

Calling hours were held Thursday, May 15, with a memorial service that evening, at the Ottman Funeral Home, 22 Church St., Cherry Valley, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the memory of Timothy Driscoll to the Cherry Valley Emergency Squad, P.O. Box 504, Cherry Valley, NY 13320.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Ottman Funeral Home, Cherry Valley.

To light a candle or send online condolences, visit ottmanfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Patricia A. Sienkiewicz

Patricia A. (Sullivan) Sienkiewicz, 69, of Portland, passed away peacefully Sunday, June 8, with her daughters by her side. She was the wife of the late Edward J. Sienkiewicz, who passed away Aug. 27, 2013.

Born in Middletown March 2, 1945, she was a lifelong resident of Portland and the daughter of the late John W. and Anne (Fitzgibbons) Sullivan. She attended Portland schools and was employed at Raymond Engineering, prior to starting her family. In 1971, she and her husband began their careers as owners and operators of two successful liquor stores in Glastonbury, Main Package Store and Buck's Corner Spirit Shoppe. She was also a lifetime member of St. Mary's Church in Portland.

Patricia will be remembered for her kindness, quick wit and compassion for everyone she came in contact with. Her favorite pastimes included bowling, playing Bunco with lifelong friends and spending quality time with her grandchildren.

Patricia is survived by her two loving daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen Thurz and her husband, Michael, of Glastonbury and Susan Angersola and her husband, Donald of Portland; her sister, Betty Martyszczyk and her husband, Bill of Westbrook; her brothers, Michael Sullivan and his wife, Shirley, of Glastonbury, and John J. Sullivan and his wife, Eileen, of Portland; her sisters-in-law, Lauren Sullivan of Mount Pleasant, S.C., and Debra Sullivan of Portland; her brothers-in-law, Joseph Sienkiewicz and his wife, Mary, and William Sienkiewicz of Portland; her beloved grandchildren, Allison, Nicole and Ryan Thurz and Joseph Angersola; and many nieces and nephews, as well as countless friends.

She was predeceased by her brother, Bill "Sully" Sullivan, and her brother-in-law, Raymond Sienkiewicz.

Funeral services were held Thursday, June 12, from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass that morning at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday, June 11, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary Church 51 Freestone Ave Portland, CT 06480.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

