

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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**Enter the Eagle...** Pictured is Jeffery Mele from Boy Scout Troop 8 in East Hampton receiving his Boy Scout Eagle Award. A ceremony was held June 28 at the East Hampton Library Community Room. The award was presented by former Scout Master Henry Long. His project was to build a fire pit and picnic tables with landscaping for Valley Bible Evangelical Free Church in Haddam. The project was paid for through fundraising and donations. Mele thanked the East Hampton Lions Club for their financial help and the troop members and others who helped with the labor.

## Cruz 'Ruled With An Iron Fist'

by Geeta Schrayter

According to a newly-released affidavit, former Hebron schools superintendent Eleanor Cruz – who is facing a felony first-degree larceny charge – was, during her time with the school system, intimidating, demanding and controlling.

Those allegations by Hebron school system employees were made during a year-and-a-half investigation into allegations Cruz had made personal purchases with the school system's credit card. As a result of the investigation, Cruz was arrested last Thursday, Aug. 7.

The 18-page arrest warrant affidavit, released Wednesday, chronicles the investigation, which began in January 2013. As state police began to delve into the details of the alleged larceny, so did Forensic Accounting Services LLC of Glastonbury, which was hired to conduct a forensic audit of the board's spending.

After Cruz left Hebron to take over as superintendent in the Plymouth School District in December 2012, around \$15,000 in questionable expenses were discovered that occurred during Cruz's final year in town. Based on the forensic evidence from Forensic Accounting Services, LLC as well as the investigation by state police, \$6,286.36 of those expenses were found to be through the unauthorized use of funds, according to the affidavit.

These include, as listed in the affidavit: a \$100 insurance reimbursement in excess of Cruz's agreement; a \$2,400 travel stipend not included in Cruz's contract; \$390.38 in fuel purchases; another \$351.88 in personal credit card purchases; a \$2,375 payment for consulting services; Federal Express charges amounting to \$198.07; a purchase for \$89.72 made at Ted's Supermarket in Hebron the day after Cruz's employment with the school system ended; purchases made at Rite Aid amounting to \$235.44; and a Wal-Mart purchase for \$145.87.

As part of the investigation, various interviews were conducted that show different employees of the Hebron School District were concerned over some of Cruz's activities – but in some cases felt too intimidated to take action.

The affidavit describes Cruz's administrative assistant, Karen Conderino, as saying the superintendent was "personable, but also demanding and wanted things done immediately and efficiently and could be intimidating."

Conderino furthered Cruz became frustrated with the method of using a personal credit card for expenses and then seeking reimbursement and so, she approached then-business manager William Mazzara about applying for a district credit card, according to the affidavit.

Conderino said she recalled Mazzara telling Cruz he didn't want to get the card, but he "was a very gentle person and felt uncomfortable telling Cruz that he didn't want the cards to be opened," the affidavit states.

In the end, a district credit card was opened and signed for by both Cruz and Mazzara, with a \$50,000 limit.

Mazzara was interviewed for the investigation, and told police "he didn't think the card was a good idea, but never formally fought against getting the card," the affidavit states.

Mazzara called Cruz "very controlling and focused on her ideas," according to the affidavit. She was also described as "intimidating," and the affidavit states Mazzara felt "if Cruz had you on one of her lists or you didn't go along with her goals or opinions you were going to be removed from your position."

According to the affidavit, that was described as happening to a former Hebron Elementary School principal.

Director of Curriculum Vonda Tencza, who was also interviewed by state police, said Cruz "ruled with an iron fist," according to the affidavit. Like Mazzara, she said employees had to do what Cruz wanted or they'd be removed from their positions.

This, the affidavit said, is what Tencza said she'd seen take place with the former principal, who "brought up an issue and was later removed from the position."

The affidavit furthered Tencza as saying while Cruz could be "very nice and pleasant at times," she made it clear not to cross her.

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## Orange Tops Paul in Primary

by Melissa Roberto

Incumbent Linda Orange is one step closer in her pursuit of a 10th consecutive term as state representative for the 48th District, as she topped challenger Jason Paul in the Democratic primary held Tuesday.

By a vote of 724-313, Orange received the greater number of votes cast by Democrats in the 48th District, which includes Colchester and portions of Lebanon, Mansfield and Windham.

The results broke down in each town as follows: In Colchester, Orange received support from 486 Democrats as opposed to Paul's 131 votes; in Lebanon, Orange's 132 votes topped Paul's 50; 30 voters from Windham supported Orange while 19 cast support for Paul; yet in Mansfield, Paul came out on top with 113 votes as opposed to 76 for Orange.

Orange, a longtime Colchester resident, has held the state representative seat for the last 18 years. The Democrat has won nine consecutive elections, yet Tuesday was the first time she headed into a primary vote against another Democratic competitor. For Paul, the 48th District race was a first. He had previously volunteered and worked on local, state and national campaigns.

On Wednesday morning, Orange said she was "very pleased with the results." The primary victory advances her on to Election Day,

Nov. 4, where she will go up against Republican challenger Evan A. Evans, who has filled the Republican vacancy that was created after Colchester resident Joe Broder pulled out of the race.

Orange expressed appreciation for the voters and her team.

"I wish to thank all the Democratic voters that came out to the Democratic primary," the incumbent said. "I thank them for their support and I certainly know that they had decisions to make and I appreciate the recognition from the voters that I work hard on their behalf."

She furthered, "We had a great campaign operation with great volunteers and I thank them as well. That's something you don't do alone. You don't win an election alone; it takes a team."

In terms of what will keep the state representative busy until the next race, Orange said she'll continue to "keep on going." More specifically, she said, "I understand there's a Republican challenger and I will be out there as I always am meeting people and campaigning."

Of course, there's still work to be done, Orange said. She said the economy continues to be an issue.

"As the economy is picking up I do not see [that happening] here in eastern Connecticut," she explained, "So I think that's a huge issue I'm still going to focus on."



Linda Orange

Additionally, another issue Orange said she'll seek to solve is funding education "the best we can in the public school system."

That includes funding technical schools, Orange said, which includes "making sure we keep updating our technical schools to keep

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**Iron Fist cont. from Front Page**

In her own interview, the school system's then-bookkeeper, Sue Bettencourt, told police that, before the district credit card was opened, it was rare to get receipts from Cruz for reimbursements, which was school system policy. According to the affidavit, Bettencourt thought Cruz might not have her own credit card. Once the district card became active, however, she started to receive receipts from Cruz; these receipts sometimes looked as though the tops had been cut off, or were missing details, the affidavit states.

Bettencourt told police she didn't always know what the receipts were for, the affidavit states, and could only find out once the credit card statements came in and she could match the dates and totals.

Bettencourt, the affidavit states, told police "Cruz was a very intimidating person and that sometimes she would question Cruz and Cruz would let her know that she was the boss."

Bettencourt added she felt if she pushed hard enough Cruz would fire her – something she had seen happen to others during her time there.

In October 2012, two months after Cruz had notified the school board she'd be resigning in December for the Plymouth job, Mazzara said Bettencourt began to explain to him some of Cruz's charges might not be legitimate, according to the affidavit. The situation, he said, was later discussed with Kathy Veronesi, who was then the principal at Gilead Hill School but had already been selected to be interim superintendent upon Cruz's exit. Mazzara said Veronesi told him to wait until Cruz had left the district, and "then they could dig into the issue."

Mazzara said in the affidavit that, like he and Bettencourt, Veronesi "knew how Cruz would react to being accused of misusing the credit card, and thought it was better to wait."

Throughout the investigation, various individuals were asked about Cruz's habits and purchases – along with Cruz herself. Based on interviews Cruz had with state police and auditors from Forensic Accounting Services LLC, Cruz was found to be inconsistent in some of her explanations.

For example, after Cruz was hired by the Plymouth school system but still employed by Hebron schools, she hired a consultant to help her analyze data from the Plymouth schools – and the consultant was paid for with Hebron Board of Education funds. When Cruz was interviewed by the auditors, she said she told the consultant the funds would come from her professional development account and the purpose was to discuss sustainability for Hebron. This, according to the affidavit, was inconsistent with information the consultant shared, who said she was told the work was on Plymouth data, and that she'd be paid out of Cruz's pocket at first, then by the Plymouth School District.

When Cruz was interviewed by police regarding the same issue, she also said the consultation was for the Plymouth School District, according to the affidavit.

"Cruz's statements made to this affiant contradicted what Cruz explained during the interview with the Forensic Accounting Services, LLC staff," the affidavit states.

Another witness, who was described as an active member of the Board of Education, stated in the affidavit that Cruz "didn't always tell the

truth." She mentioned a China program Cruz supported, which Cruz told the board was fully-funded by a grant – however, the affidavit stated it was discovered some of the program was paid for with Board of Education funds.

Other expenses were thoroughly reviewed throughout the investigation including purchases made for gardening supplies, which, according to the affidavit, Cruz said were for a garden at the school. Witnesses claim, however, that the garden at the school hadn't been touched throughout 2012. On the other hand, Veronesi, who had been to Cruz's condo, said Cruz gardened for a hobby and had a garden at her home, according to the affidavit.

Certain purchases were also made for items consistent with baking – including a purchase made at Ted's Market the day after Cruz left the district. According to the affidavit, different witnesses – including Veronesi – also said Cruz liked to bake, and would occasionally bring in pies for the office staff.

Veronesi also said Cruz liked to make applesauce, and had mentioned plans to ship some to her children in Maryland and Minnesota. According to the affidavit, Veronesi later found Federal Express charges from around the same time Cruz had mentioned shipping the sauce.

Purchases for certain grocery items like yogurt, water, and chicken were touted by Cruz as being for office staff; however, Veronesi told police that "no food was stocked for the district at the office, and nothing was provided for employees or staff consistent with what had been purchased," according to the affidavit.

After Cruz was arrested Aug. 7, the Plymouth School Board placed her on paid administrative leave. The board met Wednesday night to discuss the matter – and Cruz's attorney John Gesmonde said this week they should reinstate her.

The presumption, he explained, should remain that Cruz is innocent until proven guilty.

"The proper thing to do is to treat her as innocent," he said. "The most important lesson the school board can teach its students as a result of this circumstance is to return Ellie Cruz to the status quo because you are supposed to presume that she is innocent. Anything less than that and you are presuming that she is guilty, which is unconstitutional."

But reinstating Cruz isn't the route the board chose to go with. While school board members could not be reached for comment Thursday, according to published reports, the board voted 5-2, with one member abstaining, to have board chairman Raymond Engle conduct a review of Cruz's employment. Published reports also state Wednesday's meeting was attended by more than 100 people, and more than a dozen of them called for Cruz to be let go.

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Cruz is scheduled to appear in court on the first-degree larceny charge Tuesday, Aug. 26.



**Eleanor Cruz**

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Like the rest of the country, it seems, I was shocked, and very saddened, to hear Monday of actor and comedian Robin Williams' death, from an apparent suicide.

I've loved Robin Williams' comedy nearly as long as I can remember, from sitting on the chair in my living room watching reruns of *Mork & Mindy*. I recall going to the movies in my early teen years, to watch (or listen to) him in manic, hilarious roles in *Aladdin* and, of course, *Mrs. Doubtfire*. I also enjoyed his more subdued comedy turns in such films as the excellent *The Birdcage*. In nearly every single comedy I saw him in, the man could make me burst out with laughter.

But as great as he was on the big screen, he was perhaps even more hilarious on the small one. Whenever I saw Williams was going to be on a talk show, I wanted to seek it out. The man could kill in front of a live audience. He never stopped going. Over the years, some critics complained they had tired of the Robin Williams shtick – the over-exuberance in front of a crowd. I never did. As I wrote here a few months ago, I felt his recent CBS sitcom *The Crazy Ones* (a good show that, quite frankly, really deserved to see a second season) would've been even better if it were filmed in front of a live audience; put Robin Williams in front of a crowd, I felt, and you could do no wrong.

Not that I often saw him do wrong anyway. This goes especially true for his dramatic turns. Several comedic actors try over the years to branch out into drama – and they've been greeted with varying degrees of success. But Williams, trained in theatre at the famed Juilliard School, was a fine dramatic actor, turning in terrific performances in such films as the underrated *What Dreams May Come*, the both sad and creepy *One-Hour Photo* and, of course, the gem *Good Will Hunting* – which netted him an Oscar.

Simply put, Williams brought an awful lot of entertainment to an awful lot of people over the years. The outpouring of grief over social media Monday night confirms this. Which is what makes it just such a shame if the reports prove to be true, and it was indeed suicide that took Williams' life. His media representative said "he has been battling severe depression of late" – and Williams' death, if it is indeed suicide, is another reminder that depression comes in various shapes and sizes. If one of the funniest men on the planet can be crippled by it, then anyone can.

I recently lost a friend of mine to suicide. And, a day after the news broke, his Facebook page was littered with comments all basically saying the same thing: "You were a great guy. You have no idea how much you meant to people. I hope you finally now are at peace."

Depression is a huge, debilitating problem. It can rob you of that ability to see how much you mean to others, how much joy you bring them. And in the worst case scenario, as was the case with my friend and the (apparent) case with Williams, the grief becomes so consuming you see no way out – leaving behind shattered lives of people who loved you more than you knew.

That's why depression needs to be treated more in this country than it is – and needs to be understood more. I've quoted Cicero saying this once before and it bears repeating: "Where there's life, there's hope." No matter how dark things get, there's always the hope, the promise, of tomorrow. It's tragic when people can no longer feel that hope.

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I got an email sent along to me recently from the East Hampton Police Department, alerting me to an IRS phone scam. And it

sounds like quite the scam.

The EHPD said it's received reports from residents that an automated phone system has been leaving messages telling people to call a phone number with a Washington, D.C., area code – the number is, allegedly, the IRS. The recorded message sounds official, police say, and states that the person owes back taxes. Victims may be told they owe money to the IRS, police say, and, when they refuse to cooperate, they may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes aggressive and insulting, police report.

But if indeed you do ever owe back taxes, the IRS' first course of action will be a letter in the mail – never a telephone call. If you still feel the call may be legitimate – who knows, maybe you've already gotten a notice from the IRS – then the EHPD says you should ask the caller for his or her badge number, and then call 1-800-829-1040 to confirm it. Sometimes the caller may volunteer a fake badge number before you even ask for one.

Basically, police say, if you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, and you think you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. The IRS employees at that line can help you with a payment issue – if there really is such an issue.

And if you know you don't owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you owe any taxes (for example, you've never received a bill or the caller made some bogus threats as described above), then police say you should call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484.

If you've been targeted by this scam, you should also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov). Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

The police also advise you to keep this in mind: The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages or messages through social media. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).

More information on how to report phishing scams involving the IRS is available at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

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Lastly, I've got another bit of personnel business to pass along. Starting with this issue, I'm promoting reporter Geeta Schrayter to assistant editor. Don't worry, she'll continue to cover Andover and Hebron for the paper. This is mostly an overdue acknowledgment of the help she provides at the paper.

Due to illness and a family emergency, I've had to unexpectedly leave the office for extended periods of time more this year than ever before. And every time, Geeta's stepped up to the plate, and filled in as editor. When I've been here, but sometimes too busy with my responsibilities, she's been perfectly willing to help lighten my load a little. It's been much appreciated. Also appreciated, and certainly not unnoticed by me: the way she helps out others at the office.

Simply put, Geeta's been my second in command for a while now, and I feel it's high time she's recognized as such.

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See you next week.

**Orange Tops Paul cont. from Front Page**

up with the manufacturing jobs that are out there and available."

The incumbent had been endorsed by all four Democratic town committees of the towns the 48th District encompasses. This week, Colchester DTC Chairman Don Kennedy said the committee is "obviously very pleased" with Orange's victory on Tuesday.

"We were confident that she would [win] but Linda being Linda worked as hard as ever knocking on doors and meeting constituents," he said.

Also, Kennedy seemed confident that Orange will receive the most support come Election Day.

"She's a hard worker and she'll continue to work hard when she wins in November and in the next two years," he said.

Paul did not provide comment to the *Rivereast* before press time Thursday.

Orange concluded she "enjoyed the campaign, and I'll continue to work for the people of the 48th District."

# Despite Concerns, Andover Road Race Deemed Success

by Geeta Schrayter

Last Saturday, around 150 runners took to the Hop River Rail Trail in Andover to participate in the Hop River 5K and 10K and, despite some concerns in the days leading up to the event, everything went off without a hitch.

The race, which was put on by the First Mile Fitness in conjunction with the 169 Society, whose goal it is to run a race in each town in Connecticut, had been the topic of discussion at recent Andover Board of Selectmen meetings. At the July 18 meeting, concern was expressed because everyone in attendance seemed to be under the impression the inaugural race last year was advertised as benefiting the Andover Food Pantry, but no money had been received.

However, that allegation proved to be untrue, as no charity had been chosen for the race – something First Selectman Bob Burbank clarified at the Aug. 6 meeting, when he stated, “I think some misinformation had been given.”

It was only after the first race proved successful, Burbank explained, that First Mile co-founder Rich Baber said “he’d like to give something back,” and chose to donate funds to

the Food Pantry.

At that same meeting, members of the public and the board focused on the safety of the 10K participants, who would cross Shoddy Mill Road, Wales Road and Burnap Brook Road at different points during the race. Various ideas were thrown around, including the possibility of canceling the race, but nothing was settled on.

In the end, a special Board of Selectmen meeting was scheduled for last Friday, Aug. 8 – the day before the race – to take any necessary action. In preparation for that meeting, selectwoman Elaine Buchardt explained in a statement she called “everybody involved in the race and the Andover Food Pantry and the [Community Emergency Response Team]” Thursday, and then reported to the board what safety measures would be put in place.

Buchardt said she found out there would be two volunteers at each road crossing of the rail trail, as well as signs announcing a race was taking place and orange cones to slow traffic. After sharing this information with the board,

Buchardt said they unanimously voted to have the race continue, “citing,” she wrote, “that it is a positive event for the town and there were proper precautions being taken.”

Buchardt further explained she attended the race, and found all the crossings were properly marked with people directing traffic.

“Thanks to CERT volunteers Catherine Crème, Karen Zito, Frank Chaves and Sue Schmidt along with bike rider volunteers recruited by the First Mile Fitness promoters, runners had a safe place to cross at all three crossings,” she wrote.

Also assisting with the race was Food Pantry Director Joan Soucy, who was at the registration table and manned the water station on Merritt Valley Road. And after all was said and done, Soucy received a check for \$350 from the race as well as some non-perishable food donations brought by the runners.

The race participation, Buchardt said, “exceeded” the promoter’s expectations, with 147 total runners, four hailing from town.

She added, “It would be great to do this next

year,” and said along with more runners, more volunteers would mean less people the First Mile has to pay, and more money to donate to the pantry.

Wednesday, Burbank said he agreed with Buchardt’s points, but added in the future, the selectmen would be more proactive in making sure all the details of a potential race are worked out well in advance.

“I intend to work with the Board of Selectmen to ensure the proper information gets down,” he stated. “As it was, we had everything in place for the race, but I think there [were] a lot of questions by a lot of people and we didn’t have exactly the answers when we probably should have. So in the future, we’ll be a little more proactive on this.”

On the First Mile website, [firstmile-fitness.com](http://firstmile-fitness.com), the race was deemed a “hopping success.”

“The race was well attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from the participants,” the website stated. “It was a beautiful, sunny, not too hot August day.”

# Marlborough Moose Lodge Disbands, Won’t Say Why

by Melissa Roberto

The Marlborough Moose Lodge 1631 voted this week to forfeit its charter, meaning there will no longer be a Moose Lodge in town, the Moose International organization confirmed this week.

Moose Magazine Executive Brenda Buschbacher said Tuesday when a lodge disbands it is because “of inactivity.”

Members of the Marlborough lodge this week were reluctant to speak about the closing. However, sources indicate the disbanding may have been caused by the lodge not having enough members to fill all of the officer positions.

It is also believed by a source that when a lodge closes its doors, Moose International is responsible for getting rid of it. For example, the international organization would be responsible for selling its assets.

In some cases, lodges that disband try to merge with other lodges. A simple online search will show that other Moose lodges around the country have closed their doors in recent years. In December 2013 the Marysville Moose Lodge in Marysville, Kan., closed its building, while in February of this year a lodge in Connersville,

Ind., did the same.

As described on [mooseintl.org](http://mooseintl.org), Moose International is “an International organization of men and women, dedicated to caring for young and old, bringing communities closer together and celebrating life.”

There are different units of the international organization, such as Loyal Order of Moose, Women of the Moose, Mooseheart, Moosehaven and Moose Charities.

The Marlborough Moose lodge was made up of both men and women.

Marlborough Moose Lodge 1631 stands at 303 South Main St. According to an online assessment database, in 2012 it was assessed at \$235,810 and appraised at \$338,300. The building was constructed in 1955.

Marlborough Assessor Marie Hall said she was unsure what will happen to the property now that the Moose are no more. “I imagine it would go up for sale,” Hall said.

The assessor continued the lodge property includes a one-story building that is approximately 5,225 square feet. The property also consists of 19.5 acres.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said

Wednesday she received a message to her office that the lodge had disbanded – but had yet to receive details as to why.

“I haven’t gotten any further information regarding their plans,” Gaudinski said, adding, “I understand that there’s Moose International, the parent organization, and that they will take it over.”

Gaudinski confirmed the town groups, including youth sports clubs, have utilized the Moose property, which includes a soccer field that the selectwoman said is not full-size, as well as a baseball field.

Town groups “have been using [the fields] for a number of years, and in turn the town has provided lawn services for the use of the fields,” Gaudinski said.

Although Gaudinski said she has not received any additional news regarding the reason for the lodge disbanding, she guessed that it was because “its membership has just been dwindling over the years.”

“I know that they tried to have different fundraisers to help with their expenses like bingo and dinners,” the selectwoman said. “But

it’s basically minimal members and the expenses [are believed to be the problem.]”

Gaudinski said the lodge does pay taxes on its property, and there are expenses with upkeep. The selectwoman added that she made Parks and Recreation Director Mandy Rocznik aware of the news this week to look into what the impact would be for the town programs that are held at the property.

A follow-up story will appear in a future *Rivereast* once more information on the closing from Moose members becomes available.

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With the disbanding of the Moose, the weekly bingo sessions held Sunday afternoon at the lodge – notices about which are regularly posted in the *Rivereast* – are also no more. In a letter published in this week’s edition, the Moose announce “with deep regret” they will no longer sponsor bingo, effective immediately.

“We will miss seeing you each week and hope you find another bingo venue where your number always gets called,” the letter says to the “loyal supporters who made the past year and a half a success.”

## Hayn Gets Four Months in Prison

by Melissa Roberto

Former Board of Finance Chairman Bruce Hayn will spend four months in prison for setting fire to his Norwich business in 2011, a Superior Court judge determined last week.

Hayn, 57, appeared in New London Superior Court last Thursday, Aug. 7, in front of Judge Hillary Strackbein. Strackbein sentenced him to eight years in jail, suspended after four months, and four years’ probation.

Hayn was arrested in January 2012 on charges he set fire to Shur Fire, a wood stove and pellet fuel business he owned in Norwich. The blaze broke out at the business Oct. 27, 2011, and five fire departments were needed to put the blaze out.

An investigation into the fire by Norwich Police and the Connecticut Fire Marshal’s Office determined the fire was intentionally set. The investigation also uncovered security footage from outside of the building showing Hayn attempting to start the fire the night before. After the failed attempt, the video showed Hayn went back the next night and this time, the business caught fire, a *Rivereast* article from January 2012 states.

Following the blaze, Hayn filed a claim with



Bruce Hayn

his insurance company, Travelers, and they made “initial good faith payments” of \$25,000, the article furthers – payments Hayn cashed.

Hayn was initially charged with first-degree arson, first-degree criminal attempt to commit arson, second-degree issuing a false statement and insurance fraud. He pled no contest in April to a charge of third-degree arson.

At last week’s sentencing hearing, Hayn received shows of support from many in the community. He is known for serving nearly 27 years on the Board of Finance, as well as his role as the builder of a home featured in a 2008 edition of ABC’s *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, which helped a Voluntown family rebuild their home after it was destroyed by a fire in 2007.

Hayn allegedly sustained 14 injuries in 2009, when a section of roof fell on him during another charity construction project in Griswold.

“Quite a lot of people were there to support him,” Hayn’s attorney Patrick Tomasiewicz said of the turnout at the hearing.

The attorney said there were also 45 letters sent in support of Hayn, some of which asked for Hayn’s sentence to be reduced.

Tomasiewicz spoke to the outcome of the trial.

“I thought the judge tried to be as fair as she could be,” the attorney said. He added Hayn “was very grateful for the support.”

## Marlborough Gas Station Robbery Still a Mystery

by Melissa Roberto

On the night of July 20, over 5,000 gallons of gasoline were stolen from the Maxum Fuel gas station in the center of Marlborough and, according to the station’s owner, the crime has yet to be solved.

It was reported via a news release on file at the State Police Troop K barracks that approximately 5,400 gallons of unleaded gasoline was allegedly stolen from an underground gas tank at 2 East Hampton Rd. during the overnight hours of July 20-21.

This week, the *Rivereast* got in touch with the gas station’s owner, Maqsood Bhura, who said the crime is something he has never experienced in the 25 years he’s worked at various gas stations.

“I nearly fainted,” Bhura said. “This is something that is very unusual to happen.”

Bhura said gas station employees take readings of the underground tanks each day at opening and closing to track how many gallons are sold. He said he called police on July

21 when he “opened up in the morning and the reading was very low in the tank.”

Bhura said the amount of gas stolen amounts to what he believes to be between \$22,000-\$24,000. State Trooper Joshua McElroy is investigating the case, according to the Troop K news release, but he has yet to return the three phone calls Bhura has made to him since the incident, Bhura said.

The gas station attendant added that in order to take gas from the tanks a special truck is needed.

“A different kind of truck takes out the gas,” Bhura said, concluding that the person who stole the gasoline “should be experienced” in doing so.

Bhura said he filed a claim with his insurance company. “There is nothing else you can do,” the owner said.

Bhura has owned Maxum Fuel since 2007. McElroy could not be reached for comment to contribute to this story.

# Court Favors Colchester in Absentee Ballot Challenge

by **Melissa Roberto**

The New London Superior Court has sided with the Town of Colchester regarding the challenge that absentee ballot applications from the June 24 budget referendum were invalid.

Thus, the approvals of both the school and town budgets are still in tact, First Selectman Stan Soby confirmed.

At the Aug. 7 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Soby explained that town officials appeared at the New London court on July 24 and July 29. The hearings were in response to a complaint filed with the superior court on July 21 by residents Joyce Maine, Deanna Bouchard and Tearice Peters.

The complaint named Town Clerk Nancy Bray, referendum moderator Denise Mizla, and town registrars Dorothy Mrowka and Diana Giles, as well as the Town of Colchester, the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

Soby said Bray, Mizla and the Registrar of Voters were subpoenaed to court for a preliminary hearing on July 24. Then, on July 29, the date of the trial, Soby, Mrowka, Giles, Mizla and Bray attended the hearing along with legal representatives from Shipman and Goodwin LLP, the town's attorney firm.

There were 17 absentee ballot applications reviewed by the court that had been called into question for displaying various errors, such as unchecked boxes on applications that are meant to show the voter's intent and action.

"Our case was very clear to the judge in terms of how it was presented that while a box may not have been checked – and that was the basis of the challenge – there was other documentation on the absentee ballot form which showed the voter intent and action, and was consistent with state statutes," Soby told the board.

The selectman furthered, "The state statutes do not reference that you have to check a box. It references that you have to affirm under penalty of perjury that you will not be able to go to the poll that day."

Soby said he feels "it helped" that the judge "had actually moderated elections in his own town so he knew this process from the ground level, as well as the law."

Judge Joseph Q. Coletsky had 10 days following the trial date to come to a decision. He made his ruling "from the bench," Soby said, on July 30, the day following the trial.

Soby confirmed to board members that the judge's ruling means the town has "no choice to vacate the election based on the absentee ballot clerical issue."

"We have no basis to do that," he said.

Soby said the court hearings cost the town \$46,428.78 in legal fees. "It involved the work in a very short period of time of multiple attorneys, paralegals, to put together a case that showed that while there may have been a check box on a form that might not have been checked, the requirements that are in statute for the proper

handling of both the absentee ballot applications and the ballots themselves was amply demonstrated in court."

Soby furthered, "We understand that people have the right to make the challenge. But, given how it came to us we needed to defend both the town boards and town officials to the best of our ability, which we did."

\* \* \*

Also at last Thursday's meeting, the board unanimously approved two appropriations totaling \$30,000 regarding a future proposal of a William J. Johnston Middle School building project.

A new building committee, the School Building Committee, has been formed to propose a new renovation project for William J. Johnston Middle School. This committee has come together following the failure of the first building project proposal, known as the William J. Johnston Middle School/Community Center/Senior Center project, which included renovations to the middle school and additions of a new senior center and community center attached to the school. The three-part project totaled \$57.26 million and was shot down at an October 2013 referendum by a vote of 1,993-693.

The second school proposal differs from the first in that the committee's scope has been redefined to only involve renovations and pos-

sible additions to the middle school. Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson explained this week the project is currently at a "ground zero" stage because no schematic designs or options have yet to be proposed.

A \$27,000 appropriation was approved by both the selectmen and finance boards last week to cover the cost of a contract to exist between the town of Colchester and the project architects, Tecton Architects of Hartford. The contract will extend through the referendum, which has yet to be scheduled.

Jackson said that while the architectural firm has stayed the same, there has been a new lead architect assigned to the project, that way it can be looked at with a fresh perspective.

The remaining \$3,000 was also approved by the selectmen and finance boards last week to cover the costs of producing informational materials about the project, such as poster boards, handouts, pamphlets, etc. Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle, the selectmen's building committee liaison, explained to the board that in the previous building project proposal, building committee members were paying out of their own pocket for materials, which she said "was not the right way to conduct business."

\* \* \*

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

## Ambruso to Leave Bacon Academy

by **Melissa Roberto**

The Board of Education last week announced that Bacon Academy Principal Mark Ambruso has resigned to take a similar position outside of the district. And at Tuesday's meeting of the school board, Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Mathieu confirmed a transition process to fill the position is already underway.

Ambruso's announcement became public last Friday, Aug. 8. According to a press release from the school board, Ambruso's resignation will become effective next Friday, Aug. 22, just five days before students arrive for the first day of school.

Ambruso will leave Colchester to take an administrative position at Windham Technical High School in Willimantic, which is part of the Connecticut Technical High School System.

Ambruso first became acclimated with the Colchester district in 2001, when he was hired as one of the school's football coaches. He coached high school football for four years – all while working as a high school teacher at Norwich Free Academy, a position he ultimately held for 10 years.

In November 2008, Ambruso took his first steps into Bacon Academy, transitioning his career from teacher to school administrator. He began that year as Bacon's assistant principal, staying in that role until 2012, when then-principal Jeffrey Mathieu replaced former superintendent of schools Karen Loiselle, and Ambruso was tapped to be Bacon's new interim principal. His leadership position at Bacon became permanent in April 2013, via a unanimous vote from the Board of Education.

School board chairman Ron Goldstein communicated in a press release that Ambruso's work has been appreciated.

"Mark has been a great leader at Bacon Academy," Goldstein said. "We wish him well and thank him for his years of service. We know he will be successful in all of his future endeavors."

At Tuesday's meeting, the school board unanimously accepted Ambruso's resignation. Mathieu also gave an explanation of next steps. Instead of searching for a permanent principal in the weeks ahead, Mathieu said he's received advice from area professionals suggesting to

put off the permanent principal search until the winter.

"I was advised just by people that have gone through it that you're better off to wait [until] winter/late winter and be first out of the gate as far as interviewing for a July 1 start date," Mathieu explained.

Mathieu continued he has posted the interim position online and had already one interview scheduled this week. The interview team includes the superintendent, two board members, Goldstein and vice chairman Don Kennedy, Bacon Academy Assistant Principal Linda Iacobellis, Director of Teaching and Learning Barbara Gilbert, Director of Pupil Services Katherine Shaughnessy, and Bacon Academy Math Teacher Meaghan Keheogreen.

The search for a permanent principal, Mathieu and Goldstein stressed, would be a different process than the interim hiring.

"The permanent person [interview process] will involve the greater Bacon Academy, Colchester community [including] students, faculty, parents," Mathieu said.

Mathieu said he anticipates hiring an interim principal position next week. In his resignation letter to Mathieu, Ambruso shared what it was like to work in Colchester.

"My six year[s] working at Bacon Academy and with the Colchester community leave me with many fond memories and strong relationships," Ambruso wrote. "The teachers and students have been amazing and consistently rise to new challenges."

\* \* \*

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Mathieu informed the board there are still "five or six" positions in the district to be filled before the start of the school year, including Ambruso's position, a math specialist and an English Language Learning teacher.

The possibility of funding an additional full-day kindergarten teacher was also discussed. Mathieu said the current kindergarten enrollment has reached 151 students, which is just over the New England School Development Council's (NESDC) estimate for the coming school year of 147 students. The current enrollment brings the class size to an average of 21.5 students.

Mathieu explained in order to keep class size down, and under contractual class size requirements, an eighth full-time teacher may need to be hired; there are currently seven full-day kindergarten classes offered, he said. Board members questioned where this money would come from, and therefore unanimously voted to authorize the hiring of an additional full-time kindergarten teacher "pending some identification of more funding to be reviewed and decided by the superintendent." (The exact amount needed to pay a new teacher was not known by the board, as it would depend on the salary step a new hire would come in and other factors.)

Putting money aside, board members stressed the importance of keeping class sizes down.

"Keep in mind this is the first formal introduction to the kids' learning experience through the public school system," board secretary Mary Tomasi told board members. "It is a full-day kindergarten and those kids need the support they can and the fewer kids there are for that teacher the better the kids will learn."

\* \* \*

The Board of Education was also presented with and ultimately approved a new initiative Tuesday night: a pilot Capstone course for the 2014-15 school year.

Bacon Academy English teacher Garrett Dukette gave an overview of the capstone course proposal. He explained the state Department of Education is currently looking into mandating capstone courses in all high schools across the state as a high school requirement, to potentially go into effect starting with the graduating class of 2019.

And so, the Colchester teacher said 10 Bacon Academy teachers formed a Capstone Committee earlier this year to begin developing a pilot course "to get the ball rolling" and to be ahead of the potential mandate. The course for the coming school year would begin as a pilot taken by high school seniors, which will then be evaluated by educators at the end of the school year.

A Capstone course is based on four basic components, Dukette said. It takes students outside of a classroom and gives them real-world experiences, the teacher stressed.

"The Capstone project is going to be encour-

aging students to think about areas of interest that they might want to pursue in college, or in technical school, or just areas that they might be possibly interested and have a future career choice in," he said.

The four components are an "authentic learning experience" in which students are paired with a field-work mentor and work a minimum of 20 hours under that mentor contributing toward a project or internship; journaling, meaning students have to record their thoughts in a journal throughout the experience; a research component; and a panel presentation at the end of the course.

Dukette stressed the course places a focus on "personal interest and career goals," but can also cater to students who may not know what they want to do in the future.

"What the Capstone can also do is show students an area of interest that might not be what they want to pursue," he said.

The Board of Education unanimously approved the pilot course to be implemented in the coming school year. The Capstone will be offered to high school seniors as an English elective.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," Goldstein said of the class offering. "Even if the state doesn't do it I'm anticipating that we'll be so successful at it that we'll do it anyway."

\* \* \*

Lastly, the Colchester school board approved an increase in meal and milk prices due to new USDA regulations based on the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010.

The mandate started in the 2012-13 school year and requires the Food Service Department to make students take a serving of fruit and/or vegetable as part of their meal. In addition, the serving sizes of fruits and vegetables offered also have increased, according to a memo to the board from Cafeteria Supervisor Sharon Floyd.

The increase brings the price of a meal up 25 cents each, and the price of milk up 10 cents.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. at the William J. Johnston Middle School Media Center, 360 Norwich Ave.

# Richards Wins Portland Primary, Will Face Carpino

by Geeta Schrayter

Portland Deputy First Selectwoman Kathy Richards came out victorious at the end of Tuesday's Democratic primary – and now has her sights set on November.

Richards collected 794 votes to opponent Anthony Salvatore's 435, winning the Democratic nomination for state representative for the 32nd Assembly District. She'll face Republican incumbent Christie Carpino in the November election. The 32nd District covers Portland and Cromwell.

Richards, who was the Democrats' endorsed candidate, cleaned up in her hometown Tuesday, receiving 435 compared to just 28 collected by Salvatore, who is the Cromwell police chief.

Carpino is seeking her second term in the state general assembly, and said Wednesday she planned to run an issue-based campaign and "the issue this year, on the tip of everybody's tongue, is the cost of living here in Connecticut."

Regarding Richards' win, Carpino added she was looking forward to "a positive, issue-based race" and said she wanted to continue to work on what she's done the past four years.

But last week Richards had said she felt it was time for a Democrat to fill the role.

"We haven't been successful the past two [elections], so for the last four years there's been no Democrat up there," she said regarding her decision to run. "So I thought it was time we

tried again."

Richards has been a Portland resident for 48 years. She raised two daughters in town along with her husband of 38 years, and the family now includes six grandchildren with two more on the way – all of whom reside in Portland.

Richards has been on the Portland Board of Selectmen for the past 10 and a half years – two and a half as deputy first selectwoman. She has also served on the Board of Education and, in addition to her public service, runs the local branch of a privately-owned utility contractor along with her husband.

Richards has also volunteered as a sponsor of the American Red Cross Blood Drive because, as she said, "I believe that when we all come together, we create a better place to live and raise a family."

Richards said creating jobs with strong benefits and increasing small businesses in the area were some of the biggest issues, along with investing in programs that help working families, ensuring seniors can stay in their homes, and increasing the amount of money the state provides schools via Education Cost Sharing dollars.

In addition, Richards has mentioned improving infrastructure, focusing on downtown revitalization, and working on the development of the riverfront as important.

She concluded last week she wanted the residents to know she'd listen to them and bring

their concerns to the state.

"I think that's important, that you are able to listen to the people and understand what they need to improve their lives," she said.

In a statement Richards released this week regarding the win, she thanked all her supporters and volunteers "from both sides of the river" for coming out to vote.

She added she was now looking forward to "continuing to connect with voters as she moves on to a hopeful November victory."

Meanwhile, Salvatore Wednesday said he was "disappointed" with the results of this week's primary.

"We had an opportunity and we thought we had a really good chance of winning [the primary] and I had a great team who did an outstanding job," Salvatore shared. "Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be and I accept that and will move along from that."

Salvatore added he wasn't sure what the future held for him political-wise, but "certainly first and foremost, I will continue to focus on my position as chief of police."

And despite his disappointment, Salvatore said he had called and congratulated Richards shortly after the results came in.

"I think we actually both ran outstanding campaigns and I have no complaints," he stated – and added when asked who he'd vote for in November, "I am a Democrat," he said. "I don't see any reason not to continue to be one."



Kathy Richards

For Richards, her focus will now have to broaden, as she works to earn the votes of not only her fellow Democrats, such as Salvatore, but everyone in the district come Nov. 4.

For more information on Richards, visit [richardsforrep2014.weebly.com](http://richardsforrep2014.weebly.com).

## Driver in RHAM Fatal Crash Had Alcohol in System

by Geeta Schrayter

The Hebron resident arrested last week after fatally striking a RHAM Middle School teacher with her car in March had an elevated blood alcohol level at the time of the accident, according to a newly-released arrest warrant affidavit.

Elizabeth Everett, 50, was arrested July 29 and charged with misconduct with a motor vehicle and unsafe backing as a result of an investigation into the March 14 accident, which claimed the life of middle school teacher Dawn Mallory, 65, of Groton.

The details of the investigation were chronicled in the affidavit, released this week, which stated it was determined from a blood sample taken about 50 minutes after the accident that Everett had a blood alcohol level of .07 – just under the legal limit to drive, which is .08; troopers on the scene investigating the accident also said they could detect the smell of an alcoholic beverage coming from Everett.

According to the warrant, Everett provided a written statement to police about two hours after the accident. She told police she left her home at 198 Gilead St. at around 6:55 a.m. March 14 to drop her son off at RHAM High School. After she did so, she went the wrong way to exit the parking lot; when she passed the middle school and came across some school buses, the warrant said, she knew she had to turn around.

It was then that Everett said she began to back up while looking over her shoulder "and immediately heard a thump," according to the affidavit. She got out of her car and walked to the rear, the affidavit said, and saw she had hit Mallory, who was walking to the school.

The affidavit described Everett's car as having damage that "appeared consistent with having been caused by [the collision]" with Mallory, and said the collision caused Mallory to "travel/tumble east approximately 10 feet."

A witness to the accident told police she was getting out of her car when "she heard a loud bang and saw [Mallory] laying on the ground" without her shoes on, according to the affidavit. The witness said Mallory wasn't

responding to two other people who were kneeling next to her, trying to help. Everett, the witness continued, "jumped out of the car and was screaming and yelling for someone to call 911," the warrant said.

RHAM Middle School Principal Michael Seroussi had Everett move her car out of the path of other cars, and then Everett was taken into the school, where she waited in the nurse's office until state police showed up.

Everett was then taken to Marlborough Medical Center after the accident, where she provided a blood sample about 7:55 a.m., according to the warrant. The report on the sample came back April 4, indicating Everett's elevated blood alcohol level.

As a result of the accident, Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain, and was transported by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital. She passed away March 28, after her family removed her from life support. The warrant states that the postmortem exam indicated the cause of death as blunt injury to the head.

The investigation following the accident also included a post-collision vehicle inspection of Everett's 2011 Honda Pilot, which, the affidavit said, revealed "there was no evidence of catastrophic failure that could have contributed to the accident," and that the vehicle featured a "fully-functioning backup camera," which allowed Everett to see what was behind her when driving in reverse.

The affidavit also made reference to a state police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Squad (CARS) report that included an analysis of physical evidence and witness statements. The report concluded that Everett was driving at least 14 miles per hour when she struck Mallory.

The warrant furthered "based on the investigation of the collision scene, the C.A.R.S unit found [Everett] at fault for this collision."

Everett turned herself in to State Police Troop K in Colchester July 29. She was released on a \$100,000 bond, and is next due in court Aug. 28.

## East Hampton Police News

7/23: Robert Michael Robinson, 25, of 1 Dziok Dr., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, failure to drive right, possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

7/30: Jacob Cunningham, 20, of 31 Boulder Rd., Colchester, was issued a ticket for possession of marijuana less than a half ounce (second offense), possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to renew motor vehicle registration, police said.

8/2: Joshua Moskite, 30, of 49 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle without insurance, operating a motor vehicle with an expired license and failure to have stop lamps, police said.

8/2: Patricia Lenda, 44, of 10 Sears Place, was arrested and charged with disorderly con-

duct and violation of a protective order, police said.

8/3: Justin Michael Clark, 24, of 36 Skinner St., Apt. 3, was arrested for violation of a protective order, police said.

8/4: Barry Marchinkoski, 48, of 1 Labella Circle, Middletown, was arrested pursuant to an active arrest warrant. Marchinkoski was charged with shoplifting (sixth-degree larceny), police said.

8/4: Dale Lee Sullivan, 53, of 99 Depot Hill Rd., Cobalt, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree unlawful restraint, police said.

8/6: Aaron A. Cost, 38, of 35 Laurel Cove Rd., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

## Colchester Police News

8/4: Colchester Police said Patrick J. Cooney, 50, of 140 Westerly Terrace, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an emergency call.

8/6: Colchester Police said William Sullivan, 53, of 67 Melanie Ln., was arrested and charged with second-degree harassment.

8/9: State Police said at 11:23 a.m. Alba Goncalves, 52, of 23 Deer Run Dr., West Hartford, was stopped at a crosswalk on Old Colchester Road when she removed her foot from the brake and looked down at her GPS. Police said Goncalves then made contact with a bicycle that entered the crosswalk. The operator of the bicycle, Kathleen Conklin, 53, of

98 Flatbrook Rd., East Hampton, was taken to Marlborough Clinic for complaint of pain.

8/10: Colchester Police said a three-vehicle accident occurred at 5:10 p.m. at 327 South Main St., 50 feet south of Dr. Foote Road. Police said two operators, William Paul Roswell, 46, of 692 Hartford Rd., Salem, and Lodewyk J. Jiskoot, 58, whose address was listed as P.O. Box 116, Old Lyme, were transported to Backus Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

8/10: State Police said Max Nowicki, 21, of 61 Benson St., Milford, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple-lane highway.

## Andover Police News

8/5: State Police said David Zocco, 57, of 38 Jan Dr., Hebron, was arrested and charged with fourth-degree sexual assault, breach of peace and second-degree unlawful restraint.

## Hebron Police News

8/6: State Police said Ryan S. Richardson, 21, of 39 Phelps Rd., was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, DUI and failure to drive right.

8/6: State Police said Scott E. Schaffman, 19, of 44 Starview Dr., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, interfering with an officer and use of hand-held phone by a motor vehicle operator.

## Portland Police News

7/13: Christopher Rojek, 25, of 617 Main St., was charged with reckless driving and passing in no-passing zone, Portland Police said.

8/7: Richard Filback, 51, whose last known address was Cox Road, was charged with criminal trespass and public drinking in violation of town ordinance, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

8/6: State Police said James Moulton, 42, of 42 Helaine Rd., Manchester, was arrested and charged with DUI.

# Obituaries

## Andover

### James Horton

James Horton, otherwise known as "Jim," 54, of Andover, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 6, from a short battle of pancreatic cancer. James was born in Rogersville, Tenn., on Oct. 6, 1959. He graduated from RHAM High School class of 1978.



Jim's lifelong passion was motorcycles, especially his Harley. He especially enjoyed spending weekends away with his "adoptive" family the Smiths racing motocross.

James is survived by his mother, Carol Horton, brother Grady Horton and sister Deb Tabor and her significant other Paul Steinmiller; nieces and nephews, Melissa Couture and her husband Jeremiah Couture and their children Vanessa and Jeremiah Couture Jr., Ashley Tabor, Roseanna Boston and her son Nikolai Bernard; as well as his second family Donald "Bucky" Smith, Kelly Smith and their children Kylee, Jenna and Sarah Smith.

The family of Jim Horton wishes to thank anyone and everyone whom made Jim's last few weeks memorable and enjoyable.

Jim's family received relatives and friends Sunday, Aug. 10, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic. His funeral service was held at Potter Funeral Home Monday, Aug. 11, with burial to follow at West Street Cemetery in Columbia.

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

## Andover

### Irene Brown

Irene (Matchett) Brown, 88, of Andover, formerly of Columbia and Manchester, wife of the late Lewis A. Brown Jr., died Tuesday, Aug. 5, at an area convalescent home.

She was born in Manchester May 2, 1926, daughter of Mercer and Matilda Jane (Neill) Matchett and was raised in Manchester, attending local schools. She lived in Andover from 1947 to 1987, moved to Columbia for 14 years, and returned to Andover in 2001.

Prior to retiring in 1988, Irene was employed by the former Savings Bank of Manchester in the loan center for 16 years. She was a longtime member of the granges in Andover, Marlborough and Coventry, and was a member of the Andover Senior "Young At Heart" Club. She was extremely proud of her scale model dollhouse with the Irish kitchen that took seven years for her to construct.

Irene is survived by a daughter and four sons, Jennifer Barsaleau of Holland, Massachusetts, and her husband, Greg, Andrew D. Brown, and his wife, Diann, of Andover, Theodore J. Brown, and his wife, Anna, of Lebanon, Lewis M. Brown of East Hartford, and Neill P. Brown of Columbia; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides her husband she was predeceased by a son, Victor W. Brown; two brothers, John and William Matchett; and three sisters, Ruth and Esther Matchett, and Helen Lombardo.

Visiting hours will be held Monday, Aug. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 E. Center St., Manchester. Private burial will be in the Center Cemetery in Coventry.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Coventry Grange, 1796 Boston Turnpike (Route 44), Coventry, CT 06238; or the American Cancer Society.

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

## East Hampton

### Kenneth Burrill

Kenneth Burrill, 65, son of the (late) Bryan and Evelyn (Berry) Burrill of Andover, passed peacefully Monday, Aug. 11. Born March 27, 1949, in Corinna, Maine, he was formerly employed at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in Middletown. He was a longtime resident of East Hampton.

Ken was predeceased by his brother, Gary Burrill. He leaves his brother, Richard Burrill and his wife Carol of Manchester, his sister, Debra Buxton and her husband Wayne of Vernon, and his brother, Douglas Burrill of Norwich. He also leaves several nieces and nephews.

Ken's greatest passions were his love of cooking and always giving to others.

The family would like to extend their gratitude for the loving care shown to Ken by the staff of Wadsworth Glen Healthcare Center in Middletown.

The family will have a private burial at a later date.

## Colchester

### Patricia F. DeRosier

Patricia F. DeRosier, 79, of Norwich died Sunday, July 27, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born in Norwich Aug. 25, 1934, the daughter of the late Matthew and Flora (Lucier) Exley.

Pat was last employed as a food supervisor at the former Norwich Hospital in Preston before retiring. She did volunteer work for Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut and Backus Hospital.

Survivors include one son, Joseph DeRosier of Norwich; one brother, Donald Exley of Norwich; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by five sisters, Claire Belisle, Rita Pronicki, Dorothy LaRue, Alice Brodeur and Doreen Avery; four brothers, Matthew, George, Gerard and Ernest Exley.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B. St., Taftville, followed by a graveside service that afternoon at St. Mary's Cemetery in Lisbon.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360.

## Colchester

### Andrew H. Ladd

Andrew H. (Ladika) Ladd, 93, of Windsor, beloved husband of the late Barbara F. (Clark) Ladd, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Hartford Hospital. He was born Jan. 11, 1921, in Colchester, to the late Frank and Molly (Harachiewicz) Ladika Sr.

Raised in Colchester, Andy was a 1939 graduate of the Bacon Academy. He owned and operated the Ladd Tool Company in Windsor beginning in 1953 until his retirement in 1989. Andy was a member of the Golf Club of Avon for 35 years. He was also a member of the Wooster Masonic Lodge in Colchester. Since 1959, Andy was a resident of Windsor and was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, where he was a member of the Men's Club.

In his free time, he loved to garden but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his granddaughter, Kristin. He was the most loving and loved father, grandfather and husband.

He is survived by his daughters, Linda Gilman and her husband Donald of Farmington; Adele Newton of Wayland, Mass.; his brother, Joseph Ladika and his granddaughter, Kristin Steinberg, and her husband Gary.

In addition to his wife and parents, Andy was predeceased by his brother, Frank Ladika, and sisters-in-law, Stella and Jean Ladika.

A funeral service was held Monday, Aug. 11, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Ave., Windsor. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery, Windsor. His family received friends Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor.

Donations in Andy's memory may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Ave., Windsor, CT 06095.

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

## Colchester

### Samuel Teitelbaum

Samuel Teitelbaum, beloved husband of Hindi Schuster Teitelbaum of Boca Raton, Fla., passed away Thursday, Aug. 7, in Florida.

Graveside service with full military was held Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the Ahavath Achim Cemetery in Colchester.

Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

## Marlborough

### Cicero B. Tilley

Cicero B. (Wiggins) Tilley, 104, of Marlborough, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 6. She was born in Americus, Ga., June 28, 1910, to the late Cordia Smith and Cooper Wiggins.

Cicero attended Hartford Public High School and worked at The Card Gallery for approx. 20-plus years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Mr. Julius Tilley and former husband, Mr. Harry L. Lee. Cicero was preceded in death by her daughter, Dwyne (Lee) Redden.

She is survived by her daughter, Beverlye (Lee) Watkins; son, Lee A. Black; grandson, Troy R. Watkins; sister/daughter, Gilda F. Shepherd; niece/granddaughter, Cisalee G. Harrell; grand-niece/great-granddaughter, Leslee M. Harrell, and a host of family and friends.

The family would like to thank Dr. John D'Avella and Gladys Aponte, of Hartford Hospital, for all their efforts and care of Mrs. Tilley.

The viewing and service were held Thursday, Aug. 14, at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Services, 94 Granby St., Bloomfield, CT.

Internment will follow in Northwood Cemetery in Windsor.