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A former Budweiser Clydesdale, Duke now lives at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue in Haddam Neck after being saved from an auction that could have led to the slaughterhouse. He made a public appearance at last month's Driving for Drafts charity golf tournament to benefit the organization. Photo by Sarah Grote Photography.

## Haddam Neck's Own Budweiser Clydesdale

by John Tyczkowski

A horse is a horse, of course, of course, and sometimes, a horse is a celebrity too.

And Duke, a Clydesdale that Haddam Neck-based non-profit Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue saved from the slaughterhouse, is one such horse.

Stacey Golub, an equine veterinarian and the head of CDHR, said while they routinely save horses from neglect and slaughter, this was the first time they saved a famous horse.

"He had been part of the Budweiser hitch out of New Hampshire, and had been down at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg (Va.)," she said. "He would take pictures with the tourists and he was a celebrity."

However, the good times ended for Duke when Anheuser-Busch was sold in 2009, and the new management sold Busch Gardens and cut out many of the company's traveling hitches.

"He was surplus, so they sold him with a contract to supposedly protect him, but that didn't work," Golub said. "He ended up with someone who wasn't able to take proper care of him, and when they got overwhelmed, they sent him off to auction."

Duke happened to end up at auction in New Holland, Pa., where "more than half the horses

that go through that auction go directly to slaughter in either Canada or Mexico," Golub said.

However, CDHR merely got a tip about a Clydesdale needing saving from a friend who lives in the area, and didn't know about his Budweiser status.

"She called us and said, 'This horse really needs help; he's in very sorry shape,' so we jumped at the chance," Golub said.

Some of Duke's problems included malnourishment, and having various skin problems including an infection.

"We got him out of there, and when [Golub's friend] was paying for him, the former owners came up to her and said 'By the way, he was a Budweiser horse' and she said 'Yeah right, every Clydesdale's a Budweiser horse,'" Golub said. "But when we posted his pictures online and put up a fundraiser page to help with his expenses, somebody recognized him."

For example, she said, as word spread, people sent in tourist photos of themselves with Duke. One of Duke's former handlers even contacted CDHR and shared stories and photos with them.

But, to make absolutely sure, CDHR con-  
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## Colchester Hairdresser Ready for Prime Time

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Dottie Seitz, owner of Hair Magic Salon and Academy in Colchester, is no stranger to television.

Last year Seitz traveled to Las Vegas for *Global Beauty Masters*, a competition and show on Discovery Health about extreme hair. Although she didn't win, Seitz had said it was a good educational experience.

However, this year was very different.

Seitz got to go to Vegas the same way she did last year – by winning the qualifying Northeast region competition in New York – but the competition, held Sept. 28-Oct. 6, was nothing like the one before.

The rights to *Global Beauty Masters* were purchased by TLC from Discovery Health, and the show is now produced by one of the producers of the hit show *Project Runway*. With these changes, it became less of a competition and more of a prime-time reality show.

While it still focused on sculpting extreme hair, the experience was less about education – last year Seitz attended several hairdressing seminars while at the competition – and was more intense, Seitz said.

"It was pretty intense, like boot camp for hairdressers," Seitz said. "We didn't see daylight at all."

Seitz's team consisted of herself doing hair, Jessica Palmer doing nails and Travis Miller

doing makeup.

"They threw us into the pit with products we've never heard of, with no power," Seitz said. "The teams were brutal. One lady stole hair from me."

While Seitz is contractually barred from sharing how she did on the show – which bows on TLC in January – she did say she was offered jobs after the experience.

"I had great reviews all week. Top hairdressers offered placements for me. One of the judges wants to me to work on an underground magazine. Maybe a spin-off show in Montana," Seitz said. "It was good in that respect. People got a chance to see my work. It was positive business wise."

She said she now "gets" the whole reality show format and what it is.

"Most people were professional," Seitz said. "There was one or two teams I wanted to punch though. They were very catty."

Seitz said she especially liked her last piece of the week, one that showed the dark side of Hollywood.

"Extreme hair is extremely hard," she said. "Sculpting hair is an art with limited time to perform. It's like drawing a painting in 30 minutes."

The big thing Seitz was disappointed about was the lack of education classes like last year

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Colchester hairdresser Dottie Seitz and her team recently participated in a national beauty competition, which is set to debut in January on TLC. Pictured at the regional qualifier for the competition is the team, from left, Travis Miller, Jessica Palmer, Seitz, and Seitz's daughter, Jessica, as the model.

**Clydesdale cont. from Front Page**

tacted Anheuser-Busch InBev, and confirmed he was “part of their herd” upon scanning him for the Budweiser microchip all of their Clydesdales receive.

Also, Golub said they offered to take Duke back to live on one of their farms, but CDHR declined.

“We weren’t given any assurance he was going to be safe for the rest of his life, so at this point, he’s going to stay with us so we can make sure he doesn’t end up needing to be rescued again,” she said.

And Duke is indeed a bit of a diva, Golub added.

For example, Golub was careful when giving Duke a bath when he arrived at CDHR, as some horses are cautious around hoses.

“I came up to him slowly with the hose, and started spraying him with warm water,” she said. “There was another volunteer with us, and Duke sort of rested his head on her shoulder and started drooling.”

“He was totally relaxed, kind of like, ‘Ah, yes, I have staff again!’” Golub said, laughing.

Other quirks included his initial refusal to eat hay off the floor, and his insistence on dunking his hay in water before eating it.

Duke’s also continuing to get healthier; chiefly, Golub said, he’s working on gaining more weight, and his hair is growing back, among other things.

“He’s not available for adoption yet, but we’re working on figuring out what his best future is,” she said. “For example, if he would be better off in a private home or staying at the Rescue, having staff and being treated like the king he once was.”

“We’re not sure he’d be happy being in someone’s backyard without attention and being the star,” she said.

In addition, Golub said Duke helps people educate about the dangers draft horses face.

“People don’t necessarily know what a draft horse is, but they know Clydesdales,” she said. “His story brings awareness to many people who never knew what these horses face; it’s something the average person can relate to.”

“He got lucky but most horses aren’t so lucky,” she said.

Duke will once again get to strut his celebrity stuff at the Rescue’s fifth annual Oktoberfest open house Saturday, Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at CDHR at 15 Rock Landing Road in Haddam Neck.

This year’s Oktoberfest includes a chance to meet the horses and take horse-drawn wagon rides, farm tours, a tack sale, food, booths with local vendors, a raffle and more.

It’s also a great time for people interested in helping out at CDHR to see what’s what, Golub said.

CDHR has between 30 and 40 volunteers, mostly from Connecticut but including one from Massachusetts.



**Duke continues to get healthier, according to Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue.**

However, they’re always looking for more people to help out, she said.

“It’s a great opportunity for people who love horses and want to get involved – we’re like a close-knit family here,” she said. “Some of the kindest, most big-hearted people I know volunteer their time here.”

CDHR seeks volunteers in a variety of roles including those with vet skills, stall muckers and people used to working around horses, general maintenance people, field mowers and more.

Volunteers under the age of 14 must be accompanied by their parent while working at the Rescue, Golub said. Minors over the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult while at the Rescue, who doesn’t have to be their parent.

In addition, Golub said there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for those who aren’t comfortable around horses but who still want to help, such as in fundraising, coordinating events and obtaining grants.

“Everyone who’s interested is welcome to come talk to us about what they can do,” she said. “It’s all about helping these horses find their forever homes, and it’s heartwarming to see that so many people want to help.”

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Those interested in more information about Duke and about Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue can visit their website at [ctdraftrescue.com](http://ctdraftrescue.com), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](https://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue).

Colchester will be on TLC.

“If someone gives you an opportunity even just one chance, you take it,” Seitz said. “This whole thing is just the beginning.”

*Global Beauty Masters* will premiere Jan. 5 on TLC at 7 p.m. The show will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. for 13 weeks.

*From the Editor’s Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Another horrific mass shooting last week was predictably followed by Republicans dismissing any need for additional gun control measures. Jeb Bush, in fact, was incredibly cavalier in his dismissal, remarking that “stuff happens.”

While I was frankly appalled by Bush’s comments (he was even given a chance to walk those back, and refused), I wasn’t shocked, as Republicans have, for years, fought against any extra gun control. I’ve advocated gun control in this space in the past, so I won’t waste more ink on reiterating my opinions. I will, however, waste ink on sharing Ronald Reagan’s opinions.

You know Reagan – the president whose name all the Republican presidential hopefuls invoke fairly often, in what feels like an attempt to win over voters who have fond memories of the 1980s. If a Republican on the national stage wants to quickly gain favor, he or she simply throws out the name “Ronald Reagan.”

I wonder how many of those Reagan-touting Republicans are aware of how he felt about gun control.

A 1991 *New York Times* op-ed made the rounds on the Internet this week. The piece was written by Reagan in support of the then-under-consideration Brady bill, which would establish a seven-day waiting period before prospective handgun-purchasers can legally acquire the piece. This would allow law enforcement officials to look into the would-be buyer’s past, to check for criminal records or if the person has a history of mental trouble.

“Based upon the evidence in states that already have handgun purchase waiting periods, this bill – on a nationwide scale – can’t help but stop thousands of illegal handgun purchases,” Reagan wrote. “And, since many handguns are acquired in the heat of passion (to settle a quarrel, for example) or at times of depression brought on by potential suicide, the Brady bill would provide a cooling-off period that would certainly have the effect of reducing the number of handgun deaths.”

In the column, Reagan made mention of California’s even-more-powerful 15-day waiting period, an initiative he wrote he supported and signed into law while governor of that state. He wrote that in 1989, nearly 1,800 handgun sales in that state were stopped.

“Every year, an average of 9,200 Americans are murdered by handguns, according to Department of Justice statistics,” Reagan wrote in 1991. “This does not include suicides or the tens of thousands of robberies, rapes and assaults committed with handguns. This level of violence must be stopped. ... If the passage of the Brady bill were to result in a reduction of only 10 or 15 percent of those numbers (and it could be a good deal greater), it would be well worth making it the law of the land.”

The column wasn’t the only time Reagan advocated gun control. While he wasn’t always a huge fan – the *New York Times* reported, also in 1991, that during his presidency Reagan “often expressed opposition to national gun control laws” – Reagan did take measures for it at times, such as signing the California law I mentioned, as well as his 1986 signing of a law banning the private sale and ownership of machine guns not already registered on the day he signed the law. More impressively, in 1994, he urged the House of Representatives to pass an assault weapons ban (which would ultimately end in 2004 when Congress – a Republican-controlled Congress, of course – allowed the ban to expire).

Like I said, I wonder how many Republicans currently name-dropping Reagan – the ones who’ve expressed nothing but disdain for added gun control (Ben Carson even, following the Oregon shooting, suggested giving more people guns might solve the issue) – know that Reagan’s stance on the issue was, at the very least, varied.

In fact, it’s funny how so many of the people seeking the Republican presidential nomination are so quick to bring up Reagan

yet seemingly ignore all of the ways the president could be a lot more liberal than this current slate is.

The *Huffington Post* last month provided a nice little snapshot of that. The candidates have railed against the current size of government – yet the number of federal employees grew by 324,000 to nearly 5.3 million during Reagan’s eight years in office.

At last month’s debates, then-candidate Scott Walker mentioned the “Ronald Reagan tax cuts of 1986” which “brought about one of the longest sustained periods of economic growth in American history.” And yes, Reagan drastically slashed income taxes in 1981 and again in 1986 – but he also passed other measures in 1982 and 1984 that, among other things, reduced various federal tax breaks and closed tax loopholes. Combined, the two bills “constituted the biggest tax increase ever enacted during peacetime,” according to tax historian Joseph Thorndike said. And there were other tax increases along the way too, including upping the Social Security tax.

The Republican hopefuls have been very adamant in their stances to do nothing about climate change – even going so far as to contradict their own previous comments on the matter. Yet do they know Reagan, when he was president, was very concerned about the hole in the ozone layer, and that, according to the *New York Times*, “under his leadership, the United States became the prime mover behind the Montreal Protocol, which required the phasing out of ozone-depleting chemicals”? I’m suspecting the answer is ‘no.’

On foreign policy, candidates such as Carly Fiorina have touted a no-negotiations approach to dealing with leaders of countries like Russia or Iran. Yet, as *Huffington Post* points out, Reagan hardly had the same approach. He would regularly engage with U.S. foes – famously holding summits with Soviet Union head Mikhail Gorbachev, “even establishing a productive relationship with the leader while the two countries were engaged in the Cold War.”

Last but certainly not least is the Gipper’s take on immigration. The Republican candidates have been quite vocal about the matter – with Donald Trump even vowing to build a giant wall separating us from Mexico. But did they know that, in 1986, Reagan signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act – which allowed 2.7 million undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the U.S. before 1982 to stay in the country if they had a clean record and registered with the Selective Service?

“I believe in the idea of amnesty for those who have put down roots and lived here, even though sometime back they may have entered illegally,” Reagan said in 1984. The candidates today, though, seem largely opposed to amnesty.

Like I said, the whole thing is very interesting. The candidates are all about bringing up Reagan – in what feels to me as basically a ploy to get votes. But when it comes to several of the issues, they may not be as aligned with the man as they perhaps think.

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And now, as Monty Python would say, for something completely different. Are you into amateur radio? If so, there’s a new club in the area that might be right up your alley. The Hop River Radio Club was formed in Andover Sept. 1, to welcome and encourage new and experienced amateur radio operators – a.k.a. “hams” – and anyone interested in becoming a licensed ham radio operator.

Activities include mentoring, a club radio station, programs, speakers, hands-on projects, communications support for public events, field trips, and even the annual ARRL (American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio) Field Day operating event.

New members from Andover, and all surrounding towns, are welcome to join. For details about the club, call Mike Donnelly – a.k.a. KC1DIQ – at 860-742-7427.

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See you next week.

**Prime Time cont. from Front Page**

and the limited number of products available to use.

“I will probably go back again, but maybe not as a contender,” Seitz said. She mentioned she would enjoy being a judge, or perhaps teach about hair or products.

Seitz was also proud to be the northeast region representative and that someone from

# Marlborough Fireworks Display at Christmas Gathering

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, and.....fireworks blasting off?

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department is aiming to bring a little bit of July to the annual Gathering on the Green, by holding a special fireworks display at the event.

For the past six years, the Gathering on the Green has been held each December, to bring the community together in the holiday spirit and watch the tree on the town green get lit for Christmas. This year's gathering is set for Dec. 6.

Resident Karen DeCorleto said she "stepped in [to head the gathering] last year when it looked like we may lose the event if no one stepped up."

But this year, the fire department, the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association and the Knights of Columbus are all stepping in to help out – and DeCorleto is happy to pass the torch.

"I am excited to see town organizations so supportive of an event to entertain the town," she said.

Merritt admitted the annual gathering needed a shot in the arm.

"Last year, the Gathering on the Green was

kind of falling by the wayside," Marlborough Fire rescue captain Mark Merritt said. "Some people had lost interest – and those interested needed help."

Merritt said the fire department decorated one of the fire trucks last year and even arranged for Santa Claus to pay a visit. Santa then lit the tree on the green. The guys at the department, Merritt said, really got into it – and immediately started thinking of ways to improve it.

"We said, 'Wouldn't it be cool to make it a bit bigger?'" he said. "Nothing cool ever really happens as an event in Marlborough beside Marlborough Day."

Merritt said that, after speaking with the department, the idea of a small fireworks show began forming.

"We would very much like to continue with the event and see it flourish for years to come," Merritt said. "That is why we are going to follow up the tree lighting with a Christmas fireworks display."

The last time the town ever had fireworks – in any season – was in 2003, at the town's Bicentennial Celebration. Those fireworks were carefully organized, and took a lot of coordi-

nating, as they were set off from a large barge on the lake.

Merritt and fire marshal Joe Asklar set out to begin fundraising the \$5,000 needed for the fireworks show.

However, fundraising has been slow, with only \$2,000 raised. Merritt explained the fire department has already put a deposit down on the fireworks so the show will be happening. The question is how much of the remaining \$3,000 will be coming from the fire department depends on how many people can donate.

The plan for shooting off the fireworks is to set up behind Mark's on Main, located at 17 North Main St. Merritt said the fire department has already been approved by the property owner to use the land. It will be a 15-minute show, to take place right after Santa lights the tree on the green.

"The display will be 100 percent visible from the town green, so no one will need to go anywhere else to see it," Merritt said.

Merritt and Asklar met with town officials and everyone is "on board" with the public safety aspect of what's needed for the show.

The entire event will begin at 4 p.m. The Knights of Columbus will host part of the evening's events with the children activities, hot chocolate and carolers. The tree will be lit at 5:45 p.m., with the fireworks following.

"The Knights of Columbus stepped up [at] the same time we did," Merritt said. He credited the Knights of Columbus as being the true driving force behind the event, with the fire department and ambulance association simply "adding an element."

And while yuletide fireworks may seem unusual – which actually apparently led to the fire department getting a deal from the fireworks suppliers; "Not many people do Christmas fireworks so we got a pretty good show for a pretty good price," Merritt said – he said everyone he's talked to have said the show is a good idea.

"We're hoping for the best," Merritt said.

To donate to the fireworks show, people can go to the Gofundme page, [gofundme.com/w63vppa4](https://www.gofundme.com/w63vppa4), or mail a check, made out to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, to Gathering on the Green Fireworks, c/o MVFD P.O. Box 237 Marlborough, CT 06447.

## Frantzen and Shilosky Go Head-to-Head in Colchester Debate

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

First Selectman hopefuls Republican Art Shilosky and Democrat Kurt Frantzen went head-to-head Tuesday in a debate hosted by the Colchester Business Association.

The event – billed as a Meet the Candidates night but really just a forum for the two candidates – featured a variety of questions developed by CBA members, and it was clear as the night went on how different Shilosky and Frantzen are.

The two have taken very different roads to get to where they are now. Shilosky, a 40-year resident, currently serves on the Board of Finance and previously served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Tax Review Board. Frantzen, an 18-year resident, currently serves on the Board of Selectmen and previously served on the Conservation Commission and Sewer and Water Commission.

The questions covered a large range of topics including economic development, security, the senior center, the budget process and the two men's visions for the town.

On economic development, Frantzen and Shilosky were asked about how they would increase the tax base and their view on big box stores.

Frantzen stressed his priority is to be the town's "champion."

"I will be championing the cause of Colchester to various chambers and businesses. It's high time there's great attention [paid] to the Economic Development Commission and [for] the first selectman to push the cause of Colchester," Frantzen said. "We'll get this done."

Shilosky, rather, said he would go directly to the people to attract new businesses. He also stressed manufacturing may be the way to go.

On big box stores, Frantzen said it doesn't matter to him and what matters most is the best way to help Colchester grow.

"Standing still is not an option," Frantzen said. "We need to bring opportunities in and explore them."

But Shilosky strongly disagreed with this approach.

"There's only one big box store I'd want, which is another supermarket," Shilosky said. "You win more games with singles and doubles than a home run."

Shilosky used the baseball terms to describe "mom and pop" stores as singles, and a big box store as a home run.

"I don't want small businesses to go out [of business] because we want big box stores," he added. "I'd rather have the 'mom and pop' stores and put them all together. That will make a difference."

Shilosky also doubted big box stores would want to come in anyway, since many of them – such as Target – are currently closing stores.

On crime and traffic in town, both candidates agreed there needs to be more of a push to the state Department of Transportation to change the timing of signal lights on the state-owned roads in the center of town. That area has been a concern with traffic building up at times.

Both candidates also agreed that while 24/7 police coverage would be nice, the expense is a lot to ask of the taxpayers right now. Shilosky said such an initiative would add \$500,000 to the budget, in the form of additional officers, equipment and a cruiser.

Shilosky said neighbors need to keep looking after neighbors, while Frantzen said the town needs to evaluate how reactive it wants to be. Frantzen said he would like to look through crime statistics and trends and find a way to move forward.

"Voters, while price-sensitive, are safety conscious," Frantzen said.

Both Frantzen and Shilosky support a new senior center, but in a different way. Shilosky said it's important to secure the current senior center, since there is a possibility of it being sold. This is because the building is owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, and the trustees are tight on money to renovate the Old Bacon Academy.

"If we don't [secure the building], we will have no place for seniors until the next senior center," Shilosky said.

Frantzen, on the other hand, said he would consider town-owned land or a private-public partnership. He suggested a task force would be needed to evaluate the situation, but Shilosky reminded him that a task force has already been formed by the Board of Selectmen with two members from the selectmen, finance board, and Commission on Aging.



Democrat Kurt Frantzen, left, and Republican Art Shilosky discussed their differing views on issues in town with the Colchester Business Association Tuesday evening.

The candidates were asked about the concept of, if a town budget proposal fails at two referendums, the Board of Selectmen then set the budget equal to or less than the previous failed budget. The Charter Revision Commission recently floated this as one possible way to put an end to multiple budget referendums each year.

"I totally disagree," Shilosky said. "You cannot say to taxpayers that we don't care what you want."

Frantzen, meanwhile, said the issue should be up to the residents.

"The question should be put forward to the town," Frantzen said. "Do they want to maintain that right? It's not my decision, but the town's."

On each of their visions for Colchester, Frantzen said he would like to diligently work

on economic development and also maintain open space, strengthen farms, activate development spaces, grow the grand list and create more jobs and opportunities.

Shilosky, on the other hand, said he would like to maintain the vision current First Selectman Stan Soby has set out to do.

"He's gotten all of the boards together and working together. The town is going in the right direction," Shilosky said. "I love this town and I've worked to make it a better place over the last 40 years."

Shilosky said he also understands running the town is a team effort and a 24/7 job.

"Fifty-seventh best?" he said, referring to the town being labeled the 57th best town in the country in a 2005 national poll. "I say number one."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.

# Hebron Elementary Students, Staff on Bottled Water

by Geeta Schrayter

Students and staff at Hebron Elementary School continue to steer clear of the school's water after traces of bacteria were found in the well system last month.

The district became aware of the presence of coliform bacteria in the well system Sept. 17, following regular testing by Phoenix Laboratories. In response, a water treatment process began the following day; both the school's wells and the 10,000-gallon atmospheric tank – which holds water that has already been treated, stored and is ready for distribution – were chlorinated by the school's licensed contractor, to kill the bacteria.

At the same time, use of the school's water for drinking was halted, and bottled water was made available for students and staff; 1,184 bottles of water were delivered before the start of school Sept. 18, and another 864 were delivered on Monday, Sept. 21. In addition, service

with Poland Springs got underway Sept. 22, with the company delivering six water coolers and 30 jugs of water to the school.

Treatment continued throughout the week, and was followed by another round of testing Friday, Sept. 25. However, while that testing showed one of the wells was clear of coliform, the other still contained traces of the bacteria.

In a letter schools superintendent Tim Van Tassel sent out regarding the issue, he explained “as a result, our water contractor will need to go through the remediation process as outlined by the Department of Public Health for a second time. On a positive note, the chlorination treatment was partially successful – suggesting that the treatment process was done properly.”

He continued, “In speaking with our district contacts from Phoenix Laboratories and Hungerfords Water [the district's licensed wa-

ter monitoring company], it is not uncommon to have to repeat the chlorination process multiple times.”

The second treatment phase started Tuesday, Sept. 29.

On Wednesday, Van Tassel explained, “We've gone through a second round of chlorination treatment and at this point we're waiting for the chlorine levels to get to a point to where we can begin retesting for coliform.”

He stated the levels are tested each morning, “And if it's too high we can't send out for testing. At this point it's just a matter of time because we have to basically purge the chlorine through running the water system and we've been doing that every day.”

Van Tassel mentioned coliform is naturally-occurring bacteria, and said “there could be any number of reasons as to why the bacteria showed up in the system and that's why we

regularly test our water. We have a wonderful testing system to make sure the water is safe for consumption.”

Van Tassel concluded, “We're hoping within the next few days it'll be at a point where we can retest for coliform but there's no telling really how long it will be.”

And until the water can be retested, and “until both wells are cleared for consumption, we will continue to provide our students and staff access to potable water,” Van Tassel concluded in his letter. “Our Poland Springs bubblers will remain in the school until further notice, and we will continue to resupply our water bottle inventory as needed.”

The funds used for the water will come out of the school system's supplies account.

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Anyone with questions about the water issue can call Van Tassel at 860-228-2577.

# Lake Summit Scheduled For Next Thursday in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

Lake Pocotopaug will be the center of discussion next Thursday night at a public informational meeting devoted solely to its health.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m., at East Hampton Middle School's library.

Among those in attendance will be the Conservation-Lake Commission, the Inland Wetlands/Watercourse Authority and the Town Council.

Other attendees will include George Knoecklein, the town's limnologist, along with associates from Northeast Aquatic Research; public works director Phil Sissick; Chuck Lee of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and Thad King of the Chatham Health District.

Lee will be present to answer details on the state level in his role as supervisor of nonpoint source, watershed, lakes management and low impact development programs.

King will be on hand to answer any health questions that may relate to the lake, including but not limited to the annual algae blooms.

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R-34th District) will also give a presentation on options to help the lake, alongside presentations from Knoecklein and Sissick.

John Moore, chair of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FoLP), said his group “totally backs” the Conservation-Lake Commission in

its efforts, such as applying for a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant to fund lake-fixing efforts.

In particular, Moore said the commission's persistence in attempting to help the lake despite differing priorities on the Town Council has paid off.

“There have been actual shovel-ready projects identified, in areas around the lake watershed, to use these funds to help reduce storm water runoff and infiltration into the lake,” he said.

“This should prove to be a highly energized and interesting meeting,” he said of next Thursday.

Joe Carbonell, a member of both FoLP and the Conservation-Lake Commission, said simply “it's going to be a very important event.”

“The Friends know they can't do anything without the town's support, and they're supporting the Lake Commission like there's no tomorrow,” he said. “But it's amazing how complicated the bureaucracy is when it comes to water and the lake.”

“The Friends are all backing this meeting,” he added. “It's long overdue.”

A specific goal of the meeting, Carbonell said, is to keep the meeting positive and focused on the science.

“We want the meeting to be enlightening and educational,” he said. “It's not going to be a

political floor. It'll be 100 percent devoted to the lake.”

For example, Knoecklein, Sissick and Ziobron will not have time limits on their presentations, Carbonell said.

“Dr. George [Knoecklein] and his team will provide a rundown of questions and answers about the lake, and Phil [Sissick] will present about what has been done and what will be done regarding the lake and where we need to go,” he said. “There will be more details about the nine point plan as well, including what things will cost along the way.”

Called a Nine Point Watershed Management Plan, it's needed to apply for a federal 319 grant that could be used to fund efforts to actively clean the lake, for education efforts or for lake monitoring.

It's named for the relevant section of the federal Clean Water Act.

In addition, the plan is already underway; for example, monthly water sampling and collection has been conducted since July, and will continue through November. It will then pick up again next year, running from April to June.

Peter Zawisza, chair of the Conservation-Lake Commission, also said education for the general public, Town Council and IWWA, especially with regard to what the plan is already doing, is this meeting's priority.

# Route 66 Project in East Hampton On Schedule

by John Tyczkowski

Despite a small delay in paving, a major realignment of a section of Route 66 near Lake Pocotopaug is slated to meet its late November completion date.

The \$2.2 million project began over the summer, with the goal of straightening Route 66 at Old Marlborough Road, and reconfiguring the routes 196 and 66 intersection into a safer ‘T’ intersection.

That ‘T’ intersection will include traffic signals, crosswalks and a small traffic island where Route 66 and Route 196 meet. The right lane will also be divided into two turning lanes.

There's also plans to create a ‘T’ intersection at Route 66 and Old Marlborough Road, with a stop sign on Old Marlborough Road.

Further components of the work include road widening, improving of sight lines, regrading the routes 66/196 intersection, installing new sidewalks along Route 66 and installing a new culvert and drainage system to thwart runoff heading into Lake Pocotopaug at Schoolhouse Bay.

The work is also being done entirely on state-owned property, and did not involve any seizure of town property.

Until September, a large traffic island had

divided Route 196 where it meets Route 66, on a steep angle. Also, until recently, there had been a large curve where Old Marlborough Road meets Route 66, which reduced visibility.

Brian Gustafson, the DOT project engineer working on the Route 66 realignment, said while paving is “a little bit behind” as of early October, the late November completion date is still expected to be hit.

“A lot of roadway paving is scheduled for next week, through the end of the following week,” he said. “We're hoping to have the majority of the realignment paved out by the end of October.”

Currently, the intersection has been changed in a ‘T’ shape, and has had its first paving. The westbound lane of Route 66 at Old Marlborough Road is currently a dirt road, as the road's course is changed to sync with the eastbound lane, which has already been realigned.

“We should have those major parts paved by mid-November, and the traffic signals at 196 and 66 will be up and running by mid-November,” Gustafson said. “Yes, the roadway is excavated and it's probably a bit confusing

now, but we're maintaining traffic and we're trying to do the best we can to keep the road drivable.”

Also, the realignment proper should be complete shortly before Thanksgiving, with full traffic functionality, though cleanup work on the road will continue through the end of the month, he said.

Regarding issues with the realignment, Gustafson said the main challenge was coordinating the DOT's efforts with those of Connecticut Natural Gas, which had been installing new natural gas aligns along several state highways in town, including Route 66.

“We had some meetings with them to iron out and coordinate our schedules and for the most part, it's actually been pretty smooth,” he said. “To help out their schedule, work was being done basically 24 hours a day; we'd do our work during the day, and the gas company would do their work at night.”

In addition, some residents expressed concerns over the relatively large amount of runoff from the dirt section of Route 66 that washed into Lake Pocotopaug following last week's heavy rains.

Gustafson said that unfortunately did “catch

[the DOT] a little off-guard.”

“We had erosion controls in place, but there wasn't anything we could have done given the volume of rain, unless we had a million-gallon tank to put the run-off in,” he said. “But we immediately started making corrections and since then, we've bolstered our environmental controls, and we should be able to protect the lake better if we have more issues with rain.”

However, Gustafson said such a large volume of runoff is unlikely to happen during any future rains, as the dirt section of the road will be paved next week.

“Having the pavement in place will actually help get the water into the new catch basin we've built at that section of the road,” he said. “With the road torn up a lot of the water wasn't getting into the catch basins.”

Also, access to the CVS and surrounding stores in that lot will revert back to its original pattern in November, following the completion of paving and installation of traffic signals.

“We've been trying to make this very disruptive project as undistruptive as possible,” Gustafson said. “I think we've been doing a pretty good job, and when completed it should make that section of the road much safer.”

# Andover Selectmen Continue Easement Discussion

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday continued to discuss the easement over town property voters granted to two property owners at a July referendum.

And once again, the selectmen couldn't come to a conclusion on the matter.

The right-of-way at the end of Riverside Drive was granted to Joshua Clark and Christopher Wierzbicki, owners of a 60-acre piece of property at 64 Long Hill Road, by a vote of 211-133.

The owners explained at a selectmen's meeting before that July referendum that they needed better access to their land, which they hoped to gain through the town easement.

The owners plan to build two houses on the land, and said if the easement was granted they'd put part of the property into a conservation easement. However, without the easement the two had said they would have to construct a new road leading into their property from Long Hill Road. A substantially more expensive option, this route would require building over multiple streams and would likely mean the owners would have to subdivide their property to absorb the cost.

After the easement was approved at referendum, First Selectman Bob Burbank had said "the selectmen will be working up an easement [agreement] with the attorney to ensure that the town is indemnified against any costs that may be occurred due to this easement."

And it's that agreement that has been the topic of discussion ever since.

The agreement was discussed at the August selectmen's meeting, and was scheduled to be talked about again at a special meeting Sept. 18. However, at that meeting a motion was made to table discussion so the board would have time to look over a draft of the agreement provided that same night. In addition, selectwoman Julia Haverl mentioned then that the town attorney had yet to make any recommendations on the draft.

At Wednesday's meeting, the selectmen had a draft of the agreement that included said comments and recommendations; however, certain members still had issues with the document.

Selectmen Jeff Maguire said bluntly the document "disgusts me" and that it lacked substance.

"The entire document needs to be inclusive," he said, indicating he felt the agreement lacked necessary details.

Maguire also said he didn't think the town should spend any money on the easement, commenting that it only benefitted a couple of taxpayers.

"The town shouldn't move forward if it has to pay" engineering costs or other expenses, he said, adding even a single taxpayer dollar spent would be too much.

However, Haverl reminded him, "The town voted to grant this easement."

In the end, the board moved to table discussion on the easement once more, and to schedule another special meeting at which the town's easement attorney would be present to discuss the agreement.

The board unanimously approved the motion.

\* \* \*

Also Wednesday, the board discussed a suggestion made by Burbank that the position of the first selectman's administrative assistant be combined with that of the treasurer/bookkeeper.

He explained his current assistant is leaving at the end of the month, and mentioned since there is currently no treasurer or bookkeeper (Maguire is currently acting in that role) now would be the time to combine them.

If the positions were offered as one, Burbank said it could become a fulltime position with a "decent salary" that would help in attracting a "quality" applicant.

However, Maguire said, "I think it's a mistake to combine" the positions, "because there's a lack of transparency as there is."

Regarding the idea that it might be better to have one full time position, Maguire said it would actually be better – and more cost-efficient – to have more part-time staff employees instead.

He reiterated, "To me it's a transparency issue," adding, "but I also believe we need to evaluate all the departments and maybe take outside assistance to report back to the town

and the taxpayers what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong."

Haverl added Burbank would need a new administrative assistant sooner rather than later, and as such it shouldn't be tied in with the treasurer/bookkeeper position, since Maguire was still working on evaluating that office.

Burbank also mentioned the salary of his current assistant – "a whopping \$13 an hour – and said he was extremely lucky to get her.

"When I leave at the end of this term I would certainly hope we have an administrative assistant in there who understands all the duties of the first selectman," he said.

Offering enough hours and a salary sufficient enough to entice another qualified applicant would be important in achieving that.

Selectwoman Cathy Desrosiers said she'd support hiring an administrative assistant for Burbank at the current hours, and "if we can get more hours in the next budget then we can do that."

In the end a motion was made to hire an administrative assistant to the first selectman for \$17 an hour for 15 hours per week, details that could then be adjusted when next year's budget is crafted.

\* \* \*

The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. in the Andover Town Hall community room, 17 School Rd.

H

## O Christmas Tree?

by Geeta Schrayter

With Halloween and Thanksgiving still to come, "Christmas" is probably not a word most are ready to hear. But for one Hebron couple, the hope is that someone – or some town – somewhere is ready to think about and decide upon at least one aspect of the holiday: the Christmas tree.

In Kirsten Schenck and Steve Martyszczyk's front yard, a pine tree rises about 30 feet into the air. Although there are some sparse areas reminiscent of Charlie Brown's famous Tannenbaum, the tree, which was planted by the home's previous owners, has the ideal shape for a Christmas tree.

"I think there's definitely a good side and a bad side," Schenck said this week. But she added the tree would do the holiday justice, "if you trim off some of the lower branches and keep the rest of it, and cover it with lights."

Schenck explained there was nothing wrong with the tree, but "we just thought it would be a nice donation." She added, "My husband and I have just been kind of talking about it like ok, the tree is getting big. We would just like to do something that would, I guess, enhance somebody else, or some other town. We're not going to decorate it, so why don't we share it with somebody?"

She added with a laugh, "I don't have a cherry picker so I can't get up there and decorate it. We do our [tree] on a smaller scale."

"It's had a good life," Schenck said of the tree. "There's been lots of birds in it, lots of nests... it's been a good shade tree for us."

And so, the two are looking to donate the tree to either an individual or a town, with the hope it will go on to brighten the Christmas season. Schenck shared she's already contacted a couple of nearby towns to no avail, so she hopes "somebody knows somebody who knows somebody" who is interested.

"I would want it to go to a place where they



**Hebron residents Kirsten and Steve Martyszczyk have a tree in their front yard that they're ready to part with – and they're hoping someone, or a town, will want to cut it down and haul it away for use as a Christmas tree this year.**

would decorate it for Christmas," she added. "I wouldn't want it to go into a landfill, I wouldn't want to have it go to somebody's fire pit. If they want to cut it up for wood afterwards... I mean, I guess once it leaves here it's kind of on its own, but I would certainly like to know where it went."

Those interested in the tree can come, cut it down and take it away for free. If interested, call 860-316-8056.

"Decorations do not come with it," Schenck added with a smile.

## Armed Robbery at Portland Burger King

by John Tyczkowski

A suspect is still at large in connection with an armed robbery that happened at Burger King shortly before midnight on Monday.

A single man entered the restaurant at 22 Marlborough St. at approximately 11:48 p.m. – 12 minutes before closing – and displayed a black revolver to employees. He then obtained an undetermined amount of money and fled on foot out the rear door, police said. No employees were injured during the robbery.

A state police canine responded to track the suspect, but was unsuccessful in locating him, police said.

Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham said the department received the State Police's as-

sistance through the use of a hotline. Middletown was unable to provide assistance at the time, but a state police canine unit happened to be in the area of Portland and was able to respond to the call, he said.

Police said the suspect was described as a black male in his thirties or forties wearing a black hoodie, dark jeans, black shoes, black gloves and a black ski mask. The suspect also carried a black backpack and spoke with a Jamaican accent.

Those with information about the suspect should contact the Portland Police Department at 860-342-6780.

## Andover Police News

9/28: State Police said David Fuger, 31, of 22 Shoddy Mill Rd., was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, sale of less than half an ounce of marijuana, and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana.

## Colchester Woman Injured

State Police said Mairi Fuini, 32, of 82 Pinebrook Rd., was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar after an accident on Pinebrook Road Sept. 29.

Police reported that Fuini lost control of her car, struck a tree, and rolled over around 10:55 p.m.

## State Police Investigate Marlborough Thefts

State Police said they are investigating after a chainsaw, weed trimmer and leaf-blower were reported stolen from an unlocked garage on Islieb Road on Oct. 3.

Police said similar burglaries have been reported in the area around the same time. Police said the burglaries occurred between Sept. 27 and Oct. 3.

Anyone with information can call Trooper Jared Avery at 860-465-5355 ext. 4003.

## Hebron Police News

State Police said Matthew Gionfrido, 30, of 15 Ridge Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI, evading responsibility, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failure to carry an insurance certificate, and performing a restricted turn.

## Colchester Police News

10/2: Colchester Police said they are investigating after a hedge trimmer and generator were stolen from an unlocked shed on Bull Hill Road. Anyone with information can contact Officer Cyril Green at 860-537-7270.

10/2: State Police said Elijah Levy, 24, of 162 Stonington St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with violation of a restraining order and threatening.

10/5: State Police said Alfredo Rivera, 35, of 254 Tolland St., East Hartford, was arrested

and charged with possession of narcotics with intent to sell, weapons in a motor vehicle, DUI, and failure to drive in the proper lane. Police reported Rivera had cocaine, heroin, an 8.5-inch knife and brass knuckles.

10/5: State Police said Nathan Dagata, 23, of 211 Parkway North, Waterford, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

10/5: State Police said Amanda Doeher, 28, of 44 Brennan Rd., Amston, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Hildur Sullivan

Hildur (Swanson) Sullivan, 93, of Portland, passed away Saturday, Oct. 3, at Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in East Hampton. She was the widow of Francis Sullivan, who predeceased her in 2006, and the daughter of Joseph and Alice (Peterson) Swanson.



Born Jan. 8, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she graduated from Bay Ridge High School in 1940 and then married her high school sweetheart, Frank Sullivan. During the war years she worked as a secretary at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Balboa, Canal Zone, Panama. She returned to the states with her husband in 1946 and moved to Connecticut in 1948. Hildur worked for many years as the bookkeeper for the Homemakers Service at the deKoven House in Middletown.

Hildur and Frank erected a tent and later built a cottage at Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton where she enjoyed swimming and many summer activities with the extended family. They were founding members of Island View Community where their cottage was situated. Hildur and Frank were also avid square dancers there and elsewhere. She co-founded Protectors of Animals (est. 1977) and sheltered many dogs over the years in addition to family pets. She was very active in the Altar Guild of Zion Lutheran Church as long as she was physically able to participate, and for many years participated in the late Beatie Hummel's Bible study group.

Hildur and Frank traveled all over the country with a trailer. When their travelling days were over, they enjoyed winter months in a trailer park in Vero Beach, Fla. An avid reader who recently lost her vision, she became an enthusiastic user of the Talking Books Service of Connecticut's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. She truly loved her family and was much beloved by all of them.

She leaves her daughter, Barbara (Robert) Benashski and son, William (Christine) Sullivan, both of Portland; grandchildren, Karen Huntley of Stafford Springs, Lynn Coleman of Portland, Curtis (Karen) Benashski of South Windsor, Sharon (John) DiMauro of Haddam, and Eric Sullivan of Binghamton, NY; great-grandchildren, Jena Huntley Valentino, Jordan Huntley, Patrick and Kelly Coleman of Portland, Jake and Luke DiMauro, Grace and Kyle Benashski, and Brian Sullivan; and great-great-grandson, Mason Valentino. She also leaves a sister, Marie Nelson of Glastonbury and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a sister, Gertrude Samson.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at the Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Hartford Hospital and Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care for their care. The family would also like to thank Anne, Jodie, Bernice and Jenna for the help they provided her at home.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, with the Rev. Kari Rinas officiating. Burial was in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday from 10 a.m. until the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Protectors of Animals, Inc., 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118; Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., P.O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480; or to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 509, Hartford, CT 06141-0509.

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

## Hebron

### Lloyd L. Folsom

Lloyd L. Folsom, 80, formerly of Hebron and Manchester, passed away Sunday, Sept. 27.

Lloyd is survived by his daughter Beth Lyon and her husband Jeff of Groton; his son Clayton Folsom and his wife Cheryl of Andover; four granddaughters, Rachel, Christina, Cattie and Cindy; and his brother Charles (Gus) Folsom



of Maine. Lloyd will also be greatly missed by the Colletti (especially his Buddy) and the Morsey families and his many nieces and nephews.

Lloyd was predeceased by his son and best friend Lloyd Jr.; his former wife Jacqueline Folsom; and 11 siblings.

Lloyd worked for Roncari for many of years and QPR was a second family to him.

Memorial services are private for family only.

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

## Hebron

### Linda Murphy Reed

Linda Murphy Reed of Hebron died Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Born in Houlton, Maine, on June 5, 1947, Linda was the only daughter of Marguerite (Grava) and Fred L. Murphy. She graduated fourth in her class from Houlton High School, earned an Associate Degree from Husson College, Bangor, Maine, and a paralegal degree from Manchester Community College, both with honors.



Her real jobs (she picked potatoes in Northern Maine) consisted of secretary to the town manager, Houlton, Maine; legal secretary at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and parent company United Technologies; and executive secretary to the director of mergers and acquisitions, United Technologies.

Following the birth of her first child, Linda enjoyed the luxury of being a Hebron Housewife. In addition to loving her family, she enjoyed cruising in the Caribbean, basking in the sun, especially at Florida beaches, and shopping for bargains at tag sales.

Linda is survived by her husband Frank, daughter Jennie True and son-in-law Tim of North Andover, Mass., twin sons Jason Reed of Herndon, Va., and Jonathan Reed of Hebron; also, her brother Larry and sister-in-law Dianne Murphy and sister-in-law Toni Murphy. She was blessed with two granddaughters, Macy Hayes True and Molly Reed True.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother Anthony.

At Linda's request, there will be no calling hours. Her ashes will be buried in a pleasant place called Allen Grove, Ill., in the Reed family plot, at the convenience of her family.

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

Watch birds splash in birdbaths and smile when you see a cardinal.

## Colchester

### Rosemarie Cugno

Rosemarie Cugno, 82, of Colchester and formerly of New Britain, passed away after a lengthy illness Tuesday, Oct. 6. Born in New Britain Aug. 10, 1933, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary (DeAngelo) Ferraro.

Rosemarie married Frank Cugno Jr. on May 5, 1956. The couple lived in New Britain where they made their home and raised their family. She retired after having worked as an Early Child Caregiver at the YWCA in New Britain.

Rosemarie was a communicant of St. Andrew's Church in Colchester. She enjoyed participating with the social group at Colchester Commons, she loved reading books and growing flowers. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a devoted wife and for how she loved all children, especially her own and her grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her husband Frank of 59 years, her son Darren and his wife Dana of Colchester and her grandchildren Nicholas and Mary.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a son, David Cugno.

Calling hours will be held today, Oct. 9, from 9-10 a.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's Church. Burial will be private in St. Mary's Cemetery in New Britain.

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

## Hebron

### Joyce T. Queen

Joyce T. (Lyman) Queen, 75, of Hebron, loving wife of John D. "Skip" Queen, passed away Thursday, Oct. 1, at home, surrounded by her family, after an extended illness. She was born Feb. 27, 1940, daughter of the late Norman R. and Bernice M. (Whitehouse) Lyman, and was a lifelong resident of Hebron.

She attended Hebron schools, including the one-room schoolhouse in Gilead, and was in the first graduating class of RHAM High School in 1958. In addition to being a homemaker and mother, over the years she worked at various jobs, including school bus driver in Hebron, and was also a co-founder of Highland Manufacturing in Manchester, which she ran with her husband for 25 years.

Joyce was most proud of her family, was an avid reader and loved to laugh at the many carol sings, picnics and parties that she hosted throughout the years. She enjoyed spending time camping at Nauset Beach, Cape Cod, and was a 40-year member of the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association. After her retirement, she volunteered at the Mystic Seaport and with a local hospice organization.

She is survived by her husband John of 53 years, her four children, Stacey Whitney and husband John of Lebanon, Shelly Ventrillo and husband Jay of Hebron, James "Jay" Queen and wife Sandra of Hebron, and Christian Queen and wife Holly of Glastonbury; 11 grandchildren, Jolene, Patrick, and Jamison Whitney, Cody and Nick Ventrillo, Jocelyn, Matthew and Seamus Queen, and Rileigh, Kelly and Reagan Queen; her brother, James Lyman and his wife Cheryl of Hinsdale, Mass., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by three brothers, Roger Lyman, Norman Lyman and John "Lid" Lyman.

Calling hours are today, Oct. 9, from 3-5 p.m., at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. A memorial service at the funeral home will be held at 5 p.m., with a reception to follow.

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

## East Hampton

### Barbara Iasiello-Brothers

Barbara Iasiello-Brothers, 61, of Middlefield and East Hampton, died Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Middlesex Hospital after a long illness. Born Nov. 12, 1953, in Providence, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Henry and Grace (Gavin) Iasiello. Barbara had worked as a bartender for many years and was an active member of the Polish Club in Middlefield.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Victoria Brothers and her partner, Michael Vingris, of East Hampton; a brother, Henry Iasiello, of California; a sister, Elizabeth Rodan and her husband, Nathan, of Middlefield; and three grandchildren, Alex, Abby and Andrew.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Rick and Paul Iasiello, and a sister, Susan Iasiello.

A memorial wake was held Thursday, Oct. 8, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

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

## Marlborough

### Michael E. Cormier

Michael E. Cormier, 54, of Marlborough and East Hartford, loving husband of 21 years of Diane (Merrick) Cormier, passed away Monday, Oct. 5, surrounded by his caring family at Hartford Hospital after a long illness. Born in Hartford Oct. 16, 1960, a son of the late Joseph P. and Donata (Cyr) Cormier, he had been a lifelong resident of the East Hartford and Marlborough area.

Michael was a graduate of George J. Penney High School in East Hartford, Class of 1978. He was a proud master plumber since 1978 and was the owner and operator of Better & Better Plumbing and Heating, East Hartford for over 20 years. He was a former member of the Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Contractors Association and was known as "Mr. Fix-It" for his tinkering and puttering around his home. Michael was a beloved husband and father who liked camping and boating with his family, working on projects (such as the Pinewood Derby) with his boys, and a fan of the Boston Red Sox. He was also known to love some good "heated" political debates with his family and friends.

Along with his devoted wife, Diane, Michael is survived by his two sons; John P. Cormier and Daniel T. Cormier both at home in Marlborough; two sisters, Patricia "Patty" Cormier and her spouse, Lisa Garon, of Harwich Port, Mass., Laurie Byer and her husband, James, of Lake Elsinore, Calif.; two brothers-in-law, Steve Merrick and his wife, Jean, of East Hartford, Tom Merrick of East Hartford; two sisters-in-law, Patricia "Patty" Merrick of East Hartford, Irene Zdrojowy and her husband, Gary, of Bolton; three special close friends, Wayne Beaupre, Richard Barrows, John Sadlon; many nieces, nephews, customers and friends.

Besides his parents, Michael was predeceased by a sister, Donna Marie Cormier of Glastonbury.

Funeral service will be today, Oct. 9, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:30 a.m., at Blessed Sacrament Church, Cambridge Drive, East Hartford. (Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church on Friday morning). Burial will be at Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Relatives and friends called at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, Thursday, Oct. 8.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the John P. Cormier and Daniel T. Cormier Education Fund, c/o Patricia Merrick, 211 Woodycrest Dr., East Hartford, CT 06118.

For online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).