

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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**Checking the Ambulance...** The Hebron Fire Department visited Camp Christ Lutheran in Amston last week and talked all about fire safety. With them, the firefighters brought both a fire truck and ambulance that the campers were able to go on and explore. Pictured above, the kids were able to see what the inside of an ambulance looked like, while camper Emma Harrison got to test out what it felt like to be strapped to a stretcher.

## Belton Council Cuts \$330,000 from Budget

by John Tyczkowski

Last week, the East Hampton Board of Finance recommended \$310,000 in cuts from the yet-to-be-approved 2015-16 town budget. This week, the Town Council went even further, ultimately cutting the spending package by \$330,000, leaving it at \$41.05 million.

The new budget – a \$762,000 increase, or 1.89 percent, over 2014-15 fiscal year spending – will now head to town meeting next week, with a referendum to follow Wednesday, July 22. Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at East Hampton Middle School.

If approved, the budget will sport a .64 mill increase, which would translate to a 2.36 percent overall tax increase.

Of the \$330,000 in cuts made Tuesday, \$246,000 comes from the Board of Education budget. This reduction leaves the proposed school budget at \$28.78 million, a \$512,000 increase, or 1.81 percent, over 2014-15 school spending.

Other cuts made were \$47,000 from the police department, wiping out the proposed half-year police hire; \$20,000 from the fire department (to pay for one utility terrain vehicle instead of two as proposed); and \$2,000 from the fire marshal's operating budget.

Rounding out the package is a \$15,000 reduction to Social Services' budget, as the department indicated those funds, set aside for its electricity subsidies for residents in need in town, would come from state sources instead. This reduction was a new suggestion by the

council from Social Services director Wendy Regan, council chair Barbara Moore said.

Councilor Patience Anderson acknowledged the budget was a compromise.

"I think it's very telling because in a compromise, you don't walk away entirely happy," she said.

Councilor Mark Philhower said he wanted to see the budget passed through the council "tonight."

"This is going to be a tough year," he said. "Everyone needs to give something up."

"If the entire town shows they're doing their best to give something up, I think the people will respond with a positive vote, and get this passed," he added.

Part of that involved Philhower's suggestion to only cut one new UTV from the fire department's budget, instead of both as previously proposed.

The two UTVs would serve to replace three "1950s vintage" trucks the department uses for off-road operations.

Moore herself acknowledged the different nature of things in general for this budget vote, as she put her support behind removing the half-year police position.

"I know you never thought you'd hear me say that," she said, as in the past she had stated she would refuse to cut that position.

In its place, the Town Council agreed to a memorandum of understanding between itself

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## Suspect Sought in Andover Shooting

by Geeta Schrayter

State Police are searching for the suspect responsible for the recent shooting death of an Andover resident and father of two.

Jason L. Marchand, 38, was shot and killed last Friday following a verbal altercation on Lakeside Drive, according to police.

Troopers responded to the scene at Andover Lake around 10:10 p.m. July 3 after receiving a report that a person had been shot. Upon arrival, they found Marchand with multiple gunshot wounds; he was transported to Windham Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Through their investigation, troopers learned Marchand had an altercation with a male suspect about an hour before the shooting. Witnesses reported that same individual – described as a white male in his 20s with a blue and white sport-type motorcycle wearing a helmet with a face shield – was the one who later returned to the area.

Marchand, police said, confronted the suspect in the street, where he was shot multiple times. The suspect then fled the scene.

Detectives from the Eastern District Major Crime unit are currently investigating the shooting, and anyone with information about the incident or the shooter is asked to call Eastern District Major Crime at 860-896-3230 or Troop

K at 860-465-5411. Calls will be kept confidential.

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Marchand was a 1996 graduate of Manchester High School. He moved to Andover last year after living in Willington, and worked as a delivery driver for Dari Farms in Tolland for the past 12 years.

According to his obituary, Marchand, who was engaged to Suzanne Wich, also of Andover, enjoyed fishing, four-wheeling, cooking, hanging out by the fire pit, "but most of all spending time with his boys."

He had two children: 6-year old Austin and 2-year-old Trevor. At the time of the shooting, Austin was spending time with his father on their property at 38 Lakeside Drive.

This week, Naida Arcenas, president of the Andover Lake Property Owners Association, said nothing like the July 3 incident had ever happened before.

"It's kind of unbelievable," she stated. "It's really a shame and it's so hard to understand. He had everything to live for and he has children that are now without their dad, and it's a terrible tragedy and totally unexpected."

Arcenas added that in the nearly 20 years she's lived in Andover there's never been "a

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**Jason L. Marchand, an Andover resident and father of two young boys, was shot and killed last Friday after an altercation at his home on Andover Lake; police are still searching for the suspect.**

**Council Cuts cont. from Front Page**

and the police department to commit to rebuilding the department to a 14-officer level.

“That seems to me to be more important than the dollars and cents, to be able to move forward as a town and support the police department,” Moore said. “It’s a positive move.”

The council said it would take action on that memorandum at its regular meeting Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.

The half-year hire would have been a 15th officer for the department.

Moore said that after she and the council discussed alternatives to hiring a 15th police officer with the chief, she felt confident in the memorandum of understanding as a method of helping the police department while presenting a passable budget.

“We don’t want our officers to worry about layoffs,” Moore said, referring to fears expressed at the last Town Council meeting that if budgets kept being defeated, subsequent drops in mill rates could lead to police staff cutbacks.

Currently, the department’s 12th officer is in his probationary period, which will end in March 2016, and will hit the streets this weekend at Old Home Days.

The department’s 13th officer has an anticipated swearing-in date of August 2015, and “should be on the road before the snow flies,” Chief of Police Sean Cox said, as he is already a trained officer moving from another department.

After the meeting, Cox said the memorandum entails seeking a commitment for full funding of 14 officers for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year.

“It would be in the hopes that the [police] union, in good faith, would work with the rules of how I set up the officers’ schedule to give me a little more flexibility,” he said. “I’m very appreciative that the council was willing to work with me to come to some solution.”

“The downside is, however, that there are no guarantees,” Cox said.

Cox said he hopes the new officers could include a community officer and a detective, to pursue investigations and liaison with the courts more effectively.

“It would really be the first step in professionally developing us from a strictly patrol department into a fully functional department,”

he said. “That’s our hope. We’re trying to be sensitive to the community’s concerns about spending, while providing the service we need to be providing.”

Cox said a 14-officer department is key to creating and sustaining a proactive police department that would better serve the community.

“We could conduct a DUI checkpoint, which we haven’t done in over a decade, for example,” he said.

Earlier in the meeting, Cox gave a presentation on police needs and obligations, and the issues facing the department.

For example, with increased staffing levels, some extra services the department could provide would be community policing, a school resource officer and participation in regional collaborations such as traffic efforts, SWAT efforts and computer crime efforts.

While a 15-member department is optimal, Cox said, 14 would be a “very noticeable improvement” in terms of service the police could offer.

“I was told two words, ‘Fix it,’ when I was hired here,” Cox said. “That’s what I’m trying to do.”

During public comment, several residents spoke their thoughts on various aspects of the budget and budget process.

Glen Johnson suggested revising the town charter and splitting up the referendum vote into separate general government and Board of Education sections.

“It’s unfair to the town officials who have put so much effort into the budget to have [the budget] voted down without knowing why,” he said.

Russell Bonaccorso said he wasn’t against any departments in particular receiving funding, but simply was against a tax increase in town.

“I simply can’t afford it,” he said. “It’s got nothing to do against whether the police force needs more, and I recognize the importance of education.”

“I’m just asking for all the directors of town departments to look at what you can do ... and everybody takes a little hit, like all of the taxpayers in town are taking a hit,” he said.

Next week’s town meeting on the budget will take place Wednesday, July 15, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.

**Suspect Sought cont. from Front Page**

blatant murder. So I think we’re all a little dumbfounded about this and you just, you have memories of him just out there grilling with the family and laughing and it’s very difficult.”

Arcenas said the community around the lake, which is part of a private association, is friendly and tightknit. It’s common, she said, for people to smile and wave at passersby and keep an eye on who’s in the area.

“Although we don’t have a fence around us, for the most part people watch out that no one else is abusing the lake in any way, shape or form,” she stated, adding, “It’s that kind of community where as you go by, everybody is really kind of happy to see you; they come to the beach and they have fun and they’re on the lake and fishing and boating. ... It’s just not a community where you would expect that someone would just get in an argument and shoot another person out of whatever reason caused him to want to come back and do that. That’s the unbelievable part.”

Former Andover and current Hebron resident Ryan Price, who went to high school with Marchand, shared this week that while they didn’t spend much time together outside school, the conversations the two had were always enjoyable – usually about cars and trucks. After graduation, he added, the two crossed paths on multiple occasions through the years, most recently when they both ended up calling Andover “home.”

Price began making weekly trips to the transfer station, and it was there they ran into each other again.

“After not seeing Jay for maybe five years, there he was; his imposing stature that was eased with a giant smile and a handshake,” Price stated. “We were happy to see each other and catch up. Over the next handful of years, I would see Jay at least a couple of times a month.”

Price continued, “Thinking back on it now, at some point, our regular 15-20 minute chats

that would leave my wife wondering what took so long at the dump stopped being about cars and trucks and became almost exclusively about our children. He loved his boys. On occasion, he would have them with him and I got to see it in person. The only thing that dwarfed his physical stature was this love, and it wasn’t even close. I have boys, two about the same age. I know this love.”

Price said he learned about Marchand’s death after being told by a friend on his way home from a family vacation.

“It’s been nearly a week and I still can’t fully comprehend how I feel,” he stated. “I feel sadness for his parents who raised a gentle and loving man. I feel sadness for his fiancée who benefited from this love and returned it in kind. However, I feel such a deep sadness for his children.

“I feel sad,” Price continued, “that they are not going to be able to learn from him all that he had to offer. I feel sad that they won’t be able to physically feel his love again. I also feel sad for all of us who ever knew him, because we all know the same man.”

Price said he’d be heading to the dump again this weekend, “and it makes me sad to know he won’t be there. I guess my wife will start wondering why I make it home so quickly.”

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Visiting hours for Marchand were held yesterday July 9, at the Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester. A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for 10 a.m. today, July 10, at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow Rd., Manchester.

Memorial donations can be made to: Education Fund for Austin and Trevor Marchand, c/o United Bank, 1671 Boston Tpke., Coventry, CT 06238.

To leave an online message of condolence for his family, go to [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

The issue regarding the Confederate flag has been an interesting one to follow. Growing up spending my summers in Alabama visiting my grandparents, I saw a lot of the flag. As a kid, I never associated it with the Civil War. I simply thought of it as a sign of the south – no more offensive than peach cobbler or mid-afternoon thunderstorms.

As I got older, I learned more about the Civil War, and began to understand how people could associate the flag with slavery. And I agree removing the flag from the South Carolina state capitol is a good idea; it has no business at all being connected with the government.

But pulling *The Dukes of Hazzard* reruns because of the flag? I’m not sure I agree.

A month or two ago, TV Land began running repeats of the 1979-85 CBS adventure comedy. The show, for those of you who don’t know, is about the Duke brothers who live in a mythical Southern place known as Hazzard County, Ga. The boys – who, as the unforgettable opening theme song stresses, are good-natured but have “been in trouble with the law since they day they were born” – drive around the area in a car known as the General Lee, whose roof is adorned with a giant painting of the Confederate flag.

But, following the massacre in South Carolina, the Confederate flag – which the shooter was seen with in several photos – has understandably come under fire, and items featuring it have been pulled from shelves at Wal-Mart and other stores. Then, last week, TV Land pulled *Dukes* from its lineup.

The website The AV Club called the removal of the show “the latest case of ‘I don’t think you understand the real problem,’” and really, I can’t describe it any better than that. You see this sometimes when there’s a grassroots movement for or against something. The cause is a noble one, and the initial steps make sense – for instance, stopping to make gun holsters emblazoned with the Confederate flag seems like a superb idea after the racist mass shooting – but there’s always someone who just takes things a little too far.

And that someone in this case is TV Land.

I say this as no big fan of *Dukes*. When I was little, I loved the show, which is understandable as it’s a very kid-friendly show. It’s kind of like a live-action cartoon. But many things can lose their appeal as you get older – and that was the case with the Duke brothers. The show was just too silly for my tastes. I didn’t watch the repeats when CMT aired them recently, and I hadn’t been watching them on TV Land. So the loss of the show doesn’t really impact me.

But I still don’t think pulling the show because of the flag is the right move. Because, really, the flag is meaningless in that show. Anyone who’s ever seen *Dukes* knows subtlety was never its forte – if it wanted to make a point it would drive it home, get out of the car and then beat said point into the ground. So the General Lee was designed as such to remind viewers – in case they’d forgotten – that this is the South. It’s the same reason the car’s horn played the opening notes of “Dixie” whenever it was honked.

Now, is there racism involved in some of the uses of the Confederate flag? No doubt. Heck, nearly 60 years ago, in 1956, Georgia decided to incorporate the flag into its official state flag. Why? 1956 was no great anniversary year of anything Civil War-related. But it did just happen to be two years after Brown vs. Board of Education, and desegregation was being implemented – with much resistance, unfortunately – across the South. And to this day, white supremacist groups proudly wave it.

And let’s not forget the obvious fact the Confederate flag came to be during the Civil War – a war that was fought largely over slavery. (I know some people will argue it had more to do with states fighting for their right to secede, and that may have been a driving force, sure – but they only wanted to secede in the first place because anti-slavery Abraham Lincoln had just been elected president.) So, yeah; I perfectly get why people associate the flag with slavery.

But banning a TV show from the airwaves because the flag sits on the roof of the car the main characters drive is too extreme a reaction; as John Schneider, who played Bo Duke in the show, told *The Hollywood Reporter* last week in a sensible argument against TV Land’s decision, race had nothing to do with the show. “*The Dukes of Hazzard* was and is no more a show seated in racism than *Break-*

*ing Bad* was a show seated in reality,” he told the newspaper.

Like I said earlier, the show is a live-action cartoon – an early ’80s cartoon, meaning it’s not only harmless but also delivers good messages for youngsters, as Schneider noted; messages like honesty, courage and chivalry. Racism never had a thing to do with the show.

“I am saddened that one angry and misguided individual can cause one of the most beloved television shows in the history of the medium to suddenly be seen in this light,” Schneider told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

And while “one of the most beloved television shows in the history of the medium” may be a bit of a stretch – I’m not sure how many critics’ Top 10 lists *Dukes* finds itself on – I agree with Schneider. It’s a shame.

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Not a shame is Donald Trump running for president. Quite the contrary. As a Democrat, I’m loving every minute of it. And while it’s only a matter of time before Trump drops out of the race (or maybe he won’t; two separate polls last week had him as second – second! – among the approximately 96,000 Republicans running for president), the longer he sticks around and huffs and puffs his unique brand of nonsense, the worse the Republicans look.

Trump has drawn the most criticism – deserved criticism, of course – for his remarks about Mexicans made when he launched his campaign last month. “When Mexico sends its people [to the U.S.], they’re not sending their best,” Trump said. “They’re sending people who have lots of problems. ... They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

If Trump thought that that incredibly weak “some, I assume, are good people” addendum might make his remarks go over better, he thought wrong. In the ensuing days, a host of companies distanced themselves from The Donald. The Spanish-speaking network Univision immediately announced it was dropping its broadcast of the Miss USA pageant due to what Trump had said, and NBC quickly followed suit. (Pageant-watchers, have no fear; the show has been picked up by the little-known Reelz cable channel, and will air later this month.)

Trump followed this by suing Univision for \$500 million, alleging, among other things, breach of contract and defamation of character. (I particularly loved that; every time Trump opens his mouth, he defames his own character. I guess you can’t sue yourself, eh, Donald?)

Trump also fired at Univision for suppressing his right to free speech – once again showing that if there’s any amendment more misunderstood than the Second Amendment, it’s the First Amendment. The amendment reads that “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech,” and last time I checked, Trump isn’t going to jail. Univision dumping his pageant is a business decision. Freedom of speech does not mean you’re free from criticism related to your speech, or free from non-governmental consequences to what you said.

While Trump shooting his mouth off was no big shock, I was surprised, somewhat, by his fellow Republican presidential candidates’ general silence on the matter. Sen. Ted Cruz even defended him, stating in a whiny, the-media-hates-Republicans appearance on *Meet the Press* that Trump is “bold” and “brash,” and saying, “I salute Donald Trump for focusing on the need to address illegal immigration.” The closest he came to criticizing Trump is saying “he has a colorful way of speaking” that “is not the way I speak.” Weak.

The longer the other GOP candidates allow Trump’s bigoted, blowhard comments to go unchecked, the worse they all look. Which, as I said, is fine by me. But it might not be the best thing for the Republican Party.

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Lastly, congratulations are in order for AJ Pollock. The former RHAM High School baseball star and current centerfielder for the Arizona Diamondbacks was just named to his first All-Star team. Pollock’s been having a terrific season for Arizona – as of Tuesday night, he was hitting .303 with 10 home runs, 38 RBI and 18 stolen bases – and it’s an honor that’s very much deserved.

The game will be broadcast on Fox next Tuesday, July 14, starting at 7 p.m. I know I’ll be tuning in – and I’m sure a lot of the RHAM community will as well.

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See you next week.

# Colchester Selectmen Announce Commitment to Senior Center

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

William J. Johnston Middle School is getting a new building, but the Board of Selectmen last week confirmed it hasn't forgotten about a new senior center.

The selectmen last Thursday, July 2, announced their commitment to form a Senior Center Building Committee. Although the building committee has not officially been formed yet, First Selectman Stan Soby said "it is time" to get working on the process.

"There's no time like the present," Soby said. "It is time to see a way forward and not put it off."

Soby said he is honoring the commitment that after the budget referendum process was complete, the board would form a building committee for the senior center.

"I know the Commission on Aging and Patty [Watts, the senior center director] is working on accreditation and the basis of a strategic plan. At the base of it is the building," Soby said.

Gary Siddell, chair of the Commission on Aging, explained that the center is working toward National Council on Aging (NCOA) accreditation. Only nine centers in the state are nationally-accredited.

The accreditation process, Siddell said, is based on nine different channels of excellence including long-term planning, sound financial plans and program management.

"The current building is one of the obstacles," Siddell said.

Siddell said so far the commission and Watts have spoken with the Wallingford Senior Center who is accredited to get ideas. According to Siddell, the process can take up to two years after the center files with the national association.

"We'll be looking for a lot of volunteers in town to help," Siddell said.

Once the center finishes the implementation of MySeniorCenter for enrollment which will be done July 18, Siddell said the COA is hoping to establish a steering committee for the accreditation and get started.

Siddell said the town has been talking about a new senior center for a long time and had been waiting for the middle school building project to "clear the deck and be out of the way for the town to concentrate on the senior cen-

ter."

"From what I have heard and have talked to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, both are supportive," Siddell said.

"I'm loving it," Watts said of the selectmen announcing their commitment to the project. "The building as stands wouldn't muster for accreditation. We're exceeding space and usefulness. It's very heartening to see it move forward."

The current senior center, located on Norwich Avenue, is the former Bacon Academy Arts and Sciences building. The senior center moved into the building in the early 1980s – and Watts said one of the largest challenges the building has faced in recent years is that it wasn't designed for seniors.

"It retains that schoolhouse feel. Some people come in and say 'I've been to kindergarten here,'" Watts said. "We've experienced in the last two years substantial growth in population and membership. There isn't enough parking. The restrooms are not ideal; they were not built to be handicapped-accessible."

Watts said that many of the rooms and offices are not designed to be senior center friendly, and that the parking lot is not designed to handle the larger senior vans.

And while Watts said although the center uses the building to its every advantage every day, she said the center is at capacity.

"The programs are only going to continue to grow and membership will only continue to grow," Watts said. "The senior demographic is going to grow substantially in the next 15 years, up to 40 percent of the town's population."

That demographic shift was presented by the newly-adopted Plan of Conservation and Development.

"Bear in mind, we need to build not for capacity today, but what we'll need in 10, 20 years down the road," Watts said.

Watts said the aging of the baby boomers will continue to grow the center's services.

"We hope to be able to run some programs and services we can't currently in our facility. The possibilities are really very exciting," Watts said. "As director of senior services, I've worked hard every day to not only bring the best out in this building, but to look forward to future and the day we have a space where we've helped



The current Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave., used to be the Bacon Academy Arts and Sciences building – and that's one of its problems, according to senior center director Patty Watts.

designed and suit our needs perfectly."

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Before the normal Board of Selectmen meeting, the selectmen held a town meeting on the Moroch property located off of Dutton Road. A handful of residents attended, but no one spoke, and ultimately they unanimously approved the \$65,000 was approved by the town.

Of the \$65,000, \$31,183 comes from a Connecticut DEEP Award Grant, \$25,435.22 comes from the town's Open Space Acquisition Fund and \$8,381.78 comes from the Fee in Lieu of Open Space Fund.

The land was previously owned by Stanley Moroch, a longtime town historian. The acquisition adds 10.21 acres to the Ruby Cohen property on Dutton Road.

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The board also agreed to use a \$5,000 donation from the Christian Life Chapel to the town for books and materials at Cragin Library.

"It will make an impact," selectswoman

Denise Mizla said.

"We express our gratitude," Soby said. "There's no exception it will be well used there."

Pastor Mike Brubaker of the Christian Life Chapel said he is "very pleased this money reached a great purpose."

Brubaker said the money was given to the town last Christmas in appreciation for the town allowing the church to meet every Sunday for over seven years at Town Hall in the meeting rooms. On Jan. 1, the church moved to its own location at 392 South Main St.

"The town has been most generous to us," Brubaker said. "We love doing ministry here. After these seven-plus years, we've become a regional ministry, now serving over 15 towns. We are thankful to God for the privilege."

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be Thursday, July 16, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

# Portland Chihuahua Scoots His Way to the Top

by John Tyczkowski

Skooter, a Chihuahua owned by resident Mary Walton, is Portland's new number one dog.

Throughout June – a.k.a. dog license renewal month – dog owners could participate in the town's first Top Dog contest via the town clerk's office.

Dog owners were able to donate pet food to the Portland Food Bank and enter their dog for a chance to wear the number one dog tag and to have their license fee reimbursed. For each can of pet food donated, owners received an entry card for a drawing to select the pet to be awarded the top dog tag in town.

The Portland Food Bank collects pet food to provide to those who have a temporary need, so that a sudden financial crisis doesn't force owners to give up their pets.

For this first year of the contest, the town clerk's office received "hundreds of entries," and more than 250 pounds of dog and cat food were donated, assistant town clerk Paula Slym said.

Skooter is a 15-year-old Chihuahua who Walton picked up from her son in Ohio.

Due to his age, she said, he's also gone deaf. "He's learning sign language," Walton quipped, referring to how Skooter can understand her hand motions. "He's learned to wait, to stay and to come."

Walton also owns an 8-year-old miniature pinscher named Penny.

"[Skooter] is very slow, he's so old," she said. "Penny actually takes care of Skooter."

Walton said that Penny circles Skooter when the two explore the outside, making sure nothing happens to him.

And when Skooter is out in the yard and Penny's inside, she watches the door for when Skooter wants to come back in, and barks to let Walton know he wants to come in.

"She really looks out for Skooter," Walton

said. "They are a great pair."

Walton said she wasn't sure why she entered the contest this year.

"I brought in a bunch of cat food and just said ok, I didn't think I'd win," Walton said. "I was very surprised, but I'm very happy."

Walton said that Skooter is "a good dog, an excellent dog," and now she has the dog tag to show for it.

"Now, we get to walk around town and tell people he's the number one dog," she quipped.

And Skooter's not the only one sporting a smile. Ruth Maio of the Portland Food Bank said it was "exciting" to receive the estimated 250 pounds of pet food donations the contest generated.

"We were really, really low on the supply we had, and we'll be pretty well off for a while now with the cat and the dog food," she said. "We've gotten about two and a half [shopping cartloads] filled with food so far, and it's still coming in."

Maio praised the town clerk's office, saying they "did a fantastic job."

"This is the first year that they've done this for us," she said. "They called us up and told us that they were going to do this for the food bank."

"I don't recall anything like this happening before, and I've worked at the food bank forever," she said.

Maio said she was grateful for the donations. "Now we have more to share, so we can give a little more than we have in the past," she said. "We would never want anyone to have to give up their family pet."

The contest "was actually [Interim Town Clerk Mary Dickerson's] idea," Slym said. "It was a way to make people extra-aware it was dog license season, and a way to help make sure people with financial troubles wouldn't have to give up their pet."

Slym said that the couple hundred pounds



Skooter, a 15-year-old Chihuahua, has been named Portland's Top Dog. He gets to enjoy the honor of wearing the number one dog tag in town for the current 2015-16 fiscal year.

of pet food collected showed the idea "worked very well."

"It's not as easy to get pet food from a food bank most of the time, and a lot of people in need of food for themselves will give up their pet," she said. "And it's a shame to have to give up your pet because you're in a financial bind."

Slym also said she hopes the town clerk's office will continue with the food donations for next year's Top Dog contest.

"I think it's better than voting on pictures, because no one's feelings get hurt, and it really helps people all around, and their pets," she said. "I would be glad to do it again next year."

# Former Portland Resident Completes Cross-Country Bike Ride

by John Tyczkowski

How do you measure the distance between Seattle and Westport?

It was about 1.8 million pedal strokes, according to Portland native Henry Prescott, who biked the approximately 3,400 miles.

Riding through the Cascades, across the northern prairie, down following the Mississippi, through the heartland and into Amish Country across New York state, Prescott and fellow rider and experienced athlete George Lilley took 48 days to bike the route.

And it was all for charity, with more than \$30,000 raised to contribute to three national organizations which work to combat Parkinson's disease, a degenerative neurological disorder.

Exercise is a factor known to be able to slow the disease's progression.

"It was a daunting task," Henry said of the ride and the fundraising, which took months to plan and set up. "But very worth it."

Henry grew up in Portland, and now lives in Boulder, Colo., where he works as a certified personal trainer at a YMCA, working with a group of individuals with Parkinson's, and is pursuing a degree to teach physical education and history.

Working with that group and seeing their commitment is what inspired him to do the cross-country ride to raise money for Parkinson's research and education, he said.

Following the two every step of the way was Henry's father, Hank, who drove the support vehicle behind the two riders.

"Henry would map out the route, and then we'd find an area where we thought we'd be spending the night," Hank said.

The support car wasn't always strictly following the riders; rather they would meet up every few hours, or roughly 30 to 40 miles, to check in.

Initially, the team planned to camp out most every day, but after a few days of that, including an overnight of 40 degrees and rain, they decided otherwise.

"We didn't get a lot of sleep, and we had

severe charley horses in our legs," Hank said.

"We had camped before, but nothing like this."

"Also, after a long day, it was just too much to set up everything," he said.

And that's where Barbara Luce, Henry's mother, got involved regularly, serving as the team's mission control for the next six weeks, from Montana to Connecticut.

"Henry would have ideas planned out for places to stay, but things could change due to weather or road conditions," Barbara said. "He would let me know where they were and I'd look it up on Trip Advisor."

"I sort of fell into it; first I volunteered, but then it became an expectation!" she laughed.

Hank and Barbara live in Portland.

Henry said Montana was the state that struck him the most on his cross-country journey. At roughly 900 miles across ("Connecticut is about 100 miles across," Henry said, for comparison), it took them about nine days to make it from Idaho to North Dakota through Montana.

"We rode through everything in that state from arid areas to lush forests to mountains [including the Continental Divide], rivers and plains," he said. "It was an overwhelming amount of scenery."

Henry said "98 percent of people" they encountered across the 14 states were extremely supportive of the Parkinson's ride, and that they even collected some donations along the way and received discounts at some hotels.

Also along the ride, while in Wisconsin, Henry had the chance to see the house where his grandfather was born, and grew up.

However, Henry said the ride did have its share of bumps in the road, citing a day in Montana when he suffered three flats in the span of a few hours.

"An average tire change is about 15-20 minutes, but it gets frustrating after a while," he said.

The biggest hiccup of the ride happened – fortunately enough, as it turned out – near Harriman, N.Y., just over the Pennsylvania border and less than 75 miles from Westport.

"Hank called me up and said that the car



Former resident Henry Prescott biked 3,400 miles in 48 days across 14 states to raise more than \$30,000 for various organizations to combat Parkinson's disease, and to help educate people about the degenerative neurological condition.

won't start," Luce said. "I said, 'Haha, you're kidding,' and he said, 'No, I'm not.'"

However, Hank happened to be near a gas station, and the entire incident was far less eventful than it could have been, both said.

"Imagine if it had been out here," he said while pointing to a snapshot of Henry riding on a highway in the North Dakotan Badlands. "We got lucky that it happened close to home."

Another problem the trio ran into, though not as serious, happened right at the beginning of the ride in Washington, when a wrong turn led them north instead of east.

"So we basically ended up about four miles from the Canadian border," Henry said. "We asked a guy there 'How do you get to so-and-so?' and he said 'I don't know, I just came from Canada.'"

Henry arrived in Portland last Tuesday, June 30, with a combined Portland and Middletown

police escort across the Arrigoni Bridge and down Main Street. On Sunday, he was welcomed home at a celebration at the Fireman's Grounds, which more than 40 people attended.

The proceeds from the Sunday event totaled more than \$1,800, Hank said on Tuesday, and went to the Connecticut Parkinson's Working Group, a non-profit dedicated to education about Parkinson's.

Henry also raised funds for the Middlesex YMCA by way of a matching contribution for those who gave to the ride, with a Y program providing scholarships to attend summer camp for children whose parents have cancer.

"At the beginning I thought, 'How could I combine this cause with something I really enjoy?'" Henry said of the ride. "I'm glad I was able to find a way, and I'm glad it was as successful as it was."

# Tavern On 66 Gets Family-Friendly in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

Bonnie Rau has been a lifelong resident of East Hampton, and has grown fond of the small-town atmosphere during that time.

So that's exactly what she brought to her restaurant, the Tavern On 66.

Rau, who is married and has four children, took over the tavern in 2013 – and set out to take it in a new direction.

"Now, it's way bigger here than it ever was," she said. "It used to be no one came here to eat – it was really just a bar – but we've really turned it around."

Her own family was an inspiration for her to make that change, Rau said.

"I wanted the Tavern to be more accessible to a wider amount of people," she said. "And now we have kids and families here all the time."

As a way to continue that, the Tavern on 66 will hold a car show Saturday, Aug. 29, to benefit the son of a woman who used to work at the restaurant, who has cancer.

"Right now we have like 200 people confirmed coming," Rau said. "And now I'm looking to see how we can fit all those people and the cars on our property behind the building."

She said she's pursuing a permit from the town as well as a request to have a shuttle bus run from a nearby location with a larger parking lot, such as the middle school.

Rau said she credits word of mouth and Facebook with helping to connect the Tavern with community events, such as a fundraiser for Rob Trahan, a resident who has cancer and fundraisers for multiple sclerosis and for autism, also connected to residents in town.

Rau also gathers up a group to donate money and jump in the lake for the annual Turkey Plunge in November.

"It's all about that small-town feel and the people here," she said. "Everybody wants to help. Once you do one [fundraiser], everyone else wants to do one also."

"They usually come to me," she said.

In addition, those who wish to use the Tavern space don't need to pay to rent the spot, Rau said.

"Instead, we do drink specials and food specials, and put the proceeds of that toward the fundraiser," she said. "We also do raffles with things from my vendors and other places around, too."

In addition, the Tavern features a special sandwich to help raise funds for the high school's Project Graduation event, she said.

The Tavern also sponsors a midget racer in town.

However, she said though there's a small-town feel to the restaurant and its events, the food and drink selection is much more cosmopolitan.

In addition to its new family focus, Rau pointed to the Tavern's smoked specialties, including wings, ribs, brisket, pulled pork and even jalapeño poppers, as some of its claims to fame.

"People love everything about those," she said.

Also, when the Tavern goes on the road, such as for Old Home Days or for the annual fireworks in town each August, the smell of the smoking attracts plenty of people, she said.

Rau said another selling point is the Tavern's large draft selection, 16 beers, as well as its emphasis on craft beers.

In addition, the Tavern features a wide selection of seafood for the summer, including both hot and cold lobster rolls.

Rau said she likes to keep the townie, coun-



Owner Bonnie Rau stands beneath a handmade wood-burned sign her husband created for the Tavern On 66. Rau, a lifelong resident of East Hampton, said her goal is to ensure the eatery is family-friendly and keeps a small-town feel while offering a wide selection of food and drinks.

try feel in the restaurant through the use of mason jars ("my mother had a big mason jar collection," she said) and soon-to-appear tabletops made out of wine barrels.

Also, the Tavern features acoustic music each week from a regular who's been playing at the venue "for years," Rau said, as well as bands.

Finally, she also said she likes to get her kids involved in helping with the Tavern events as well.

"They all have to put in a little bit," she said.

"It keeps that feel to it too though, that it's not just adults, it's everyone, and everyone is welcome here."

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The Tavern on 66 is located at 227 West High St. and is open Monday-Thursday 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m., Friday and Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.-1 a.m.

More information, including menus, is available at [thetavernon66.com](http://thetavernon66.com) and at [facebook.com/tavern66](https://www.facebook.com/tavern66).

# Terms of Dugas' Separation Agreement Revealed in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

In accordance with a Freedom of Information Act request, the *Rivereast* has obtained a copy of the separation agreement between the Board of Education and now-former schools superintendent Diane Dugas.

According to a copy of the agreement as well as a copy of her contract – also obtained via open records request – the board paid Dugas a lump sum of \$81,000 as part of the separation.

That's half of what was Dugas' annual compensation, which included a \$157,000 salary and \$5,000 in the form of an elected tax sheltered annuity designated by the superintendent, according to her contract.

In addition, Dugas will be paid for 34 unused vacation days, the agreement said, and Dugas will be allowed to stay on the board health plan until June 30, 2016, which was to be the end of her three-year contract, or until she obtains health insurance through a new employer.

The board will also pay for "the cost of the conference, membership and airfare" for Dugas to attend the National School Public Relations Conference in Nashville, Tenn. later this month.

However, "other costs associated with attending the conference will be paid by Dugas," the agreement stated.

According to Dugas' contract, signed March 8, 2013, and which went into effect July 1, 2013, there were three distinct ways a separation of employment between Dugas and the board could occur.

Dugas could simply give 90 days' notice of her intent to resign. The Board of Education also could terminate the contract for cause, based upon six distinct reasons, which included inefficiency or incompetence, insubordination against the board's rules, moral misconduct, disability as shown by competent medical evidence or "other due and sufficient cause."

Or – which is what happened in this case – Dugas' contract could be terminated at any time by a mutual agreement between her and the board.

The separation agreement – which Dugas signed on June 24 and the board signed on June 25, and which took effect July 1 – contains a host of clauses.

First, the agreement contains a non-disclo-

sure clause barring members of the board and Dugas from discussing the separation except as required by law, such as by the FOI Act under which the records were obtained.

There is also a no-disparagement clause, which prevents board members from "utter[ing] disparaging remarks or defamation, oral or written, with respect to Dugas or concerning her employment with the board."

Likewise, the agreement bars Dugas from "utter[ing] disparaging remarks or defamation, oral or written, with respect to the board or its officers, members or employees concerning the business affairs, operations, financial conditions or actions (past, present or future) of the board."

The agreement also contains a clause that states that agreement does not constitute an admission of "any liability...or unlawful conduct of any kind."

The clause also states that the agreement, as well as the negotiations surrounding the agreement do not constitute "an acknowledgement or admission of any kind that either the board or Dugas have violated or failed to comply with

any provision of Dugas' employment agreement, contract, the federal or state constitutions, or any federal or state laws" or principles of common law.

In addition, the agreement constitutes a "full and final release of all claims and potential claims against the board (by Dugas)...arising out of Dugas' employment with the board."

While she attended and spoke at the East Hampton High School graduation on June 21, Dugas had been on vacation for the last half of June. Then-Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tim Van Tasel took over her day-to-day duties, for which he received two and a half weeks of pay at the superintendent's salary rate, until June 30.

Prior to working in East Hampton, Dugas had served as the curriculum director for Granby Public Schools, the assistant superintendent for Region 4 schools in Chester, Deep River and Essex, and had been a school principal in both Manchester and New Britain.

As the board searches for a new superintendent, Mark Winzler is serving as the interim schools chief.

## East Hampton Crew Club to Debut This Summer

by John Tyczkowski

At last week's Board of Education meeting, members voted to approve East Hampton High School's first crew club, which could take shape as early as this fall.

Mike Dalton, EHHS assistant principal, spoke to the board last Monday evening about the benefits the rowing sport would bring to the high school, and to town.

Dalton's presentation to the board focused upon Lake Pocotopaug, which he said was a "community focal point."

"This is a unique town; the town is built around the lake," he said. "The lake is the heart of the town, and it's an underutilized resource."

In addition, the high school's proximity to Sears Park, which could be used as the launch for the crew club, would be "ideal," Dalton said.

He also emphasized how a crew team, which would follow from the success of the crew club, would open up scholarship opportunities for the involved high school students.

"Being part of a crew team is a desirability on a college application," Dalton said. "Crew is the ultimate team sport. Everyone needs to work together; it's not individualistic like soccer or baseball."

"You don't need to be a superior athlete, you just need to train hard," he said. "And everyone's skills complement each other's."

In addition, he said crew's team nature also allows more students the opportunity to join in.

"The work ethic it takes to row is a different skill set from traditional sports, which means

you can widen the umbrella of students who participate," Dalton said.

In crew, there is single 70-foot racing shell, or boat, which consists of an eight-member or four-member rowing team, and one coxswain, who coordinates the rowers' efforts, Dalton said.

"It really is a heck of a sight," he said, referring to seeing the racing shells in action on the water.

The crew coach follows in a support boat behind the racing shell, shouting out suggestions, tactics and encouragement via megaphone.

The support boat also provides assistance should a rower or the coxswain go overboard, or in the case of any other safety issues.

Also, there are two types of crew races, Dalton said. First, there are regattas, which are all day events where multiple crew teams race a leg one at a time and compare their times at the end of the day.

Second, there are sprints, where two teams go against each other simultaneously in a simple head-to-head race on the water.

Only 13 high schools in Connecticut have crew teams, Dalton said.

"We'd be joining an exclusive club that includes Farmington, Avon, Glastonbury, Stonington and Middletown," he said. "That's good company to have."

However, East Hampton has a natural advan-

tage with being able to use Lake Pocotopaug instead of relying on the Connecticut River as many local crew teams do, he said.

"The lake is perfect for rowing. Conditions on the lake are stable," Dalton said. "It doesn't have swells and there's no current."

For comparison, Dalton said fluctuating river conditions have a tendency to cancel crew practices for other towns on a "surprisingly regular basis."

In fact, Wesleyan's crew team practices on Lake Pocotopaug to avoid those river problems, he said.

Wendy Sheil, Middletown High School's crew coach, was also in attendance at the meeting, and said she couldn't endorse the benefits of a crew program enough.

"I'm blown away by what it does for our kids," she said. "The character development, how they give back and their incredible hard work."

Board chair Ken Barber said starting the process moving over the summer could help the burgeoning club financially.

"You can fundraise throughout the summer," he said.

"And hopefully come into to the fall with a couple of cans of coins," he quipped.

In terms of upfront cost, Barber said that it would be "minimal," and that it would come from providing stipends to the crew coaches and expanding town liability insurance cover-

age for the purposes of the crew club.

He also said he was "in the boat with this one."

"How do you separate our little school from the other schools?" Barber said. "Well, here we are. This is exciting."

The board voted 4-0 to support the crew club, with member Tonia Sones abstaining.

During public comment, Board of Finance Chairman Ted Turner, who said he was speaking as a representative of the VFW, also put his support behind the crew club.

"I feel very positive about this," he said. "The VFW gives to the Little League, the Boy Scouts ... I was wondering how we could contribute to the crew club once you get going."

Dalton said he would be willing to discuss that angle further with Turner over the summer.

Dalton, who has been working on this project for three years, said the crew club already has two four-plus racing shells, one eight-plus racing shell and oars and other required equipment, as well as "a lot of student and parent interest at the high school."

Also, he said he's reached a verbal agreement with parks and recreation to store the racing shells at Sears Park, and the idea has the support of Shaun Russell, the high school athletic director.

"I don't see a downside to it," Dalton said. "It's a good program to have, and a good opportunity for our students."

# Dottie Newsch Remembered in Marlborough

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Known to everyone in town as Dottie, Dorothy Newsch was like Mrs. Marlborough.

A very active resident who did everything from driving senior van routes to being a member of the Board of Education, Newsch passed away at the age of 88 on July 5, her birthday, after a longtime illness.

Vi Schwarzmann, director of Marlborough Senior Center, said she'll remember Newsch fondly. Schwarzmann lived half a mile down the road from Newsch and knew her well.

"For a little lady she had more gumption than anyone I've ever known," Schwarzmann said.

Schwarzmann said the thing she most admired about Newsch was her never-ending way of caring for others.

"She was the best person and the most helpful person I can remember," Schwarzmann said. "Whenever you needed somebody, you called Dottie."

Born July 5, 1927 in Marlborough, Newsch was the daughter of the late Roy B. and Catherine Pettengill. She was the widow of the late Robert A. Newsch and was a lifelong Marlborough resident.

Newsch worked at a variety of area businesses during her 88 years, including the Williams Soap Factory in Glastonbury, Artistic Wire in East Hampton, Hamilton Standard in East Hartford, Sal's Laundry Mat in Manchester and the kitchen in RHAM High School in Hebron. She also served as a school bus driver for Nichols Bus Co. of East Hampton for 35 years.

"She was just a really nice lady and well-known around town," said Board of Education Chairwoman Ruth Kelly, whose children rode the bus with Newsch. "She didn't take anything from the kids and kept them safe and they respected her."

Another of Newsch's many hats was serving as a town constable.

"My girls will always remember if they ever did anything wrong I would know before they even got home because Dottie would call me," Schwarzmann said. "She would stop a bus safely and turn around and tell the child to sit down and not to say another word. She was the warden."

As constable, Schwarzmann said, Newsch never carried a gun. She knew how to use one, Schwarzmann said, but it wasn't her style. In-

stead, she found other ways to get her point across.

"[It] was her way of talking to people," Schwarzmann said. "The kids, they respected her. If you were obnoxious she would put you off the bus or get out of the cruiser and talk you down."

Later in life, Newsch drove a senior van, and worked at the town senior center. Schwarzmann recalled how the seniors all loved riding the van with her, and that Newsch would dress up as a bunny or Santa for the holidays.

"Most of the time the buses were so filled, the groceries went on top and had to be tied down," Schwarzmann said.

Eventually, as she got older, Newsch needed to stop driving the van – and she was the one who told the senior center the time had come, as painful a decision as it was.

"It was really tough on her," Schwarzmann said of Newsch having to step down from her bus duties.

Newsch was also a first-rate volunteer, serving as a member of, among others, the Moose Lodge, the Lions Club, Marlborough Congregational Church and the Red Hat Society. She also served a stint as president of the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association – the association that bears her father's name.

The association launched in 1958, when Newsch's father was chief of police. Doug Knowlton, rescue lieutenant for the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, said that, according to town lore, Pettengill had become upset waiting for what was then called Tri-County Ambulance of Colchester to respond to car accidents in town. Pettengill purchased an old used Cadillac wagon that had been used as a hearse and ambulance in those days. The association took donations and conducted an annual campaign in town for membership. If a resident signed up as a member, the person wouldn't be billed for ambulance services.

Mark Merritt, rescue captain for MVFD, said he knew Newsch since he was a 5-year-old riding the school bus.

"She had a unique voice and I heard it from a very young age getting yelled at on the bus and then running ambulance meetings," Merritt said. "She always had her hand in something."

"Dottie was well-respected and knew every-



**Dottie Newsch spent many years driving a van for the Marlborough Senior Center. She is pictured here, center, with fellow drivers Gordon Isleib, left, and Bernie Trafford, right.**

one in town. She was a great volunteer and will be missed," said Louise Concodello, who served alongside Newsch on the Board of Education from 1999 to 2003.

Concodello said one of the things she admired about Newsch was her energy.

"She had a lot of energy, staying up late at [Board of Education] meetings and getting up early for the bus routes," Concodello said.

A longtime member of the Democratic Town Committee, Newsch also was once named the town's Democrat of the Year. She also received many other awards over the years for her volunteer work, including an award from the Marlborough Fife and Drum Corp and from the Marlborough Grange for Citizen of the Year.

"Marlborough is more than homes and businesses," said Ken Hjulstrom, who also served alongside Newsch on the Board of Education. "Marlborough's uniqueness lies in its people and Dottie Newsch was one of those longtime

residents whose special personality and devotion to her community made Marlborough a better place for everyone. She will be missed."

Newsch is survived by her five children Dorothy Hodges of New London, Phyllis McKinney and her husband Kirk of Glastonbury, James Grossman and his wife Maryann of Marlborough, Charles Grossman and his wife Christine of Marlborough, and Rosemary DeTrafford of Pennsylvania, five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

A graveside service will be held today, Friday, July 10, at 10:30 a.m. in Marlboro Cemetery followed by a service at Marlborough Congregational Church at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc. P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447 or to Marlborough Congregational Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447.

# EDC Membership Falls Further in Marlborough

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The town's Economic Development Commission is not supposed to be a two-person show – but unless something changes soon, that's exactly what it'll become.

EDC member Chris Heberd submitted his resignation in June, to take effect once his home in town sells. Once Heberd goes, the commission will be down to chairwoman Jane Boston and alternate Joe Asklar – and won't be able to make its three-person quorum.

If the commission cannot meet, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski explained, the responsibilities would fall to the Board of Selectmen.

So the search is on for new EDC members.

The EDC is supposed to have five regular members with three alternates – however, it's been stuck on a grand total of three members, both regulars and alternates, for a while now. As a result, the commission has had problems meeting quorum, due to members getting sick or going on vacation. For example, in 2014, the EDC had 11 meetings scheduled – but was able to hold only seven of them.

According to the town website, the responsibilities of the EDC are to "facilitate the growth of our valued business community in a manner

consistent with our Marlborough's shared values."

Lately, the EDC hasn't been as busy as it has in the past. Gaudinski recalled the height of the EDC being when the town purchased the business park land almost 15 years ago. In 2011, when the Zoning Commission approved the parcel and a marketing study was done for the land, Boston at the time said the EDC would create a website ([marlboroughctedc.com](http://marlboroughctedc.com)) to keep residents informed. That website is now defunct.

From here, Gaudinski said, she would like to reconstitute the commission, get new members on with business experience or business connections, and get the commission to work with the Board of Selectmen and local businesses. She also stressed she would like to see the commission establish some short-term goal and a long-term goal to better focus the commission.

According to the town website, the town is undergoing a "dramatic transformation from a small, rural community to a thriving, affluent suburban municipality" and "Marlborough welcomes businesses large and small that desire to be a part of this exciting time in our his-

tory."

Gaudinski said although some of the goals aren't overly glamorous, such as establishing public utilities in town, all are important for economic development.

"There [are] projects part of economic development for the town center," Gaudinski said. "We are one of the last towns without water in the town center."

Without these utilities, Gaudinski said, the town cannot develop higher density developments.

"We need to have people on the commission to assist or look at ways to enhance business opportunities and provide input," Gaudinski said.

The disappointment in town, Gaudinski said, comes from the issue with private property owners unable to get tenants. She spoke about one particular situation with the grocery store in town.

"We can fast-track the process [through the town]," Gaudinski said, "but unfortunately the property owner hasn't been able to sign a tenant for a grocery store."

Existing properties may not be able to be

mandated by the town to do certain things, but Gaudinski stressed new development can be mandated through the Architectural Review Board. That board is responsible for approving new building design.

She said she encourages residents to stop by and give her input or attend EDC meetings.

"It's interesting to hear ideas from people for what we need to do," Gaudinski said.

Members of the commission, Gaudinski said, need to have a love for the town.

"We heavily rely on volunteers," Gaudinski said of the town.

Aside from the usual once-a-month meeting, Gaudinski said she would like to see members form subcommittees and work on projects for the EDC.

The EDC meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Its next meeting will be on Aug. 19.

If a resident is interested in joining the commission, he or she can email Gaudinski at [firstselectman@marlboroughct.net](mailto:firstselectman@marlboroughct.net) or call 860-295-6204. The office will also accept letters of interest. The only requirement is to be a resident and a registered voter.

# Andover Resident with Love for Family, Town, Passes Away

by Geeta Schrayter

Family and friends looked back fondly this week on Marie R. Burbank, an Andover resident known for her love of family – and the town – who passed away Saturday, June 27.

She was the wife of First Selectman Bob Burbank, and had called Andover home since 1972.

Marie, who was 70 years old, had been battling cancer; she was diagnosed with melanoma about a year and a half ago. Her husband explained this week the treatment she'd been receiving seemed "to have kept the melanoma in check." But then, about six weeks ago, Marie got weak and was taken to the hospital, where it was found the cancer "had spread like wildfire throughout her body."

"She was bedridden then, and was never able to recover," Burbank shared.

The two had been married for 45 years, and met through a blind date back in 1966.

"It was a mutual friend of ours that knew her brother and knew she was coming in for a visit [that set up the date]," Burbank explained. "I had just come out of the service as a single guy – she was a Brooklyn, N.Y. city girl."

The two went out for drinks in Massachusetts, where Bob was living at the time, "and that's how it was set up," he reminisced. "The first time we went out she forgot her gloves in the car and I contacted her and it went on from there."

The two would go on to raise four children: three sons and a daughter, and have five grandchildren – with another on the way.

"I know she loves her family most," Burbank shared, calling his wife "a very caring person. She was very outgoing. She would help people out almost to a fault. If you were her friend, there was nothing she wouldn't do for you."

One of those friends was Andover resident

and former selectwoman Elaine Buchardt, who said this week, "I was a good friend with Marie Burbank. We were on the Democratic Town Committee together. She was chair[woman] back when I joined; She helped me become a selectwoman by recommending me through the DTC."

Buchardt called Marie "very friendly, very helpful," and furthered, "she's always been a great supporter of Bob – an *incredible* supporter of Bob, helping behind the scenes with a lot of his selectman work. She was a really good friend."

Resident Roberta Dougherty, the town's assistant tax assessor, also called Marie a friend. She shared she'd met Marie when she moved to town with her husband in 2008.

"We met her when we decided to join the Democratic Town Committee," Dougherty said. "She pretty much took us newbies to town under her wing and was super friendly and really good to us. We had a great group of people in the DTC. It was really fun."

Dougherty called Marie a warm, "really friendly, upbeat person" to whom "family was really, really important."

Dougherty added, "She had a great interest in politics and working for the betterment of the town."

She concluded, "Andover lost a good voice when she passed away."

Likewise, selectman Jay Linddy – who said he'd known Marie for more than 30 years – called her passing "a great loss."

He also mentioned "she was just involved with everything in town," and said when she was town clerk, "everybody who went in there just left with a friendly feeling."

Along with her love of family and friends, Burbank shared his wife also had a love for the town she called home.

"She loved the town of Andover and always tried to be very involved with the town in all types of aspects," he said. "She would always try to get herself involved as much as possible."

Marie became involved with the Library Board of Trustees shortly after moving to town. From there, she spent time as the town clerk, served as a selectwoman from 1995-1997 and spent time on the Board of Finance as an alternate member from 1998-2001 and a full member from 2005-2009. She also spent time serving as clerk for the RHAM Board of Education.

In addition, she was president of the Community Voice Channel, and had been involved with the public access television station since its inception.

Marie also worked as town correspondent for Andover and Bolton for the *Hartford Courant*. She graduated from St. John's University, earned a paralegal degree from Manchester Community College, and certification as a municipal clerk and municipal manager.

But along with her professional and volunteer work, Marie also liked to enjoy life.

"Her favorite spot was our summer cottage in Maine," Burbank stated. "She loved being there more than any place in the world, so we would spend as much time as we could during the summer up there."

In addition, he shared, "We also liked to take cruises, so at least every other year or so we would take a seven-day cruise to either the Caribbean or some other area to have our little special vacation" – helping to ensure Marie lived a life full of all the things she loved best.

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Family and friends gathered at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home in Manchester, Wednesday, July 1; a Mass of Christian Burial celebrat-



**Marie Burbank, an active Andover resident – and wife of First Selectman Bob Burbank – passed away June 27 following a battle with cancer. She's shown here last year with her newest grandson, Alex Egan, the son of her daughter, Noelle Burbank Egan.**

ing Marie was held the following day, July 2, at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron with burial following in Townsend Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in Marie's name to the Andover Congregational Church, Andover Food Pantry P.O. Box 55, Andover, CT 06232.

# New Faces Abound at Andover Board of Education Meeting

by Geeta Schrayter

The scene in the Andover Elementary School Library Wednesday night was one full of new faces, as newly-elected members – and a new superintendent – gathered for the Board of Education meeting.

The July 8 meeting was the first for Superintendent Sally Doyen, who started in the district July 1, following the retirement of 11-year superintendent Andy Maneggia. Along with Doyen, board members Shannon Loudon, Mike Russo and Danielle Maguire participated in their debut meeting after being elected in May, replacing Kim Hawes, Sharyn Keeney and Cathy Danielczuk.

Jay Linddy also returned to the board, replacing Fred Oliver, who had filled Linddy's seat on an interim basis when he resigned in February.

Along with the above new faces, there will soon be another; the board regretfully accepted the resignation of assistant principal/special education director Dawn Davis Wednesday.

Davis joined the district in November 2011 and is leaving to become the director of special education at RHAM.

"My years spent in Andover as a member of the administrative team have been very enjoyable and rewarding," she wrote in her resigna-

tion letter. "I will always look fondly on the extraordinary work done by the Andover Board of Education, administration and teachers to support the young learners of Andover. The best memories of all are all of the children and their families that make up the Andover community."

Davis concluded, "I look forward to continuing to serve them as they leave AES and move 'down the road' to RHAM Middle School."

In response to her resignation, a search committee was established at the meeting to include Principal John Broidy, chair Christina Tamburro, Maguire, a PTA representative and a teacher representative.

Doyen shared 20 applications had been received since the position was posted less than two weeks ago. The search committee's first job will be to sift through the resumes and choose a group of applicants to come in for the first round of interviews.

Broidy shared he'd like the interviews to potentially take place at the end of next week, with the aim of moving things along and having someone in place as soon as possible to prepare for the new school year.

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Also related to Davis, the board learned the

school had received a positive response on the Special Education Data Application and Collection report (SEDAC) through the State Department of Education.

Davis explained in her monthly report the SEDAC "looks at timely and accurate reporting of data for students with disabilities. Our report came back with no problems or concerns."

Doyen stated, "This is a very thorough review and we had no problems." She added she knew how comprehensive the report was since she's had to complete them before as well, and it was a "wonderful accomplishment to get it done" without any problems.

Although Davis' name is on the SEDAC, she added it was a group effort, furthering in her report, "Congratulations to our Special Education case management team and especially Diane Kane, administrative assistant, for achieving this rating once again."

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In addition Wednesday, Doyen gave an update on some of the maintenance projects taking place at the school. A new Energy Management System has been completed and is operational; duct cleaning started June 25 and

is expected to finish this week; the parking lot has been repaired and sealed and repainted; and a number of classrooms have been painted.

Doyen added some other repairs and painting would also take place on the front of the building "so it looks nice." In addition she said the gym floor would be done next month and other "normal summer work" was taking place like general cleaning, cleaning the computers and waxing the floors.

"We're moving along," Doyen said. "If you walk the halls it's a big mess – but that's the way it's supposed to be. Everything's out in the halls – we're getting there."

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Also at Wednesday's meeting, the board elected officers. By unanimous votes, the positions went to the three returning members: Tamburro was voted to remain chairwoman, Whitney Covell was elected vice chair, and Lisa Hewett was elected secretary.

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The date of the next Board of Education meeting is yet to be determined. During this week's meeting the board chose to two possible dates for the meeting – likely Aug. 4 or 6 – depending upon availability.

## Andover Referendum Next Week on Property

by Geeta Schrayter

Voters will decide at a referendum next Tuesday, July 14, whether the town should purchase, demolish and redevelop a piece of blighted property.

The property, a house located at 12 Center St., has been vacant since 2008 and has been described as having extensive damage to both the exterior and interior, with a severely damaged roof, water damage and mold inside the building. The property is also the site of regular trespassing and vandalism.

The property is currently on the market for \$38,500. If purchased by the town, the building would be demolished for a cost estimated to be between \$35,000 and \$55,000 and the 0.62 acres of land would be redeveloped.

Pending approval by the voters, the Board of Finance has already approved up to \$110,000 for the purchase, demolition and lot improvements to the property. Up to \$45,000 of that would come from Open Space; how-

ever, whether the funds would actually come from Open Space (which would restrict the redevelopment options) and where the total amount would come from is also yet to be determined.

Also at the referendum, residents would vote on whether to grant a right-of-way at the end of Riverside Drive to Joshua Clark and Christopher Wierzbicki, owners of a 60-acre piece of property at 64 Long Hill Road. The two need better access to their land, which they hoped to gain through the town easement. If granted, the owners said they planned to repair the road – including a box culvert that's a part of it – at no cost to the town; this would also provide access to a piece of town property that's currently difficult to reach.

The owners plan to build two houses on the land, and said they'd put part of the property into a conservation easement.

Voting takes place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the town office community room, 17 School Rd.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Willard Miles

Willard "Bill" Miles, 77, of Lake Hayward, East Haddam, passed away Friday, July 3, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Manhattan, N.Y., on Aug. 6, 1937, he was the son of the late John Miles and Audrey (Walters) Miles.

Bill married Alice Chamberlain Moore on May 26, 1979. They moved to the tight-knit Lake Hayward community in 1982 and enjoyed the lake life.

In addition to his beloved wife of 36 years, he is survived by his brother Stephen and wife Jeanette of Florida, daughter Roxanne and husband Richard Roy of East Haddam; two grandchildren, Joshua and Chelsea Roy and numerous extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his son, Willard John "BJ" Miles just three months ago, his sisters Audrey and Monica and his brother, John.

After graduating from Bacon Academy in Colchester (Class of 1955), Bill served in the U.S. Army for a short time but was granted an honorable hardship discharge in order to run the family farm on Nelkin Road in Colchester, when his uncle Frank passed away unexpectedly. He was self-employed for many years as the owner of Advance Service Autobody in Colchester and as a real estate broker. He passed on his work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and knack for fixing cars to his son BJ. Bill was also a deputy sheriff in the 1970s, owned other businesses and held other positions throughout the years such as a superintendent on bridge repairs and in the trucking industry.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing and watching NASCAR racing lately following Connecticut native Joey Logano. He was an avid fan of UConn women's basketball. To his grandchildren he was known as "Poppy" and he was very proud that they are UConn alumni.

He firmly believed in his Second Amendment rights and was a lifetime member of the NRA and the North American Hunting Club.

Bill was a survivor of the tragic Hartford Circus Fire on July 6, 1944. He attended the circus that day with his aunt Edith, and sisters Audrey and Monica. The fire claimed Edith and Monica's lives. Bill was often asked to retell the story of that sad day and he attended many events honoring those that did not survive.

Bill had a quirky sense of humor that was enjoyed by all those who knew him and he had a nickname for everyone. Most importantly, he will be sadly missed but remembered fondly for his love and devotion to family and friends.

In keeping with Bill's wishes, a celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers or donations, consider an act of kindness to others on Bill's behalf.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of his services. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Brian L. Woyнар

Brian L. Woyнар, 52, of Portland, passed away peacefully Tuesday, July 7, at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, surrounded by family and friends.

Brian was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed many family trips with his brothers and family trips to Alaska with his father.

He is survived by his mother, Jeannette Parker and her husband, David, of Portland; father, Albert Woyнар and his wife, Irene, of Glastonbury; Joanne Woyнар and his daughters, Jennifer and Jackie; brothers, Michael and his wife, Mary Lou, Steven and his partner, Anna; brothers, Richard, David and Joseph Tomkiewicz, Andy Parker and daughter, Ellen Parker; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 11, with a Mass at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Relatives and friends may call Saturday from 9-10:30 a.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire and Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

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



## Marlborough

### Dorothy E. Nowsch

Dorothy E. Nowsch, 88, of Marlborough, widow of the late Robert A. Nowsch, died Sunday July 5th at Marlborough Health Care. Born July 5, 1927, in Marlborough she was the daughter of the late Roy B. and Catherine (Tisch) Pettengill.

Dorothy was a life-long resident of Marlborough and had worked at Williams Soap Factory in Glastonbury, Artistic Wire in East Hampton, Hamilton Standard in East Hartford, Sal's Laundry Mat in Manchester, the kitchen in RHAM High School in Hebron, Nichols Bus service as a driver for 35 years, Easter Seals where she drove a van and was a night supervisor. She also drove the senior van in Marlborough and worked in the senior center.

Dorothy was a member of Democratic Party in Marlborough and received Democrat of the year, was a member of the Moose Lodge, Lions Club, Board of Education, Marlborough Congregational Church, Red Hat Society, president of Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc. and received an award from the Marlborough Fife and Drum Corp for outstanding work and dedication. She also received an award from Marlborough Grange for Citizen of the Year.

She is survived by her five children, Dorothy Hodges of New London, Phyllis McKinney and her husband Kirk of Glastonbury, James Grossman and his wife Maryann of Marlborough, Charles Grossman and his wife Christine of Marlborough, and Rosemary DeTrafford of Pennsylvania; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, July 9. A graveside service will be held today, July 10, at 10:30 a.m., in Marlboro Cemetery, followed by a service at Marlborough Congregational Church at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc. P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447 or to Marlborough Congregational Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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



## Middle Haddam

### Michael D. Kearney

Michael D. Kearney, 61, of Middle Haddam and Charlestown, R.I., beloved husband of Patricia (Williams) Kearney, died Monday, July 6, at St. Francis Hospital after a brief illness. Michael was born Nov. 12, 1953, in Hartford, raised in Hebron, the son of the late Leeman and Gloria (Dobson) Kearney.

A consummate learner, Michael earned two master's degrees while working full-time and raising a family. Michael retired in July of 2013 following a distinguished 40-year career at Pratt & Whitney/UTC where he was an engineering manager. He was a member of the Irish American Home Society in Glastonbury and a member of the board of directors of the Soniquipaug Association in Charlestown, R.I.

Michael will be best remembered for his great appreciation and love of the ocean. An avid boater, Michael spent many years traveling the world in search of that "one particular harbor." He found his ocean in Charlestown, R.I., where he spent his retirement painstakingly remodeling his summer home as a legacy for his family and friends.

Michael was a faithful and devoted husband to his best friend and wife of 38 years, Patricia. Besides his wife he is survived by his sons, Brendan Michael Kearney and his wife Colleen of Glastonbury, Timothy Patrick Kearney of East Hampton; two sisters, Carol Raulston and husband Jim of Florida, Patricia Mitchell and husband Tom of Arizona and Maine; the love of his life, to whom he was "Grumpy," his grandson, Christian Patrick Kearney; three sisters-in-law, Ellen Zagorski and husband Jim of South Windsor, Mary Kate Williams of Buffalo, N.Y., Laura Laraia and husband Mark of East Hampton; several nieces and nephews; and special friends Mark and Kate Sloan of Glastonbury.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m., at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Rhode Island, P.O. Box 406, Charlestown, RI 02813.

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



## Amston

### Joseph Burba

Joseph Burba, 92, of Amston, widower of his loving wife Christine "Pagach" Burba, died on Monday, July 6, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born Dec. 28, 1922, in Colchester, he was the son of the late William and Victoria "Sapieszka" Burba.

He is survived by his son, Paul Burba of Moodus; a dear niece, Joan Toomey of Hebron; daughter Page Lindroth of West Milford, N.J.; grandchildren Paul, Ashley, Alex and Mason; and numerous family and friends.

He is predeceased by his stepson Gary, stepdaughter Miriam, his sisters Pat, Sophie, Josephine, and brothers William, and Ben.

Joe grew up on a dairy farm in Colchester. There he learned farming, the outdoors, respect and dedication to family, friends, and country. He entered the Navy at the onset of WWII and participated in the Normandy invasion. He reenlisted and served a second tour of duty in the Pacific theater. He worked after the war as a silver smith at Amston Silver Co. and then became an Experimental Test Technician for Pratt and Whitney. Retiring in 1988, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren Paul and Ashley.

Joe loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman, hunter, trapper, and harvested wild mushrooms. He loved to garden and thus always had fish and vegetables for family and friends. A long-time dedicated member of the Colchester Fish and Game Club he enjoyed witty discussions and fun with numerous friends. He was a Man of the Year and served as a conservation officer. He was always ready to lend a hand for many club events. Also a dedicated member of the Colchester VFW, he served as commander for numerous years, was a grand marshal of the Colchester Memorial Day parade, and ensured veterans were respected by all. Even as an elderly man he stood for days at local stores, making certain the annual Poppy sale for veterans was a success.

He was a dedicated husband to his wife Christine and a good father to his children, grandchildren, family, and friends. Joe will be missed by all who knew him.

Services will be held today, July 10. Calling hours begin at 10 a.m., immediately followed by a funeral service with full military honors at 11:30 a.m. at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

## Colchester

### Helen L. Roberts

Helen L. Roberts, 80, of Colchester, formerly of Enfield, passed away suddenly Thursday, July 2, at her home. Born in Dundee, Scotland, Oct. 28, 1934, she was the oldest daughter of seven children of the late Mr. James Logan and Mrs. Jane Logan.

Helen emigrated to America at age 18 and married her beloved husband, Alfred J. Roberts on Nov. 5. After Alfred's passing in 1999, Helen moved to Colchester to live with her daughter Diane Coppinger and her children, Tassiana and Alesha, all of whom were grateful to have been able to care for her till the end.

Helen enjoyed bingo, rummy at Chestelm Adult Day Service and crossword puzzles. She was a communicant at St. Andrew's Church in Colchester. Most importantly, she will be sadly missed but remembered fondly as a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Helen also leaves a daughter, Jane Grogan, and her son, Brian Grogan; several siblings and numerous extended family members and friends at the Chestelm Elder Day Care.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, July 8, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service followed immediately at the funeral home. Burial was held privately in the Enfield Cemetery.

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

## Portland

### Virginia Mae Montgomery

Virginia Mae Montgomery, "Ginger," age 75, was born June 30, 1939, in Hazelton, Pa., and passed away in Crossville, Tenn., Wednesday, June 29. She grew up in White Haven, Pa., and made warm and welcoming homes with her cherished husband, Chuck, in Portland, Crossville, Tenn., and Barefoot Bay, Fla.

Ginger made everyone around her feel special. She was talented, adding her own flair to everything she touched from her gardens to all of the beautiful crafts she made. She had a wonderful sense of humor, an infectious laugh and a twinkle in her eye, but most of all, she was a warm and compassionate person.

After graduating from business school, she became a teacher's aide and then school secretary in the Portland school system for 23 years. She deeply loved being a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and spending time with her family, friends and her beloved dogs, who gave her so much comfort.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Montgomery; daughter, Jill McDowell (Jim); son, Eric Montgomery (Danette); grandchildren, Scott Raiola (Jaclyn), Chelsie Raiola, Kyle Montgomery, Evan Montgomery (Ashley) and Morgan Montgomery; and two great-grandchildren.

Ginger was preceded in death by her parents, Ted and Helen Weaver.

A celebration of her life will be announced. Donations may be made to the ALS Association.

## Andover

### Jason L. Marchand

Jason L. Marchand, 38, of Andover, formerly of Willington and Manchester, father of Austin Wayne Marchand and Trevor James Marchand, died Friday, July 3, from injuries received in an altercation at his home.

Jay was born in Manchester on June 13, 1977, son of Louis A. and Linda (Poulin) Marchand of Hollis Center, Maine, formerly of Manchester. He was raised in Manchester, graduated from Manchester High School, and had been a resident in Willington before moving to Andover in 2014. He had been a delivery driver for Dari Farms in Tolland for the past 12 years.

He enjoyed fishing, four-wheeling, cooking and hanging out by the fire pit, but most of all spending time with his boys.

With his sons and parents, he is survived by his sister, Tammy Marchand of Hollis Center and formerly of Manchester; his paternal grandmother, Doris Marchand of Manchester; his maternal grandfather, Norman Poulin of Vernon; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family; and his fiancée, Suzanne Wich, of Andover.

Jay was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, Beatrice Poulin, and his paternal grandfather, Robert Marchand.

Visiting hours were held Thursday, July 9, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, July 10, at 10 a.m. at St. Bartholomew Church, 45 Ludlow Rd., Manchester. Please go directly to the church.

Memorial donations may be made to Education Fund for Austin and Trevor Marchand, c/o United Bank, 1671 Boston Turnpike, Coventry, CT 06238.

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

## Portland

### James Joseph Bell

James Joseph "Joe" Bell, 85 of Higganum, formerly of Portland, beloved husband of Frances (Apanell) Bell, died Thursday, July 2, at Water's Edge Health Care in Middletown. He was born in Middletown, son of the late James J. and Lottie (Kuzina) Bell.

Prior to his retirement, James worked for Standard Knapp for over 35 years as a lead receiving clerk. He was a veteran of the United States Army during the Korean War.

Besides his wife Frances, James is survived by his daughters, Donna Berger and her husband Joseph of Meriden, Helen Bell Zavaglia and her husband Tony of Higganum, and Rosemarie Bell of Glastonbury; sons, Stanley Bell of Colchester and Daniel Bell of Columbia; four grandchildren, Sheri and Elise Berger, Antonio and Carmela Zavaglia; and a great-grandchild, Tyler Estrella.

He was predeceased by his sons Michael and Bruce Bell and a half-brother, Jesse Hines.

Funeral services were held in the chapel at State Veterans' Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown, Thursday, July 9. There were no calling hours. Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Obituaries continued

### Gilead

#### Wilbur Strong Porter

Wilbur Strong Porter, 89, lifelong resident of the Gilead section of Hebron, passed away peacefully Monday, July 6, with his family by his side. He was the beloved husband of 65 years to Maralyn (Ruschmann) Porter.

Born Oct. 19, 1925, in Willimantic, he was a son of the late Winthrop S. and Ethel (Hills) Porter. He attended the one-room Gilead Hill Schoolhouse and graduated from Windham High School. Mr. Porter was a proud veteran, having served in the US Navy during WWII on the USS Mansfield. Following his active service, he became a lifetime member of the American Legion, Post 95, Hebron. He was twice designated as the Grand Marshall of the Hebron Memorial Day Parade.

Wilbur was a second-generation dairy farmer and owner of Porter Farm, Inc. in Gilead. He held offices with both the Connecticut Farm Bureau and Tolland County Farm Bureau.

Wilbur was an active member of his community, serving on several town committees, currently serving as Sexton for the Gilead Cemetery Association. He served as a past president and Board of Trustees member for the Douglas Library Association of which he was a member for over forty years. He was a member of the Gilead Congregational Church for seventy years where he served on many committees and as a deacon. In 1990, Wilbur was named Hebron Citizen of the Year, and was a member of the Colchester Fish and Game Club.

Wilbur enjoyed travel, hunting, fishing, maintaining and walking his property, and was always interested in current events.

Wilbur will be sadly missed but always remembered fondly for his love and devotion to God, family, community and country.

In addition to his beloved wife Maralyn, survivors include daughters, Susan Porter, Peggy and husband Robert Gasper all of Hebron; two grandchildren, Sarah and husband Mario Costa of Wethersfield, Kevin and Lindsay Santos Gasper of Hebron; two great-grandchildren, Ryan Costa and Easton Gasper; a brother, Henry Porter of Florida; a sister, Beatrice Anderson of East Hampton; and numerous extended family and friends.

He was predeceased by two sons-in-law, Mark Hollister and Bill Harris; a brother, Douglas H. Porter and a niece, Jane McComber Desmarais.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 11, directly at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. Full military honors will follow at the church. Burial will be private, at the convenience of the family.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Gilead Congregational Church Memorial Fund, or the Douglas Library Association, 22 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of these services.

### Colchester

#### Genevieve E. Rich

Genevieve E. (McDonnell) Rich, 91 of Harrington Court, Colchester formerly of Pukallus Avenue, Norwich, died peacefully Wednesday, July 8. Born in Norwich, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Annie (Banker) McDonnell.

Genevieve worked as a supervisor in the admitting department at William W. Backus Hospital for 23 years. A graduate of Norwich Free Academy, she made lifelong friends with her classmates. Known as "The Club," they enjoyed playing cards and traveling together. She also enjoyed walking and swimming.

Genevieve is survived by her sons, Michael Rich of Voluntown and David Rich of Shelton; her daughter, Catherine Pettit of San Angelo, Texas; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her son, Paul Rich; her sister, Mary Krukowski; and her husband, Laurence Rich.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Genevieve's family Saturday, July 11, at 9 a.m., in the Cummings Gagne Funeral Home, 82 Cliff St., Norwich, followed by a Funeral Mass of Christian Burial in St. Patrick's Cathedral, 213 Broadway, Norwich. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery.

For memorial guestbook, visit [cummings-gagnefh.com](http://cummings-gagnefh.com).

### East Hampton Police News

6/23: Davin Jitlall, 22, of 35 Clearfield Rd., Wethersfield, was issued a summons for failure to obey a stop sign and operating under suspension, East Hampton Police said.

6/25: Ryan Scott Richardson, 21, of 39 Phelps Rd., Marlborough was arrested and charged with illegal storage of narcotics and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

7/1: Jayme M. Ficara, 23, of 43 Neptune Ave., Moodus, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, police said.

### Colchester Police News

6/30: Colchester Police said they are investigating after two plastic injection mold cavities (metal casts) were stolen from Hnat Mold & Die on Scott Hill Road. Police said the items are worth approximately \$4,000. The case is under investigation and anyone with information can call Officer Eric Watrous at 860-537-7270.

7/2: State Police said Melissa Gamache, 39, of 72 Windham Ave., was arrested and charged with violation of conditions of release and violation of a protective order.

7/2: Colchester Police said they are investigating after a larceny from a home on Buckeley Hill Road. Approximately \$1,500 worth of tools and electronics was stolen between June 13 and June 20, police said. A suspect has been named and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information can call Officer Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7270.

7/2: Colchester Police said they are investi-

### Marlborough Police News

7/3: State Police said Stephen Ferrante, 27, of 276 Scott Hill Rd., Lebanon, was arrested and charged with speeding, DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

7/3: State Police said Joshua Healy, 32, of 367 Dale St., Chicopee, Mass., was arrested and charged with speeding and DUI.

gating after over \$10,000 was stolen from Illiano's Restaurant on South Main Street over the course of the last six months. The case is under investigation and anyone with information can call Officer Eric Watrous at 860-537-7270.

7/2: State Police said Awosika Bankole, 28, of 264 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, DUI, operating without a license, possession of less than half an ounce of cannabis and criminal impersonation.

7/3: Colchester Police said Vanessa Reynolds, 58, of 592 Deep River Rd., was arrested and charged with interfering with police, disorderly conduct and failure to submit to fingerprinting.

7/4: State Police said Jason Smith, 38, of 55 Renee Dr., was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny.