

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**Blast from the Past...** These signs may be relics from another era, but they fit in perfectly at the new Carter Hill Filling Station, a labor of love for Marlborough residents Mitch and Hazel Lichatz. The station harkens passers-by back to the 1930s. See story and more photos on page 14.

## Stepping Up Gridiron Safety

by Geeta Schrayter

Summer may be the season that's still on the minds of many, but along with the reappearance of back-to-school commercials, another activity has already started up that hints at fall's impending arrival: football practice.

Participants in RHAM Youth Football and Cheer (RYFC) started practice Monday, and as the players work to hone their skills for the upcoming season, they'll be doing so with helmets covered in Guardian Caps, a soft-shell layer that reduces the impact the head takes in a hit by up to 33 percent.

The practice caps, which were first used last year, are just one of a number of ways the organization is responding to the concern of football-related injuries – particularly concussions – that have been a major topic of discussion as of late.

In addition to the caps, this year the organization began participating with Heads Up Football, a non-profit program established by the NFL's youth football arm, USA Football. The program, explained RYFC President Ken Kron, "stresses the importance of tackling correctly and proper positioning."

For instance, Kron explained athletes used to be taught to "bite the ball."

"So if you were carrying the ball in your right arm, we would come in head first and 'bite the

ball,' bringing the helmet to the ball to try to jar the ball loose," he stated. In addition, when coming in for a low tackle, players would also often lead with their heads. But the Heads Up Football program teaches athletes how to maintain proper body positioning to reduce the chance of injury.

"What this Heads Up program now does is [it] teaches proper body positioning so you're really leading with your big muscles in your torso, and you're coming up through a tackle so that your head is up," Kron explained, adding, "It sounds simple but the program is very sophisticated. It's hours of instruction that every coach has to go through."

RYFC has made participation in Heads Up Football a part of the program's bylaws, and mandatory for every team and each coach. And along with tackling and positioning, the program also focuses on equipment and fittings, as well as the signs, symptoms and dangers of concussions.

Regarding equipment Kron said, "This sounds like another obvious kind of thing you can do to prevent injury but there are many, many kids on the field or who have been on the field in years past [with] equipment not properly fitted."

He continued, "If their helmet is a little bit

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## Longtime State Senator Remembered

by John Tyczkowski

Classy. Intelligent. Passionate.

Those are just some of the words used this week to describe Eileen Daily, a 20-year veteran of the state senate who died last Thursday, July 30, after battling lung cancer for several years. She was 72.

Daily had retired from the senate in November of 2012 at the end of her term, citing health concerns stemming from her cancer diagnosis.

She represented the 33rd District, which contains *Rivereast* towns Portland, East Hampton and Colchester, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Westbrook and part of Old Saybrook.

One major project from her time in the Senate included working to help create the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, which numerous *Rivereast* towns and others use for large-scale capital improvements.

Other projects included environmental efforts within the district, including the Salmon River, the Eight Mile River and Westbrook Harbor.

Most recently, she was the chairholder of the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics at Central Connecticut State University's Center for Public Policy and Social Research.

O'Neill's widow, Nikki O'Neill, said simply Daily was "a great senator, and a very honest, fun-loving and intelligent person."

"At the wake there were politicians from all over the state, ones that she knew from years

ago, all the way up until today," she said. "There were long lines, and steady lines. It was a wonderful tribute to her."

One of those attendees included Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman.

O'Neill said she met Daily through her husband, when he was the house majority leader.

"I knew her on more of a social basis, but she was such a classy lady, and a gracious and gentle person," she said. "Bill thought the world of her too, and we even had a fundraiser at our house for her. She represented East Hampton well."

"She was respected by so many people, and all types of people felt close to her," she said. "We were heartbroken to hear the news."

East Haddam resident Mary Ellen Klinck has been involved in 33rd District politics for nearly 50 years, serving on the town's Board of Selectmen for several years, and also chairing the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for 35 years. She said Daily was "very passionate about her job."

"She had her ideas of what was right and she would stick by them, and people respected her for that," Klinck said. "She didn't brag about her accomplishments, but people knew what she did, and they respected her for those as well."

"And she also worked both sides of the aisle, which is very important in politics," she said.

Klinck first met Daily when the latter was serving as the first selectwoman of Westbrook, and from there became involved in supporting

her senate bids.

In one case, that support involved becoming her stand-in when Daily suffered a boating injury just in time for campaign season.

"She was unable to campaign, so I went around and represented her in public many times. People were very confused," she said. "We're both Irish, we both look alike. It was a lot of fun."

Klinck also said she was "very lucky to have the opportunity to be close" with Daily.

"We both came from Irish stock, both our parents were born in Ireland. When you have that same background, you understand each other completely," she said. "Family was very important to her, and she had a great sense of humor and a wonderful laugh – you could always hear that laugh from a long distance."

"There was laughter and clapping at her funeral," Klinck added, "which is exactly what she would want."

Susan Bransfield, first selectwoman of Portland, was a good friend of Daily's, and said she was a "wonderful and well-loved woman" who "will be missed dearly."

"Eileen was a major help to the town of Portland, in terms of education and the STEAP grant program specifically," she said. "For example, during the high school renovation process, she was instrumental in helping us secure all the reimbursement that was due to us from the state."

In addition, Bransfield said Daily made her-



Eileen Daily

self visible in town when she could, despite her state duties.

"She took time out to go to the Portland fair each October, and she made sure she took time out to meet with people in town who were having difficulties," she said. "And at the same time she helped manage the finances for the entire

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**Gridiron Safety cont. from Front Page**  
 loose or their chin guard is a little loose, or their mouth piece isn't properly fitted or their shoulder pads aren't the right size – all these little things just increase your chances of getting injured. And again, it's so obvious, but really, enough attention has not been paid to that in the past."

Regarding the concussion training, Kron said, "We've always had concussion training but this kind of takes it another step further, so [concussions are] a little bit easier to recognize. If somebody [is asked if they're hurt] they usually say 'no,' but there are symptoms that you can look for."

Some of those symptoms, listed in a Heads Up fact sheet for coaches, include a player appearing dazed or stunned, being confused about their assignment or position, forgetting an instruction or play, being unsure of the score or opponent, moving clumsily or having poor balance, losing consciousness, and changes in mood, behavior or personality.

Other information provided includes a four-step action plan to follow if a coach suspects an athlete has a concussion, as well as five gradual steps to follow to help safely return an athlete to play following an injury under the supervision of a health care professional.

In addition, Heads Up Football also addresses the very issue Kron mentioned: sometimes athletes automatically say 'no' when asked if they're hurt.

The program explains, "Sometimes people wrongly believe that it shows strength and courage to play while injured. Discourage others from pressuring injured athletes to play. Some athletes may also try to hide their symptoms. Don't let your athlete convince you that he is 'just fine' or that he can 'tough it out.' Emphasize to athletes and parents that playing with a concussion is dangerous."

And, as a coach, knowing what to look for can help them make a call even if the athlete doesn't report any symptoms. "And as soon as you see any of those symptoms we are instructed to take them out of play immediately," Kron stated.

As Heads Up phrases it, "When in doubt, sit them out."

Along with the above, Kron and RYFC vice president Sue Poudrier also mentioned another change made last year: the option for parents to have their child take a pre-season cognitive test at Elite Sports Medicine in Farmington, a sports medicine facility that specializes in concussions. The test is used to establish a baseline for the athlete, and if the player is ever injured, they can go back and retake the test for comparison to help determine if there are any changes due to injury.

"That's part of the problem with first time kids who get concussions," Poudrier stated. "There's nothing to compare it to."

"There's no x-ray you can take or test you can take like for a broken bone," Kron added.

"There's no such thing for a concussion."

The cost for the test is funded by RYFC "so any child who wanted to go with their parents to take the test, we were reimbursing that," Poudrier stated.

And, Kron added, "All of these things taken together are helpful in keeping injuries down." He continued, "Safety is our main priority. We understand the game. We feel with proper instruction and equipment, we can limit injuries."

Poudrier added, "We want people to know that we're all about safety measures – and how great the program is."

Both Poudrier and Kron have children in RYFC and said they hoped raising awareness about the types of safety measures RYFC takes would help parents feel more comfortable about signing their kids up for the sport as well – one they both praised for the way it brings kids together, and prepares them physically and emotionally for life both on and off the field.

"We take safety very seriously," Kron concluded. "That's our number one priority – then the sport."

Although practice has already begun, Kron and Poudrier said it's not too late for first-time registrants to sign up. However, Kron recommended signing up within the next week or two; the first game of the season is Sept. 13.

For more information on RHAM Youth Football and Cheer, go to [rhamyfc.org](http://rhamyfc.org).



**Participants in RHAM Youth Football and Cheer are already back on the practice fields – practice began Monday – and as they hone their skills and work on their drills they'll be wearing helmets covered with Guardian Caps. Implemented last year, Guardian Caps are a soft-shell layer that attach to the outsides of helmets and reduce the impact the head takes in a hit by up to 33 percent. The caps are just one of a number of steps the organization is taking related to player safety.**

**Daily Remembered cont. from Front Page**  
 State of Connecticut."

Bransfield also called Daily a mentor to her. "Eileen started out on the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen in Westbrook," she said. "And she always had tips and advice for me, while I was on the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen here in Portland."

In a statement issued last Thursday, Art Linares, current state senator for the 33rd District, called Daily "a true champion for small towns and for the people of the 33rd Senate District."

"She worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents, and her environmental advocacy will be a lasting legacy for our region and throughout Connecticut. She was personable and she knew the issues inside and out. Sen. Daily was respected by everyone at the State Capitol," he said. "Today, we honor Sen. Daily for her service and we remember her many accomplishments. Her passing is a tremendous loss for Westbrook and for Connecticut. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sen. Daily's family and friends."

## Personnel Changes Coming to CES, Special Education

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

It was a case of hello, goodbye and hello again at last week's special meeting of the Board of Education.

The board appointed a new director of special education, and also accepted the resignation of Colchester Elementary School Principal Amity Goss, hiring a familiar name to take her place.

The board tapped Kelly McNamara of Preston to be the new director of pupil services and special education, replacing Kathy Shaughnessy, who stepped down from the role last month after a series of parent complaints and a long review process during the past several months.

McNamara will start Aug. 10.

"The board was impressed with Dr. McNamara's experience as a school psychologist and her knowledge of special education and pupil services," Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said.

McNamara was selected after an initial screening process and interviews by a committee of district and building administrators, teachers, a school psychologist, special education office professionals, parents and the Board of Education.

"Dr. McNamara comes to us with a background as a school psychologist and a full-time

teaching professor at Southern Connecticut State University," Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu said. "While at Southern she taught classes in behavioral bases of behavior, assessment, group dynamics, counseling, curriculum and ethics and law. After a rigorous hiring process, we are extremely fortunate to have Dr. McNamara and her knowledge base as part of our team."

McNamara has 14 years of experience and most recently held a teaching position at SCSU. Prior to teaching there, she was a school psychologist for 10 years. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in school psychology, and a sixth-year certificate of advanced graduate studies from Tufts University. She also holds a Ph.D in educational psychology from the University of Connecticut.



**Kelly McNamara**

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Goss, who has been with the district for 10 years, resigned effective Aug. 9. Just this past

March, she was named the permanent principal at CES, after serving in the role in an interim capacity since July 2014.

Goss is headed to Old Saybrook as a curriculum director. It's a homecoming of sorts for the seasoned administrator, as she formerly taught first, second, third, and fourth grades at Old Saybrook Public Schools before coming to Colchester in 2005. In Colchester, she served first as a literary specialist and then became the CES assistant principal in 2008.

In her resignation letter to the district, Goss said she is leaving with "mixed emotion."

"I have worked with colleagues I will always aspire to emulate because of their passion for education and their unwavering commitment to children," Goss said in her letter. "And, while I know that the faculty, staff, and students at Colchester Elementary School will continue to be a community of enthusiastic learners, I also know that I will miss being a part of that family."

To replace Goss, the district hired Judy O'Meara, a former assistant principal at Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

O'Meara, a Colchester resident, will begin her new position as principal at CES this month.

"We are excited to welcome Ms. O'Meara back to the district, where she has worked as an administrator, attended school herself, and

currently resides," Mathieu said. "We are extremely fortunate to have an experienced principal returning to an outstanding school."

"I know she will continue the momentum that has been created this year with our youngest learners," he continued. "CES is such as special place and Principal O'Meara is excited to continue the educational journey with this excellent staff for many years to come."

O'Meara has 14 years of experience and was assistant principal at JJIS before accepting a job as principal in Plainfield in August 2013. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Central Connecticut State University, her master's degree in elementary education from the University of Hartford and her sixth-year certificate in administration from Sacred Heart University.

"We know Ms. O'Meara is a talented administrator and the board is thrilled to welcome her back home," Goldstein said.



**Judy O'Meara**



Those driving past 78 East Hampton Rd. these days might think they've traveled back in time. Mitch and Hazel Lichatz have restored the old Carter Hill Filling Station to its former glory. At right is what the property looked like in June, before the couple worked their magic.

## Old Route 66 Gas Station Back Alive in Marlborough

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

One couple is turning back time to the 1930s on a stretch of Route 66, with the restoration of the Carter Hill Filling Station.

Mitch and Hazel Lichatz live next door to the vacant, crumbling, lime green former gas station at 78 East Hampton Rd. Mitch said when the property became available, it was an easy choice to buy it; he purchased the property in June.

"We had to get it mainly for this," Mitch said this week, pointing to the restored gas station. "It's something that's not around anymore."

Charles Carter and Charles Carter Jr. originally built the Carter Hill Filling Station in 1900, alongside Route 66. However, in 1932, the state relocated Route 66 – and built the men a new station right alongside the new main road.

Allen Horowitz eventually acquired the property and operated a blueberry stand there, selling blueberries picked from a blueberry patch across the street. At the time, Mitch said, the patch was one of the biggest in the area.

In 1945, Horowitz left for what would ultimately be the end of World War II, leaving be-

hind the station. It ceased being a gas station at that point, but renters ran small fruit stands or tag sales at the building until 1970.

Although gas won't be flowing through the pumps at the new restored filling station, Mitch said he hopes to make the location a hotspot for car enthusiasts and motorcycle owners to stop and swap stories.

"Hopefully it's going to be really cool," Mitch said.

Indeed, only two months into the project, the station is already pretty "cool." One of Mitch's vehicles, a 1965 Chrysler Imperial Crown coupe, sits outside near the pumps, along with one of his motorcycles. The station even has the little touches like a Charles Carter Jr. Harley Davidson Sales and Service sign and other items from the time period.

In short, the property has come a long way from the overgrown, quickly deteriorating condition it was in before.

Since June, the couple has painted the building, built a small parking lot, put gravel in along with foundations for the pumps, and placed the restored pumps and other memorabilia at the

station. The two also installed a security system with cameras, to make sure their hard work doesn't go to waste.

Since the pair has been seen outside working, people have been stopping by and dropping off old license plates or cans.

"We never expected the number of people who stop by and donate things," Hazel said.

One of their projects, Mitch said, is the restoration of the 1900 outhouse that sits on the property. In its prime, he said, people would have pulled over on Route 66, used the outhouse, and went on their way. All that's there now, he said, is two holes in the ground.

"It's nonstop that's for sure," Hazel said of the projects around the property.

One of the buildings on the property is an old blue barn that Mitch said he hopes to turn into a country-type store.

Along with the station, the Lichatzes purchased the 10-acre farm that the station sits on.

Mitch said the couple is "winging it" for the farming side of things. Neither have any farming experience. Before retiring last year, the two owned Mitch's Place in New Britain, a busi-

ness that sold items from stores that had closed, along with closeouts from Costco.

"Eventually we will do an outdoor kitchen and pavilion," Mitch said. "We want to have a fruit and veggie stand with homegrown crops from the property."

The couple said so far the town has been behind them, helping them pass through building applications.

Eventually the two also hope to host auto shows and bike shows and make the property a general hang out for people to show off their cars and swap stories of Route 66.

People can view the progress of the Lichatzes by passing them by at 78 East Hampton Rd., especially on weekends.

"We play '60s music on weekends," Mitch said. "Anyone can stop by while we're out here. Everyone drives by and honks their horns."

The progress can also be found at [Facebook.com/carterhillfillingstation](https://www.facebook.com/carterhillfillingstation).

To see more photos of the new-look Carter Hill Filling Station, visit [facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin](https://www.facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin).

## No Hitch for Andover Hop River Race

by Geeta Schrayter

At Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Rich Baber, co-founder of The First Mile racing, was present to provide information about the third annual Hop River 5K and 10K road race taking place this Saturday, Aug. 8.

The majority of the race takes place on the Hop River Rail Trail, but was a topic of discussion last year after safety concerns were expressed over the route, particularly for the 10K race which had participants crossing three roads in town.

On Wednesday, Baber showed the signs he'd be placing at each road crossing to make motorists aware of the runners, and shared there'd also be cones to create shoulders on the road for runners to run in, and a number of volunteers – 12 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members to handle traffic and another seven for water stations, etc. – on hand to assist. In addition, he said steps were being taken to avoid any parking issues, as last year not enough volunteers were on hand to direct people to the correct parking areas and they ended up parking on the street.

Baber also shared the non-profit had partnered with the Andover Food Pantry once again and planned to donate \$100 if there are 100 participants, then another \$5 per entry after that.

Last year, concerns that were found to be a result of misinformation were also expressed as some thought Baber had failed to give a do-

nation to the Andover Food Pantry following the inaugural race in 2013. However, it was determined Baber hadn't partnered with a charity for the debut race.

In addition Wednesday, Baber said if it would make the town more comfortable, the direction of the 10K race could be changed so that it would head toward the east instead of the west, which would reduce the number of road crossings. And when the board spoke about the race later in the meeting, they voted to do just that.

The Hop River 5K and 10K will take place this Saturday, Aug. 8 at 9 a.m. Race day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$25 for either the 5K or the 10K.

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Also at the meeting, a number of actions were taken to help streamline town processes, garner information about some of the goings-on in town or help improve things moving forward.

First, the board moved to establish an Insurance Commission to analyze the various forms of insurance in town. Selectman Jay Lindy explained there used to be a commission in town that would meet and discuss insurance. He called the commission important for understanding what insurances the town currently has, what they used to have and ways to save moving forward.

Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire added the commission would be focusing on all types of insurance in the town, and, on Thursday he

elaborated and said he hoped people in town would get involved who had experience in the field.

Maguire explained, "What I'm trying to do is get more involvement within the town. So hopefully what we can do is get some additional people that have skills." He added Lindy made the motion to establish the commission, "but that's something I would have done anyway because there's people in town with more knowledge than I or other members of the board related to insurance and that's who I want to get involved."

He added, "So on every committee in every department, I'm trying to get people who have skills in that area to lend their expertise to the town."

Also Wednesday, the board approved a motion to have First Selectman Bob Burbank analyze the space in the town office building to try to find potential reconfigurations to ease some space issues, and report back to the board.

"We are tight on space. And we all know it," said Maguire. "We have to look at everybody in general."

In addition, the board voted to have a summarized tax collector's report included in the packet for each month's selectmen meeting. Maguire had provided one at the meeting this week, and the board found it helpful in understanding the information.

The board also voted to approve a motion to

create an Annual Report Committee to work on preparing an annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30. Many of these suggestions were brought up by Maguire, and he shared this week the annual report "summarizes what has occurred in town over the course of a fiscal year."

At present, compiling such a report has not been done on an annual basis.

Maguire also asked that a complete list of town contracts, including their expiration date, be compiled to help the board stay informed and prepare for when new contracts need to be negotiated "and hopefully," he said Thursday, "improve the bidding process for all town contracts moving forward."

Finally, the board voted to allow Board of Finance Chairman Dan Warren to prepare a Fund Balance Reserve policy and bring it back to the selectmen for approval.

Speaking on some of the changes he suggested, Maguire said Thursday, "The issue is in the past we have not probably been as open as we should be, so I'm hopeful that as a Board of Selectmen we can all work together to provide all the interested parties with information so they can make the appropriate decisions. And then let's get some things done."

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 7 p.m. in the Town Office Community Room, 17 School Rd.

# Portland Selectmen Endorse Report on Elmcrest Development

by John Tyczkowski

Wednesday evening, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to endorse the completed Vibrant Communities Initiative Final Report on the Elmcrest Campus development at the corner of routes 17A and 66.

The report is the final component of a Vibrant Communities Initiative study from the Connecticut Trust for Historical Preservation, funded by a \$50,000 competitive grant awarded to the town last fall.

Available for viewing at Town Hall, Portland Library and at [portlandct.org](http://portlandct.org), the report details three development scenarios for the site, as well as a market study on the feasibility of specific housing and building options, and breaks down public input from two separate workshops.

It also contains a suggested timeline for proceeding with development at the site, as well as possible funding options.

Elwin Guild, de facto chair of the Elmcrest Campus Advisory Committee, a grassroots community organization, called the vote “a very significant first step.”

“This has been a unique development for every citizen group in town that has an interest in Elmcrest and that has participated in the town-wide workshops,” he said. “This is a monumental and very positive turning point for this town.”

Guild said specifically, the development of the Elmcrest Campus would produce much wider effects in town, such as economic revitalization and the implementation of safer and more pedestrian-friendly roads in concert with the town’s Complete Streets Group, among

other benefits.

“We can be a typical New England town, or we can be a unique New England town with an economy focused on the self-reliance of its townspeople, service to its townspeople and a vision for a long-term sustainable community,” he said to the board, noting the variety of citizens’ groups involved in moving Elmcrest development along. “This report sets the stage for that kind of thinking in the future, and I congratulate you for your choice to endorse the report.”

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The board also unanimously put its support behind the creation of a Portland Town Park steering committee charged with preparing the public for a November 2016 referendum on the proposed recreational complex.

Portland Town Park, which had been presented to the general public in April of this year and to the Board of Selectmen in June, would carry an approximate price tag of about \$5 million.

The engineering study to create the proposal for the facility had been funded by a \$230,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant from the state.

The 15-acre Portland Town Park, which would be located on the Goodrich property along Route 17 and Strickland Street, would include two baseball fields, two soccer fields, a splash pad, a barn the community could rent out for various functions, a bocce ball court, a recreational trail, a playground, greenspace for passive recreation and a parking lot.

The resolution the selectmen voted on named the three goals of the steering committee as making an educational effort to reach out to the town about the park’s design, details and purpose at town events such as the fall fair and others; making an effort to research and identify grant opportunities to fund the park’s construction; and making an effort to work with the town to create a final funding plan, including the cost per taxpayer.

Ralph Zampano, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, said he put his support behind the new steering committee.

“I want to make sure people know what it means to them when it’s time for them to go up and vote on the ballot,” he said. “Education and outreach, including on the location of the park, its amenities and the cost and the impact per taxpayer, is extremely important.”

The selectmen will appoint seven members to the steering committee and two alternates with input from the Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks and Recreation Director Sean Dwyer.

Also, Zampano, or his designee, as well as Dwyer and a liaison from the selectmen would serve as non-voting, ad hoc members.

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Selectmen also voted to unanimously accept an offer from the Metropolitan District Commission to commence a full analysis of Portland’s water and sewer infrastructure.

Scott Jellison, the chief executive officer of the MDC extended the offer to the town in a

letter, following a tour the selectmen and Water and Sewer Commission members attended of MDC facilities in Barkhamsted in late June.

The MDC would provide, at no cost to the town, a survey to determine the condition and total value of Portland’s water and sewer infrastructure. It would also provide a comparison of Portland’s water and sewer rates with the MDC’s water and sewer rates.

In addition, the MDC would provide an avenue for the town to select a consultant for the analysis from a list of qualified firms provided.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she felt this was a “good step” forward.

“We already work very closely with the MDC – they provide the majority of our water,” she said. “I’m glad the selectmen have voted to accept this offer.”

Selectman Carl Chudzick said he wanted to thank the MDC, his fellow selectmen and the Water and Sewer Commission for their work.

“I’m very happy with our decision on this offer. This is something we’ve been trying to do for about five years,” he said. “I’m very glad that we’ll be able to move forward with this.”

The motion also enjoyed full support from three Water and Sewer Commission members in attendance: chair Dick Cote, and members Norman D. Ward and Dave Kuzminski.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will take place Wednesday, Aug. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Public Library.

## Carey Looks Back on 30 Years in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

Jim Carey has been a fixture of the town’s building department for three decades.

“I’m very fortunate to have worked in this town, beyond my deserving,” said Carey, who retired in May from his position as planning, zoning and building administrator. “There are so many wonderful people in town who I’ve met over the years.”

And he owes his enriching experience to, of all things, his fly-fishing hobby.

In 1985, as Carey was beginning his career as a building officer with the Town of Simsbury, he happened to head to the Salmon River in East Hampton one day for some fishing – and he loved it.

“The next week at work, I joked that I’d be off to East Hampton as soon as a job opened up because of the fishing,” he said.

And sure enough, within a week or so, a position opened up with the Town of East Hampton.

“I was very new to the building world at that time, but I got the job,” he said. “And I’ve worked for the town ever since.”

One thing in particular Carey said he loved about East Hampton was how working in a small town allowed him to avoid being “but-ton-holed.”

“I’ve worked as a building officer, fire inspector, planner, wetlands agent, assistant town manager, you name it,” he said. “East Hampton has allowed me to grow and learn, and I’m grateful for that.”

And it started very early on: in particular, Carey related how two years into his job, he went to a high-powered meeting in Manhattan with the town manager and finance director.

“It was a bond panel to get rated at Moody’s,” he said. “It was kind of heady for a 20-something-year-old to be sitting at the top of the Twin Towers to talk with Moody’s, especially after only being with the town two years.”

“That showed the trust the town bestowed on me, to be able to help represent them in such a place,” he said.

Though he lived in Berlin and commuted at first, Carey moved to town within a few years, on Lake Pocotopaug.

“It was always more to me than just buildings, I got to know the people in town,” Carey said. “I would talk to people whose buildings I

inspected; find out why they moved to town, what their dreams were, why they moved here.”

And it’s those people he talked with – those dreams shared with him – that kept him in Belltown for three decades.

“I’ve had opportunities to work with bigger towns, and for the state,” Carey said. “But East Hampton is my fit; it’s thanks to the people who live here.”

Elements of buildings that fell within Carey’s domain included checking on framing, mechanical systems, gas systems and electrical work, and educating people about laws and codes.

“I talked to people about how things had to be done, about the proper ways to make a construction last, to add value and be safe,” he said. “And sometimes we disagreed, but I always did my best to be fair.”

However, Carey was also sometimes the one being educated, as he learned his skill set.

“I can’t tell you how much I learned from the generation before me, who shared their professional wisdom with me, building, plumbing, electrical, etc,” he said.

Carey also said his close relationships with residents informed his view of what a town employee should be.

“It’s not about what I can achieve for myself or gain for myself, it’s about how I can help and serve the people in town,” he said. “That’s what a public servant does; government should be a helpful assistant to the people.”

Carey said he came to deeply care about the residents of the town the more he worked among them day after day.

“When we had accidents in town, my heart would go to my throat. I would hope it wasn’t a building failure,” he said. “And I would always pray no tragedies would ever happen to the people in this town.”

Carey formally retired from the town at the beginning of May, but had been waylaid by a medical emergency until the end of July.

“I was in the hospital over two months; I’d been in the ICU, and I thought I was going to buy the farm,” he said. “I had congestive heart failure, and then ended up getting an infection in my blood. I had to undergo quite a regimen, which was very weakening, but I’m confident that I’m going to be OK.”

After Carey returned home, a long-planned



Jim Carey, shown here in a *Rivereast* archive photo from 2010, retired in May after three decades in the East Hampton building department.

reception to honor him courtesy of the town finally was held.

“They had been very patient with planning and rescheduling this event,” he said. “And about a hundred people showed up. I can’t believe the people that were there; after all these months, I should have been long forgotten.”

And some of those people included those who he hadn’t expected at all to attend.

“One man there was an attorney that I had been going hammer-and-nail against for years,” Carey said. “But he came and spoke very kindly about working with me, the sense of fairness he felt from me in court.”

“And this was after all those months of just waiting around for me,” Carey added of the reception. “Every one of them gave me their heart. It was the most touching thing I’d ever seen. I can’t even begin to thank them.”

Carey did say he hopes his retirement isn’t

the end of his involvement with East Hampton.

“If there’s any chance to serve the town again, I’d be glad to step in,” he said. “Just not as an elected official – I’m not that much of a political character.”

Carey once again said he wanted to praise the town’s residents.

“There’s not much the folks in East Hampton won’t give you if you need help,” he said. “The core of this town is unshakable; all my thanks and all my love to the people of this town.”

It’d be tough to think of a more fruitful fly-fishing trip.

“I could be any mechanically-inclined guy going to work, rubber-stamping things and then going home,” Carey said, “but the people in this town really touched my heart, and I’m glad I came here.”



Andover resident Marcy MacDonald swam Scotland's Loch Ness Sunday, becoming the first American – and oldest individual – to do so. She swam the 23 miles to help raise money for Homes for the Brave, a Connecticut non-profit that provides housing and services to homeless individuals, with an emphasis on veterans. She is shown at left with her team, (left to right) partner Janet Galya, Margaret Peterson and Teresa MacDonald Holder, and at right, swimming through the 51-degree water of the Loch.

## Andover Resident Swims Loch Ness for the Homeless

by Geeta Schrayter

It was a long, cold swim. Eleven hours and 59 minutes to be exact, through 23 miles of 51-degree water.

Those were the conditions Andover resident Marcella MacDonald endured Sunday when she swam the length of Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands, from Fort Augustus to Loch End. She became the first American to accomplish the feat.

MacDonald is no stranger to lengthy swims: she swam the 21-mile English Channel 15 times – an American record – and has also participated in the 41-mile Round Jersey (UK) swim, the 28.5 mile Manhattan Island Marathon swim five times and the 17-mile Swim Across the [Long Island] Sound multiple times. In addition, she's swam the 20 miles that make up the Catalina Channel in California, 9.9 miles across the Maui Channel in Hawaii, and many other bodies of water.

MacDonald, 51, has been swimming for most of her life. She's been on a swim team since she was 7 years old and said this week, "I was born, I think, to do this."

When she isn't swimming herself, she teaches the fundamentals to young, novice 6-8 year-old swimmers on the Laurel East Hartford YMCA Swim Team. She also works as a podiatrist in Manchester.

But MacDonald wasn't thinking about any of that Sunday. Instead, she was focusing on becoming the first American to swim Loch Ness – as well as the oldest person – while also raising money for charity.

MacDonald explained this week the idea to swim Loch Ness was something planted in her head a couple of years ago when she was in England to swim the channel. Another swim-

mer who had completed it, England resident Kevin Murphy (known as "King of the Channel" for swimming it the most times), mentioned Loch Ness to her because an American had never done it.

Then, after she achieved the American record for number of times swimming the channel last year, she said "I kind of started seriously thinking about" swimming Loch Ness.

And from thinking about it MacDonald went to researching it – research and preparation is something she considers extremely important, and not only in regards to swimming. Her motto is "Dream. Prepare. Succeed." and she said that's something she especially wants young people to know.

"If they find something they'd like to do, preparation is everything. If I didn't take my preparation seriously, [swimming Loch Ness] certainly wouldn't have been done. That goes for everything."

But Loch Ness was done, even though, she admitted, it wasn't too pleasant.

"This year was not pleasant," she shared. "I was cold the whole time so it was primarily just getting it over with." She added, "There are swims that can be quite pleasant when the conditions are nice and the water is a little warmer," but admitted "I don't necessarily enjoy the whole thing because after six hours the body is just really tired and you're just trying to get to the other side."

MacDonald furthered, "Length wasn't an issue" with Loch Ness, "It was just the length of being in that cold water – that's very, very hard to get used to."

MacDonald reported there were no signs of the infamous Loch Ness monster Nessie, but,

she said, "One of my friends who is from Australia who swam it back in 1999 said to me, 'Didn't you feel like you wanted Nessie to put you out of your misery?' and I was like 'Yep!' because it was very cold. It was not a fun swim. I was very, very cold – it was the coldest my body's ever been for that long a time."

But no matter how much MacDonald may have wanted to get out and onto the boat that traveled beside her (she wrote on her blog, "You don't know how many times I wanted to get out"), she stayed in, and made it through to the end.

"I don't know [how] I did it," she posted following the swim. "I kept reminding myself of my past swim experiences, night swimming in the channel, early season swims in Jersey, UK, my early years at Globe Hollow [Pool in Manchester] and playing night water tag at Columbia. All these helped adjust me for the ever dark water of the Loch."

In addition she wrote, "Thoughts of people going through worse things than me, homeless people living in their cars, if they [have] one, in the winter: how do they get through the cold?"

When MacDonald participates in her long swims, she shared she usually likes to support a cause or charity. The Swim Across the Sound she's participated in for the last ten years raises money for cancer, but when it came to the cause to support this time around, she said, "I just wanted to do something different this year since I was swimming something different."

And that "something different," was Homes for the Brave, a Connecticut non-profit with the mission of providing "the housing and services necessary to help homeless individuals [with

an emphasis on veterans] return to a productive and meaningful life," according to the website [homesforthebrave.org](http://homesforthebrave.org).

The non-profit has been providing "safe housing, vocational training and job placement, mental health and addiction services, and life skills coaching to help individuals, especially veterans, leave homelessness behind" since 2002.

To date, the organization has worked with more than 900 individuals.

MacDonald added in a letter she wrote about the swim, "I am deeply troubled with the thought of homeless individuals, especially in our U.S. Veteran population. That is why I am teaming up with our Connecticut-based 'Homes for the Brave.' Can you imagine not having a place to call home?"

MacDonald may have finished her swim, but donations can still be made to Homes for the Brave by going to [homesforthebrave.org/support-us/donate/](http://homesforthebrave.org/support-us/donate/) or mailing a check with "Loch Ness Swim/Marcy" as the memo to Homes for the Brave, 655 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604.

And now that she's conquered Loch Ness – something she has no plans to repeat ("I'll never come back to try it again," she said) – what's next? At present, she's enjoying some Scottish sightseeing. But in regards to her next swims, she mentioned some possibilities in Cancun and La Paz, Mexico.

"That'd be kind of nice," she shared. "Something warm for a while."

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To read more about MacDonald's swim visit her blog [cuttingwater.blogspot.com](http://cuttingwater.blogspot.com).

## Colchester Library Upgrading Ancient Technology

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Any resident that has used the Cragin Library computers knows the feeling of waiting and waiting and waiting for documents to actually load on the screen.

However, that waiting will be no more by the end of August with new WiFi access points and newer thin clients being installed.

"Instead of one WiFi hotspot the maxes out at 10 users, we will have three separate hotspots and be able to have 100 simultaneous users," library director Kate Byroade said. "Some places [in the library] currently don't catch WiFi."

The technology located at Cragin is currently at least seven years old – with some computers even older than that.

Currently at each public computer station, whether upstairs in the main room, in the teen room or in the children's room, are separate CPUs, monitors and keyboards running Windows XP. With the thin clients, each station will only have a monitor and keyboard and will run off a server in the downstairs of the library. The

thin clients will also receive Windows 7.

"We will wait on Windows 10," Byroade said. The software the staff uses on a daily basis isn't compatible with Windows 10 yet.

The CPUs, Byroade explained, have a much shorter life span than the thin clients. This is because the library can upgrade the server without having to replace the thin clients as well.

The thin clients will have USB connections and users will be able to print normally. The library will also continue to use Microsoft Office.

Byroade described all of the upcoming upgrades as "good expansions of service."

Library users will still see the two hours a day limit on their sessions. Byroade suggested this may change next year once the library puts in more computer stations, but it won't change in the near future. This is because the number of computers is still very limited, and the library used to have problems with people staying all day.

The upgrades taking place this year, Byroade explained, will include the adult public computers and the staff computers. Next year the library hopes to finish the computers in the children's and teen departments and potentially add more units.

"It's going to be good," Byroade said of the upgrades. "It has to be spread out for cost."

The cost of the upgrades is coming from the town's IT budget, Byroade said, and has been in the works for at least four years.

"In general the upgrade will make performance better," Byroade said. "With the servers as upgrades come along, it will be easier to upgrade. We won't be dependent on aging machines."

And there still may be more technological changes on the way. In October, Byroade said, she is hoping to launch a makerspace at the library, which will include a number of 3D printers.

"We have a donor and we're pulling together

a proposal," Byroade said.

With the 3D printers, users would be able to design an item on the regular computers, then print it out with plastic on the 3D printers. Byroade said the space is a work in progress and she isn't sure exactly how the space will work as far as cost to users.

"It can take 45 minutes to four hours to print something," Byroade said. "If we do charge, it will be for time."

Byroade said the library is also looking forward to potentially getting fiber this time next year which will make all of the technology work faster.

"The Connecticut Education Network is bringing fiber to state libraries," Byroade said. "There are 94 libraries left without and we are one of them. At that point, the fiber with the technology will be just amazing."

Library attendees will experience the new WiFi spots and the thin clients just in time for the school year to begin.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last Wednesday night, my New York Mets experienced firsthand just how bizarre today's social media-driven news world can be.

A Mets beat reporter tweeted that the team had agreed to a trade of infielder Wilmer Flores and injured pitcher Zack Wheeler to the Milwaukee Brewers for centerfielder Carlos Gomez. Then another reporter tweeted it. Then many more tweets.

Before you knew it, word had spread like wildfire. Fans watching the game at home – like myself – knew about it but, more importantly, so did people watching the game in the stands at Citi Field. Fans with their smartphones in tow – which are the majority of fans, it seems, at the ballpark these days – found out either by looking at social media or simply getting texted by a friend that Flores and Wheeler were Milwaukee-bound. Their days in the orange and blue were numbered.

Which made it seem odd, then, that Flores was still in the game, playing shortstop. (Wheeler, having had Tommy John surgery just before the season started, is out for the season and was actually down in Florida rehabbing when this whole thing went down.) It's an unspoken rule that when a player gets dealt he gets pulled from the lineup ASAP, so as not to risk him getting injured.

But Flores was left in the game, which led to a strange scene in the bottom of the seventh inning. Flores walked to the plate, and got a standing ovation from the Citi Field faithful. He hadn't done anything particularly notable in the game – rather, it was the fans saying goodbye. Flores wound up grounding out, and the fans stood and cheered again. It was a very odd moment. Usually, when trades happen in baseball, that's it – the player is gone. Fans don't get to give them one last standing ovation, and bid them bon voyage. A player is dealt after a game, or before a game, and the next time you see them it's when they're property of another team.

But, like I said, Flores was still in the game, so the fans got to say goodbye. Flores didn't really know why they were cheering him, until fans called out to him from the stands to let him know he was being dealt. And by the time he took the mound in the top of the eighth, the man was caught up in his emotions. The reality of the situation – he was leaving the only organization he had ever known, the organization that drafted him when he was just 16 years old – hit him, and he did what most of us would do in that situation.

He cried.

TV cameras caught Flores shedding tears, and this of course led to fans and sports shows across the country bringing up the great line from the film *A League of Their Own* – “There's no crying in baseball!”

But there was crying in baseball last Wednesday – and it was perfectly understandable as to why. These ballplayers, as Mets manager Terry Collins said after the game, are not robots. They're human beings, with emotions.

At the close of the inning, when Collins learned Flores had been crying and was upset about the trade (a trade that, by the way, was news to Collins, but more on that in a bit), took the shortstop out of the game, and everybody thought Flores had played his last game in a New York Mets uniform.

Except he hadn't.

“The trade is complete, pending approval of medical records” is a phrase commonly heard in baseball. Two teams agree to a swap of players, but before officially signing on the dotted line, the team that would be importing the player examines the medical records of said player to make sure everything is kosher. It's generally assumed that looking at the medical records is a formality, so when players are announced, a deal is essentially done.

But those in the news business know what can happen when you assume...

In this case, the medical records proved a sticking point – namely Gomez's medical records. The Mets reportedly saw something in there they didn't like, so the whole thing fell through.

And that was that. The deal that everyone in the media world, watching at home or watching in the stands – the deal that led to

Flores' emotions getting the better of him – had fallen through. That's why Collins didn't know about the trade. That's why Flores continued to play. There was no point in pulling him from the game.

As a sports writer said the next day, trades fall apart on the two-yard line all the time. What happened last Wednesday in and of itself – the Mets and Brewers agreeing to a trade only to have medical records mess it up – isn't unusual. As recently as 10 years ago, it was something people would have read about in the sports section sometime in early August, as another deadline near-deal that didn't quite make it.

But in 2015, news of the trade spread before the deal was even complete. And you didn't have to be an “in the know” sports reporter to know about it. The end result was fans telling a ballplayer he had been traded before he even knew it himself. The fact that the trade fell apart was the icing on the whole bizarre cake.

And the whole story had a fantastic follow-up two days later. After having Thursday's game off, Flores took the field Friday night for a game against the Mets' division rival, the Washington Nationals. It wound up being, in the words of Mets broadcaster Gary Cohen, Wilmer Flores Night.

Flores got a loud ovation when he made a great play in the field in the first inning. Then, when he came to bat in the second, he got another loud standing ovation. He drove in the first run of the game.

Then, with the game tied 1-1 in the bottom of the 12th inning, Flores hit a walk-off home run. It was truly a storybook ending. Everyone whose hearts went out to the guy – and there were a lot of them – was cheering him on.

Perhaps Collins said it best.

“Can it happen at a better time to a better person in a bigger situation than that?” he told reporters after the game. “We are all so thrilled for him.”

Count me among that “we.” It's an old baseball adage that says, “Sometimes the best trades are the ones you don't make.” And maybe this non-trade – the one that seemingly the entire world, except the Mets' and Brewers' front offices, thought *was* made – will be one of them.

\* \* \*

Speaking of sports: Believe it or not, the football season is drawing near. As I may have mentioned here in the past, I'm a Jets fan – I'm not as big a football fan as I am a baseball fan, though, so I don't write about them nearly as much as I do the Mets (you're welcome) – and earlier this week, a friend of mine sent me this supposed late-breaking story:

“New York Jets football practice was delayed nearly two hours today after a player reported finding an unknown white powdery substance on the practice field. Coach Todd Bowles immediately suspended practice while police and federal investigators were called in to investigate. After a complete analysis, FBI forensic experts determined that the white substance unknown to the players was the goal line. Practice resumed after special agents decided the team was unlikely to encounter the substance again this season.”

Ouch.

\* \* \*

Looking for something to do in the area this weekend? The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival is making its return to Hebron. The event actually kicked off last night, and continues today until 10:30 p.m., tomorrow from 10:45 a.m.-11:30 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

For years, the festival had been in East Hartford, but last summer it relocated to the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 in Hebron, and is being held there again this year. For those who don't know, it's a four-day event that showcases local, regional and national bluegrass acts. I've never been to the festival, but as a fan of bluegrass music, it sounds like a lot of fun.

For more information about the festival, visit [podunkbluegrass.com](http://podunkbluegrass.com).

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## East Hampton Police News

7/20: Elizabeth Bentley, 38, of 34 Smith St., was issued a summons for operating under suspension, unsafe backing and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

7/26: Paul S. Dimauro, 26, of 34 Aston Ln., Middletown, was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

7/27: Douglas Jack Paradis, 45, of 228 Lake Dr., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and criminal violation of a protective order, police said.

## Colchester Police News

7/28: State Police said Marilyn Jester, 57, of 487 Canterbury Tpke., Norwich, was transported to Marlborough Clinic for possible injuries after an accident at the intersection of Parum and Lake Hayward roads at 10:55 a.m.

7/29: State Police said Ellen Brunsgaard, 24, of 24 Tarragon Rd., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny and possession of burglar's tools. Also arrested in the case was Austin Shepley, 24, of 15 Triangle Dr., Moodus. Police said Shepley was charged with sixth-degree larceny and possession of burglar's tools.

7/30: State Police said Matthew Medeiros, 49, of 65 Laurel Rd., Exeter, R.I., was trans-

## Hebron Police News

8/2: State Police are investigating after a gray 1998 Honda Civic was allegedly stolen from a driveway on Wall Street between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Anyone with information can call Trooper Kristin Coit at 860-465-5400.

8/3: State Police said Scott Peterson, 45, of 16 Jeremy Way, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree harassment.

## Marlborough Police News

8/1: State Police said Michael Pelletier, 21, of 487 Broadview Terrace, Hartford, was arrested and charged with DUI, reckless driving, and operating with a suspended license.

ported to Backus Hospital for minor injuries after an accident on Route 2 near Lebanon at around 3:17 p.m. Medeiros, police said, was injured while helping another motorist change a flat tire when Medeiros' car was hit by another vehicle. Medeiros was hit by the debris of the two cars hitting.

8/2: State Police said Zackery Masterson-Fox, 19, of 87 Leesville Rd., Moodus, was arrested and charged with DUI, speeding and possession of alcohol by a minor.

8/3: State Police said James Lacroix, 48, of 421 Old Colchester Rd., was arrested and charged with violation of probation and violation of a protective order.

## Obituaries

### Colchester

#### Dawn Patricia Mabey

Dawn Patricia (Sarni) Mabey, 72, of Colchester, beloved wife of Frank, passed away peacefully Saturday morning, Aug. 1, surrounded by her loving family. Born Dec. 17, 1942, in Portsmouth, N.H., she was the daughter of the late John Sarni and Mary (Buonopane) Sarni, Sherman.



Over the years, she had worked as office manager for Dr. Michael Levine, DDS as well as bookkeeper at "Incredible Hair" for her daughter, Fran.

Her true love, passion and "vocation" was that of being a loving wife to Frank for 57 years; caring mother to seven daughters (and their spouses - her "sons"), Rebecca and Danny Post, Donna and Jay Lankford, Debora and Mike Ferrier, Fran and Ted Miraldes, Lisa Depka-Mabey, Heather and Shaun Parmelee, and Melody and David Kunold; doting grandmother to 23 and great-grandmother to 13; and sister to five, she was predeceased by a grandson, great-grandson and sister in addition to her parents.

Dawn was also a faithful communicant of St. Andrew Parish in Colchester, where she was a member of the Ladies Guild and was an active volunteer both at the church and in many other capacities throughout Colchester and beyond.

The memorial liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. today, Aug. 7, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, followed by burial in the New St. Andrew Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the American Lung Assn., 45 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

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

### Colchester

#### Ruth Belena Gilley

Ruth Belena (Jones) Gilley, 90, of Colchester, formerly of Glastonbury, widow of the late F.C. Latrobe Gilley, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 30, with family at her side. Born May 27, 1925, in Pasadena, Md., she was the daughter of the late Wm. Allen and Mary (Burns) Jones.



Ruth dedicated her life as a nurse, working for more than 40 years at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford before retirement. She was passionate in her care for others, both in her career and for her friends and family. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Manchester and had been active with the Glastonbury Seniors in her later years. In her spare time, Ruth was a voracious reader and animal lover, especially fond of her pet cat Mindy. She enjoyed needlework, knitting, exploring her family genealogy and spending time with her great grandchildren.

She is survived by two daughters, Maureen and her husband Jerry Kwolek of Colchester; Mary and her husband Robert Gras of Ft. Myers, Fla.; 11 grandchildren, Branden Erickson, Dawn Alderucci, Leila Moshiri, Nasrin Waring, Sahar Moshiri, Tyler Kwolek, Yasmeen Moshiri, Devin Kwolek, Victoria Gras, Patricia Gras, Michelle Gras; six great-grandchildren, Evelyn, Brenna, Micheila, Beckham, Keegan, Bobby; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Wm. A. Jones, Jr. and a great grandchild, Michael.

Services were held Wednesday, Aug. 5, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 30 Woodside St., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Best Friends-Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd., Kanab, UT 84741.

"As a nurse, we have the opportunity to heal the heart, mind, soul and body of our patients, their families and ourselves. They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou"

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

### Andover

#### Domenica "Minnie" Creme

Domenica "Minnie" Creme, 91, of Andover, formerly of Wethersfield, loving wife of the late Stephen P. Creme, died peacefully, Thursday, July 30, with her devoted family by her bedside.

She was born Oct. 26, 1923, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was the daughter of the late Guido and Lillian (Mannina) Montana. Minnie was a member of the Young at Heart Seniors in Andover. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, who will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by two sons, Dr. Joseph Creme and wife, Lynn, of McKinney, Texas, and Gerard Creme and wife, Anne, of Andover with whom she made her home; grandchildren Gina Cowles and husband, Larry, Stephen Creme and wife, Ruth, Gregory Creme and wife, Julie, Andrew Creme and wife, Janelle, and Catherine Creme; 10 great-grandchildren, Sonia, Joey, Kayla and Jonathan Cowles, Joshua, Grace and Jeremiah Creme and Daniel, Alex, and Gianna Creme; her very dear and loving niece, Donna Reardon.

She was predeceased by her sister, Concetta "Connie" Maggio.

A very special thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff at Manchester Manor and Beacon Hospice for the care, love, and compassion shown to Minnie and her family.

The funeral service was Tuesday, Aug. 4, at D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial that morning at Corpus Christi Church, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield. The burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Calling hours were Monday, Aug. 3, at the funeral chapel.

Donations in Minnie's memory may be made to Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

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

### Andover

#### Robert E. Pittsinger

Robert E. Pittsinger, 87, of Andover, passed away at home Saturday, Aug. 1. He was a wonderful, kind and fun-loving man, who was devoted to his family and friends.

Born May 23, 1928, Bob attended Newington High School. As a teen, he worked at the Newington Children's Hospital Farm. His favorite avocation was buying and repairing old cars. He served in the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division 7th Regiment from 1946 to 1948, where he earned his GED. Upon his discharge, he was a Newington mail carrier, where he had one of the town's first walking mail routes. He then had a 40-year career with Southern New England Telephone, first as a lineman/repairman and then as a Yellow Pages salesman.

He married Laura Joe Goldsmith in 1956 and remained her loving and caring husband until her death in 1999.

He was predeceased by his brother, Richard Pittsinger, and his sister, Ruth Blomstrann.

He will be dearly missed by his three children, Mark Pittsinger and his wife Susan of Southbury; Jean Pittsinger Henry and her husband Carl Seeger Henry of Newington; and Dean Pittsinger of Nanuet, N.Y. He also leaves three grandchildren who loved him dearly, Eryn Buch and her husband Steve of Florida; Pam Henry of Newington; and Deanna Troy Henry of Cambridge, Mass. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Kayli, Cyanne, Kierianna and Elijah, and many nieces and nephews. Also, he leaves his girlfriend of the last 11 years, Mary Duval of Andover, who has lost her companion and love.

Many happy times were had with everybody in Bob's life. Bob was a member of The Meriden Motorcycle Club, Andover Seniors, and Andover Congregational Church. He loved traveling, and went cross-country with his family many times. He loved polka dancing, bluegrass music, public television and *60 Minutes*. He liked picnics, eating out, plays, concerts and day trips with the seniors.

He loved working on cars, and motorcycle riding was his passion. He won many awards and trophies for motorcycle competitions over the years. His latest bike had a side-car, and he and Mary were a common sight riding around Andover.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. today, Aug. 7, at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington.

### Colchester

#### Gloria Jean Perry

Gloria Jean Perry, 64, of Colchester, departed this life Saturday, July 25. Her life will be celebrated Saturday, Aug. 1, at 3 p.m., at the All Faith Memorial Chapel, 90 John Fitch Blvd., South Windsor.

### East Hampton

#### Vincenzo Sanzaro

Vincenzo (Vincent) Sanzaro, 81, of Middletown, formerly of East Hampton, died Saturday, Aug. 1, at his home, after a long illness. He was born Oct. 22, 1933, in Melilli, Italy, son of the late Salvatore and Sebastiana (Milardo) Sanzaro.

He arrived in the United States in 1960, where he began his business, Sanzaro Ceramic Tile. He had lived in East Hampton for 30 years, before relocating back to Middletown in 2008.

He was predeceased by his wife, Bertha Sanzaro, whom he was married to for 24 years. He was also predeceased by his brother, Rosario Sanzaro; his sister, Lucy Scata; and his sister, Mary Sanzaro.

He is survived by his sister, Anna Villalba of Middletown, and his brother, Sebastian Sanzaro of Hartford, many nieces, nephews, step-children and step-grandchildren and special friends.

A special thank you to George for taking such great care of Vinny these last few years, and to Middlesex Hospice and Palliative Care.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, Aug. 5, at D'Angelo's Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at St. Sebastian Church in Middletown. Burial was in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery in Middlefield. Calling hours were Tuesday, Aug. 4, at D'Angelo Funeral Home.

### Portland

#### John J. Pasquarelli Jr.

John J. Pasquarelli Jr., 76, of Manchester, formerly of Portland, beloved husband for 50 years of Barbara M. (McCreedy) Pasquarelli, died peacefully Sunday, Aug. 2, at an area convalescent home, with his family at his side.

John was born May 18, 1939, in Middletown, son of the late John J. Pasquarelli Sr. and Helen (Karpinsky) Pasquarelli. He grew up in Portland, attending local schools, and was a 1958 graduate of Portland High School. He went on to earn a degree in accounting from Hillyer College and begin a lifelong career with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in their disbursements accounting group and retired in 1993, with 35 years of service. His career at Pratt & Whitney was interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

John loved baseball, not only as an avid Yankees fan, but also playing baseball for almost 20 years in the Pratt & Whitney Baseball League and also in the Town of Manchester Recreation Softball League for many years. He also enjoyed ten-pin bowling with the Pratt & Whitney League and for many years he was a member of the Exchange Club in Manchester. John enjoyed his home, family and friends, and he loved to go shopping with his wife and eat out at nice restaurants, especially those that made good Italian food.

In addition to his wife he is survived by his sister, Mary Ann Apruzzese and her husband Robert of Southington, his sister-in-law Dorothy Holland and her husband Norman of Maitland, Fla., his brother-in-law George McCreedy and his wife Jeanette of Rio Vista, Calif. He also leaves several nieces and nephews in Florida and California, as well as many cousins in Portland, Torrington, Enfield, Coventry and Westford, Mass.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife Barbara's parents, George and Jennie McCreedy.

Funeral services were held today, Aug. 7, at 9:15 AM at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at the Church of the Assumption, 285 West Center St. Manchester. Burial with military honors will be in the East Cemetery, Manchester.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Aug. 6, at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489-1058 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

To sign the online register book, go to [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

### East Hampton

#### George J. Farina

George J. Farina, 67, of East Hampton, lifelong loving husband of Linda (Lodi) Farina, died Monday, Aug. 3, at Hartford Hospital after a long illness. Born Oct. 29, 1947, in Astoria, N.Y., he was the son of the late Joseph and Pauline (Rappa) Farina.

George had worked as an IT specialist at Cigna Insurance for over 25 years and most recently at Otis Elevator. George was a member of the East Hampton Senior Center and enjoyed making home videos.

Besides his loving wife, he was a devoted father to his children, George J. Farina and Amy Elizabeth Farina, and her longtime companion, Jim Gowac of Hebron. He is survived by his brother, Salvatore Farina and his wife Cheryl, and his loving pet, Guido.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, Aug. 6. A funeral liturgy was celebrated that morning in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery mausoleum in Bristol.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center Fund - Hartford Hospital, Attn: Fund Development Dept., 80 Seymour St., P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102-5037 or the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association General Fund, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

### Portland

#### Mary Hayn

On Friday, July 31, Mary Hayn died peacefully, surrounded by her family at Middlesex Hospital in Hospice Care. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Mary was a lifelong resident of Portland. She was a self-employed beautician for over 50 years. Mary enjoyed spending time with her family and loved her times at their cottage in Clinton for many years.

Mary was an active parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Portland. She actively participated in the Ladies Guild, Altrusa International, the Garden Club and the Portland Senior Center. Mary enjoyed making braided rugs, was an avid reader, a wonderful cook and baker. She made the best apple pie on the East Coast. Mary cherished her times with her close personal friends.

She is survived by her daughter Virginia Hayn and her husband John Rychwick of Haddam; her son Jeffrey Hayn and his wife Lori Inferrera of Moodus; two grandchildren, who were Mary's pride and joy: Colin Hayn of Brighton, Mass., Melanie Hayn and her husband Eli Perrone of Pocasset, Mass.; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Mary was predeceased by her beloved husband of 54 years, Edmund E. Hayn; her sisters, Connie Bafuma, Minnie Milardo, Lucy Sheehan; and her brothers Louis, Carmelo and Guy Bartalotta.

The family would like to thank the Portland Fire Department and the doctors and nurses in the Critical Care Unit and the Hospice Care Unit at Middlesex Hospital for their excellent care and support given to Mary.

Her Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, Aug. 5, in the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial followed in St. Mary Cemetery. Relatives and friends called Tuesday evening, Aug. 4, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Mary may be made to the Portland Fire Department, 1 Middlesex Ave, Portland, CT 06480 or to the American Diabetes Association, 1701 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311.

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

## Obituaries continued

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### East Hampton

#### Marie B. Clark

Mrs. Marie B. Clark, daughter of the late Nicholas and Barbara (Balbo) Berardinelli, and wife of the late Russell C. Clark, was born Nov. 2, 1922, in Jersey City, N.J., and departed this life at her home in Campbellsville, Ky., Tuesday, July 28. She was 92 years, 8 months, and 26 days of age.

Mrs. Clark was a retail clerk at Sears Department Store for many years, and a Girl Scout leader over 20 years. She was also a member of St. Patrick's Women's Guild. Mrs. Clark professed faith in Christ at an early age, and was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in East Hampton.

She leaves to cherish her memory three daughters, Christine Zemel and husband Richard of Knoxville, Ten., Jackie Bowen and husband Ross of Campbellsville, Ky., and Bernadette Clark of Maine; two sisters and a brother, Joan Winters of Calif., Barbara Barone of New Jersey and John Berardinelli of Florida; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by two brothers and one sister, Thomas and Nicholas Berardinelli, and Angela Amato.

Services were held Saturday, Aug. 1, in East Hampton. Mrs. Clark was laid to rest beside her beloved husband and the father of her children in the Union Cemetery in Middle Haddam.

### Colchester

#### Helen Scrivani

Helen "Irene" Scrivani, 90, of Colchester, passed away at Middlesex Hospital Saturday, Aug. 1. She was born Feb. 11, 1925, to the late Rollo and Madeline (Plant) Martin in Montpelier, Vt.

Irene came to Connecticut when she was 17 to help a cousin, and after several trips back and forth to Vermont she decided to stay in Connecticut. As a homemaker she worked several different jobs – as a cook for the old Harrington Court, head cutter at Helikon in Taftville and a waitress for the Lighthouse Inn in New London and The Chestnut Lodge in Colchester. Irene volunteered for both Meals on Wheels and the Food Bank.

Irene leaves her loving son Mario Scrivani and his wife Kathy of Moosup and her loving daughter Sheryl Vayo, who recently returned to California after moving here for a year to be with her; grandchildren Matthew Vayo, Kristie Vayo and Samantha Niles of California, Brenda Scrivani and Jennifer Scrivani of Connecticut; as well as great-grandchildren Colin and Tyler Vayo, and Kayla, Demetrious and Stephen Niles of California.

As per Irene's wishes, there will be no services and she requests any donations made in her memory to go to the Colchester Food Bank.

The family wishes to express thanks to Companions and Homemakers, Rene at Stop & Shop Pharmacy, Visiting Nurses and all her friends and neighbors.

The Belmont Funeral Home has been entrusted with Irene's care.

### East Hampton

#### Martin Syndomin

After fighting a courageous battle with a brain tumor for over nine years, Martin Syndomin passed away Monday, Aug. 3, surrounded by his closest family. He was only 36, but the impact he left on all our hearts is immense.

Martin was born Nov. 11, 1978, in Wroclaw, Poland. He moved to Hartford as a young boy of 5. Martin attended elementary school at SS. Cyril and Methodius and St. Mary's of Czestochowa. He also attended Xavier High School before graduating from Middletown High School. Martin graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Connecticut. Martin went on to work for the Leitner Group in New York City and later XL Insurance in Hartford.

Martin was known for his strong will, determination, independence and thoughtfulness; he was a captain of his own ship. He loved to get to know new people and made everyone feel at home. Martin cherished his family and close friends and was someone you could always count on. He had a great sense of humor, even in his final days. His impeccably tidy home always contained plants and aquariums, both hobbies he loved. Martin was also a wonderful artist, a creative soul, who saw beauty and inspiration in life around him.

One of Martin's latest passions was volunteering for the Connecticut Brain Tumor Alliance, where he helped to coordinate the first-ever Path of Hope 5K walk to help bring awareness and help others affected.

Martin is survived by his loving brother, Krzysztof Syndomin and his wife, Gina Syndomin of Rocky Hill; his parents, Elzbieta and Wieslaw Syndomin of East Hampton; grandmothers, Stefania Ziobro of Newington and Aleksandra Krekora of Poland; aunts and uncles Irena and Czeslaw Fronckiewicz of Glastonbury and Mark and Yuko Ziobro and their children, Shanna, Nicholas and Christian of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.; as well as his cousins Diane Fronckiewicz of Boston and Dominika Pellegrini and her husband Victor Pellegrini and their children Juliana and Luca of Fairfield; as well as many close friends.

Calling hours will be held today, Aug. 7, from 4-8 p.m., at Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. His funeral service will begin Saturday, Aug. 8, at 9 a.m., at Newington Memorial, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford. Martin will be laid to rest in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

To share a memory or a blessing with Martin's family, visit [newingtonmemorial.com](http://newingtonmemorial.com).