

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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Filmmaker Brendan Hall of Marlborough and his close friend Anthony Blake recently traveled 22,000 miles coast-to-coast and visited 22 national parks to shoot footage for their documentary series, titled *Westward*.

## Marlborough Filmmaker Travels the Country

by Julianna Roche

In the last four months, 22-year-old filmmaker Brendan Hall has driven 22,000 miles cross country while visiting 22 national parks, shot eight terabytes of footage for his own documentary series and was hired to shoot scenes of Bill Nye in Greenland for a documentary – which has since been entered into the Sundance Film Festival.

Now, sitting in his parents' kitchen overlooking Lake Terramuggus and drinking from a soda can, Hall – dressed in a plaid shirt with a head full of copper-colored curls – has a boy-next-door look to him, though his filmmaking career so far says he's more than just that.

Growing up, Hall remembers using his first camera to shoot everything from “*Rambo*-style stuff” and skateboarding videos with his friends in the backyard to X-Games athletes at Woodward, an action sports camp in Pennsylvania.

“I got fortunate that I knew what I wanted to do so early because I could put all my passion, all my energy into it,” he said, adding he's known he wanted to be a filmmaker since seventh grade.

During high school at RHAM, Hall joined the school's Video Production Club, before

heading to New York University (NYU) to study film and television (he now lives in Brooklyn and works as a freelance filmmaker.)

It wasn't until the summer following his sophomore year of college when he was interning for two film production companies in Los Angeles, Calif., however, that he fell in love with national parks.

“I would intern four days a week and then I would drive all night on a Thursday, go hike for three or four days, then drive back,” he explained. “I remember I was on the edge of the Grand Canyon watching the craziest sunset and Milky Way rise and meteor shower when I realized this is what I want to be doing... I could maybe make a career out of nature and travel filmmaking.”

From that point on, Hall said he started developing ideas for “a national park passion project” with one of his close friends, Anthony Blake. Hall said that around a year ago, he came up with a treatment featuring photos and write-ups describing what he wanted to do, before pitching it to production companies and media outlets such as *National Geographic* and *The*

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## Plan Unveiled to Save Lake Pocotopaug

by Elizabeth Regan

Almost 30 years after “unprecedented” blue-green algae blooms first appeared in East Hampton's Lake Pocotopaug – a cycle that has been perpetuating itself every summer since – the town's consulting lake expert unveiled a nine-point watershed management plan with solutions and cost estimates to solve the problem for good.

The plan was detailed at a joint meeting of the Town Council and Conservation-Lake Commission, held Tuesday in front of more than 50 residents in the high school cafeteria.

George Knoecklein, of Northeast Aquatic Research, said increased levels of phosphorous and nitrogen in the lake lead to low water clarity and high chlorophyll – the conditions needed for potentially-toxic blue-green algae blooms.

State Department of Public Health guidelines established in 2012 have since resulted in the closure of public beaches on the lake for a period of time each summer because of possible health risks from the blooms.

Knoecklein's plan to stop the cycle includes 14 recommended fixes that can be undertaken as part of regular maintenance or by volunteers. There are 21 areas needing up to \$10,000 of work and eight areas that will cost more than \$10,000 to address.

The cost to implement all the recommendations, as estimated by an environmental engineer, could range anywhere from \$460,000 to \$1.4 million.

The *Lake Pocotopaug Nine Elements Watershed Based Plan*, prepared by Knoecklein and Hillary Kenyon, can be found online on the

home page of [easthamptonct.gov](http://easthamptonct.gov) under the heading “Lake Watershed 9 Point Plan.”

The plan is a requirement for a federal grant for lake cleanup, monitoring and educational outreach. Considered a “draft,” the June 20 report is still awaiting official approval from the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. A DEEP spokesman was not able to provide information on the status of the report by press time.

The Town Council in January appropriated \$69,000 for the report from Knoecklein. He has been monitoring the lake since 2013, at which time he also started examining data and findings compiled over the past three decades by other scientists and engineers.

A large chunk of the estimated cost involves the purchase of as much land as possible within the Hales Brook sub-basin of the watershed, which sits on the northwest corner of the lake and comprises 39 percent of the total watershed. The area has relatively low phosphorous and nitrogen concentrations in comparison with other sub-basins in the watershed, according to the report, and should be preserved as green space to make sure it stays that way.

Purchasing land in the Hales Brook sub-basin could range from \$50,000 to \$700,000 of the total cost, according to the plan.

Some examples of other high-priority fixes outlined in the plan include addressing runoff issues in the parking lot of Angelico's Lake House and Edgemere Condos, limiting fertilization of the high school athletic fields and

lawns on private property within the watershed, and adding floating wetlands to remove nutrients from Christopher Brook.

The town will not be able to apply for federal funding until the plan is approved.

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34, spoke at Tuesday's meeting to suggest the town look at the state's Community Investment Act as a possible source of funding for preserving open space in the Hales Brook area.

The Community Investment Act is funded by a portion of the fees charged for land use records at local land use offices. Up to \$5 million per year is earmarked for open space projects.

“I think, working with the Middlesex Land Trust and the town, you could put together a pretty compelling application,” Ziobron said.

Town officials, Knoecklein and residents also discussed changes in zoning and inland wetlands regulations as a low-cost way to start cleaning up the lake.

Knoecklein's research has suggested stabilizing shoreline erosion to limit the amount of fertilizer-containing run-off that the lake receives from being surrounded by developed land.

The problem is exacerbated because so much surface within the lake's watershed has been developed and paved. This results in excess phosphorous getting into the lake, because paved surfaces don't absorb the excess nutrients in run-off like normal ground does.

Conservation-Lake Commission member Wesley Jenks called current regulations “grossly inefficient” at minimizing pollution in

and around the lake.

“All the commercial projects that take place in the watershed area haven't been developed appropriately, and we're just starting to have this conversation,” Jenks said.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli, hired this year, has already identified sections of zoning and inland wetlands regulations that are in conflict with the proposed watershed management plan.

“They've got a laundry list of changes that they plan to make to Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands over the next year,” Maniscalco said.

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson asked the Conservation-Lake Commission for a list of “actionable items” that can be addressed in the upcoming year's budget.

“They're all in the plan, actually,” Jenks said. “And it's prioritized.”

Jenks expressed frustration with not having a better idea how much money is available to implement the plan.

Anderson explained that the annual budget planning process is unpredictable. She used the hypothetical example of the public works department requesting two dump trucks.

“If the budget only allows for one, that's what they get,” she said.

Lake commissioner Joe Carbonell echoed the murmurings of a dissatisfied crowd when he said “at that rate, it'll never get fixed.”

That's when councilor Kevin Reich instead

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Among the 22 national parks they visited, Brendan Hall and Anthony Blake shot footage of landscapes at Denali National Park in Alaska, shown here.

**Filmmaker cont. from Front Page**

*Atlantic.*

The documentary project idea, he said, was well-received – in fact, according to Hall, he was “on the eve of two potential six-figure media deals,” up until one month before he and Blake were set to leave, when it all fell through.

“It was scary as hell, but I said to myself, I’m doing it regardless,” he said. “It wasn’t until the night before leaving – the bags were packed, that I got an email saying Adobe [where Hall also worked as a student rep] would sponsor the project,” giving them just enough money “to make it all happen.”

Hall and Blake spent the next four months driving 22,000 miles in Hall’s Subaru across the country, shooting footage of 22 national parks and landscapes (with a documentary cinema camera, the Canon C300 Mark II) for their documentary. The pair also interviewed six to eight people along the way, all of whom had some kind of connection to the land (including a boat builder in Acadia National Park in Maine and a Native American speaker in Glacier National Park in Montana, whose family had lived there for 13,000 years).

“The vision of what we really wanted to do was human stories for the parks,” Hall explained, adding, “The stories would show char-

acters as living metaphors of the landscapes they lived in.”

While Hall said it was the “dream trip of a lifetime,” it was also exhausting considering the pair camped in a tent most nights and shot footage for 12 hours a day before driving through the night to the next location, while Hall edited the footage on his laptop in the car.

The pair traveled from coast to coast, starting in Acadia National Park and ending the trip on a beach in Olympic National Park in Washington.

“We sat there on the beach with our tent up, and for an hour, we were some of the last people to see the ball of sun drop below the west coast,” Hall said. “That was a big, triumphant, ‘wow this actually happened’ moment.”

Hall said he plans to edit the footage over the winter, before releasing the final documentary series in April, which will be titled *Westward*.

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To preview documentary footage from the trip (which was crafted into a branded content video for Adobe), visit [tinyurl.com/hwb2wtw](http://tinyurl.com/hwb2wtw). You can also see some of Hall’s recent work as a director in a short documentary series shot for Volkswagen at [vw.com/strange-terrains](http://vw.com/strange-terrains).

**Plan Unveiled cont. from Front Page**

put the onus on Maniscalco to come up with a plan to use \$150,000 that has been “set aside” to start implementing the plan.

The money is in line items for capital improvements related to water quality infrastructure improvements and infiltration catch basins in the lake watershed.

“I think it’s incumbent on Mr. Maniscalco and his staff to present to us, the council, how they feel they can best use those funds to begin the task of addressing the lake,” Reich said. “Our task would then be to develop a plan so we can continually fund the plan in order to complete it.”

Reich said he’s confident the taxpaying public, which already recognized the need to renovate the high school for \$52 million, would understand the need to fix the lake – “just as I hope they feel there’s a need to provide a new police station and town hall and improve some of our school buildings.”

But Maniscalco pointed to a list of 18 “low-cost fixes” laid out in the report and said only five of them were on public property over which the town has control.

“In some of these, you’re talking about re-routing water through people’s backyards. With-

out an easement, I can’t do that,” he said.

Knoecklein said his plan includes a suggestion for the town to establish a revolving fund to help property owners pay for some of the recommendations in the plan that would need to be done on private property.

Numerous people at the meeting also emphasized the need for education about the plan and the need for a healthy lake – from teaching those around it how to prevent pollution from seeping downstream to explaining to residents on the other side of town why declining lakeside property values have a detrimental effect on everybody else’s tax bills.

Resident Susan McFarland stood up at the end of the meeting to ask everyone to keep the issue in perspective. She emphasized that the cost of \$1.4 million on the high end could be brought down considerably through grant funding and could be spread out over time.

“I guess I’m just asking for everyone here to adopt a positive attitude,” McFarland said. “This can be done. It’s not going to cost \$52 million. It won’t happen overnight; I get that. But I would just ask for your continued support and your continued allocation of money.”

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The day has nearly arrived.

After what perhaps seemed like an interminable election season, the big day will be here next Tuesday, Nov. 8. And by that evening – well, perhaps late that evening – we should know who our president will be for the next four years.

As I’ve made it clear in this space many times, I really hope that person is Hillary Clinton.

Is Clinton my ideal candidate? No. I wrote here in the springtime I voted for Bernie Sanders, and I do think he’d have been a better nominee than Clinton. Does that mean she’s a bad candidate, though? No, I really don’t think so. I agree with many of her positions, she’s certainly got experience, and she knows how to play the game – and as much as we’d all like to think that doesn’t matter, it does.

She’s also head and shoulders above Donald Trump.

Trump has, for the most part, been incredibly vague about his positions throughout this campaign. And the ones he’s actually detailed – such as mass deportation, immediately repealing Obamacare (sorry; it’s flawed and needs some work, sure, but it’s providing health insurance to bunches of people who wouldn’t otherwise have it, including people very close to me) and that stupid wall – I disagree with. And as far as experience goes.....well, let’s put it this way. Republicans spent years railing against President Obama’s lack of experience, having only served a couple years in the U.S. Senate before being elected president. Trump’s never served a day in public office.

And does anyone watching Trump for the past year think at all he’ll be able to play well with others? Not just people in Washington, but foreign leaders. A lack of experience combined with a bombastic ego and a short fuse (we’ve all seen how he can fly off the handle at the slightest provocation) is a disastrous combination to put in the Oval Office.

Also, there’s just no way to sweep under the rug all the ugly, ugly things Trump has said. His racism, his sexism, his insults of women, his childish taunts and name-calling, his mocking of the disabled, etc. A friend of mine, who’s a Trump supporter, has said we’re not voting on who the nicest person is; we’re voting on who the best pick to lead our country is. And while I suppose that might be true, wouldn’t you like whoever wins the presidency to have at least some sense of decorum, and some sense of decency? This is the highest position in the land, the face of our country. You want that face to be a rude, insulting, overgrown 12-year-old?

An oft-repeated criticism I’ve heard of Clinton is that she’d just continue the status quo, and give us another four years of what we’ve seen under Obama. I don’t really think that’d be the case, but let’s assume it is. While I know we all have varying opinions of how good the status quo is, at least we know *what* it is. With a Trump presidency, you don’t really know what you’re going to get. That same friend of mine tried spinning this as a positive; that he *knows* Clinton will be a bad president, whereas Trump may be terrible, or he may be the greatest president of all time. With the world today, I don’t think we can afford to take a chance on “hey, I wonder how he’ll be?” Especially since, like I said earlier, the few things he’s been specific about are enough to make me think he’d be terrible.

I do think Hillary Clinton is a good candidate. And I think she’d make a good president. But when you consider her opponent is Donald Trump, it just makes the choice that much clearer. It’s frankly a little terrifying Trump is even this close to the White House. Simply put: Hillary Clinton must win.

Of course, Election Day is about more than Trump vs. Clinton. This being an even year, the state senators and state representatives are up for election as well. It’ll really be interesting to see how those races go. Most people agree the state’s financial situation is a mess – so it’ll be interesting to see if voters want to stay the course or decide to give another party a shot. I wouldn’t be surprised to see some Republicans get in there.

And locally, voters in half the *Rivereast* towns will be faced with important ballot questions at the polls next week, in addition to the political races. Andover and East Hampton voters will grapple with important charter revisions, while in Portland, there’s a rather controversial \$10 million bond question that includes not just improvements to town roads but \$6 million for development of a new park. Letter-writers from all three towns have been opining on those issues for weeks now; I’m very intrigued to see how those questions fare.

So, there are lots of reasons to head to the polls this year – and I hope all of you who are able to do so come out and vote. I champion voter turnout every year; I’d love it if it were consistently 80 percent or higher, regardless of whether the elections are national, state or municipal. There are so many ways to vote. Polls are open for a full 14 hours. Can’t make that timeframe? You can fill out an absentee ballot as late as the day before Election Day. Not registered to vote? Now you can sign up to vote on Election Day itself. Yep; register, cast a ballot, and be on your way. It’s easy to be a part of democracy – and I encourage everyone to do it.

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Speaking of the election, I saw vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine was in *Rivereast* last week. The Democrat stopped by the home of Ted and Ruth Rossi in Middle Haddam for a fundraiser luncheon. Tickets started at \$500 – and for \$2,700 you could get your photo taken with Kaine.

According to the *Connecticut Post*, the luncheon drew a crowd of about 70 – including Gov. Dannel Malloy, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, and Congressman Joe Courtney.

Since becoming Clinton’s running-mate in July, Kaine has been the target of more than his share of jokes and snide cracks; even the *Post*, in its write-up about the fundraiser, called him “Clinton’s less-than-splashy sidekick.” But Blumenthal told Hearst Connecticut Media – which publishes the *Post* – there’s more to him than people might think.

“He has a great sense of humor,” Blumenthal said. “He has a really solid work ethic. He has a really deep sense of faith.”

As the *Post* notes, fundraisers for national political candidates don’t often get this far inland; those events, the paper said, tend to be “centered on Fairfield County’s Gold Coast.” So I think it’s pretty neat, then, that a fundraiser for Kaine was held right in the *Rivereast*’s backyard.

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See you next week – and don’t forget to vote!

# Evans and Orange Face Off Again in 48th

by Julianna Roche

Voters in the 48th Assembly District may experience déjà vu while casting their ballots next week considering their choices, incumbent Democrat Linda Orange and Republican challenger Evan Evans, will be going head-to-head for a second time.

The first was during the 2014 election when Evans lost to Orange, taking home 40 percent of the vote. This time, however, he said it's been a very different campaign; for starters, he didn't wait until July to join the race, as he did in the previous election.

"I think things have changed and more people know who I am now," Evans, a Colchester resident, said.

Orange is very much a known quantity, wrapping up her 10th term as state representative. (The 48th District covers most of Colchester, as well as portions of Lebanon, Mansfield and Windham.)

"The campaign has been going very well," Orange, also a Colchester resident, said. "I've just been heading out to a lot of doors and talking to a lot of people. That's the part of the job I enjoy most – using politics to be able to help people."

According to both candidates, one of the biggest issues of this race is the economy – specifically, fixing the state budget deficit.

"It's all fiscal," Evans said, adding "99 percent of people" he's spoken to going door-to-door have brought up the economy and in-

creased taxes as their biggest concerns going into the election.

Orange said, however, while the state is "always the slowest to come out of the recession," she still believes "it's slowly moving in the right direction."

But Evans had a different opinion. Evans said that "in the last two years, things have only gotten worse," which is why "we need some fresh blood out there." Democrats control both the state House and the state Senate – and ultimately, Evans said, there needs to be a change in leadership to fix the state's spending problem.

"We don't have a revenue problem in this state. We have a spending problem," he said during a "Meet the Candidates" event last month hosted by the Colchester Business Association. "We need to set priorities and stick to those priorities just like we do with a household budget."

If elected, Evans said he would focus first on fixing the state's fiscal problems primarily by trimming government and eliminating "administrative bloat." He also added he believes it's time for new ideas and setting term limits.

"I'm going to reduce the size of the govern-



Linda Orange

ment by getting them out of things that aren't state matters," he said, adding towns should have the ability to be "self-reliant," without the state meddling in places where they may not be needed.

If re-elected, Orange said in addition to working on the budget, she will focus on education and health care – specifically medical insurance issues for small businesses.

"I'm not so sure we can do too much at the state level, but I'll certainly be working to make health care more affordable," she said. "I hear so many people talking about high-deductibles, plus they're paying into the insurance on a monthly basis... that's just not fair."

Both candidates agreed that the state's current financial situation was messy, but Orange, who is known for voting for her constituents rather than along party lines, said she wasn't afraid to "step up to the plate as an independent thinker" to come up with solutions.

"Gov. Malloy and I don't see eye-to-eye on many issues," Orange said, mentioning her introduction of the state's first anti-bullying measure and first video voyeurism bill as prime examples of her support of issues important to her constituents.

Evans agreed, saying he is "frustrated with both sides" including his own party, and he plans to use lessons learned from his military experience in office to alleviate current and future problems if he's elected. (He served for

nearly 30 years in the military before retiring as a major last month.)

"I've had to make tough choices in tough situations," he said. "As an enlisted soldier, I learned to listen to people. ... As an officer, I learned to trust subordinate leaders. I learned to work with other people [and] that you can't do it all yourself."

In the end, Orange said it's up to the people to decide.

"It's important to come out and vote," she said. "We have so many servicemen out there to protect our freedoms," and voting, she stressed, is one of them, a freedom that "is very valuable to each and every one of us."

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Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Voting takes place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The town has four voting districts at three polling places in town: District 1 votes at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.; District 3 votes at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave., and Districts 2 and 4 vote at Abundant Life of Assemblies of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd. Voters unsure of what their district is can call Town Hall at 860-537-7200 or visit [www.dir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx](http://www.dir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx).



Evan Evans

## Board Initiates RHAM Superintendent Search

by Geeta S. Sandberg

At a special RHAM Board of Education meeting last week, the board voted to authorize Chairman Danny Holtsclaw to start the process of searching for a new superintendent by seeking proposals for a professional search consultant.

The action was prompted in response to Schools Superintendent Bob Siminski's August announcement that he'd retire at the end of the 2016-17 school year, after what will be 12 years with the district and a 52-year career.

The Oct. 27 motion followed a discussion by Robert Rader, executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), on the process of hiring a new superintendent and different options for the search process.

The Board of Education, he explained, has to decide if it will appoint a search committee made up of representatives from the community, school and administration along with

Board of Education members to conduct the search, or if a consultant will be hired – and it's the latter the board ultimately decided to go with.

"Hiring a new superintendent is one of the most important actions that a local board of education will ever take," it's explained in the CABE Superintendent Search Guide distributed at the meeting. "The chief executive officer whom you appoint will provide direction for all of the educational activities within your school community. He/she will mold the substance and process of public education and will make certain that your priorities and policies are implemented. The superintendent can take a mediocre school system and make it a sterling example of the very best in educational innovation and substance."

As such, the guide continues, "The process the local board of education uses to select a new superintendent is of paramount impor-

ance."

Rader explained that while the board has the option to conduct the search via a committee, there are several advantages to hiring a consultant including a larger pool of candidates and having access to valuable information on reference checks. In addition, consultants are aware of deadlines and cost-effective advertising, can assist in "selling" the district, can help the board reach a consensus on candidates, and can anticipate problems and questions that occur in a search.

As part of the search consultant's work, they'll conduct interviews with the board, staff, students, parents and the community, and help develop a leadership profile to present to the board.

The board will then develop selection criteria for the new superintendent, after which the vacancy will be published.

The search consultant will receive and pro-

cess applications, conduct initial interviews and comprehensive reference checks, and select candidates to present to the board, which will then conduct its own interviews, identify finalists, and ultimately announce an appointment.

The search consultant will also assist with contract preparations and facilitating negotiations, coordinate the announcement of the appointment, send letters of regret to the other applicants, and offer other CABE services to assist with the transition to a new superintendent.

The board is expected to interview two or three consulting firms before selecting one to assist with the process. The search process usually takes four to five months, and the goal is to have a new superintendent hired by June 1, 2017, to begin work by July 1.

## Andover Administrator Vote is Next Week

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Election Day is almost here, and with it comes the chance for residents to cast a ballot not only for the next president and various state officials, but on whether they'd like to bring a town administrator to Andover.

The question on the ballot will read, "Shall the Town Charter be revised so that the administrative duties of the First Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen are transferred to a new professional Town Administrator position as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?"

The changes to the charter which would result in the new position were recommended by a five-member commission formed by the Board of Selectmen over the summer. Made up of Chairman Adrian Mandeville, George Elliot, Ken Marcia, Angela Montemagni and Steve Willard, the commission was charged with looking at and possibly amending the charter to create the new position; following about a month's worth of work, the commission unanimously decided the change was in the best interest of the town.

If the changes pass, a search committee is expected to be formed in the spring, with the

intention of having an administrator begin in June or July 2017. The appointed professional town administrator would be responsible for running the town's day-to-day operations, but said person would be fully responsible to the Board of Selectmen.

The draft of the revised charter is available at [andoverconnecticut.org](http://andoverconnecticut.org) by clicking "Charter Revision Commission" under the "Appointed" section of the "Boards and Committees" tab. Throughout the document, many of the duties previously listed as being the responsibility of the first selectman have been amended to be the duty of the administrator with the assistance of the selectboard. A large portion of the duties of the first selectman were also stricken from the document, and a new section was added about the administrator.

The first selectman would, however, continue to serve as a key policy leader, preside at meetings, set the meeting agendas with the town administrator, and represent the town in inter-governmental relationships – unless the administrator is designated to do so.

But because of the reduced workload the first

selectman's salary – which is currently around \$50,000 – would be reduced to a stipend and the rest of the money would be put towards the administrator's salary. This would be coupled with \$35,000 approved in the 2016-17 budget for a position to assist with the public works department that was never filled, and together the town will be able to offer a salary of about \$85,000 to a potential administrator without impacting taxpayers.

At a forum hosted by the Andover Democratic and Republican town committees Oct. 18, several administrators from surrounding towns came to speak about the position. An appointed professional town administrator, they shared in their presentation, "enables local officials to involve and serve the entire community, and to actively plan for the future." The town administrator "applies professional skills and training to assist the [selectmen] and to administer the daily operations of the community."

A flyer from the Oct. 18 event explained, "The goal is to provide professional non-partisan services to all residents without increasing the town budget."

Support for the change has been expressed by a number of town officials, including the entirety of the boards of selectmen, finance and education.

Mandeville said of that support this week, "To have every member of the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen in favor of this – if that doesn't tell you it should go I don't know what does."

He added, "The bottom line is, this is about taking the politics out of the day-to-day running of the town, and having some continuity between election cycles – this is kind of a no-brainer."

Mandeville also mentioned individuals will be present at the polling station all day to answer questions regarding the change.

"We will have at least two members there from our support group – a Republican and a Democrat – to answer questions from anyone that has any concerns at all or just needs to hear it from us or see the numbers," he explained.

Voting takes place next Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.

# Johnson Challenging Carpino for 32nd District

by Elizabeth Regan

State Rep. Christie Carpino, a three-term Republican member of the state House of Representatives, is being challenged by former Cromwell official Myron P. Johnson for the 32nd District seat.

The district covers Portland and Cromwell. Carpino, 41, of Cromwell, currently serves as co-chairman of the legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee and is a member of the Judiciary and Public Health committees. She is the only state representative from the minority party to co-chair a committee in the Democrat-dominated General Assembly.

"As a public servant, I believe it is my job to make the best decisions on the needs of Cromwell and Portland," she said in an interview Tuesday. "I have made it a priority to leave political bickering aside and I've always reached across the aisle. I've got a proven track record of working with state and local leaders to benefit my district."

She described the economy and job creation as the most significant issues affecting the district. Her commitment to addressing those concerns goes back to her first term, when she supported a bipartisan jobs bill providing funding and job training for small businesses across the state. According to a March press release from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's office, the program has awarded \$232 million statewide to help 1,505 small businesses create or retain 22,498 jobs since 2011.

She also sees public safety as a key concern, citing successful efforts last year to engage the state Department of Transportation in installing rumble strips and new signage on Route 66 through joint advocacy with state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, R-34.

Johnson, 57, expressed similar priorities. Jobs and traffic safety were at the top of his list.

A member of the Cromwell Board of Selectmen from 2005-09, Johnson said his decision to run for the state House of Representatives was spurred by the failure of a bill that would have secured state funding for a project to reconstruct exit 19 south off Route 9. He said the work would have improved traffic flow and safety in an area known for congestion.

A 2013 bill that would have empowered the bond commission to fund the project was in-

troduced by Carpino and state Sen. Paul Doyle, D-9th district. It was referred to the joint committee on transportation after a public hearing, but never gained traction.

Johnson said he was heavily involved in the highway proposal, from coming up with the design to building support for the project throughout the community.

It was after all the legwork was done at the local level, with only the question of funding remaining, that an experienced politician told Johnson something he said he'd always remember: "It's all politics now."

The situation exemplifies the problem he hopes to fight in the legislature, he said: "We can't have politics when it comes to public safety."

Carpino, for her part, attributed the lack of funding to a state that's in the midst of significant financial problems. "I coauthored the bill with the Cromwell senator, submitted testimony, had a public hearing. Unfortunately, it did not seem to be a priority for the DOT," she said.

She pointed to her record of supporting transportation projects and initiatives, from the recent Route 66 improvements to the year-long rehabilitation of the Arrigoni Bridge completed "on time and under budget" in 2012.

She said she voted for legislation last year that would have paved the way for a "lockbox" to safeguard transportation funding so it won't be used for other purposes.

"I believe we need to safeguard money for infrastructure investments, but I also believe we need to prioritize," Carpino said. "The upkeep and safety of our existing infrastructure needs to be paramount."

Johnson said his plan for the local economy would focus on the development of vacant commercial properties throughout the district as a way to create jobs and add to the tax base.

The first step toward fostering commercial development is to reach out to property owners, from helping them through the local zon-



Christie Carpino

ing and permitting process to making them aware of resources available to them.

"If you're in it by yourself and there's nobody there guiding you through the system, you feel more cautious. The certainty isn't there," Johnson said. "If there's somebody in government helping you along, things move a lot quicker."

Carpino described a similar philosophy in her work to visit local businesses in the district.

"People are very appreciative when a member of government comes in and says 'Hi, I'm here to help,'" she explained.

She said she works with local businesses to help them cut through red tape, connect them with services to help them grow, and answer questions so they can make the best decisions.

Johnson, who owns an architectural landscaping company in town, said his experience gives him a first-hand perspective about how to make the state more friendly to small businesses.

Carpino is an attorney.

"I think we need a new type of politician in there who's trained in different things than what we've been getting the last 20 years," Johnson said. "We need the engineers and architects, things we haven't been addressing for years."

Johnson, with his focus on vacant properties, identified revitalization of the former Elmcrest Hospital facility as one of the most important issues facing Portland residents today.

He said the key is, once again, community outreach.

"Make sure people want what you're trying to do," he said.

And "if there's one developer that doesn't want to cooperate, there's always someone else," he added.

Carpino said she has been speaking with local officials trying to revitalize the 15-acre site that has been vacant for more than a decade.

But she said, at this point, the effort remains "a local issue."

Both candidates cited transparency as a guiding force in their public service.

"You have to involve the people," Johnson said. "You have to have community outreach. Whatever you're doing, it has to be very transparent. Everyone has to be very aware of what

you're doing, what you're proposing. When people get behind it, that's when you're most successful."

For Carpino, being available to constituents is a key component of an open and honest government.

"Being accessible and being transparent: I've made that my mission while in office. I wish all government were like that," she said.

Carpino touted her regular presence at local community events in the district, which she described as crucial to helping people feel comfortable enough to come to her with their questions or concerns.

"People in the district have come to me for very personal and private matters because they needed help," she said. "Those are the things that matter most, being able to help a family or individual with something that is so important to them that they come to you seeking assistance. And I suspect they come to me because I've been able to build that rapport with the community."

Carpino's track record of addressing district concerns includes legislation and votes to assist veterans, prevent drunk driving and curb the opioid epidemic.

She was one of approximately 30 percent of state representatives to achieve a perfect voting record this year, according to a press release. She has not missed a vote since being elected.

Carpino won the seat in 2010, after defeating incumbent Democrat James O'Rourke. Prior to serving at the state level, Carpino served on Cromwell's Board of Assessment Appeals, was the vice chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the vice chair of the Republican Town Committee.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Voting will be held in the Portland Middle School at 93 High Street (in the same building as the high school). Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.



Myron P. Johnson

## \$10 Million Question on Portland Ballot

When Portland voters flock to the polls next Tuesday, in addition to the elections, they'll also be faced with a referendum question asking if the town should take on a \$10 million loan for a new town park and infrastructure improvements.

The bond package – which was detailed in last week's *Riverast* – would include \$6 million for a large-scale recreation complex on

Route 17, \$2.5 million for improvements to deteriorating roads like Brownstone Avenue, and \$1 million to fix sidewalks on streets adjacent to town schools.

The package also sets aside \$500,000 for miscellaneous projects including repairs to roofs on the town garage and Fire Company No. 2 as well as police station windows.

# Cassano and Marchetti Vie for Senate Seat in Portland

by Geeta S. Sandberg

With just four days to go until Election Day, Steve Cassano and Lorraine Marchetti are making their last-ditch efforts to garner support via whatever means necessary, be it phone calls, door-to-door visits, newspaper inserts or waving at intersections.

Cassano, a Democrat from Manchester, is looking for a fourth term covering the Fourth Assembly District, which covers Andover as well as Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester. Marchetti, a Republican from Glastonbury, is looking to unseat him.

Cassano shared this week he was running for re-election because, quite simply, he likes what he does.

"I enjoy my job, I enjoy the people – and that's why I'm running again," he said. "I've worked very hard. I've accomplished more than some people have done in 20-30 years."

Speaking to some of those accomplishments, Cassano mentioned his work to help rein in water fees charged by the Metropolitan District Commission, and his vote in favor of a \$2.2 million deal to keep Sikorsky Aircraft in the state that's expected to result in \$69 billion for the state's economy through 2032. Cassano also mentioned recent expansion announcements by Pratt & Whitney and Electric Boat – which will mean more jobs not only at those companies, but work for the smaller manufacturing businesses around the state.

"You have to have people working to have a thriving economy," Cassano stated. "For every one of those Pratt jobs, that's another paid job in the community, at the machine shops making pieces for Pratt & Whitney."

Regarding some of the issues currently facing the state, Cassano said the reliance on property taxes is too high, particularly for seniors who are on a fixed income and receive social security – which, he added, Connecticut is one of 13 states to tax.

"You're paying into a fund for 30 years, the state has been using your money to support programs for that 30-year period, and then they tax you at the end. That's just not fair," he said. "So hopefully we'll start to phase that out. I think both sides of the aisle agree we need to get that out."

He added the state needs to provide municipalities with another way of raising revenue besides property tax, such as having a portion of the tax on car sales go to the towns.

"Because we don't have another source, we're reducing services instead," Cassano explained. "And that's not the answer."

As far as Andover specifically, he mentioned his efforts to garner the town a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant for repairs to the bridge on Times Farm Road, as well as work to get approval for the location change to the grant meant for the recreation field currently being built on Long Hill Road.

Cassano added he attends several senior luncheons in the town each year, where he gets to know the residents and receive feedback.

"I've made a lot of friends there," he said of the luncheons. "The beauty of that is we're not there as Republicans or Democrats; we're there as people, and people accept me as their senator, not a Democrat. I think that's significant."

He added, "I've worked closely with the First Selectman [Bob Burbank] – a Republican. I work across the aisle; you're not a Democrat or a Republican, you represent everyone."

And although they differ in other ways, that bipartisan mentality is something Cassano and his opponent have in common.



Cassano

Marchetti, who has served stints on both the Glastonbury Board of Education and its Town Council, also said this week, "I work across the aisle."

She added, "In the election period, people do become more partisan, but I don't see this as a party thing. After I get elected, I don't care what you are; Republican or Democrat we need to figure out the solution for this state and work together to get it done."

For Marchetti, the biggest issue is the state's financial situation, which she called the "main concern" for residents she's talked with.

"It all comes back to the tax burden and unfair regulations," she said, adding they make it difficult for residents as well as small businesses "to stay here, and that's why people are leaving."

She continued, "We need to change how we do things in Hartford."

Regarding Andover, Marchetti said she felt she understood some of the issues facing residents, since she grew up in a similarly small town in Maine.

"I had a farm, my father and uncle hunted, so the quality-of-life issues folks I've met in Andover have, they're not that different from where I grew up," she explained.

And, Marchetti said, she's a good listener, which would aid her as she gets to know the district.

"When I first get involved with a group, I listen a lot," she said. "I come up with my own conclusions – I'm not going to just do what people are telling me – but I listen and take what they say into consideration."

Marchetti added she does her research, whatever that research might be, to understand the issues that are important to the residents of the Fourth District. An example of this would be when she took a pistol course following her first meeting in Andover.

"The first meeting I went to in Andover, the first question I'm asked was about the Second Amendment and guns," Marchetti said. "I danced around it a little bit, but they weren't buying it."

So she decided to take a pistol course, to familiarize herself with the whole process of applying for a gun permit and using one. "How else do you learn?" she said.

She continued, "When I first walked in the door [for the course], I thought I was going to have a heart attack because the table was full of guns. ... I didn't know what to expect, really. I was just doing it to learn. But it also gave me confidence that I could actually handle them if I had to – not that I want to – but I'm not afraid of guns anymore."

"I haven't really told a lot of people about it," Marchetti said of the experience. "That's not why I did it. It's not relevant; it's just how I make my decisions on things. I do my homework – that's the bottom line."

In sum, Marchetti concluded, "I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and dig into all this stuff that's tucked in the corners that no one talks about, and work as a team to try to turn this ship around. ... No one is going to be able to fix that in two years, but the timing was right for me to run, and if I can give back to my state and make it better, then I'm going to give it a try."

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Voting takes place next Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Rd.



Marchetti

# Crouch Looks to Unseat Osten in 19th

by Julianna Roche

Republican Barbara Crouch is challenging Democrat Cathy Osten in the race for the state senate seat of the 19th District.

The 10-town district includes the *Rivereast* communities of Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague.

Osten (who is also Sprague's first selectwoman) is seeking her third term. She described the campaign so far as "excellent" and "smooth," with most voters concerned about the state budget and economy.

"It doesn't matter what town it is, the people want to make sure we are working for them and that we're paying attention to the budget," she said. "Some things got cut that people didn't really like to see."

Crouch agreed, but added that during their debate earlier last month, her opponent [Osten] said she thought Malloy was doing a good job, "which is an indication she will vote for him."

"People are very unhappy with Gov. Malloy," Crouch said, adding she is also very upset with the direction the state has been going.

Crouch, who spent her formative years in Mississippi, had previously served as finance director in Griswold and Lebanon, with her tenures in both towns marked by controversy.

After working as finance director in Griswold from September 2009 to April 2011, Crouch filed a discrimination complaint with the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities against the town of Griswold in May 2011, claiming racial discrimination and hostility from colleagues.

The town's response to the complaint was that Crouch had repeatedly tried to get colleagues fired and also made costly mathematical errors, including a \$900,000 error in the 2011-12 budget, which was caught by her replacement.

Crouch then held the same finance director position in Lebanon from April 2011 to September 2011, before filing a lawsuit against the town in November 2011, alleging she was wrongfully fired.

Both cases ended in settlements, with Griswold settling with Crouch for \$15,000 and Lebanon agreeing to a settlement of \$75,000.

Crouch declined to get into specifics in either case, and noted that, in both of them, judges did not rule against her, and settlements were reached. And this is the message she gives to voters.

"What I leave people with," she said, "[is] you had an impartial person look at all the evidence and side with me. ... I've had very successful jobs since then and I've learned to respect the culture I'm in."

She added, "I'm not running for treasurer; I'm running for state Senate."

Ultimately, Crouch – who currently works as development director at Hygienic Art, Inc. and as an instructor at Goodwin College – described the incidents in Griswold and Lebanon



Cathy Osten

as a "learning experience."

"I'm a firm believer, as an educator, in self-reflecting. Past experience is a learning experience," she said in regard to her rocky history with the towns, adding she believes her personal beliefs "clashed" with the way things were run.

Similar to Osten, however, Crouch said during her campaign so far she's heard complaints about taxes being too high, while businesses have mentioned regulations that "don't really make sense" and "the government is hindering them, not helping them."

"It's a big chilling ripple effect," Crouch continued, adding if she is elected, one of her primary missions would be to put together a five-year budget with the legislature.

"This yearly budget isn't going to cut it," she said.

Osten said she has already started "working on some concrete steps for streamlining the budget" and she will continue that "immediately after the election."

According to both candidates, another major issue in the race is loss of jobs and residents moving out of state due to lack of opportunity and financial troubles.

"It really breaks my heart because there is opportunity here, but people don't know how to access it," Crouch said.

"We have a legislature that won't acknowledge we lost 1,000 jobs in the New England area in September," she added. "You cannot correct what you refuse to acknowledge."

Osten, however, said she has taken steps to

strengthen the workforce and bring in more opportunity. For example, she spearheaded a regional economic development forum that brings together all of the chambers of commerce in southeastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island to discuss potential legislation that could "help target vocational technical schools and work programs that revolve around manufacturing."

She added there are "at least two" pieces of legislation expected to come from it.

The incumbent also partook in a historic vote in the state Senate in September, voting to retain and grow approximately 8,000 jobs at Sikorsky Aircraft, to keep the company's headquarters here in Connecticut, and to increase Sikorsky's spending with its network of 302 in-state suppliers.

"We were so happy to support businesses in the area [like Sikorsky] that were providing good paying jobs," Osten added.

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Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. In Hebron, voters can cast ballots at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St. (Route 85), while in Marlborough, voting takes place at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive.



Barbara Crouch

# Ziobron Looks Forward to Third Term in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Melissa Ziobron, an East Haddam Republican first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2012, has been running an uncontested campaign that has allowed her to focus on issues that will be front and center during the next session of the General Assembly and in her district.



Melissa Ziobron

Ziobron represents the 34th District of East Haddam, East Hampton and the Westchester section of Colchester.

“Not having an opponent has allowed me to continue the public service and district work that I really love, and it’s afforded me to spend a lot of time with my family that I otherwise would not have had,” Ziobron said this week.

One of her priorities in Hartford is working to create an “enforceable” spending cap to ensure state spending doesn’t exceed increases in inflation and personal income. She is part of a 24-member commission charged with adopting clear definitions so the cap, approved as a constitutional amendment in 1992, can accomplish what it was intended to do.

State Attorney General George Jepson said in a letter last year that the spending cap “has no current legal effect, and will continue to have no legal effect until the General Assembly adopts the necessary definitions by a three-fifths vote of the members of each house.”

The Spending Cap Commission has been meeting since March with a December deadline for releasing its final report.

“My voice and my constant attention to those

issues this whole summer long has been [a way] to keep taxpayers in the forefront of these conversations at the capitol,” she said.

Ziobron is the highest-ranking House Republican on the General Assembly’s 57-member Appropriations Committee.

Democrats now control both chambers of the General Assembly; Republicans would need to pick up 12 seats to hold a slim 76-75 majority, according to CT News Junkie.

Formerly the economic development coordinator in East Haddam, Ziobron now devotes herself wholly to her elected position.

“I’m lucky, and maybe my constituents are lucky too, because I can focus 100 percent of my time on a so-called part-time position,” she said earlier this year when she announced her re-election campaign.

In East Hampton, Ziobron has been a visible presence advocating for concerns such as those related to the growing opioid epidemic, state parks and funding for the East Hampton High School renovation.

She worked with state Sen. Art Linares, R-33, to secure \$7 million in state funding for the renovation projected after the state Department of Administrative Services failed to fund the maximum reimbursement amount.

She also supported the expansion of the Air Line Trail through a \$583,800 grant to connect downtown East Hampton to the Portland border at Depot Hill Road.

While she believes state bonding money must be applied sparingly and for very specific needs, she felt the recreational trail was an appropriate use of funds.

She said other sources of state funding, such as the Community Investment Act, have been threatened in recent budgets. The act was created to protect open spaces, among other causes.

“Being able to support expansion of a trail system at the bond process, with less and less other resources for [the town] to leverage, is important,” she said.

She described herself as someone who’s not afraid to work for responsible state spending even when it may mean less money for her district. She cited a \$10 million bonding allocation to the Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, approved more than five years ago for a new theater in East Haddam, which has yet to be used. She said she had to tell the organization she could not recommend extending the bonding approval.

“I don’t think about bonding as a never-ending kind of gift to the legislature,” she said. “I think you have to prioritize those projects.”

One of her key areas of focus as the ranking Appropriations Committee member during the 2015 legislative session included making sure the minority party was engaged in the budget process from the start. She kept close tabs on the work done by the group’s 13 subcommittees; she also brought together the ranking Republicans of each of those subcommittees to outline their own cohesive, well-defined budget priorities.

This year, the House Republican Caucus drafted a five-year budget plan that includes “long-term structural changes” including mandatory voting by the legislature on labor contracts, overtime accountability protocols, and caps on spending and bonding.

Ziobron has a track record of aiding environmental causes in the district, including helping to clean up and revitalize Sunrise State Park in Moodus, the Salmon River State Forest and local lakes and streams. She is also a member of the General Assembly’s Environment Committee.

She has also introduced successful bills on industrial hemp, first approving it for use in research and then legalizing it.

She supported the legalization of industrial hemp to align with the 2014 Federal Farm Bill, according to public hearing testimony. Industrial hemp can be used for paper, foods and beverages, cosmetics, personal care, carpeting, body care products and nutritional supplements.

“This year, the research is actually being done at UConn and they really found some amazing things so far,” she said. “The research would never have been done if it wasn’t for the change in status of industrial hemp.”

Ziobron also touted a new law she helped implement that allows home-based businesses to produce up to \$25,000 of food products without using a commercial kitchen.

When the bill first made it through the House in 2015, Ziobron said in a press release, “While it is important to have standards for commercial venues, many view the regulations for small scale production of items like cupcakes, baked goods, jams, and jellies as overkill; these products have almost no hazardous potential.”

Ziobron won her seat in 2012 against Democrat Chris Goff of East Hampton upon the retirement of Democrat incumbent Gail Hamm.

The vote to send her back to Hartford in 2014 was a decisive one as she defeated Democratic challenger Mimi Perrotti of East Hampton with about 70 percent of the vote.

In addition to serving on the Appropriations Committee, Ziobron is a member of the Environment Committee and the Committee on Children and belongs to the General Assembly’s Sportsmen Caucus. She was appointed to the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council and the Spending Cap Commission.

Ziobron is married with two children.

# Applications Collected for New Positions in Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

At its Nov. 1 meeting, the Board of Selectmen announced applications for the two newly-created public works positions – the facilities and grounds foreman and the highways and fleets foreman – have been officially been closed.

The positions were created after Chris Corsa, who’d served as the superintendent of operations for the public works department, resigned last month. Rather than replace Corsa, the town opted to restructure his role into the two separate positions.

According to First Selectwoman Amy Traversa, there were nine applicants for the highways and fleets position and eight for the facilities and grounds position. She said she, Town Planner Peter Hughes and interim Superintendent of Operations John Jones narrowed the pool down to four applicants and three applicants, respectively.

“We’re looking for the right candidate for each of these positions and hopefully we’ll have that,” Traversa said, adding that the next round of “narrowing down the pool” will consist of interviews done by herself, Hughes and Jones, as well as two public works supervisors from out of town. She added Jones’ “wealth and experience” would help them find the best fit applicants for both positions.

“He [Jones] has been incredibly effective,” Traversa added. “I dare say in the last three weeks, we’ve gotten as much done as we have in the last six months.”

“My confidence is through the roof with him and the experience [of working with him] is pleasant,” she added. “People in town have been very responsive to him.”

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Also Tuesday, Traversa shared that the town has opted to move forward with a project to place LED upgrades in light fixtures around town. The proposed lighting retrofit project will be done as a cost-savings measure and the lighting work will replace old components with more energy-efficient counterparts by upgrading to LED lighting, which would reduce usage, improve lighting quality and reduce maintenance costs.

The project locations being considered are at the Senior Center, Richmond Memorial Library, the Public Works office, Town Hall, and Fire House No. 2. The total project cost is estimated at \$101,640, and it will be financed through the town’s existing relationship with Eversource. Traversa said there will be an annual estimated cost savings in energy of \$17,410, so in approximately 44 months the project would pay for itself.

Traversa also emphasized there would be different light temperatures used in different locations. For example, in dimly-lit areas, bright white lights would be used for security purposes; however, around town in decorative lamps, she said a warmer color would be used, as “village lighting.”

“We don’t want to be in-your-face urban,” she said. “We’re not urban, and [bright light] is disturbing to residents.”

The project is expected to begin in January.

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Also Tuesday, Traversa announced an official public hearing would be held next Wednesday, Nov. 9, at which residents will be able to vote on whether the town should purchase a piece of property at 17 East Lake Rd.

The .75-acre piece of land includes a small cottage adjacent to Blish Park, with a waterfront view of Lake Terramuggus. The town has agreed on a sale price of \$200,000 for the property, which is owned by James Dwyer. A sale agreement has already been written up, in advance of next week’s hearing.

The Board of Finance last week voted 5-0 (with one abstaining vote from board member Ken Hjultrom) to move the potential purchase to a hearing. It will be held in Marlborough Elementary School’s media room at 7 p.m.

“We’re moving forward [and] have arranged for the appraisal to be done on the property, as well as environmental testing for asbestos and lead,” Traversa explained. “We are expecting to find both. It will not be a surprise.”

Both the first selectwoman and Hughes also clarified during the meeting that the above ground oil tank on the property will be removed and the town will be doing soil testing. Hughes also added that the contract between the town and the property’s homeowner (which was presented to the finance board last week) is indeed a “legal contract” – which was previously questioned by several board members at the meeting.

“We have land use attorneys who are well-regarded,” Traversa said, adding that writing up an agreement was “a smart thing to do” as the homeowner had already been approached by other parties interested in purchasing the land.

For now, Traversa is focused on the property acquisition itself. “What happens with the property down the road is a second consideration,” she said. “I have my ideas, but we’re a long way from that.”

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

# East Hampton Voters to Decide Bifurcation, Other Charter Changes

by Elizabeth Regan

Registered voters in East Hampton will be faced with several proposed changes to the town's charter when they go to the polls Tuesday to pick their elected officials.

According to Registrar of Voters Jodi Brazal, those who pay taxes in town but do not live there will not be able to vote because charter revision is not a matter of authorizing an expenditure.

There will be five separate questions pertaining to charter revision. Four are substantive changes, while the fifth is intended to address "grammatical, technical and other minor changes and clarifications."

The first referendum question involves bifurcating the annual town budget. Currently, voters either approve or reject a budget that includes general government, education, debt service and capital expenses. Bifurcating the budget means voters would see two questions on the ballot: one amount for general government and a separate amount for education.

There is no mechanism in the language approved by the East Hampton Charter Revision Commission and the town council to clarify how debt service and capital expenses would be divvied up among the town operations and education budgets on the ballot.

Charter Revision Commission Chairwoman Melissa Engel has said the language was left vague on purpose, since "there might be an occasion when something that might seem to be more of an education responsibility should really fall under a town government side of the house and vice versa."

Members of the Charter Revision Commission said they recommended bifurcating the budget as a way to provide more transparency for voters by letting them know how much money is going toward general government expenses and how much is going toward the

school system. They said the system encourages close cooperation between the town manager and superintendent of schools to create and promote a budget that works for the town and the schools.

The idea of budget bifurcation came up because of multiple failed budget referendums over the past several years.

If one proposed budget fails but the other passes, only the budget that failed would go back for adjustment and another vote.

The Board of Education opposes bifurcation. In a statement, Chairman Christopher Goff objected to the lack of clarity in addressing where debt service and capital expenses are assigned.

"As stated to the Board of Education, debt services assignment can vary from year to year, depending on the council's wish. All school buildings are property of the town, therefore debt and capital improvements should be indicated on the town's budget," Goff said.

The second charter revision question is an effort to clarify who has the power to fill vacancies in elective offices.

The Charter Revision Commission's recommendation gives the Town Council the authority to fill vacancies on boards and commissions. It also requires that any vacancy be filled by a member of the same party as the one who left the seat.

A review of policies in Colchester, Cromwell, Glastonbury, Haddam, Marlborough, Middletown and Portland shows only two towns empower their school board to fill their own vacancies: Colchester and Portland. Most of the towns include a same-party provision.

The school board opposes the measure, according to Goff's statement.

"The Board of Education is identified under state statute as the appointing authority to its board," he wrote. "While we agree that the seat

should be filled by a member of the same political party as the vacated seat, we feel the Board of Education has the expertise and knowledge of the specific needs of the board."

State law governing school boards specifies that vacancies shall be filled by the remaining members of the board "unless otherwise provided by charter or special act."

The third charter revision question asks voters if all elected officials should be sworn in the day after the regular election.

Currently, different elected bodies have different timetables for being sworn in.

The fourth question asks if the charter should be amended "to allow a member of the Town Council to hold office or accept employment one year after the term is completed?"

The proposed change, in addition to specifying councilors cannot hold "more than one elected or appointed office" while serving, would change the length of time following their tenure during which they are ineligible to be appointed to office or take on paying jobs with the town. The current charter puts the prohibition at two years; the recommendation would shorten it to one year.

The Charter Revision Commission has explained the fifth question as a collection of technical changes. They include removing outdated references to positions that no longer exist or have changed.

It also empowers the council to appoint an "interim" town manager – as opposed to the "acting" town manager currently authorized in the charter – and removes a provision that "the council may provide by ordinance for an alternative method or methods of designating an acting town manager."

According to Charter Revision Commission Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the language pertaining to ordinance was removed because it

was unnecessary. With the council empowered to appoint an interim town manager, she said "there would be no time the council would need to appoint a town manager using an alternative method."

Another technical change included in question five is tied to the bifurcation question. It changes each reference in the Board of Finance section from "budget" to "budgets" to reflect separate general government and education budgets.

If the bifurcation question does not pass but the fifth question does, it could lead to a discrepancy between the two sections of the charter.

Engel said the commission had not considered that possibility when drafting the language. She did not know what kind of effect the contradictory language could have going forward.

State statute and public notice requirements mean it is too late to make any changes to the proposed revisions.

"I guess we'll just have to hope the bifurcation question passes," she said.

The Town Council voted unanimously in January to establish the commission to carry out the extensive work of changing the town's foundational document. State statute specifies the commission has no more than 18 months and no less than 90 days to submit their draft report to the town clerk.

A charter revision question failed on the 2010 general election ballot. Multiple proposed revisions, the largest of which was a move to four-year terms for Town Council members, were combined into one referendum question. Critics of the combined approach characterized it as throwing the baby out with the bathwater – rejecting all changes when voters only objected to some of them.

## Woman Dies After Colchester Crash

by Julianna Roche

A Wallingford woman has died due to injuries sustained in a two-car collision, police said.

State police were notified Oct. 14 that Dorothy S. Perry, 67, of 2 Pequot Rd., Wallingford, had succumbed to the injuries she sustained in a crash the week before.

According to police, Perry was driving her Infinite I30 eastbound on Route 16 at around 5:50 p.m. Oct. 7 when she was struck by a Chevrolet Tahoe K1 driven by Emily M. Forsyth, 17, of 11 Barberry Lane, Moodus,

which was attempting to turn left onto Route 149 from Route 16.

Police said Perry was transported by Colchester Hayward Fire Department to Hartford Hospital for serious injuries. Police were told Oct. 14 she passed away.

According to police, the case is now being investigated as a fatal collision investigation. No charges have been filed. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash is asked to call Officer Jonathan Goss with the Colchester Police Department at 860-537-7270.

## Andover Police News

10/26: State Police said Michael Beben, 40, of 123 Ellington Ave., Ellington was arrested and charged with threatening and breach of peace: threatening.

10/30: State Police said Lisa Cardarelli, 52, of 9 Shoddy Mill Rd. was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

## Marlborough Police News

10/18: State Police said at approximately 8 p.m., they responded to a larceny of two Stihl BR700 backpack blowers from a landscape trailer parked on Virginia Rail Drive. Anyone with information can contact Officer Julius Ransom at Troop K 860-465-5400.

## Colchester Police News

10/26: Colchester Police said Victor O. Ramos, 21, of 52 Balaban Rd., was arrested and charged with second-degree breach of peace and third-degree assault.

## Hebron Police News

10/29: State Police said Joseph M. Gleason, 52, of 62 Elvree St., Manchester, was arrested and charged with improper use of a marker/license/registration, operating a motor vehicle while license/registration is suspended, allowing the operation of a motor vehicle by a person under 18 without insurance, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

## One-Vehicle Crash on Skinner Hill Road in Andover

by Julianna Roche

State Police responded to a one-vehicle car crash last Monday, Oct. 24, on Skinner Hill Road, which left both a driver and passenger with minor injuries.

According to police, at approximately 7:20 p.m., a Nissan Sentra driven by Nicholas Dockum, 19, of 30 Margaret Dr., Coventry, was traveling southbound on Skinner Hill Road when it struck a mailbox on the right shoulder. Police said the vehicle subsequently collided with four wooden guardrail posts before coming to an uncontrolled final stop

against a tree.

Both Dockum and the passenger, Madison Clark, 17, of 2 Summit Rd., Columbia, were transported to Manchester Memorial Hospital for minor injuries by Columbia Fire Department and Andover Fire Department, respectively.

According to police, Dockum was charged with an infraction for traveling at an unreasonably fast speed and failure to wear a seatbelt.

# Obituaries

## Crest Hill, Ill.

### Howard R. Hansen

Howard R. Hansen, 85, of Crest Hill, Ill., passed away Wednesday, Oct. 19, after a brief illness. Born in Hartford Sept. 13, 1931, he was raised in Wilson.

He was preceded by his parents, Peter Christian and Margaret Rowell Hansen.

Howard was a devoted hardworking son and a serious student. Losing his father at a very early age, he and his brother Fred had to work hard to help support the family, maintaining the poultry and egg business. He pedaled his bike to deliver the *Hartford Courant* on a morning route. He worked many summers at North Meadow Farms in Wilson. He was a good and faithful Boy Scout, enjoying time away at summer camp when he could.

Howard graduated from UConn in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree and also did graduate work at Columbia University. He entered the growing field of computer engineering and technical writing, which eventually brought him to Idaho Falls in 1960 working with an atomic energy firm, where he remained until his retirement. Howard enjoyed skiing, golfing and gardening, harvesting his own tomatoes to make salsa. In his later years when he moved to Illinois, he was fond of taking the train to Chicago for a tour and a nice meal. Howard had a wry sense of humor, loved to read and spend countless hours on his computer doing research.

He leaves behind his older brother, Frederick P. Hansen of Middle Haddam; nephew, Jeffrey A. Hansen of Richmond, Va.; niece, Margaret Hansen Cooley of Farmington; and nephew, Gregory P. Hansen of Hendersonville, N.C.; as well as nine great-nieces and nephews and other relatives, including his Nash and Stevenson cousins.

Anderson Memorial Homes, Crest Hill, Ill., is in charge of funeral arrangements, with a later memorial service in Connecticut, at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations in his name can be made to Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, P.O. Box 206, Middle Haddam, CT 06456. Attn: Building Fund.

## East Hampton

### Julia Casteran House

Julia Casteran House, 101, formerly of East Hampton, widow of Neal E. House, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 29. Julia was born in Cobalt, and graduated from Middletown High School.

She married Neal E. House and they had celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary. Julia was the business manager and bookkeeper for the couple's machine business, N.E. House Co. in East Hampton. They raised five children, Walter House and wife Shirley of Maine, Rita Arnold of Middle Haddam, Nancy Knott and husband Raymond of Arizona, Janice Cross of Portland, and Susan Wetmore and husband Gordon of Massachusetts; 13 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her brother and two sisters.

Julia was an 85-year member of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, where she was called the "Energizer Bunny" and also the church "Peanut Lady," where shucking the peanuts always included a tea party. She was a competitive Scrabble and card player, a knitter, a reader and on a Wii bowling team. She loved baking pies and cookies, and kisses on cheeks, Halloween, and family gatherings. Her only regret was that she never learned to ride a bike. Julia's warm smile and loving nature will be greatly missed.

Julia's family received friends at the Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam Thursday, Nov. 3. A funeral service was held at the church that morning, with the Rev. Lois Kennedy officiating. Burial followed in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

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

## East Hampton

### John James Ducki

John James Ducki, 66, of East Hampton, (formerly of Rocky Hill), passed away early Friday morning, Oct. 28, at Yale New Haven Hospital, surrounded by his loving family, holding the hand of his beloved wife. Born July 20, 1950, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Walter Sr. and Helen (Conroy) Ducki.



John was raised in Rocky Hill. He proudly served in the Air National Guard as an aircraft maintenance mechanic before being honorably discharged. Although he and Debbie knew each other in high school, on the day of his discharge, also Debbie's birthday, they reconnected at the Rocking Horse in Hartford, and the rest is history. He went on to work in the construction and paving field, most notably employed at V. Lanou and Sons Paving and Wolf Construction before retiring.

John loved life and enjoyed many things, including hunting, fishing, clamming, kayaking, snowmobiling and camping but most of all being with his family. John was a very charismatic person, and you couldn't help but feel welcome and loved when in his presence. On most weekends, you could stop by to say 'hi,' to find him and his wife Debbie rooting for the New England Patriots football team or Joey Logano's NASCAR team, and find yourself sitting with him for several hours, sharing stories and talking about life, not wanting to leave because of his magnetic personality.

In the last year of his life, he was able to enjoy life to the fullest, as was how everyone knew John to live. He went camping with his wife at Burlingame campground in Rhode Island, surrounded by much of his family which he looked forward to every year. He went to Loudon, N.H., to watch Joey Logano race with his son Adam and friends. And was able to see all of his friends and family come together in a joyous celebration which made him happier than he could ever imagine. Before John passed, we got our first snowfall of the year, which would make John think about stoking up the wood stove, and getting the snowmobile ready for the season.

John was predeceased by his parents, his brother Walter P. Ducki Jr. and his nephew Craig P. Ducki.

He is survived by the love of his life, Debbie; his sons, Jesse Ducki and his wife Winter of Colchester, and Adam Ducki and his wife Jessica of East Hampton. His is also survived by his adoring sister, Evelyn Hughes; his grandchildren, Adelina and Jacob; his nieces and nephews, Lori, Shawn, Cheryl, John, Carrieanne, Heather and Amy; and many great nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, Nov. 2, at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. The funeral service was Thursday, Nov. 3, followed by a burial in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill.

## Andover

### Vera L. Spencer

Vera L. Spencer, 90, of Andover, formerly of Meriden, beloved wife for 68 years of the late Lewis W. Spencer, passed away Sunday, Oct. 23, in Windsor Locks.

Born in San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 16, 1926, daughter of the late Robert and Grace (Balding) Fogle, she was raised in San Francisco and had lived in Meriden for many years before retiring to Machiasport, Maine.

She leaves two sons, Robert Spencer of Stafford and David Spencer of Andover; two daughters, Diane Tully of Windsor Locks and Jeannette Spencer of Ellsworth, Maine; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband Lewis, she was predeceased by a son, Clayton Spencer; two brothers, Otis and Willard Fogle; and a sister, May McGlen.

Burial was private and at the convenience of the family in Longfellow Cemetery, Machias, Maine. Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has care of the arrangements.

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

## Marlborough

### Richard Allen Harrison

Richard Allen Harrison, 85, of Cromwell, formerly of Marlborough, husband of Astrid (Franson) Harrison, died Saturday, Oct. 29. Born June 13, 1931, in Long Branch, N.J., he was the son of the late Alfred and Alice (Behr) Harrison.

Richard graduated from Rutgers University and was retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, where he was a mechanical engineer. Richard proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of first lieutenant before his discharge.

Richard was a lifelong and very active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. He was an Eagle Scout, a member of the Regional School District Board of Education for 10 years, and also served on the state Board of Education. Richard was active in support of the local Democratic Party.

Besides his wife Astrid, he is survived by his three daughters, Jill Harrison of East Hampton, Deanna Ray of Durham, Paige Harrison and her companion Joseph Violette of Portland; brothers-in-law and their spouses Raymond and Evelyn Franson of Maine, Carl and Dianne Franson of Connecticut; his grandchildren, Amy and Christopher Ziemba; several nieces, nephews, extended family and a special friend Lisa.

Funeral services will be held today, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., in Bethlehem Lutheran Church on East High Street, East Hampton. Burial will follow in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424 or to Covenant Village Benevolent Care, 52 Missionary Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416.

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

## Colchester

### Joseph Mackas

Joseph Mackas, "Joe," 87, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 25, at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. He was born March 9, 1929, in Colchester, to Andrew Davidovich and Nadezhda Zhibrik Mackas.



Joseph grew up in Colchester, Connecticut. He graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester in 1947. After high school, he worked for Coca Cola Co. in East Hartford. Joe's strong work ethic led him to work at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a test cell operator, where he worked for 38 years. At retirement from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Joe was the recipient of an award for Outstanding Loyalty and Dedication for his years of employment.

Joseph married Joan Blackall in 1965 at St. Timothy's Church in West Hartford. They were happily married for 51 years. He was an active member of the West Hartford Senior Center. Joe enjoyed his moped rides, fishing, polka music, playing the accordion and outdoor concerts. Joe looked forward to annual summer family camping vacations to Lake George, N.Y., birthday celebrations, and World Series baseball games. Joe's fondest memories were growing up on the family farm in Colchester, "The Country."

Joseph is survived by his spouse, Joan of West Hartford; his daughters, Carolyn (Mackas) Thompson of Huntington Beach, Calif.; Nancy (Mackas) Bonomo of Cheshire; his brother, George A. Mackas of Wethersfield; his grandchildren, Luke and Shaun Thompson and Joshua and Lily Bonomo; his nieces and nephews; sons-in-law, David Thompson and David Bonomo; former neighbors, friends and other relatives.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Nadezhda Mackas; his brothers, Alexander Mackas, Vladimir Mackas; and his sister, Olga Mackas Baclawski.

The family received relatives and friends Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016 at Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. A funeral service followed at St. Andrew's Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed the funeral at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to American Heart Association.

## Colchester

### Olga Newhall

Olga (Wojkowski) Newhall, 96, beloved wife of the late Clifford E. Newhall, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 31, at Marlborough Healthcare Center. She was born in Hartford, the daughter of John and Stephanie (Bokonchuk) Wojkowski.



Olga was a resident of East Hartford for 61 years and later lived in Colchester for eight years. Olga was Hartford's Miss Cinderella 1936. As an adult, she was always dressed to the nines, matching outfit and purse, hair and makeup always done to the latest style. She always enjoyed dancing the polka. Olga was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She leaves behind her two sons, Thomas W. Newhall and wife Patricia of Mt. Dora, Fla., and Clifford E. Newhall III and Holly Minis of Hendersonville, N.C.; two brothers, Alex Wojkowski of Miami, Fla., and John Wojkowski and wife Helen of East Hartford; a sister, Anna Tautic of South Windsor; three grandchildren, Mark, Kip and Shayla; and a great-grandchild, Nico. She also leaves many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held today, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. Family and friends are invited to call at the funeral home today from 10-11 a.m., just prior to the service.

As Olga was a breast cancer survivor, the family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Susan G. Komen, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309.

## Colchester

### John P. Young Jr.

John P. Young Jr., "Jack," 77, of South Windsor, formerly of Colchester, beloved husband of Mary (McCauley) Young, died peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 26, at home, surrounded by his family. He was born on Oct. 10, 1939, in Worcester, Mass., son of the late John and Anne (Prohovich) Young.



John grew up in West Boylston, Mass., and graduated from Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, Mass. He served our country in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft mechanic. John married the love of his life, Mary McCauley on July 9, 1960, and together they raised a family in Webster, Mass., Colchester and South Windsor. He worked in the aircraft industry most of his career.

John was a prominent civic advocate where he served on the Colchester Board of Education and was a volunteer fireman and EMT instructor. For those that knew and loved him, he was a model of a life well lived. He had a wicked sense of humor mixed with warmth, sincerity and an affinity to problem solve. We were blessed to learn many valuable lessons from John during his 77 years. Among them were how to make the best French onion soup, always be on time, never care what people think of you as long as you are happy, what to do if you step on a skunk, and most importantly, patience, respect and how to love with all of your heart.

Along with his wife, Mary, and sister-in-law, Patricia Kepler, he leaves his children, John P. Young III, Paula A. McCabe and her husband Patrick, Thomas B. Young and loving spouse Judy Hemphill, Richard M. Young and his wife Cathy, Kathleen G. Young and Melissa M. Young and her loving spouse Geoffrey Richon; a brother, William H. Young; two grandchildren, Steven and Katelyn; a nephew, William; and two nieces, Allison Kepler and her husband, Michael, Amy Klein and her husband, John; and his two beloved Shih Tzus, Buster and Becky.

He was predeceased by his son, Craig Nelson Young, and daughter-in-law, Cindy Young.

His family received friends Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor. A Memorial Mass was held Monday, Oct. 31, at St. Margaret Mary Church in South Windsor. Military honors followed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Muscular Dystrophy Association, 127 Washington Ave., 3rd Floor West, North Haven, CT 06473 or at [mda.org](http://mda.org).

Visit [carmonfuneralhome.com](http://carmonfuneralhome.com) for online condolences and the guestbook.



Andover

Janice Tardiff Moffitt

Janice Tardiff Moffitt, 75, of Andover, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her immediate family, Monday, Oct. 31, after a difficult year-long battle with cancer.

Janice was born May 25, 1941, in Lewiston, Maine, and is the daughter of the (late) Roland and Marguerite (Cunion) Tardiff. She has also resided in Reskln, N.H., and Newtown, and has been a resident of Andover since 1986.

Janice attended Lewiston High School, graduating in 1959, and Gorham State Teacher's College, graduating in 1963. Following college graduation, Janice decided that she was up for more adventure than Lewiston could offer. She joined the Peace Corps and served in the Philippines from 1963-65. When she spoke of her time in the Peace Corps, it was clear that it was one of the most exciting and fulfilling adventures of her life.

Janice was married to the late James H. Moffitt III, also of Lewiston, in 1967. They remained together until his passing in 1994. Together, they leave behind three children, Jim Moffitt and his wife, Lisa Moffitt, of Manchester; Peggy Moffitt Earnest and her husband, Brad Earnest, of Columbia; and Tim Moffitt and his wife, Christine Ruiz Moffitt, of Columbia.

Janice once said that her greatest talent was being a mother, and what she learned well as a mother, she perfected as a grandmother to her six grandchildren, Joel and Adam Moffitt of Manchester; Kyle, Danielle and Julianne Earnest of Columbia; and Collin Moffitt, also of Columbia.

Janice's grandchildren have been blessed to have grown up surrounded by her boundless love, energy, humility, and giving spirit. She has been very involved in each and every one of their lives, serving as surrogate mother, chauffeur, nurse, chef, entertainer, cheerleader, and babysitter. Her passing leaves an unfillable void in the lives of those she left behind.

Besides her children and grandchildren, Janice leaves behind a beloved and special sister, Jacqueline (Tardiff) Palubinskas and her husband, Ben Palubinskas, of Westbrook, Maine; and three nieces, whom she adored. She also leaves behind countless good friends.

Though Janice enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom, she also held several jobs. Most recently, she worked for the University of Connecticut in the financial aid department, until she retired at the age of 70.

In her free time, Janice thoroughly enjoyed anything that allowed her to be outside, even if it would be considered "work" to the rest of us. She loved raking leaves, working in her yard, mowing her lawn, shoveling snow under the stars, and taking long walks with friends. After her retirement she found great entertainment line dancing with the ladies in Andover. Since her earliest days in Maine, she found freedom in the water. She enjoyed swimming in lakes and in rivers, and was especially drawn to the ocean. She spoke nostalgically of time spent walking the boardwalk and swimming in the waters of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and never shied away from jumping into the chilly lakes of Vermont while on vacation with her family.

Janice was a 30-year member of St. Columba Roman Catholic Church in Columbia and was active on several committees over the years. She was a humble woman who enjoyed quietly doing things for others without concern for self-recognition.

Visiting hours were Thursday, Nov. 3, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated today, Nov. 4, at 1 p.m. at St. Columba Roman Catholic Church, at the corner of routes 66 and 87 in Columbia. Burial with committal prayers will be Monday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Mt. Hope Avenue, Lewiston, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, please perform a random act of kindness toward another in her memory. Alternatively, donations can be sent to the American Cancer Society in hopes that they may one day find a cure for this terrible disease.

May you rest peacefully in the arms of Jesus. To leave a message for her family, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).



Cobalt

Carmela Gervasi

Carmela "Millie" Gervasi, 91, of Wallingford, wife of the late Patrick John Gervasi, passed away Friday, Oct. 28, at Cobalt Lodge Health Care, Cobalt. She was born in New York City, N.Y., March 11, 1925, a daughter of the late Joseph and Angelina Grillo Zocco.

Millie was a communicant of the Church of the Resurrection, and volunteered at the plant booth there. She was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wallingford Garden Club, Libero Pensiero (Italian Club), and was a member of the Columbiettes. She volunteered at Holy Trinity Library and for many years, was a Eucharistic minister at Masonicare.

She is survived by her daughters, Patricia Damuck and her husband Jay of Shelter Island, N.Y., and Mary Ann Ramos and her husband Anthony of Flower Mound, Texas; her sons, Vincent Gervasi and his wife Julie of East Hampton, and Joseph Gervasi of Wallingford; her grandchildren, Jessie Damuck, Alex, Emea Max and Deena Ramos, Joseph and Daniel Gervasi, and Kerri Wilson; her great-granddaughter, Kaylee Wilson; and several nieces and nephews.

Her family received relatives and friends in The Wallingford Funeral Home, 809 N. Main St. Ext., Wallingford, Tuesday, Nov. 1. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 2, from The Wallingford Funeral Home when the funeral cortege proceeded to the Church of the Resurrection where a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated that morning. Interment is in St. John Cemetery in Wallingford.

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



Portland

Betsey Hurlbut Regan

Betsey Hurlbut Regan, 95, of Putney Mountain Road in Brookline, Vt., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 11, at Thompson House Nursing Home. Betsy was born in Portland Feb. 20, 1921, the daughter of Percy B. and Margaret (Bolton) Hurlbut. She had two sisters, Gladys H. Harris and Ethel H. Daboll, both deceased, as are her parents.

On June 16, 1945, at the home of her sister Gladys and husband Richard in Middlefield, she was married to James Joseph Regan Jr. who passed away in 1980. She was a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School in June of 1937 and a graduate of the Robert Breck Brigham Hospital of Practical Nursing of Boston in 1943. She was a nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital and Wesleyan University Infirmary in Middletown before retiring to Brookline, Vt., where she worked in the nursing department of Grace Cottage Hospital for 23 years.

Betsey was a member of the Newfane Congregational Church and a member of their Ladies Aid Society. She enjoyed knitting and made many hats, mittens and baby sweaters for the Green Mountain RSVP. Betsey loved music and played the piano, the old pump organ and the trombone.

She is survived by a son, James Regan III of Plainville; a daughter, Colleen Tomasso and her husband David Jr. of Cromwell; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She lost a daughter, Jennifer Reynolds Ruffino, in November 2013.

Graveside services in Riverside Cemetery in Newfane, Vt., will be Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m., where she will be laid to rest next to her husband. A reception will be held in the Newfane Church following the service.

Memorial gifts in Betsey's name may be made to the Music Department of the Newfane Congregational Church, P.O. Box 27, Newfane, VT 05345.

To sign an online guestbook with messages of condolence, visit [atamaniuk.com](http://atamaniuk.com).

Portland

Josephine M. Botti

Josephine M. Botti, wife of John Botti, passed away peacefully at home Friday morning, Oct. 28, in the care of her beloved husband. She was born in Portland May 28, 1927.

Josephine worked and worked for and retired from the Middletown Board of Education in the payroll department. She was a member of the St. Theresa's Guild, Emblem Club at the Elks and St. Sebastian's church funeral committee. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Josephine enjoyed music, dance and spending time with family at the beach.

She loved all and was loved by all, especially her husband of 66 years, John "Cente" Botti; her children and their spouses, Joanne and Matthew Gilbert, John and Diane Botti, Janice and Thomas Spada, James and Denise Botti. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Ashley, Jacqueline, Rebecca, Stephanie, Jennifer, Daniela, Janette, Moriah, Jason, Justine, Tiana, Nicoli, Jesse, Chelsey, Robert, Candice and several great-grandchildren. Josephine is also survived by two sisters and their husbands, Betty and Bob Peterson, Tina and Mark Loomis, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her baby daughter, Mary Botti, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian "Mike" Marino, and her brother, Anthony S. Marino.

Josephine's family would also like to sincerely thank her caregivers.

Calling hours were Tuesday, Nov. 1, at D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown. The funeral Mass was Wednesday, Nov. 2, at Saint Sebastian's Church, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at [alz.org](http://alz.org).