



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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Scenic Lake Pocotopaug, seen here in this *Rivereast* file photo, is once again under attack from an algae bloom – a most-unwelcome visitor that seems to attack the lake every summer.

## Algae Bloom Rears Ugly Head

by Elizabeth Regan

It's the return of the unwanted summer visitor that has been plaguing residents on Lake Pocotopaug for at least 30 years: the algae bloom.

Public areas of the lake were under an advisory as of Tuesday due to potentially-unsafe water conditions, leaving it up to swimmers to decide if they should risk exposure.

The unsightly algae bloom is made up of potentially toxic bacteria that can multiply fast in hot and bright conditions where certain nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, are concentrated.

Toxins in the bloom can be harmful to the skin and liver. Low levels of exposure can cause skin irritation or nausea and diarrhea in humans and animals, according to the Department of Public Health. The agency cautions that swallowing relatively large amounts of tainted water can cause liver damage and nervous system effects.

Research cited in a 2011 report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that young swimmers ingest 60 milliliters of water during one hour of active play in the water.

A July 19 test of water samples from Sears Park Beach on Lake Pocotopaug showed the levels of blue-green algae were borderline high, but the levels of associated toxins were low.

Results from that test came in at 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter. However, a test conducted a week later, on July 26, resulted in 51,000 cells per millimeter. The samples are sent to Northeast Laboratories in Berlin.

Why the steep drop in a week's time? Chatham Health District director Don Mitchell speculated Thursday it was perhaps due to there not being "a lot of major rainfall washing anything in" to the lake.

The state-recommended threshold for closing the public beaches is greater than 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter, according to guidance published jointly by the state Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The state guidelines were instituted in 2012 after a high-profile algae bloom in Bolton. But the recommended response plan is advisory only, as the state public health department does

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## Andover Residents to Vote on Town Administrator

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The idea of the Town of Andover moving to a town administrator form of government took a big step closer to reality Tuesday, as the Board of Selectmen, following a brief public hearing, sent the proposal to referendum this fall.

The proposed changes to the town charter – which would transfer the administrative duties of the first selectman over to a town administrator – will be voted on at referendum Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The proposed charter alterations are the result of around a month's worth of work by a five-member Charter Revision Commission formed by the Board of Selectmen in June. The selectmen charged the commission – made up of residents Adrian Mandeville, Angela Montemagni, George Elliott, Ken Marcia and Steve Willard – to look at and consider amending chapters five and seven to create the new administrator position.

If the changes pass, the 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. Mandeville, who acted as commission chairman, explained last week some concern had been expressed as to whether the new position took power away from the selectmen. So when crafting the changes, "we tried to make sure the selectboard still had the ultimate control," he said. "The first selectman is still the highest-elected person and this person is responsible to the selectboard as a whole."

Vice First Selectman Jeff Maguire added Tuesday, "The Board of Selectmen, if you look

at corporations, give guidance to the town administrator as to what they'd like to see; the first selectman is the chairman of the board" and would continue – at least for now – to be elected by the public.

But as a result of the change, the duties of the first selectman would be drastically reduced, and the position would go from full-time to one more in line with the rest of the board, with the salary adjusted accordingly. The first selectman would also no longer have an office in town hall, and the room currently utilized for that purpose would become the office of the administrator.

Salary details have yet to be worked out, but Mandeville said last week the expectation is that the position could cost anywhere from \$65,000-90,000. But most of that money, he stated, is already in the budget since First Selectman Bob Burbank currently makes \$60,000, including salary and benefits, and more money is currently in the budget for a temporary administrative position put in place last year to help reorganize the town garage and town maintenance facilities.

If the changes pass at referendum, they'd come into effect in July 2017; the administrator would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen based on the recommendations of a search committee.

At Tuesday's public hearing, a few questions were asked regarding some specifics of the proposal, but no one spoke against the changes. Indeed, Mandeville said previously it was important to point out that nearly everyone in-

volved with the town on a regular basis – from the finance board to chairpersons of the Republican and Democratic town committees to the Board of Selectmen to Burbank himself – were in support of the change.

Resident Wally Barton was in the same boat. "I wholeheartedly endorse this move," he said at the hearing. "I think this is a long time coming; it's time Andover came into the 21st century with a town administrator running the town."

Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Joan Foran said the school was a good example of the kind of structure the town would be making the transition to, with a superintendent – a position comparable to the town administrator – and the Board of Education responsible for areas such as policy management.

"It's the same entity," she said, "It works well."

Selectman Jay Linddy added his thoughts as well, explaining the town "is a major corporation – we have an \$11 million budget" and should be ran accordingly. He furthered, "We must get the support, hopefully, from people in November."

Maguire added Wednesday, "I think it's very positive for the town. The situation that we currently operate under is more difficult than it needs to be to get things accomplished, and I think that with a full-time professional administrator the town will see more things getting done."

He added, "To me the changeover is just as simple as that; the Board of Selectmen sets the

priorities and agenda and we ask the town administrator to execute it. And we then hold the town administrator accountable."

Linddy, who Maguire said has been instrumental in helping to move the process forward, added this week, "It's time to bring in an administrator."

"We need somebody to help to make sure we find ways of getting money in and watching the debt to the town," he stated. "Do we all want to spend a lot of money? Of course not, but we want to make sure the town is being run the best way possible for the taxpayers. I'm happy they're doing this."

Following the public hearing, the Board of Selectmen opened a special meeting where, with little discussion, board members voted unanimously to approve the draft as submitted by the Charter Revision Commission, and forward it to a town vote Nov. 8.

After the meeting, Mandeville said he was excited, "but I'll feel better when it passes" in November. "We're headed in the right direction – I hope it's approved."

Linddy added, "The town is making history; we need the right people [working for the town]. I'm excited about it."

Linddy also encouraged residents to keep an eye on the *Rivereast* for information from the town regarding the changes, and to reach out to the selectmen or Charter Revision Commission with any questions "because it's important to know the truth."

"We're on our way," he concluded.

**Algae Bloom cont. from Front Page**

not have relevant regulations for lakes and ponds.

Levels in excess of 20,000 but less than 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter may merit cautionary postings in public spaces around the affected area, the guidelines state. So, even with the 51,000 cells per milliliter result of the July 26 test, the advisory at the lake will remain, Mitchell said Thursday. Meanwhile, testing of the lake water will continue.

Mitchell said Tuesday that he took the low level of toxins into account when he made the decision to post cautionary signs instead of closing the beach.

Specific testing results for toxins, known as microcystins, came in at one part per billion. Microcystin levels become a concern at 15 parts per billion, he said.

The health district conducts water testing at Sears Park only, though Mitchell said the blue-green algae problem is likely lake-wide.

Cautionary signs have been posted at public access points to the lake, according to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco. He said attendants at Sears Park Beach have handouts on blue-green algae and its effects.

The sign advises visitors to avoid discolored water that looks like spilled paint, has surface film or includes green globs floating beneath the surface. Those who come into contact with an algae bloom should rinse off exposed skin with clean water.

More detailed information is available on the town website, [easthamptonct.gov](http://easthamptonct.gov), and the Chatham Health District site, [chatham-health.org](http://chatham-health.org).

"I think people need to make an educated decision regarding whether they want to get in the water and go swimming or not," Maniscalco said.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Hall said town-sponsored swim lessons at the Sears Park beach end this week, but two weeks of summer camp remain.

If the beach is closed, he said, the department will rely on temporary measures like lawn water slides and sprinklers to help kids stay cool.

Joe Carbonell, a member of the Conservation-Lake Commission and the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, said this year's algae bloom comes earlier than previous years. He cited two weeks of temperatures in the 90s and lower water levels from the lack of rain as contributing factors.

Public beaches were closed last year for three

weeks starting on Aug. 5 due to an algae bloom. The ban came about a month earlier than the prior year, when an algae bloom shut down public lake access over Labor Day weekend.

Once water samples show levels in excess of 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter, the state recommends a swimming ban remain in effect until at least two weeks of successive testing indicates levels below the danger threshold.

According to Mitchell, it often takes many cycles of weekly testing to get to the point where two tests in a row yield acceptable results.

"Experience shows we would get a good test, then a bad test," he said.

That means the lake is likely to remain compromised – either at the swim-at-your-own-risk advisory level or with the full closure of the town's public beaches – for the remainder of the season.

Carbonell said the town's lake consultant, George Knoecklein of Northeast Aquatic Research, was also out this week conducting testing at the Sears Park beach and other areas of the lake and is awaiting the results.

Knoecklein is the author of a nine-point plan identifying the source of the lake's problems and proposing solutions. The town council in January appropriated \$69,000 for the report.

The plan was submitted to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for approval on June 20.

The final draft includes a five-year plan to enact "widespread watershed improvements to better the water quality of Lake Pocotopaug."

The watershed management plan is a requirement for a federal grant for lake cleanup, monitoring and educational outreach.

The plan 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 8 areas that will cost more than \$10,000 to address.

The cost to implement all the recommendations comes in around \$2 million, according to Carbonell – "but it could be more."

Proponents hope a combination of federal, state, local and private funding can make the plan a reality.

Carbonell said a town-wide lake summit will be held in the early fall to talk about how the town will use the report and its recommendations to bring the lake back to health.

"There's no magic pill," he said. "In this case, there's one hell of a prescription."

**Colchester Police News**

7/16: Colchester Police said John Spaulding, 53, of 83 Pleasant St., was arrested on a warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

7/20: Colchester Police said they were dispatched to Herman's Diner at 23 New London Rd. in response to a burglary alarm going off. According to police, the main entryway of the diner was kicked open and the cash register was ajar. When the owner arrived on scene, he reported nothing appeared to have been taken. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Colchester police at 860-537-7270.

7/22: Colchester Police said Justin Leblanc, 19, of 155 Westerly Terrace, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than half of an ounce of cannabis, and possession of weapons in his

**East Hampton Police News**

7/13: Alberto Jimenez, 32, of 15 Church St., was arrested for driving under the influence, failure to obey a traffic signal and traveling unreasonably fast, East Hampton Police said.

7/17: Stacie Diane Martin, 41, of 11 Starr Place, East Hampton, was arrested and charged with two counts of third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

**Portland Police News**

7/18: Larry Floyd, 34, of 762 Washington St., Middletown, was charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, Portland Police said.

7/18: Jodie Watkins, 35, of 43 Chapman Rd., Marlborough, was charged with second-degree larceny, police said.

7/23: Michael Jones, 59, of 1503 Portland Cobalt Rd., was charged with driving while under the influence and operating unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

*From the Editor's Desk*

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Everyone's familiar with zen-like sayings – those short little moments of wisdom, designed to give you peace and perhaps a deeper understanding of issues that may be troubling you.

Often profound, the sayings can provide a sense of clarity, which hopefully lasts, at least for a little while. However, recently I came across a list of zen-like sayings, but with a twist. They sound similar to those wise little axioms – and indeed, there's some wisdom here, but mostly the lines aim to provide a little laugh. Here are some highlights:

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire."

"It's always darkest before dawn. So, if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it."

"Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else."

"Never test the depth of the water with both feet."

"If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments."

"Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile

away and you have their shoes."

"If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you."

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will hang out on the boat all day ignoring calls from his wife."

"If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it."

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

"The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket."

"A closed mouth gathers no foot."

"Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving."

"Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it."

"Never miss a good chance to keep quiet."

"Wherever you go, there you are. Your luggage is another story."

"Drink tea and nourish life. With the first sip... joy. With the second... satisfaction.

With the third... peace. With the fourth... a danish."

\* \* \*

See you next week.

**SEEC Dismisses Complaint Against Hebron Selectwoman**

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The State Elections Enforcement Commission recently dismissed a complaint filed in June against Board of Selectmen member Clara O'Brien.

The complaint was filed June 17 by resident Anna Davis – the wife of Board of Education member Geoffrey Davis – in relation to a letter to the editor O'Brien submitted to the *Riverast* prior to this year's budget referendum.

In her complaint, Davis alleges O'Brien violated state election laws by encouraging residents to vote against the budget, because she felt the local Board of Education's spending proposal was too high.

Davis wrote in her complaint, "While I recognize that we all have our right to exercise our freedom of speech, I believe that she went beyond freedom of speech and violated CT Election Regulations. I am requesting that her comments and behavior be reviewed to ensure that her behavior is consistent with the state regulations around elections and what elected officials are allowed to do."

In response, the SEEC initiated an investigation that concluded earlier this month, ultimately deciding July 13 to dismiss the allegation against O'Brien as unsupported.

In their findings and conclusions, the SEEC asserted Davis alleged O'Brien was in violation of General Statutes §9-369b which states in part that "any municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, authorize the preparation and printing of concise explanatory texts of local proposals or questions approved for submission to the electors of a municipality at a referendum," and that "no expenditure of state or municipal funds shall be made to influence any person to vote for approval or disapproval of any such proposal or question."

The SEEC emphasized the latter portion,

noting that elected officials are not prohibited from sharing or expressing their opinions for or against a pending referendum, but rather state statute prohibits them from using public funds to do so. As a result, the commission explained their analysis turned to whether O'Brien used public funds to advocate for the "no" vote.

Davis made no allegation that O'Brien used public funds, the commission states, and in response to the complaint, O'Brien asserted the letter was prepared at home on her personal computer and submitted via her personal email account.

The commission said it found no evidence to contradict O'Brien's claims and, furthermore, found insufficient evidence "that public funds were used to produce or disseminate" the letter to the editor. In conclusion, the commission said Davis' allegation "is therefore dismissed as it was not supported by the facts or the law after investigation."

At last week's Board of Selectmen's meeting, O'Brien spoke to the complaint and subsequent findings, stating, "The SEEC vindicated me and dismissed the case. I did nothing wrong."

She added the intention of her letter "was to inform the taxpayers of Hebron of all pertinent information affecting their vote. Based on input from taxpayers, they felt that there is an undue financial burden being placed upon them by the local Board of Education."

O'Brien concluded, "I will continue to work on behalf of the taxpayers of Hebron and to continue to provide them with all information they require to make an intelligent decision when needed."

Davis did not return calls in time to comment for this story.

**Marlborough Police News**

7/13: State Police said that Barry Phelps, 26, of 10 Kimberly Way was arrested and charged with second-degree sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor.

7/15: State Police said Brent J. Michaud, 46, of 212 S. Main St. was arrested and charged with interfering with an officer, evading responsibility, and unsafe movement from a stopped position, after striking an unoccupied vehicle with his Chevy Silverado in the Three Fellas pizza restaurant parking lot and subsequently fleeing the scene.

7/21: State Police said Torrance Yarbrough, 33, of 255 Mill St., Springfield, Mass., was arrested and charged with speeding and operating a vehicle under the influence

**Hebron Police News**

7/21: State Police said James B. Lacroix, 49, of 175 Hawthorn Dr., Apt. 24 J, New London, turned himself in due to an active arrest warrant for two violations of a protective order.

7/21 – State Police said Lisa M. Parks, 25, of 198 Hebron Rd., Andover was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

# Hebron Selectmen Deem Teacher Contract Fair

by Geeta S. Sandberg

At last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, schools superintendent Tim Van Tassel presented the recently approved teacher contract for 2017-2020.

The contract contains an overall salary increase of 9.61 percent – a number that raised some concern from members of the public at the June 28 Board of Education meeting where the contract was unanimously approved – but after Van Tassel provided a summary of the significant changes, the selectmen appeared satisfied with the agreement.

Van Tassel mentioned the “greatest shift” with the greatest impact was making a High-Deductible Health Plan/Health Savings Account the sole insurance option for teachers. Making that change, he said, will result in an estimated three-year savings of \$634,917.

Regarding the salaries, Van Tassel explained while the total increase is 9.61 percent, that doesn't mean that's the amount each teacher will receive: individual increases will be determined based on a teacher's step. Steps are a way to determine teacher salary based on education and years of experience. For example, a Hebron teacher with a bachelor's degree moving onto the third step during the 2017-18 school year – of which there is one – would earn \$50,114; that same year, a teacher with a master's degree moving into the third step – of which there are four – would receive \$53,364. The maximum step is 13 and during the 2017-18 school year, 35 teachers will be at maximum step; 25 with master's degrees and 10 with their Sixth-Year Certificate.

In the first year of the contract, teachers not at maximum step will advance one step and receive a one percent general wage increase. Meanwhile, teachers who are already at the

maximum step will receive a three percent general wage increase, for a 4.22 percent overall increase for the 2017-18 school year that will cost the board approximately \$216,207.

In the second year of the contract, teachers not at maximum step will receive another one percent general wage increase but will not advance a step; those already at the maximum step will receive another two percent increase. This amounts to a 1.55 percent overall salary increase and will cost approximately \$82,890.

In the last year of the contract, teachers will advance a step and receive another one percent general wage increase; those already at maximum step will receive another two percent wage. The changes amount to a 3.84 percent overall salary increase at a cost of approximately \$208,301.

Altogether the increases amount to the aforementioned 9.61 percent – which Van Tassel said was on par with the average state settlement from the 2015-16 negotiation season of 9.76 percent – for a cost of \$507,398 over the length of the contract.

And, taking into account the estimated savings from the insurance changes, Van Tassel said “the insurance savings are greater than what we're going to be paying in wages – so there's a net gain.”

He added, “Nobody walks into collective bargaining thinking they're going to get everything; you have to find middle ground. I'm proud of the bargaining we did. This is the first time in many years we didn't go to mediation or arbitration. ... I do believe this is a very fair collective bargaining. This is one in which the town is making net savings, and the change in insurance is a major, major shift that will ultimately lead to more savings.”

Following Van Tassel's presentation, the selectboard chose not to take any action regarding the contract, which has already been filed with the town clerk. According to town attorney Ken Slater, who was present at the meeting, if the board thought there was a chance residents might reject the contract, the selectmen could vote to call a town meeting; if rejected at the meeting, the contract would then go to arbitration through the State Department of Education.

If that were to occur Van Tassel explained the state would, among other things, review previous contracts and negotiations, reference state labor markets and the cost of living, and examine the financial capability of the town to pay for the contract (Finance Director Elaine Griffin said at the meeting the town was “more than capable” of funding the agreement).

“Ultimately there are a lot of factors they will look at – and a heavy price tag,” Van Tassel said, explaining the estimate he received for arbitration was \$30-50,000.

The selectmen, however, chose not to go that route, but to instead let the contract approval process continue. Members said following Van Tassel's explanation they felt the agreement was fair.

“I think this is fair when I look at this,” said selectman Brian O'Connell.

Chairman Dan Larson added, “I'm very happy to have heard you going through this. [The contract] is definitely a lot better than the initial word that got out there.”

Meanwhile, selectwoman Gayle Richmond said, “I don't think there's good reason to go to arbitration.”

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Also at the meeting July 21, the selectmen voted unanimously to approve the final draft of the memorandum of understanding between the town and the RHAM school district for a school resource officer.

Under the agreement, a uniformed police officer will be assigned to the school district with the aim of achieving a number of goals including: the establishment of a positive working relationship to prevent juvenile delinquency and assist in student development, to maintain a safe and secure environment conducive to learning, to promote positive attitudes regarding the role of police officers in today's society, and “to strive to ensure a consistent response to incidents of student misbehavior, clarify the role of law enforcement in school disciplinary matters, and reduce involvement of police and court agencies for misconduct at school and school-related activities.”

The salary and benefits for the school resource officer – as well as the costs for liability insurance, workman's compensation insurance, and a vehicle with a three-year lease (payable annually) – will be reimbursed to the town by the school district; the RHAM Board of Education will provide \$91,352 to the town for the SRO for the 2016-17 school year in equal quarterly installments.

The RHAM Board of Education will discuss and potentially take action on the contract at a special meeting scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the RHAM High School Chorus room.

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The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the town office building, 15 Gilead St.

# Andover School Board Hires New Assistant Principal

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Board of Education at a special meeting Wednesday appointed Ellington resident Suzanne Guglietta as the new assistant principal/director of special education, at a salary of \$99,000 per year.

Guglietta spent the last year working as principal of Batcheller School in Winchester; before that, she worked for 10 years as a special education teacher in Enfield, two years as an adjunct professor at Central Connecticut State University – and, interestingly, 13 as a television news producer.

Prompted by an inquiry from board member Whitney Covell, Guglietta explained her shift from television to education, which she attributed to two events. First, Guglietta shared, her time in the television business “kind of took its course.”

Guglietta mentioned the station she was working at would switch her schedule depending on ratings, “and they wanted to move me to the morning to boost the morning show,” she explained. “To do that you had to come in at 11 o'clock at night – at the time I had a four-year-old at home, and my husband worked third shift as a police officer, so I couldn't find daycare for third shift.”

Then, once she left the station, “I had time to take my son to the park for a change instead of working those crazy news hours, and we took him to a boundless playground in Bloomfield,”

she said.

There, Guglietta said she connected and interacted with a little boy with Down syndrome.

“And it was fascinating watching him trying to put cubes into a mailbox in different shapes,” she explained. “He couldn't figure it out, and I went over – and little did I know at the time I was teaching him [the special education prompting tool] hand over hand– I know what I was doing now but at the time I was just showing him.”

“He'd problem solve and then he'd figure it out,” she said. “It was that ‘wow’ moment; you show him, and he did it, he kept trying and he had that perseverance and it just stuck with me, and I said ‘that's what I'm going to go do – teach special education.’”

Schools superintendent Sally Doyen shared at the meeting she contacted Guglietta's references “and they were all, in a word, glowing.”

Doyen added, “I spoke to a coworker who described her as amazingly hardworking – someone who jumped into every task and opportunity with knowledge, experience and a real commitment to students. I also spoke to two administrators in Enfield who spoke of her as energetic and committed to students – people could not speak more highly of her.”

This was Guglietta's second attempt to fill the role at Andover Elementary School; she applied for the same position last year but at

that time, as board member Christina Tamburro explained, there was concern over her lack of experience as a principal.

(The position was instead given to Barbara Wilson, who is leaving the district to work in Columbia as the director of special education.)

“Last year when we interviewed for the same position Suzanne was a very good candidate at that time, and our one concern we *did* have was that she hadn't had the principal experience,” said Tamburro. “And now she has – so I want to commend you for your perseverance in coming back here.”

Guglietta was the unanimous choice of the search committee, and board member Jay Lindy said, “We were all impressed with her.”

Lindy added that when he first looked over her resume, he was uncertain as to why she was leaving Winchester after having only been there for a year; however, he learned that was due to the state's decision to take over the school district amid financial crisis, and the consolidation of three schools into two.

Indeed, two of the letters of reference Guglietta included with her application were from individuals she worked with in Winchester.

Robert Travaglini, who was appointed by the state to oversee Winchester Public Schools, worked with Guglietta over the past year during the district's transition and wrote, “The

progress we have made in the redesign and restructure of our schools would not be possible without Ms. Guglietta's leadership and the ability to collaborate successfully. ... It is truly without reservation that I recommend [her] for any position she chooses to pursue.”

Similarly, Patricia Staszko, Winchester's acting director of programming and curriculum, wrote, “Winchester is a district under receivership through the action of the general assembly to address years of fiscal and educational mismanagement. Ms. Guglietta arrived in the district at the start of the school year into a school environment under resourced and in significant anxiety. Ms. Guglietta has shown steady, calm, compassionate leadership since her arrival.”

Guglietta added in her letter to the board, “Effective leadership takes vision, sound management and a solid understanding of the community being served. With these qualities, a school administrator has the necessary foundation to create a truly compelling community of practice. With this paradigm as my point of reference, it is with confidence that I submit my credentials” for the position at Andover Elementary School.

Following an executive session, the school board voted unanimously to appoint Guglietta to the position.

# East Hampton Resident Hopes to Turn Historic Home Into Museum

by Elizabeth Regan

One of the East Hampton Village Center's oldest homes has a new lease on life, now that the town historian plans to turn it into a non-profit museum and visitor's center.

James "Jay" Hansen purchased the circa 1790 Apollas Arnold House on the corner of Bevin Boulevard and Summit Street for \$73,200 in the beginning of July after it had been saved from the wrecking ball by residents concerned that the Town Council was planning to turn the property into a parking lot.

"I've got my work cut out for me," Hansen said earlier this month, as he walked through the home with local preservationist Margaret Faber. "It's not going to happen overnight. But you've got to start somewhere and just focus."

Hansen has long planned to open a historical museum to showcase more than 3,000 East Hampton-related artifacts he's collected over the years.

"This is it. If I don't do it now, I'll probably never do it," he said.

Hansen hopes his museum will be ready for the public in about five years.

The East Hampton Town Council appointed Hansen town historian in 1990 at the age of 26, according to an announcement by then-Town Manager Alan Bergren. The honorary position is unpaid.

Research done by Faber indicates the Cape Cod home first belonged to a farmer named Apollas Arnold, who married in 1784 and built the family homestead in East Hampton along Pocotopaug Creek. The home has since been associated with the manufacturing of waffle irons, cloth and bells.

Faber said the home's construction style indicates it may date back to the 1760s even though references in historical documents put it closer to the turn of the 19th century.

Faber is a member of the state's Historic Preservation Council, appointed in 2011 by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, and has been active in preservation efforts in Middle Haddam for over a decade.

The Arnold House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 as part of the Belltown Historic District. The district is representative of a small, New England mill town and is recognized as the only one of its kind completely devoted to bell-making.

Citing more than 700 friends on the Apollas Arnold House Facebook page and an online petition to save the home that garnered over 300 signatures, Faber said there are likely a lot of people willing to help Hansen establish a non-profit organization and turn the home into a

museum.

"We had such an outpouring of people who cared about this house not getting knocked down," Faber said. "I think if we put out a notice that Jay needs a little bit of help, they would come forward happily. They'd like to be part of it."

Chatham Historical Society President Sandy Doran said the organization has not discussed Hansen's purchase of the property or his plans for it and does not have a comment at this time. The organization's own museum sits on Bevin Boulevard adjacent to the Arnold House.

Hansen said he is not currently associated with the Chatham Historical Society.

Walking through the house with its new owner, Faber marveled at the period details and gave advice about how best to preserve them.

"You can see here a hand-wrought nail," she said, pointing to an exposed wood beam in one of the home's front rooms. "Isn't it beautiful? Look at that. It's a great nail."

Nails were exclusively forged by hand until about 1800, when the process became more mechanized.

The old, wooden beams and the hand-hewn fasteners were most visible in one room where Hansen had removed much of the lath and plaster that had covered the structural supports, likely since its construction.

Faber cautioned Hansen not to remove the original walls and ceilings from the other rooms, but acknowledged the stripped-down effect could add a new dimension to the proposed museum.

"Since you've taken this all apart, you might as well leave it so people can see how the walls were constructed," she said.

The adjoining front room, which she said was the formal parlor, could show visitors what a finished room would have looked like in the late 1700s.

She pointed to features like moldings and cased beams with modest decorative touches as well as a floating panel with original paint that show an attention to detail by the home's original owner.

According to Faber, the largest change to the original structure was the removal of a massive central chimney that probably occurred around 1830 when coal stoves came into widespread use. An addition was also put on sometime in the 1800s.

Hansen described his initial clean-up efforts as an arduous task. It took a couple weeks in between his shifts as a psychiatric aide at the Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown to rid the home of accumulated junk and the smell



**East Hampton Town Historian James "Jay" Hansen plans to turn one of the village center's oldest homes into a museum filled with more than 3,000 East Hampton-related artifacts he's acquired over the years. Hansen purchased the Apollas Arnold House after concerned residents – including preservationist Margaret Faber, left, seen here touring the house with Hansen – convinced the Town Council not to follow through with its plan to knock down the building and put up a parking lot.**

of cat urine.

Now he plans to focus on bringing the current kitchen area closer to its original roots and uncovering an old door on the Bevin Boulevard side of the home that he'd like to use as the museum entrance.

"One thing at a time," he said.

While Hansen said renters lived in the home as recently as February, evidence of the home's former inhabitants was more superficial than structural. Graffiti with references to drug culture lined the walls of the second floor beneath a steeply-pitched roof and low ceilings that have not been altered since the house was built.

According to Faber, original second-floor ceilings are a rare find.

"As we can see, a normal family – unless they were very, very short – would not be able to live in this place. They would have had to take out all the ceilings. This is the original height of the original structure and it's pretty much unheard of to have that," she explained, her own head almost touching the plaster.

Hansen said he thought he had missed his opportunity to help preserve the old home when he first heard about the Town Council's plan to

tear it down last December. Then he learned Faber and members of the Chatham Historical Society were working to save the building and he realized he could do something about it.

"I could see the potential here. I've collected this stuff [East Hampton artifacts] for years. I want to display it and let the town enjoy it," he said.

Voters at a December town meeting had approved the purchase of the property for \$56,000, including legal fees. Town officials maintained it is always advantageous to purchase parcels "contiguous" to existing town properties and that the property could help alleviate parking constraints in the Village Center. The purchase was cited at the time as "integral" to an unspecified proposal to turn Center School into a municipal hub.

A contingent of preservationist-minded residents attended several meetings once the proposed demolition was revealed and rallied the council to abandon its plan based on the home's historic significance. The council voted unanimously in March to scrap the plan and to return the allocated money to the general fund.

# East Hampton Residents Can Weigh In on New Playground

by Elizabeth Regan

Now that the beloved playground at Seamster Park has been deemed a safety risk by the town's insurance company, it's up to residents to help choose what will take its place.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Hall has worked since late May to spread the word about two options currently up for consideration. Both would sit on the existing 14,000-square-foot space next to Memorial School. Both would be fully-customizable. Both come from established companies with a commitment to innovation, accessibility, safety and fun.

"The good thing about both these builds is that the community can have their feedback as to what they want to put there," Hall said.

The biggest differences between the two options revolve around price, installation and timing.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is planning an extended, large-scale fundraising blitz to get enough donations, sponsorships and grants to start construction next year regardless which option is chosen.

The more expensive choice would eventually add up to about \$620,000, Hall said, but would be phased in over three years. The playground would be constructed and installed by Massachusetts-based M.E. O'Brien and Sons using equipment from Landscape Structures.

A general concept available online at [easthamptonrec.com](http://easthamptonrec.com) shows freestanding sections with a nature-inspired look that includes elements like climbable rock formations made out of a rubberized material.

Because the playground would be built in sections over multiple years, there would be more time to raise money for the project. And, according to Hall, the itemized nature of the

separate play elements lends itself to corporate sponsorships of individual pieces.

For example, a local business could purchase a log-crawl tunnel and get its name on a plaque next to it.

Hall emphasized that the online renderings are a jumping-off point.

"At this point, we're finding a builder; that's all we're doing," he said. "The next stage would be the design stage. We would incorporate people coming together and giving their feedback on what they'd like to see."

A second option would cost about \$350,000 to \$450,000 for the design and materials through Play by Design of Ithaca, NY. The playground would be built over a seven-day period, by a team of volunteers.

The project would require 70 volunteers per shift for three shifts per day, according to Hall.

The Play by Design portfolio includes integrated play elements capped by towers reminiscent of the current playground.

Hall pointed to the design process as another element of the company's community focus. In addition to collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and interested residents, the designer will go into the schools to find out about play priorities from the children themselves.

Hall said there's also an opportunity to build the playground around a theme, such as the town's bell-making tradition.

The Play by Design website describes its playgrounds as ones that respect "the essence of the surrounding area and reflects its historical, architectural, and cultural features."

If selected, Hall said the seven-day volunteer construction period would occur in June of next year.



**Two plans to replace the sprawling, decades-old wood playground at Seamster Park are on the table – and the Parks and Recreation Commission is inviting residents to weigh in on which one to choose.**

"It would be a great way to hopefully tie it into our town's 250th anniversary," Hall said.

Once a company is selected, the recreation commission will solicit feedback from residents while kicking off its fundraising efforts in earnest.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, Aug. 2, at 4:30 p.m., at the Parks and Recreation office, 240 Middletown Ave., to decide which company to go with. Hall

is asking residents to visit [easthamptonrec.com](http://easthamptonrec.com), where there is also information about the two options and links to the companies.

"We want residents to do their research and choose which build they would like to go with," he said. "Do they want to do a community build or do they want to have the professionals come out and do the build from the ground up?"

Feedback is requested by 4 p.m. Tuesday.

# ‘From Ground to Growler’ in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

Craft brew fans, rejoice: Hoppyness Farms Inc., a farm brewery and the brainchild of self-proclaimed “hop heads” Heather and Sam Wilson, may be coming to Colchester.

The couple spoke at the July 18 Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting about the brewery – the first of its kind for Colchester – and has been working closely with Town Planner Randall Benson.

“Both the EDC and Randall Benson stated they are excited at the prospect of a farm brewery coming to Colchester to support both agriculture and business,” said Heather, who added the brewery also still needs to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Wilsons, who are also raising two daughters and working full-time jobs (Heather as an advanced practice registered nurse and Sam as a fireman for the Wallingford Fire Department), said they’ve always been interested in starting a business together. The family currently lives in Bristol, but is moving to Colchester.

“We thought about what we wanted to get into for enjoyment or just for a hobby, and we really like beer,” laughed Heather, adding one of their favorite past times happens to be visiting microbreweries. So a little over a year ago, they purchased an all grain brewing system (which according to Sam is one step below a professional brewing system) and started to brew their own.

“We were trying to make a clone of [Two Roads Brewing Co.’s] Sip of Sunshine IPA and the recipe called for Citra hops, but we couldn’t find them anywhere,” Sam said. “We just started doing our research and realized there is a shortage of hops out there because of the droughts out in the Pacific Northwest.”

“During Prohibition, we stopped growing hops in the Northeast and people started growing more tobacco,” Heather added. “Hops actually grow well here... There’s a little bit of a resurgence now, so we said let’s try to grow our own and see if we can make something sustainable.”

The couple ordered 210 hop plants from a source in Michigan and reached out to family friend Jeff Standish for help, whose family has owned farmland properties on Standish Road

for over 400 years.

“After my grandfather passed away... my aunt could have gone either way, but my uncle wanted nothing to do with the farm,” Standish recalled. “But my father knew that’s all my grandfather wanted was just to continue it.”

Standish, who still works on the farm and is also a fireman for the Wallingford Fire Department, said it was his appreciation for local ingredients that influenced him to jump on board as the Wilsons’ partner in Hoppyness Farms, Inc.

“I appreciate, number one, local ingredients,” he said. “So locally-grown ingredients and just knowing the gratification you get out of the hard work, both on paper and physically, it’s incredible.”

Hoppyness Farms currently grows eight varieties of hops on a plot of land on Standish Road. They’ve used the hops to brew four types of their own beer, including a chocolate stout, pale ale, IPA, and double IPA. According to the Wilsons, their use of local ingredients and the simplicity of their recipes are what make them stand out.

“A lot of the beers we’ve been making are very simple,” Sam said. “So if someone came to our brewery or tasted our beer, and asked what it was they tasted, I could just point to the cascade hops. What else is in it? That’s it; it’s very simple – cascade and grain.”

“We really want to give the first ‘ground-to-growler’ beer,” he added. “Everybody keeps talking about Connecticut beer or the Connecticut Beer Trail, and we keep smiling because is it really Connecticut beer if your hops came from the Pacific Northwest and your grains come from the Midwest or overseas? Is it Connecticut beer basically just because you’re making it in Connecticut and the water you use is from here?”

While Hoppyness Farms is currently only raising hops on the Standish property, Wilson said they will be expanding and have a couple properties in mind; it’s just a matter of finding the right one.

“Fortunately for the town, we’re stuck on Colchester,” Sam said. “The ultimate vision of our plan is that we will have two farms... this property is nice because it’s kind of off the



Jeff Standish, Heather Wilson and Sam Wilson stand next to their hops, which they grow and use to brew Hoppyness Farms, Inc. beers.

beaten path, but our vision is that the brewery has to be somewhere on [routes] 149, 69, 85, or something where people are going to drive by, see it and want to stop. Our vision is to have a 10-acre plot somewhere else with the brewery... and then we’d expand here as much as Jeff and Billy [Jeff’s father] would let us.”

The brewery, which is expected to open in 2018, would become only the second farm brewery in the state, in addition to Kent Falls Brewing Company in Kent.

“We actually met with [Kent Falls] early on when we first started thinking about doing this,” Wilson said, adding they were very encouraging and supportive of Hoppyness Farms. “It seems the farming community, which I’m not that familiar with yet but I’m getting to know, and also the brewing community, is very open and friendly to supporting each other.”

According to Heather, they are also in the process of applying for rural development

grants, with the hope it will help speed things up. “We do have some urgency of wanting to get it going and see what comes to fruition,” she said.

“Whatever our small scale brewery operation is, we wanted to do something small and reproducible and show people that we’re serious and to show that we can grow hops and have a great product,” said Sam. “But our big goal is just to have some place cool that people would like to come to and spend a Saturday there. That’s what we envision... it’s going to be more like a community event.”

Heather agreed. “I think we all just have a vision of having a big community feel here and getting the whole community involved in supporting other small businesses,” she said.

For more information, contact Hoppyness Farms, Inc. at 860-305-9556 or [ground2growler@gmail.com](mailto:ground2growler@gmail.com).

## Colchester Selectmen Appoint New Fire Inspector

by Julianna Roche

At their July 21 meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Linda Akerman, who has over 30 years of emergency medical services and fire experience, to fire inspector.

While the fire inspector is a volunteer position, Akerman said she’s looking forward to offering her services to the town and will be sworn in sometime next week.

“I’ve always been a volunteer... I’m just really excited,” she said. “I’m doing this without pay, but I’m certainly hoping it turns into something I can devote myself to.”

First Selectman Art Shilosky agreed, saying she will be an asset to the town. “The town was very pleased and very happy to accept her offer... she’s here to help us when we get into a bind.”

For Akerman, fire service runs in her blood. In fact, it was while working as a firefighter for the West Hartford Fire Department that she even met her husband, Sean Shoemaker, who is currently the town’s fire marshal.

“She’ll be an asset,” said Shoemaker. “It’s good to have people available because when it

comes to fire service, it’s always a team approach.”

“My goal was always to be chief somewhere and move up the ranks. If I wasn’t at work, I was taking a class somewhere,” said Akerman, who has also worked as a veterinary technician and a registered nurse.

“I was divided between two careers for a while, but that came crashing to a halt when I blew my back out,” she said. Forced into an early retirement from firefighting as a result of her back injury, Akerman said that for some time, it was too painful to be around anything related to fire service.

“I had an issue with fire service for a while because that’s where my total dedication was,” she said. “And I pictured making strides there, so once I couldn’t physically do it, I had trouble doing anything with it for a long time.”

Akerman said she instead focused her time on being involved in the community, coaching a variety of sports teams that her sons were on, and taking photos for different sporting events. She even worked as an official photographer for Bacon Academy’s high school football team.

According to her, it was her growing passion for photography that led her back to fire services.

In 1995, she decided to put both of her passions together and joined the Connecticut Fire Photographers Association to learn how to take photos at fire accidents. She has been taking photos of incidents ever since.

“I responded to emergency situations and my job was to document them,” she explained. “Most of the time when you’re responding, you’re getting photos for history’s sake, but also for investigation purposes.”

For example, Akerman said, when she and her husband would respond to calls, she would take photos of whatever they found at the scene, which could then be used as evidence in court if a case went to trial.

“When Sean would find evidence or find whatever caused the fire through inspection, being that I was trained [in photography], I would take photos for him and I got thinking it would be good if I had fire investigation training behind me,” she said. “It would give some validity to my photos.”

While Akerman has since received her certification, she said she continues to take fire-service related courses to further her skill set. For example, she said she recently completed a course module regarding fire codes, which will be helpful to her as fire inspector.

“As a firefighter, I remember we would go out on our day shifts and hit various buildings, and perform inspections. The officer would lead it, and the firefighters would do measurements and so forth,” Akerman said. “I started realizing that as a fire marshal or fire inspector, you have the ability to prevent the fire.”

Akerman explained that noticing the simplest thing during an inspection could save a number of lives. One example, she said, is unbolting an exit door from the outside, so in case of a fire, people would not be trapped inside and would be able to get out of the building safely.

“People don’t think about it. They’re small things,” she said. “But as a fire inspector, you can save lives because you can stop the fire from ever happening.”

## Obituaries

### Marlborough

#### Raymond A. Parenteau

Raymond A. "Deacon Ray" Parenteau, 82, of Glastonbury, loving husband for over 53 years to Jerrilyn "Lynn" (Hathaway) Parenteau, peacefully entered into eternal life in the arms of his caring wife on Tuesday, July 19.

Born in Woonsocket, R.I., on July 16, 1934, a son of the late Phillippe and Virginie (Lambert) Parenteau, he had resided in Manchester and Marlborough for over 30 years prior to moving to Glastonbury 15 years ago. Ray was a graduate of Woonsocket High School, Class of 1952, and was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Ray earned his associate's degree in accounting from Manchester Community College and later a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Holy Apostles Seminary and University in Cromwell. Prior to his retirement Ray was employed by Aetna Insurance Company in Hartford for over 26 years where he was a Senior Audit Reimbursement Analyst.

A devout Catholic, Ray studied and became a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church on June 27, 1980, and faithfully served as a deacon in the Hartford Archdiocese for the past 36 years. He started at St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough and was there for 20 years before transferring to Our Lady of Peace Church and Blessed Sacrament Church in East Hartford where he has served for the past 16 years. At the three churches, Deacon Ray was the director of confirmation and performed many baptisms. A strong believer of the Holy Spirit and Charismatic Renewal, Deacon Ray loved to preach about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He also enjoyed counseling parishioners that asked for his assistance and started several different prayer groups at his churches.

Outside of the church, Deacon Ray enjoyed golfing, fishing, bowling, shooting pool, playing cards, chess, and cribbage. He was an avid fan of the National Hockey League and Pro Golfers Association weekly tournaments, along with being a loyal supporter of the Boston Red Sox. Most of all, Ray was a true gentleman and devoted husband to his wife and best friend, Lynn, and a wonderful uncle to his nieces and nephews.

Along with his beloved wife Lynn, Ray is survived by a brother, Joseph Roger Parenteau and his wife Dorothy "Dot" of Woonsocket, R.I.; a nephew, Gil Parenteau and his wife Sue of Woonsocket, R.I.; a niece, Gayle Bagley and her husband William "Bill" and their two sons, Aidan and Devin, all of Cumberland, R.I. He also leaves two sisters-in-law, Donna Braun and her husband Alton "Bud" of Stafford Springs, Myrna Nagy and her husband Ronald of Stafford Springs; two brothers-in-law, Dennis Hathaway and his wife Laura of Northport, Fla., Robert Salisbury of Penyan, N.Y.; special dear friends, Tracy McHugh and her fiancée, Chris Cunningham of Essex, Elaine Trent of West Hartford, Joanne Bednarz of Hartford; many nieces, nephews, friends and parishioners.

Besides his parents, Ray was predeceased by two brothers, Phillippe Parenteau of Saint Petersburg, Fla., and Rene Gaston Parenteau of Glastonbury; and a sister-in-law, Diane Salisbury of Florida.

The funeral service was Wednesday, July 27, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at Our Lady of Peace Church, May Road/Brandon Road, East Hartford. Burial with military honors followed at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, (Section S-Extension), Bloomfield. Relatives and friends called at the D'ESOPPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford, on Tuesday, July 26.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Raymond's name may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492 or to a favorite charity of the donor's choice.

Ray's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Father Jim Nock, Deacon Bill Bartlett, and Deacon Leo LaRocque for their comforting prayers, love, compassion and genuine care given to all of them and Ray.

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



### Portland

#### Doris B. Gyllenhammer

Doris B. Robida Gyllenhammer ("Dorrie"), of Portland, beloved wife and best friend of Edmund J. Gyllenhammer, died peacefully Thursday, July 21, after a courageous five-year battle with cancer.

Born in Portland Jan. 4, 1938, Doris was the daughter of Leon and Beatrice Robida. She grew up in Portland and upon graduating from high school she entered the Novitiate in Madison, where she received her teaching degree and spent seven years. She received her master's degree at the New Britain State Teachers' College (now Central Connecticut State University).

She later met Ed for a second time and the two married, after a one-year courtship. Together they raised their three children and shared 52 years of faithfulness and love. They were a wonderful example to their children and the world of what a marriage should be.

Besides her loving husband Ed, Dorrie is survived by her three devoted children and their spouses/partners: Michele (Efrain) Lopez of Hamden; John Gyllenhammer and his friend Michele Tirone of Portland and Sharon (Gary) Scaramella of Portland. Dorrie is also survived by her loving grandchildren: Laura Scaramella, Gary Scaramella Jr., Noah Gyllenhammer, and Justin, Cristin and Crystal Lopez. She also leaves behind three other "children" whom she loved: Doug Ewing of Old Saybrook, Holly Augeri of Middlefield and Paul Pessoni of Clinton. Dorrie is also survived by her brother Raymond Robida; her sisters-in-law Karen Kennedy, Julie McAllister and Bernice Robida; her brother-in-law Richard Pelkey; so many cousins, nieces and nephews; and a multitude of wonderful friends and neighbors, all of whom she loved dearly.

She was predeceased by her parents and by her siblings - baby brother Leon, Fred Robida, Lorraine Robida Carson and Pauline Robida Pelkey, as well as by two beloved nephews, Randy Robida and Kevin Libby, and by brothers- and sisters-in-law Jack and Sandy Gyllenhammer, Gloria Robida, Matt Carson, George Libby, Phil Scherer and Phil Kennedy.

Dorrie was a teacher in the Portland School system for 25 years. She was a parishioner of Saint Mary's Church in Portland and served on the Bereavement Ministry.

Dorrie wishes to thank all of her caretakers, especially Dr. Peter Dixon and Dr. Elizabeth Mariano, the wonderful staff at the Connecticut Oncology Center, and the many angels/nurses and volunteers on floor 7, the hospice unit at Middlesex Hospital.

There will be a short calling hour at 9 a.m. at Saint Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, Saturday, Aug. 6, which will be immediately followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in the church sanctuary and a celebration of life at 11 a.m. in the church's reception area. Dorrie welcomes you all with open arms to come and share your stories and laughter with one another. She will be there with you, a quiet listener watching from a distance.

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. Wisdom pours from her mouth, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue" (Proverbs 31:25-26).

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Dorrie may be made to the Connecticut Oncology Group, 536 Saybrook Rd., Middletown, CT 06457 or to Saint Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

### East Hampton

#### Burr E. Jordan Jr.

Burr E. (Pike) Jordan Jr., 59, of East Hampton, beloved son, brother and uncle, died on Friday July 22, at Hartford Hospital.

Born on July 19, 1957 in Southington, he is the son of Claire (Clark) Ciochini (Donald) and the late Burr E. Jordan Sr.

Burr is survived by his brother Robert A. Jordan; two sisters: Cynthia L. Jordan, Cheryl A. Jordan; his great nephew Trevor Jacobson and many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends attended his graveside service Thursday, July 28, at Center Cemetery in Portland.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

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

### Colchester

#### Robert Bulkeley Miller

Robert Bulkeley Miller, "Uncle Bob," 89, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, July 24. Born in Middletown Sept. 4, 1926, he was the last surviving son of the late Clayton and Hannah (Antonson) Miller.

A lifetime resident of Colchester, he grew up on the family farm and was a graduate of Bacon Academy with the Class of 1944. Over the years, he had worked on the family dairy farm, for Sableski's Oil and lastly, alongside family at Baldi Sand and Gravel.

An avid Civil War buff and family historian, he was well-known for his "Miller Sweet Tooth." Most importantly, family meant everything to him.

He was predeceased by his siblings, Clayton Miller Jr., Betty Johnson and Amy Ferling; a nephew, Clayton Miller III; and leaves to mourn his passing four nieces (and their husbands), Nancy Baldi (Rich) of Colchester, Betsy Ferling-Hitritz (Steve) of Moodus, Susan Poole (Tim) of Franklin and Janice McDonald (Rick) of Bolton; two nephews (and their wives), David Ferling (Linda) of Lebanon and Richard Ferling (Karen) of Harrisonville, Mo.; as well as numerous grand nieces and nephews (sharing an extremely close bond with Christine, Clayton and Nathaniel Baldi).

Graveside services will be observed at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 30, directly at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester, with the Rev. Cheryl Anderson Caronna officiating. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the CT Volunteer Services for the Blind & Handicapped (CVSBH), c/o Oliver Wolcott Library, 160 South St., Litchfield 06759.

His family would like to thank the staff of Apple Rehab in Colchester for their wonderful care of Uncle Bob during the past four years.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, Inc.

### Colchester

#### Jacob Markiewicz

Jacob "Jake" Markiewicz, 69, died Monday, July 25. Born in Hanover, West Germany, in 1946, he was the son of Henny (Rosenbaum) Markiewicz Simon of Colchester and the late Abram Markiewicz.

He worked on many projects as an industrial engineer at IBM from 1970-2000 in both the Poughkeepsie and Kingston plants, most notably the first RS/6000 series "supercomputers". He was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, current member of the Morgan Hill Game Association in Hurley and former member of the First Capital Corvette Club in Kingston.

He was a technology enthusiast, always keeping up on the latest computers and gadgets. He enjoyed going to the casino, watching movies and was helpful with financial advice to others, including wealth management and thrifty shopping practices. He always had a smile on his face and his special brand of humor at the ready. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandson, Asa.

In addition to his mother (and her companion, Ben Cooper), Jacob is survived by his wife of 44 years, Paula DuBosar Markiewicz, whom he married April 8, 1972; two sons, Lee Markiewicz and his wife Amy of Cypress, Texas, and Abram Markiewicz and his wife Alexa of Kingston, N.Y.; a sister, Jenny Rabinowitz and her husband Stuart of Glastonbury; and one grandson, Asa Markiewicz. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Funeral services were observed Thursday, July 28. Shiva commenced at the home of his mother Thursday evening and will continue through Friday evening, July 29, when Minyan will be observed at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave. Following Shabbat, Shiva will resume Saturday evening through Sunday evening at home of his sister in Glastonbury, with Minyan services at 8 p.m. both evenings at the residence. In New York, Shiva will continue at the home of his son, Abram, Sunday, July 31, through Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 6 - 9 p.m., with Minyan services at 7 p.m. all three evenings at the residence.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Pl. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Congregation Emanuel, 243 Albany Ave., Kingston, NY 12401, Congregation Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester, CT 06415 or Congregation Beth Tefilah (attn. Gifts and Welfare), 465 Oak St., East Hartford, CT 06118.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester is assisting with arrangements.



### Marlborough

#### William J. Descy

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of William J. Descy. He was born in Hartford, the son of the late Edmund and Margaret (Gleeson) Descy. He made his home in Marlborough since 1962.

Bill and his wife Jean were married Sept. 9, 1961, and moved to Marlborough when Bill built a house on family property, and they resided there until the present day. Bill was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather, and a true gentleman.

He will be dearly missed by his wife, Jean (Gagnon) Descy, their daughter Michelle Campbell, the light of his eyes and the soul of his heart, son-in-law Scott and granddaughter Heather.

Their marriage of 55 years was a daily, living example of "wedded bliss," a bond of respect, devotion, friendship, partnership, passion and true love. His proudest accomplishments were the homes he built for his family, most notably the house he built in 1961 for his wife and daughter. His family will miss his special talents for being able to fix anything. Bill was very generous with his time and talent. Whenever a family member or friend needed anything, from help with a move, remodeling or just general tasks he was always there to get the job done. He was the rock upon whom we all depended. Prior to his retirement in 2006, he was owner and operator of Marlboro Man Carpentry based in Marlborough, whose remodeling and repair service area encompassed the greater part of central Connecticut. He had formally worked for Somers Log Homes in Marlborough and Colchester for over 18 years.

Bill enjoyed a hard day at work. He touched everyone he came in contact with, always outgoing and smiling. His gentle manner and compassion were obvious to all who met him. Bill was an avid sports fan his whole life. He especially enjoyed rooting for the New York Giants, and the UConn women's basketball team. He had season tickets for many years and traveled to the team's Final Four Games. He looked forward to visiting with friends and enjoying coffee and pastry at the Marlborough Bakery. He was a gentle soul and was immediately liked by everyone he met. Bill served his country honorably in the US Army & Navy.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Richard.

In addition to Jean, Michelle, Scott and Heather, Bill is survived by his brother, John E. Descy and his wife Stephanie, of Suffield several nieces and nephews as well as many friends and extended family.

At his request, funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's memory may be made to St Jude's Children's Research Hospital Tribute Program, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142.

