

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 41, Number 16

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

January 13, 2017



Marlborough is currently negotiating a new contract with L.L. Bean for its continued use of Lake Terramuggus. Since 2013, the company has used the lake to offer kayaking and paddle-boarding classes, such as the one seen here at Marlborough Day last August. The practice has generated mixed reviews from nearby residents, who have expressed concerns about increased lake usage and lack of privacy.

## Marlborough Reworking L.L. Bean Contract

by Julianna Roche

Most of Marlborough's lakeside residents have grown accustomed to the boatloads of paddle-boarders and kayakers who pass by their homes or private docks each summer – but several residents have continued to express concerns about the increased lake usage and lack of privacy over the years.

The surge in lake use, which is seen mostly from the end of May through early October, is a result of an agreement the town made with L.L. Bean in 2013, giving the company permission to use Lake Terramuggus for kayaking and paddle-boarding classes through their program called "L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools."

Marlborough's lake is just one of two lakes in the state used for these courses; the other is Lake Kenosia in Danbury.

People pay L.L. Bean to participate in the classes, with part of that fee going toward parking, and in turn, L.L. Bean pays the town a total of \$2,000 for using the lake.

According to Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Louise Concedello, the \$8,000 generated from the program over the last four years has been used for Parks and Rec. expenses that are not included in the town's annual operating budget.

"That account is used for non-budgetary items," she continued, adding "these are not

taxpayer funds."

For example, in 2013 the revolving funds were used to fix the Rolling Ridge Tennis Court; since, they have been used for replacing the pavilion roof, refurbishing the bath house, purchasing picnic tables, and taking care of any vandalism.

This year, the town's contract with L.L. Bean is coming to an end, however, which gives the town an opportunity to renegotiate their agreement, address past issues and work on solutions.

In mid-December, Parks and Recreation Director Ray Bull sent out letters to lakeside residents asking for feedback about the program, which was met with mostly positive responses, Concedello said.

"Out of the notes from people, I counted 27 in favor, and about six or seven complaints about the program," she continued.

At its meeting Monday, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the feedback with First Selectwoman Amy Traversa and an L.L. Bean representative.

"It wasn't a big turnout," Concedello said of the meeting, adding the commission had "hoped for more" to attend. However, in addition to commission members and other town officials, only three residents were present.

See L.L. Bean Contract page 2

## Tax Abatement for Elmcrest Back On the Table

by Elizabeth Regan

Talks over the past few weeks between Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and the developer planning to revitalize the former Elmcrest Hospital property have yielded a new tax abatement proposal to bring back to the Board of Selectmen.

The selectmen – who last year rescinded one request for a full, 7-year tax abatement and rejected another – agreed in December that Bransfield should initiate a new round of negotiations with Dan Bertram of BRT General Corporation.

Selectmen said they were looking for something more flexible than forgiveness of 100 percent of the property taxes on all-new construction and improvements for seven years.

Bransfield said in an interview Wednesday that after four phone calls with Bertram, "both sides are recognizing the importance of this development and, I want to stress, the importance of a mixed-use development on that site."

The acknowledgement comes after Bertram released an alternate plan last month that calls for 532 apartments under the state's affordable housing statute if an agreement on a tax abatement for his mixed-use development plans cannot be reached.

Bertram and Bransfield said in separate interviews that they've agreed on a tentative tax abatement proposal based on the mixed-use concept plan he submitted to selectmen in Au-

gust. The developer is proposing 238 apartments and 89,400 square feet of commercial space.

The stepped incentive would give Bertram a property tax break on 100 percent of improvements for the first four years, 95 percent in year five, 85 percent in year six and 75 in year seven.

Bransfield said Bertram would pay taxes on the land throughout the entire seven year period, as is customary in tax abatements - but in this proposal, the tax bill would be based on what the land is worth with the new development sitting on it. This is a change from previous discussions that would have fixed the property tax on the land at \$94,000, which is how much the town receives now.

The tax abatement proposal includes a requirement for Bertram to renovate two of the property's historic homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the 1852 Brainerd House and the 1884 Sage House.

Bertram said he was able to make these compromises because he will no longer be relocating and renovating the 1830 Hart-Jarvis House, another home on the National Register. Instead, he will contract with a nonprofit organization being formed to raise money for the relocation, renovation, operation and maintenance of the building.

Bransfield described the nonprofit organization as an investor group brought to her atten-

tion by Economic Development Commission Chairman Elwin Guild.

She said Guild and economic development consultant Mary Dickerson were part of her last conversation with Bertram and were set to participate in a phone call scheduled for Thursday after press time.

Guild said Thursday morning that the grassroots Elmcrest Campus Advisory Committee and the Portland Historical Society are partnering with the EDC to develop the nonprofit organization.

Guild is a founding member of the Elmcrest Campus Advisory Committee.

He called the ownership of the Hart-Jarvis House a "work in progress" and said he was unable to disclose more details about the formative nonprofit organization and its plans for the historic home.

Bransfield said having a private nonprofit group take over the Hart-Jarvis House is "a huge improvement" over a previous plan for the town to take responsibility for the building once Bertram paid to move it to an out-of-the-way corner of the property looking out onto the Arrigoni Bridge.

Bertram said he would be working out the contract language with the nonprofit organization to ensure the building is moved early enough not to disrupt construction, which could start this fall if selectmen approve the new tax

abatement scenario.

"Susan [Bransfield] is focused on ensuring that the town will not take on any potential liabilities related to the historic homes. I agree with her," Bertram said. "This structure puts the enthusiastic historic folks on the job of paying for all things related to saving the Hart-Jarvis House, while BRT will take care of Brainerd and Sage."

According to Bransfield, the proposed tax abatement agreement is based on a two-phase, eight-year schedule.

She said the first phase would begin with the signing of the tax abatement agreement and would last up to four years. That's when 102 of the apartments will be built, the Brainerd and Sage houses would be restored, and a portion of the commercial construction would be completed.

Zoning regulations require 50 percent of the commercial construction to be move-in ready before a certificate of occupancy can be issued for the residential part.

Phase two would include a 136-unit apartment building and the remainder of the commercial construction.

The eight-year timeframe is longer than the three to five years Bertram talked about when he proposed the failed tax abatement agreement several months ago.

See Tax Abatement page 2

**L.L. Bean Contract cont. from Front Page**

In their feedback, several residents that live close to the boat launch on Lake Road and Coleman Lane expressed concerns about lack of privacy, Concodello said.

“We had a couple residents complaining because where they launch the boats from on Lake Road, it’s very close to some of the homes,” she continued. “Some of those residents could be outside having a picnic or having fun in their yards while people are driving or paddling canoes near their property. . . . Of course you don’t have any privacy and I truly understand that.”

Concodello said to fix that problem the commission is trying to find a way for L.L. Bean’s class participants to “go more in the middle of the lake, not next to the docks [or] next to property owners.”

This week, resident Diane Linger (who lives on Coleman Lane, but said she “did not recall” receiving a letter from the Parks and Recreation Department) said she believes parking is also still a major issue – as participants who register and pay for the L.L. Bean classes are given a parking pass for the day, leaving less room for resident parking.

Otherwise, according to the town’s rules and regulations regarding parking at the lake (which are listed at [tinyurl.com/hoynksm](http://tinyurl.com/hoynksm)), parking stickers can only be attained at Town Hall in the Town Clerk’s office with proof of residency.

Passes then must be attached to vehicles’ windshields and parking is permitted only in designated parking lots with absolutely no parking on Lake Road, at the boat launching area or turn-around.

Last June, Traversa also tried to address the issue by calling for additional police patrols to monitor the lots, enforce parking regulations,

and issue tickets to those who don’t follow them.

A second concern, Linger said, is whether the town is really getting its money’s worth with the amount of time L.L. Bean uses Lake Terramuggus.

“They [L.L. Bean] get an awful lot of use of the lake and for the amount the town gets out of it . . . they don’t really give us this much,” she added.

Despite several complaints, Concodello said overall the response to continuing the town’s partnership with L.L. Bean was positive with many residents citing they “love having the lake being used” or that “it’s lovely sitting and looking out the window seeing boats go back and forth.”

Resident and Board of Education member Betty O’Brien, who lives on North Main Street, agreed.

“I’ve been here for years on the lake and I think [the classes] are wonderful,” she said, adding both her daughter and grandson have taken them.

“It’s not like they’re here all the time,” she continued, adding she believed the partnership with L.L. Bean was “beneficial to the community in every way and to people who take the classes.”

\* \* \*

Concodello said the commission will continue to negotiate with L.L. Bean until they’ve reached an agreement, with the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to be held Monday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

“We’re here to make recreation an important part of living here,” she said. “[And] we want to make everyone happy.”

**Tax Abatement cont. from Front Page**

Bransfield attributed the elongated timeframe “to absorption and/or potential economic cycle considerations between phases.”

Bertram indicated the schedule also takes into account what he’s learned from experience: Sometimes it takes longer than expected to get things done in Portland.

He is focused, however, on moving forward

as efficiently as possible.

He reiterated a family friendship with property owner Fred Hassan, which goes back a generation, as a guiding force in the development. Hassan turns 80 years old this year.

“I’d like to see Fred walk through the final project,” Bertram said.

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I have noticed that folks who, like me, have spent the vast majority of their lives in Connecticut fall into one of two categories: Those who epitomize the “hardy New Englander” stereotype and embrace snow as one of the perks of living in this part of the country . . . . and those who just really, really want winter to be over with.

I fall into the latter category.

There comes a point every winter when I realize I’m just sick of the whole thing and want it to just be spring already. This year, I had that moment on Monday. Yup, Jan. 9 – not even the middle of the month yet. I’ve got a long way to go.

Saturday brought the biggest snowstorm of the season thus far. And I know it wasn’t even very big, at least where I live in Manchester. I got about five or six inches, I’d guess. I’ve certainly seen worse. But this was followed by extreme cold Sunday and especially Monday . . . . and that’s what did it.

Because when snow is followed by extreme cold, it just means the snow doesn’t go anywhere. It sticks around. You clean off your car and shovel yourself out, but it’s not really over. Parking spaces vanish, covered by snow deposits. You have to be on the lookout for slick spots just walking down the street, if you come across a sidewalk that hasn’t been shoveled completely to the bare. And while this storm was too light to really affect them, I’ve seen sight lines get compromised too.

But beyond the snow sticking around, the extreme cold means you’re walking to your car when it’s *two freaking degrees outside*. There’s nothing pleasant about that.

There’s really no good day for snow. Weekday snow is the pits (sorry, kids, the joy of “snow days” – those glorious days off, full of sledding and snowmen and daytime TV – pretty much grind to a halt once you graduate college). But weekend snow isn’t much better. Who among us hasn’t had Saturday or Sunday plans dashed to bits by a poorly-timed snowstorm? Parties get cancelled, or the highways become frankly too treacherous for travel. (I sincerely hope no one reading this was caught in that awful-looking 25-car pileup on I-91 in Middletown Saturday.)

Speaking of treacherous travel: let’s pull the conversation off me for a moment. Every storm, you hear of dozens, perhaps hundreds, of car accidents thanks to terrible road

conditions. Every storm also requires lots of cleanup. Lots of snow plows and salt and, frequently, lots of overtime pay. Ask any town department head and they’ll tell you: snow ain’t cheap. And if you get a particularly heavy winter, those snow removal budgets can become expended fast, and it’s supplemental appropriation time. No one wants that.

I admit that last winter wasn’t particularly heavy in terms of snow. So one might think I’d be ready to deal with it this year, since I got a break last year. But, nope. I think the fact that I’m sick of it already, after one snowstorm, suggests winter and I have had a permanent falling-out. There’s no going back.

Now, yes, I realize where I live. And for Connecticut winters to stop behaving like, well, Connecticut winters means climate change will have gotten even worse and I really don’t want to see that. But every so often, I need to vent. Okay, okay: I need to whine. Like I said, winter sends me to the whining point every year. It was just a little sooner than usual this year.

\* \* \*

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R-34), whose district encompasses East Hampton, East Haddam and a portion of Colchester, has an interesting-sounding community forum coming up tonight in East Haddam, on an issue that’s been very much a hot topic lately – not just in Connecticut but across the country.

The forum is on the potential effects of legalizing marijuana in Connecticut. Both sides of this debate will be professionally represented, and there will be an opportunity for questions.

The forum will take place tonight, Jan. 13, from 7-9 p.m., in the auditorium of Nathan Hale-Ray High School, which is located at 15 School Rd. in East Haddam. The forum is open to everyone and is free to attend.

Ziobron is an advocate of legalizing marijuana, but she knows it’s an issue that generates lots of passion on both sides. It’ll be interesting to see how tonight’s forum goes.

For more information, contact Ziobron at [Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov) or 800-842-1423.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# What to Do with Surplus School Funds in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

At the Board of Education meeting this week, board members and town officials discussed what they plan to do with the \$117,960 worth of non-expended funds left over from the 2015-16 fiscal year.

According to Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove, approximately 10 years ago, the education board, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approved a resolution that allows for unexpended funds from the education board’s operating budget to be reappropriated for capital purchases in the subsequent year.

“We’ve been doing that for a significant number of years,” she said. “It’s a source in addition to the budget [and] it’s one that doesn’t always get publicity about how many things we’ve addressed over the year.”

“People focus on the money in the budget, but don’t realize there’s a lot of work done through this process,” she continued.

“[This] is not new money,” reiterated Chairman Ron Goldstein. “This is money that’s already there.”

Director of Educational Operations Ken Jackson then presented the board with a list of recommended capital projects the funds could be

used for, including building system repairs and upgrades to Colchester Elementary School (CES), replacing obsolete VAV (variable air volume) controllers in Bacon Academy, which help balance the air flow and temperature, and replacing a 10-passenger school van, which is used district-wide.

While Jackson said there is no “hard pricing” yet for the items, he considered maximum possible costs for each and added that “if we don’t expend the funds, it goes back to the capital reserves.”

The building system repairs and upgrades to CES, he furthered, which include VAV replacements, speed-drive installations and air balancing, could cost up to \$46,600, while replacing the older VAV controllers on the third floor in Bacon are estimated to be no more than \$42,360.

(Doing so would also provide the school with spares for current and future failed controllers throughout the school, Jackson added.)

Ultimately, replacing the VAV controllers will help create better air quality and flow throughout both schools, which has been an ongoing issue.

“It’s cold in some classrooms, warm in others,” he said, adding the replacements will eventually help the schools “realize a lot of energy efficiency and energy savings.”

Lastly, Jackson said he hopes to replace the school’s current van, a 1999 Ford Econoline with a newer vehicle. Though it has only 77,000 miles on it, he said its undercarriage is heavily corroded and there is a high probability the van will not pass the next DMV inspection required, since it is used to transport students.

The van is currently used for an array of groups and activities district-wide, including special education services, programs with Bacon, preschool programs, and even field trips.

Though the board voted unanimously in favor of requesting to use the funds for the various capital projects, it must also be approved by the Board of Finance, and “depending on the [total] dollar amount, it may require a town meeting for approval to ultimately move forward,” Cosgrove said.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS) Principal Elise Butson introduced fifth-graders Noah Auden, Shayla

Babcock, Madelyn Koziol and Audra Putorti to the board, and the foursome spoke about their Higher Order Thinking (HOT) school experiences which included working with JJIS’ Artist in Residence Carol Glynn and JJIS production companies.

This year, “Ms. Glynn” taught the students about public speaking and acting.

“She taught us how to project our voices, to not mumble [and] to hold the microphone away from our mouths when we speak,” Audra told the board. “I didn’t feel like I had butterflies in my stomach because she helped me know that the crowd was just another group of people.”

“Working with Ms. Glynn was really fun,” Shayla added, saying she felt the school should “absolutely, positively, with a cherry on top, be sure to bring Ms. Glynn back for next year’s fifth graders.”

\* \* \*

The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. in the CES cafeteria. At that time, Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu will present his proposed budget for the FY 2017-18 year to the board.

# Natural Gas Proposal Moves Forward in Hebron

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The proposal for a natural gas expansion in Hebron continues to move forward, as the Board of Selectmen voted at their meeting last week to appropriate \$1.86 million for the project, and referred the plan to the Board of Finance to authorize funding and schedule a public hearing.

The selectmen voted unanimously Jan. 5 to take said action, and the Board of Finance had a meeting of its own shortly after where they voted to schedule a public hearing for Thursday, Jan. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Douglas Library to consider the selectmen's recommendation.

The project includes the installation of eight miles of gas main from a gate station on East Street to the Hebron Town Center. As part of the proposal, various town buildings, including the town office and the Horton House, Gilead Hill School, Hebron Elementary School, the Douglas Library, the Fire Department and the Russell Mercier Senior Center, as well as the RHAM middle and high schools, will make the switch to natural gas.

Residents and businesses along the route will also have the option to connect, should they wish.

The total construction cost of the project amounts to \$5,589,700, of which the town will contribute \$758,800. The remaining cost will be paid for with \$2,706,800 in anticipated off-setting revenue collection to Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG) from private homes connecting to the pipeline, and \$2,124,100 in a CNG non-firm margin contribution. Non-firm credits represent revenue earned by CNG, and while in the past these credits were returned to customers as a credit to their bills, the gas company is now permitted to use a portion of those credits

to offset expansion costs.

In addition to a portion of the construction charges, the town will also be responsible for \$1,101,541 in conversion costs – this includes the \$264,000 it's expected to cost RHAM to make changes to the schools so they can connect to the pipeline as well. In the proposal from CNG it was made clear in order for the project to be financially viable, the two RHAM schools would need to convert to natural gas, and the RHAM Board of Education voted at a district meeting last month to do just that.

RHAM would pay back the town for funding the conversion via expected fuel savings.

The finance board has yet to finalize funding sources.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said of the expansion this week, "I think the gas expansion is a great economic benefit for the town of Hebron. The [new] assisted-living facility [in the Village Green District] is very anxious for the gas along with other property owners and John E. Horton Boulevard. This will also open up new areas for economic development in the future."

\* \* \*

The board also saw a presentation on self-funded insurance, following the unanimous vote of the Region 8 Insurance Consortium at its Dec. 20 meeting to recommend the group move to self-funded medical insurance as a way to control costs.

The Region 8 Insurance Consortium is made up of town and school officials from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, as well as RHAM and AHM Youth and Family Services. It manages health insurance for town employees and school employees in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough as well as at RHAM and AHM.

The purpose of the consortium was to form a group to purchase insurance together; as a group, those involved are considered a "large employer" which results in better rates and more plan options to choose from. On their own, the groups that make up the consortium wouldn't be large enough to receive the same options.

Chuck Petruccione of Brown & Brown Insurance, the consultants that have been working with the consortium since July 2015, spoke to the selectmen about becoming self-insured and explained in doing so, "The levels of coverage would not change. Only how that coverage is funded would change."

The consortium is now conventionally insured, he explained, which means there's no risk involved. Petruccione elaborated, explaining the members of the consortium currently pay an additional premium to the carrier at a rate of around seven percent to assume no risk. With that fully-funded arrangement however, the carrier gets to keep any money that gets paid in through premiums but never gets used. That leftover amount is referred to as the Medical Loss Ratio, and insurance carriers usually aim for an MLR of around 85 percent – meaning for every dollar paid in through premiums, the insurance company pays out 85 cents in services and pockets the remaining 15 cents.

According to documents provided at the meeting, over the last 12-month period the MLR was 83.9 percent; and since last July that number was only 61.8 percent – meaning the insurance carrier has kept 38 cents of every dollar paid in.

If the consortium were self-funded, however, any MLR money would instead be kept in a fund by the consortium for high cost years.

Although going self-funded means the con-

sortium assumes the risk that the insurance company previously carried, Petruccione added there are two layers of stop-loss protection that could be acquired to ensure at any given time the consortium never spent more than a certain amount of money: individual stop-loss protection and aggregate protection for the whole group.

In a similar presentation to the Andover Board of Selectmen last week, Petruccione had explained, "Going self-funded as a consortium, you take on some risk, and in any given month you might take on more, but over the long run you're saving money."

For instance, he said this week if the consortium had been self-funded over the last four-year period, "you would have saved about \$2 million in premiums."

Selectman Dan Larson said of the option, "Monetarily it just makes sense, if we can pull it together."

Resident Randy Skoly, who works in insurance and has acted as a consultant for the town offering his insurance expertise to the town manager's office, was also present at last week's meeting to talk about the change.

He shared, "the whole point is, certainly for a group of this size, with appropriate protection the time [to go self-funded] is now."

With the Dec. 20 recommendation, the proposal now goes to the selectmen in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough for a vote, as well as to the RHAM school board and AHM. None of those votes have occurred as of yet.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. following the public hearing on the natural gas expansion.

# Van Tassel Reveals Plan to Discontinue HES Portables

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Schools Superintendent Tim Van Tassel presented a plan last week to keep third-graders at Hebron Elementary School while discontinuing use of the portables that currently house fifth-grade students.

The unveiling of the plan, which Van Tassel said would cost "\$15,000 at the most" to implement, follows the results of a feasibility study conducted by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) at the end of last year, meant to provide options for the district to consider in response to declining enrollment.

The feasibility study featured several options, including moving third grade to Gilead Hill School and removing the portables, keeping third grade at Hebron Elementary School and planning to replace the portables within the next three to five years, and having both schools serve a kindergarten-grade six population. However, NESDEC did not recommend closing either Gilead Hill School or Hebron Elementary School and having one building for all the town's children.

Following NESDEC's presentation on the study, which took place Dec. 8, Van Tassel immediately recommended – and the board approved – that the administration hone in their focus and prepare a project plan to keep the grade levels the same but discontinue use of the portables, which are 11 years old.

That project plan was crafted over the month that followed, and Van Tassel said last week it was "a collaborative effort in every way, shape and form."

He added, "An awful lot of work went into

this and I'm appreciative of everyone who had a hand in this."

The presented plan highlighted the movement that would need to occur in order to house fifth-graders inside Hebron Elementary School as opposed to the portables, along with the estimated cost and timeline.

Not surprisingly, the project entails a good deal of repurposing of the school's classrooms and other academic spaces.

"There are a lot of moves [of classrooms]," Van Tassel stated. "There are 19 moves next year within the district but if you're going to do it, you do it right the first time."

Hebron Elementary School Principal Katie Uriano explained of the moves, "We set up [the school] with the premise that little legs have less far to walk throughout the day. So in the front of the building will be grade three; that puts them close to the nurse, it puts them close to the office, it puts them close to the specials."

She added fourth grade will then be further in, all in the same area. Fifth grade, meanwhile, will be in the section third-graders used to call home.

"We could take fifth grade from the portables and just move them to the front of the building but we really wanted to have our moves make sense and really set up the building the way we want it to be set up for optimal growth and collaboration," Uriano explained. "So fifth grade would be moving right to where third grade is right now, and that also keeps kids of a similar age together."

In the back of the school will be the sixth

grade wing. Uriano explained that's also the area where the school lockers are located, so it's important to have them by the sixth grade classrooms.

In addition, Uriano said, "These students move from class to class every single day so the fact they're in a line makes it easy because they move clockwise throughout the day; instead of kids crossing and making it chaotic, they just move all together."

Most of the unified arts classrooms would also be moved to one section, apart from art which Uriano explained has a designated room with a kiln.

A change in the library media center, she added, would be that the computer lab will be removed to provide a larger space for Challenge and Enrichment.

"Now that we've got one-to-one Chrome-Books and we don't have a need for a computer lab, we would like to use this space."

One thing that will be lost if the portables are closed right now is a large staff room.

"We do have this room, which up until the last two years was the staff room, so we still have that location, it's just not the giant location we currently have."

Van Tassel further explained keeping the grade levels where they currently are and bringing fifth graders into the school won't result in class sizes larger than the board recommendations. He added while there will be significantly more students in Hebron Elementary School than Gilead Hill next year – 370 to 295 – the num-

bers even out over the next few years and by the 2021-22 school year Hebron Elementary School is projected to have 297 students and Gilead Hill School is projected to have 281.

The estimated cost for the moves if the presented project plan proceeds is \$13,951. Some additional costs may be accrued from, for instance, moving the SmartBoards and projectors out of the portables and prepping some of the new rooms with storage cabinets. In total Van Tassel said "I'm thinking \$15,000 at the most."

"We have a memorandum agreement with the bargaining unit about moves," he explained of the cost, adding \$30,000 was already included in the budget he presented last month in case the board decided to move forward with the plan.

"I over budgeted – I thought we'd need moving companies – so we can reduce that number."

If the plan continues, the moves will begin June 1 and 2 with the STEAM room, Challenge and Enrichment Room and intervention spaces. Teachers will then start preparing for their moves June 5-9 by boxing their classroom materials, and the rest of the relocations will take place over the summer. The last day of school at Hebron Elementary School, barring any additional snow days, is Monday, June 12.

Parents were given the chance to discuss the project plan proposal at a forum scheduled for Thursday after press time, and the board is expected to make a decision regarding the plan prior to Feb. 15.

# Hebron Author Releases 20th Book

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Local author Mark Allen Baker has done it again. He's released another book – his 20th – and this time he veers way from the Revolutionary War era that he focused on in his last two books to tell the tale of the late professional boxer Oscar "Battling" Nelson.

The 296-page book entitled *Battling Nelson, The Durable Dane* is Baker's first biography. He shared this week he became intrigued with the World Lightweight Champion after writing Nelson's condensed biography for his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1992.

He then decided to research and write a biography on the boxer after he found out Nelson's autobiography ended at 1908 – and Nelson lived until 1954.

"I yearned for the rest of the story," Baker explained.

According to the book's synopsis, Nelson "was perhaps the toughest professional boxer ever to enter the ring. Although a Hall of Fame inductee, Nelson remains a lesser-known great of boxing lore. From the beginning of his career at 14, the Danish immigrant presented himself as a man of integrity who never smoked, drank or took a dive."

The synopsis continues, "In the ring and in public, Battling Nelson crafted a Renaissance man image as a lightweight champion, reporter, entertainer, real estate mogul, entrepreneur and ladies' man. The first-ever champion in his weight class to mount a comeback, he strove to break new ground (even if he wasn't always

successful)."

Baker said the biography, which took about a year to complete, required a "considerable amount" of primary research.

"As I have acted as a historian for the International Boxing Hall of Fame since its inception, I understood some of the pitfalls I was likely to encounter, such as inaccurate details regarding Nelson's fight record," he said. "So, rather than turning to published books, I utilized eyewitness accounts."

To do this he explained he referenced hundreds of newspapers, a process that was both time-consuming and costly, but he knew it was the right direction to take.

"It is amazing how much time is spent to produce a biography," he stated. "Because I was working for an academic publisher, there were no shortcuts – every fact needed a citation. For example, I couldn't just say Oscar Nelson played golf every weekend; I had to prove it."

And, now that all that work is complete, Baker said, "I hope I did my subject justice."

He added, "An accurate account of someone's life written is paramount to every biographer. Oscar Nelson wrote an autobiography in 1908, which told, at least from my perspective, only a fraction of the man. I wanted to complete the story he left behind. He was far too fascinating an individual not to."

Baker called *Battling Nelson* a "rags-to-riches-to-rags" story, and said although Nelson was a World Lightweight Champion, his is hardly a success story.

"If I was a screenwriter and took the story to

a producer, they would never believe it," he shared. "From defeating a strongman at the circus, to a trilogy against the greatest lightweight boxer ever, the book takes you beyond boxing and into a world filled with romance, intrigue, royalty and even suicide."

Although Baker said it wasn't fun to write about the unpleasant parts of someone's life, he acknowledged that's the role of a biographer, and said some of the facets of Nelson's life he particularly enjoyed were Oscar's accounts of "riding the rails" on freight cars headed to different destinations.

In addition, he said, "I also have to admit I found myself intrigued with Oscar Nelson's love affairs. Specifically that of Irma Kilgallen, a millionaire heiress-turned-countess."

He elaborated on that tidbit from Nelson's life, sharing Kilgallen was an heiress to a multimillion dollar fortune who married – and then divorced – one Count Jacques von Mourik de Beaufort. She then married Chicago playwright, actor and composer Joseph E. Howard, only to commit suicide about a month later after happening upon her husband "during a precarious moment."

And, through all that Baker explained Nelson was having a discreet on-again, off-again affair with Kilgallen.

"There was even more to the story," Baker said. "But, for that you will have to read the book."

Although Nelson was a boxing legend, and parts of the book go into great detail about box-



Mark Allen Baker

ing, Baker said that doesn't necessarily mean only those who are a fan of the sport will enjoy the read.

"Because of who Oscar Nelson was, and what he stood for, there is not a soul who couldn't benefit from reading the book," Baker said. "It tackles every issue of the day, from racism to mental illness."

Baker's book is available as an e-book and in print wherever books are sold.

## Racing to Help After a Crash in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

The impact of a Monday morning collision in front of the Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center was so strong it could be felt inside the building, prompting staff to race out the doors into below-freezing temperatures to help a couple trapped in their small car.

A 2009 Honda Fit Sport driven by Marianne Baun, 39, of New Britain, was pulling out of the parking lot when it was struck by a full-size pickup truck traveling south on Route 151, according to the East Hampton Police Department.

Police said she was traveling with her husband, Gumersindo Baun, 47.

John Caron, director of community relations at the facility, said in an interview Wednesday that he happened to be looking at the parking lot when the crash occurred. Likening it to an explosion, he described car parts flying through the air and snow falling to the ground as the truck came to rest inside a group of trees on other side of the road.

Caron said he immediately told a coworker to call 911 as he ran outside. He found Marianne Baun conscious but incoherent. All the airbags were deployed.

"I saw her life change, just like that," he said.

Marianne Baun was a temporary employee who'd been on the job just two days, according to Caron.

Caron was soon joined by several other staff members, including Director of Nursing Jodie Veilleux and another nurse. Others followed with blankets and coats.

Veilleux, a registered nurse for 18 years, focused the team's efforts on first aid basics known by the acronym ABC: Airway, breathing, circulation.

She said Marianne Baun initially slipped into unconsciousness but was revived.

"We couldn't do a lot because they were pinned into the car," Veilleux explained. "We didn't want to move anybody because we wanted the EMTs there to help us. That's their role. But we did our first aid; we kept them conscious, warm."

Gumersindo Baun, too, was starting to go unconscious when one of the staff members reached in to unlock the jammed passenger door and rip it open, according to Veilleux.

"It was like superpowers," she said. "Adrenaline got into them and they got that door open and they got him talking again and they got blankets wrapped around him."

Officer Michael Salafia of the East Hampton Police Department was the first responder. He said Wednesday that he arrived at the scene to find the staff members giving words of encouragement – like "hang in there," "you can do this," and "you're going to be okay" – as they attended to the two victims.

"It gave me a confident feeling as an officer that part of the accident was taken care of so I could work on the other operator or do something else," Salafia said.

Police named Matthew Kastle, 27, of Moodus, as the driver of the 2007 Toyota Tundra. He declined medical treatment and had no visible injuries, according to police.

Veilleux said firefighters, who arrived several minutes after police, were able to get the Bauns out of the car right away. The jaws of life were used to extricate Marianne Baun.

"Once they got there, it was seconds they had her out. It was amazing. They were just really amazing," Veilleux said.

Marianne Baun was taken by LifeStar to St. Francis Hospital due to the seriousness of her injuries, according to police. The helicopter landed in the nearby parking lot of St. Clements

Castle in Portland.

Gumersindo Baun was transported by ambulance to Hartford Hospital with serious injuries, police said.

Marianne Baun's condition was unavailable as of press time. Gumersindo Baun was listed in fair condition.

Mark Zgorski, co-owner of the family-run rehabilitation center, described his staff as "phenomenal." He credited Veilleux with taking the lead in keeping Marianne Baun alive.

"Sometimes people say this isn't real nursing, but it sure as hell is," he said. "We save lives on a regular basis here."

But Zgorski said it was the first major car accident at the facility.

Zgorski, Caron and Veilleux agreed that speeding appeared to be a factor. They said such extensive damage would not have been possible if Kastle had been driving 35 miles per hour.

"We just wonder what would have happened if [Kastle] had been driving the speed limit," Veilleux said.

Salafia said the crash remains under investigation. No charges had been filed as of Wednesday.

## Marlborough Finance Board Reviews Audit Report

by Julianna Roche

At its meeting this week, the Board of Finance reviewed the town's financial statements and audit report for FY 2015-16, which showed the town's total revenue to be \$26.19 million, compared to total program expenses of \$23.67 million.

Board chairman Doug Knowlton spent the first portion of the meeting pointing out "important" figures, including, for example, that most revenue categories were favorable versus the budget, including property taxes which exceeded the budget by \$229,643.

According to the financial statements, the town's overall expenditures were less than what was budgeted for by \$240,762, and expenditures for most departments and functional areas were as well – most notably in general government by \$100,129, public safety by \$23,880 and public works by \$85,506.

In terms of capital assets, the town had in-

vested \$46.2 million, which was used for land, buildings, the municipal sewer system, park facilities, vehicles and equipment, and roads and storm drains. The most significant changes however, were in road improvements, the municipal water system and phase III of the sewers.

Approximately \$1 million was expended during 2016 on infrastructure projects.

The town also saw a decrease in the amount of debt – with \$13.32 million as of June 30, 2016 versus approximately \$15.12 million at the end of the prior year, a decrease of \$1.89 million.

However, Knowlton stated that those numbers were "in variance" with numbers reported by Assistant Treasurer Hayley Wagner, so he would look into it before reporting back to the board.

Knowlton furthered that auditors are scheduled to meet with the finance board to discuss the reports in more detail on Feb. 8.

\*\*\*

Also during the meeting, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa mentioned the amount of cuts the state will be making from the current FY 2016-17 town budget, which includes \$38,000 from Education Cost Sharing (ECS), \$57,600 from Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA), and \$20,000 from homeowner tax relief – all of which will be taken into consideration when preparing next year's budget.

"At this point in time, that's just information," Knowlton said. "The numbers may change again, who knows."

Board of Finance Vice Chairman Cliff Denniss said the finance board should stress to other town boards, and the public as a whole,

the importance of writing to state legislators and Gov. Dannel Malloy to express their concerns about the cuts.

According to Traversa, residents will have opportunities coming up to meet with both state Sen. Cathy Osten and state Rep. Robin Green to discuss their concerns and gather more information.

She said there will likely be meetings with the two on Tuesday evening, Jan. 31 and Friday morning, Feb. 3. More details will follow.

"People will have a chance to talk to their legislators and let them know what we're feeling and what we're experiencing," Traversa said.

\*\*\*

The next Board of Finance meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., in Marlborough Elementary School's library media center.

# Report Finds Portland Sewer System Improvements to Total \$19M

by Elizabeth Regan

A voluminous report commissioned by the Metropolitan District Commission for the town of Portland puts the total price tag for improvements to the town's water and sewer system at roughly \$19 million over the next 15 years.

The study was carried out by the engineering and environmental consulting firm Tighe and Bond, on MDC's dime, to help guide conversation about whether the town should continue to operate its sewer system independently or if it should join the regional authority.

Tighe and Bond engineer Frederick Mueller presented the firm's findings last Wednesday to members of the Portland Board of Selectmen, Long Range Capital Improvements Commission and Water and Sewer Commission.

The report recommended about \$9.15 million in upgrades to the water system and \$9.96 million to the sewer system.

"That plan will impact your rates, because someone's got to pay for those capital improvements," Mueller said.

There are currently 2,270 customers on the public water system and 1,526 customers on the sewer system. Last year, they saw a 20-percent rate increase as part of selectmen's efforts to bring the struggling utility into the black.

Portland currently buys water from MDC based on a 30-year contract signed in 1996 to supplement the town's public well supply.

If the town chose to implement the recommended capital plan as the independent system it is now, the average sewer user now paying almost \$600 per year would face a couple years of roughly 10-percent increases before settling at an approximate rate increase of 3 percent each year.

Another option, as the funding of the report indicates, is for the town to become a member of the MDC. The company currently has eight member towns: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor.

The nonprofit utility company operates according to the "ad valorem" method of charging its member towns, which means a municipality pays for service based on property taxes within its borders.

MDC CEO Scott W. Jellison said Portland's portion of the regional utility's \$44 million in expenses would come in at 2.54 percent.

The calculation gets a little sticky in Portland, where most residents use septic instead of public sewer services. That means a majority of taxpayers would be paying 2.54 percent of their tax bill for sewer services they don't even use.

According to Mueller, rates for sewer users would be significantly lower if the town went with MDC than if it remained independent because the cost is spread out among all residents — "but you're going to have a lot of irate homeowners."

Mueller cited the creation of a special tax district for those with sewer service as one way to apply the ad valorem model without making the entire town pay for it. The report showed costs to sewer users in such a tax district would be comparable to what they would pay if the town retained its independent system.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency describes the ad valorem model as one that is "seldom used" by municipal wastewater

utilities. The more common charging method is based on meters that record actual usage.

Jellison said septic users in Portland would be eligible for a \$300 credit from MDC every two years, but said the taxation issue remains a "very complicated" one the town would have to work out for itself.

Jellison pointed to reduced capital costs as a main benefit of membership with MDC. Instead of footing the entire bill for all improvements to the water and sewer system, Portland would be able to share those non-recurring expenses with the other seven towns.

The ultimate question is whether or not the town wants to expand the availability of public water and sewer service in town, according to Jellison.

If the answer is yes, he said, "that's where being a member town would be more beneficial because [all MDC member towns] are sharing in the cost rather than Portland paying 100 percent of it."

The answer to that question remained unanswered at the meeting.

Discussion about extending sewer service up Route 66 to the intersection of Route 17 was broached, but deemed unlikely.

Selectman Ben Srb said MDC is not realistically going to pick up the hefty cost of expansion.

"You're not going to run it out there," he told Jellison.

Jellison acknowledged his organization likes to recoup roughly 20-30 percent of the total cost from those directly benefiting from the expansion. If a local business was requesting sewer

service but was only paying \$2,000 per year in property taxes toward MDC, it wouldn't make economic sense for the utility to spend \$2 million on a pipeline.

Regardless of the town's expansion plans, Public Works Director Rick Kelsey said the value of the Tighe and Bond report is in its comprehensive evaluation of the water and sewer infrastructure in town.

"This is a capital needs assessment, and they've done a nice job in identifying \$18 million or so capital needs that in the next 15 years we need to do," Kelsey said. "Regardless whether it's MDC or us, the point I see out of this study is we now have identified specific needs and costs associated with those needs."

The study was initiated in August 2015, when selectmen voted to accept Jellison's offer to pay for a full analysis of the system. MDC provided a list of engineering firms from which the town could choose.

Jellison at the time also suggested the town hire a separate firm to do its own, independent analysis. Several members of the Board of Selectmen and Water and Sewer Commission agreed with the idea of getting a second opinion.

Bransfield said this week another study will be on the table when selectmen meet on Jan. 18.

"We're going to have an update on the MDC study and it will be up to selectmen whether they want to fund another review of the system," she said. "It is something they've committed to talking about. I don't know if they've committed the money, per se."

## Car Crashes into Tree on Route 2 in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

State Police said a single motor vehicle collided with a tree just prior to exit 21 on Route 2 in Colchester on Sunday, Jan. 1.

According to police, Christopher Dahlgreen, 20, of 161 Lakewood Rd., South Glastonbury, was driving his Toyota Avalon XL westbound on Route 2 at approximately

8:30 a.m. when he drove off the road and crashed into a tree.

Dahlgreen was transported by Colchester to Hartford Hospital for suspected minor injuries and was found to be at fault for the incident, police said.

## Two Car Crash on Parum Road in Colchester

by Julianna Roche

A two-car crash on Parum Road last week led to one of the drivers being charged with DUI, Colchester Police said.

The crash occurred at approximately 9:50 p.m. Jan. 5, on Parum, just south of its intersection with Maclyn Road, police said.

Police said Matthew King, 33, of 648 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, was driving a Ford Mustang southbound on Parum Road when Larry Gaskill, 32, of 444 Parum Rd., pulled his Volkswagen Passat out of a private driveway on Parum Road and collided with King.

Police said both vehicles sustained heavy front-end damage and both operators sustained minor injuries, with King transported by Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department to Hartford Hospital and Gaskill transported by CHVFD to Backus Hospital.

According to police, Gaskill was found to be at fault to the crash for failure to grant right of way. He was also charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and was taken into custody by police.

## Hebron Police News

1/4: State Police said Stephan Prucnal, 59, of 7 Sandy Ln., Marlborough was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive right.

1/8: State Police said Brian J. Steiner, 24, of 34 Hillcrest Dr., Amston, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, improper parking, drug paraphernalia, and possession of a controlled substance.

## Colchester Police News

1/4: State Police said Francesca Colonna, 28, of 118 Deer Run Dr., was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

1/5: State Police said Miguel A. Martinez, 29, of 320 Stebbins St., Belchertown, Mass., was arrested and charged with evading responsibility in the operation of a motor vehicle, failure to drive in the proper lane on a multiple lane highway, possession of a controlled substance and weapons in a vehicle.

## Obituaries continued

East Hampton

### John Francis Wood

John Francis Wood, 70, resident of East Hampton for the past 30 years, was born Dec. 11, 1946, and passed away after a brief illness Thursday, Jan. 5. He was born in Hartford, the son of the late William R. and Charlotte (Gardiner) Wood.



He is predeceased by his parents and his brother, James W. Wood. Mr. Wood grew up in East Hartford and attended East Hartford High School. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Wood accepted a position at Hartford National Bank and remained there through several mergers, eventually retiring as an assistant V.P. from the Bank of America.

John is survived by his best fishing partner and wife of 32 years, Kristi (Huhta) Wood of East Hampton; two sons, William Wood and his wife Donna of Tennessee, Aaron Wood and his wife Sarah of Massachusetts; one stepson, Sean T. Griffin of North Carolina; and his beloved niece Siana Rivera and her two sons, Austen and Harry Rivera; as well as several grandchildren, one great-grandchild, goddaughter, nieces, nephews, and many cousins.

There will be a funeral service at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St, Rocky Hill, today, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m. Burial with military honors will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park. Family and friends may call at the funeral home from noon-1 p.m., just prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society or to a veteran's organization of choice.

Condolences may be made online at [rosehillfuneralhomes.com](http://rosehillfuneralhomes.com).

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### John George Mohrlein Sr.

It is with profound sadness that the family of John George Mohrlein Sr. announces his peaceful passing on the morning of Monday, Jan. 9.

He left us on the family farm where he entered life Nov. 3, 1938, the middle child and only son of German immigrants, the late Johann and Elisabeth (Kuenzner) Mohrlein.

John was a lifelong resident of Colchester, attending grade school and then studying the trades at both Vinal and Norwich State Technical Schools. However, his senior year was spent rounding out his studies at Bacon Academy, graduating with the Class of 1956.

While on a senior class trip to Washington, D.C., John met then-high school sophomore Arlene Louise Gandolf of Flushing, N.Y. A two-year courtship, continuing through John's tenure in the Marine Corps, culminated with them joining together in marriage Dec. 20, 1958 at St. Luke Church in Whitestone, N.Y.

Arlene moved to the farm – a world apart from Queens – while John completed his tour of duty in the Corps in 1959, being honorably discharged at the rank of Lance Corporal. While in the service, he continued to hone his skills as a mechanic and was able to experience Southern Europe while on tour in the Mediterranean.

Early on, John worked for the late Dwight H. Marvin and his late son, Loren, as a mechanic at their dealership in Colchester, while also driving a school bus for the former Clark's Transportation and tending to work on the farm.

In 1961, just a few weeks before the birth of their first child, his family suffered the tragic and sudden loss of his father and a year later, months before the birth of their second child, the passing of his mother.

Together, John and Arlene made the decision to take the farm from small scale and build it into a larger dairy operation, while continuing to work as a mechanic at D.H. Marvin. As the family grew, so did the farm, along with the help of many appreciated farmhands over those next three decades.

In the early 1980s, he took a position with the Colchester Highway Department prior to conducting an auction of his dairy herd in the fall of 1985. The next morning, however, he baffled many by buying back 16 head of cattle – but now only to be a "hobby" for the next 15 years or so.

During his tenure with the Town of Colchester, his die-hard work ethic would bring him up the ranks quickly as First Assistant, and then Road Foreman, as well as his appointment as Tree Warden for the town. In 1993, he then took a position as Assistant Foreman and fleet mechanic for the Hebron Public Works Department until his "retirement" in 2004.

However, retirement to John only meant that he would no longer receive a paycheck every two weeks. He continued to work tirelessly each and every day. John took great pride and dedication in maintaining his equipment and property, as well as his eager and willingness to help, guide; engineer; fix; and generally *supervise* any project of both his family and friends alike.

He held a great respect for the land (as in his words, "they're not making any more"). He leaves a gift to us all by having been such a great steward of that tract of land on Route 16 that has been enjoyed, photographed, and painted by so many over the decades.

In addition to his devoted wife of 58 years, he leaves his four children, Arlene "Tootsie" Roberts (and her partner, Jacqueline Rowell), John Jr. (and his wife, Theresa), Cheryl Mohrlein (and her companion, Paul Kratochvil) and Wayne (and his wife, Valerie); four grandchildren, Jennifer Mohrlein (and her husband, Eno Tollkuci), Dana Mohrlein, John III (and Phillip Saraiva) and Taylor Watson; his recently-welcomed great-granddaughter, Adriana Tollkuci; two sisters, Helen Russo (and her husband, Bob) and Anna Dill (and her late husband, John); Arlene's siblings, Roger Gandolf (and his wife, Lyn), Craig Gandolf (and his partner, Steven LaQuaglia) and Hillary Bogi (and her husband, Andras); five step-grandchildren, Tim Roberts (and his wife, Erin), Laura Harbec (and her husband, Doug) and Thomas, Katelyn and Scott Dunbar; as well as numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

The family would like to express their most sincere appreciation to the staff of Middlesex Hospital, especially Dr. Todd Bishop, with whom he shared a unique relationship.

Friends called Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 12, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial with military honors followed in the family plot at the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Gillette's Lane, Colchester.



As John was a former volunteer member, and in recognition of going above and beyond for both the family and community-at-large, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in his memory be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## East Hampton

### Robert A. Petell

Robert A. Petell of East Hampton went to meet his Lord and Savior Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017 and to meet his wife, Helen V. Weiss who predeceased him in 2002. Robert is survived by his three sons and their wives: Allen Petell (Susan), Robert Petell (Marjorie) and James Petell (Rhonda); eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Robert was born in Pittsfield, Mass., the son of Francis E. and Gladys B. Petell, on Oct. 22, 1922. He joined the U.S. Army Air Force in the fall of 1942 as an aircraft mechanic and in the summer of 1943 he began basic training to become a fighter pilot. After an honorable discharge in November 1945, he joined the U.S. Air Force reserves in Westover, Mass.

He became a tool and die maker and researcher for the U.S. Army arsenal at Watervliet, N. Y., where they developed and manufactured 105mm and 155mm gun barrels. He retired in 1974 and he and his wife purchased a farmhouse and five acres in Lenox, Massachusetts which they turned into a B & B – Pinnacle House.

In 1978, they moved to Panama City Beach, Florida where he contracted to run two post offices. He became a certified mediator for the Supreme Courts of Florida and Virginia. He moved to East Hampton after the death of his wife to live with his son Allen and wife Susan.

Robert's life motto was simple: perform an act of kindness and learn something new each day.

Calling hours will be held at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., today, Jan. 13, from 4-6 p.m. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton, Monday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m.

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



## Marlborough

### Richard Edward Horrigan

Richard Edward Horrigan, 81, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, Jan. 9, surrounded by his loving family at John Dempsey Hospital, Farmington. Mr. Horrigan was born in Quincy, Mass., on Dec. 31, 1935, one of seven children of Maurice and Mary (Walker) Horrigan. He graduated from Archbishop Williams High School, Quincy, and Boston College.

He retired from the Defense Department Contract Administration at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford. Prior to that assignment, he had worked for the Defense Department in Cleveland, Bath, Maine, and Dayton. It was while working in Cleveland that he met his future wife, Mary Elizabeth (York) Horrigan, whom he married in 1966.

Mr. Horrigan was a parishioner at St. John Fisher Catholic Church in Marlborough, and had been a member of the Quincy Council of the Knights of Columbus in Massachusetts. In his spare time, he was an accomplished builder, and was the main contractor for his home in Marlborough several years ago. Mr. Horrigan was a lifelong Red Sox fan, and would encourage anyone within earshot to "Root for the Red Sox!" during baseball season. He also avidly followed the football team of his alma mater, Boston College.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary, daughter Ann Marie (Carl) Richard, and grandson Christopher Richard, all of McKinney, Texas; a brother, the Rev. Kevin Horrigan, and sisters Mary, Ruth (Anthony) Apicella, Jane (Joseph) Clougherty, Helen Cicoria; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by brother-in-law Michael Cicoria. His older brother (his "Irish twin") Maurice, died in Boston just three days prior to Mr. Horrigan. Calling hours were Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 12, at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center (UConn), 263 Farmington Ave., Farmington, CT 06030.

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

## East Hampton

### Adelaide Dolley Cole

Adelaide Dolley Cole, 97, of East Hampton, passed away in her sleep Sunday night, Jan. 9, at home. She was the loving wife of Gerald Cole for 75 years.

She is survived by three children, Clyde Cole (Barbara), Wayne Cole and GERALYN Yocher (Edwin). She is predeceased by a son, Calvin Cole, and a grandson, Hallock Yocher. Four special grandchildren and eight wonderful great-grandchildren also survive her.

Adelaide was born at home March 24, 1919, in North Vassalboro, Maine, to Evelee and Moses Dolley, being the fourth of six children. Her first employment began at age 10 as a waitress for a local bed and breakfast. During and after graduating from Waterville High School she worked as a counter clerk at LaVerdiere's Drugstore in Waterville, Maine, where she met her husband, Gerald who was a student at Colby College. She later worked seasonally between Bar Harbor resorts and Boston restaurants.

Being an attention-to-detail person who loved to write, she applied for her jobs and her girlfriends' jobs through the mail. They would all get hired from her letter-writing campaigns and traveled together to the seasonal waitressing positions. She also worked for wealthy families in the Booth Bay Harbor area as a nanny and on their dining room wait staff. She was employed at Governor Viles mansion in this capacity, being hired by the governor's wife from a local restaurant.

Upon Gerald's college graduation, they married in November of 1942 and settled in the Boston area as he became employed at Monsanto Chemical Company. Seven years later they moved to East Hampton where she was a devoted wife and mother. She ran a daycare service from her home for many years. She also worked at Wall's Dairy and at the gold building of the CBT Bank in the Hartford executive dining room. In her later years she became a prolific watercolorist winning many awards statewide.

She was a perfect balance of a mama bear and a tiger mom, being both protective and pushing her children to achievement, always holding them close to her heart. It was made clear that we were to go out on our own, come back upon achieving success, never to embarrass the family or cause the family any undo anxiety. She loved to bake and enjoyed many afternoon tea parties with neighborhood lady friends at her home.

Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m., in the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam. There will be no calling hours. A reception will follow in the lower hall of the church after a graveside ceremony at Union Hill Cemetery.

Donations in Adelaide's memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Program c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Spencer Funeral Home. To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Sister Helen Stula

Sister Helen Stula R.C., passed away Saturday, Dec. 17, at Our Lady of the Cenacle Retreat Convent in Chicago, Ill.

Helen was born in Colchester Oct. 17, 1925. After graduating from Bacon Academy, she went on to work at SNET for several years. In 1957, she experienced a call to a life with Christ and entered the convent. During her life as a sister, she served in Cenacle Retreat Convents on the east coast, giving retreats and spiritual direction for lay persons searching for God's voice. In 2015, she was relocated from the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma, N.Y., to Chicago, Ill.

Helen was predeceased by her parents, Fred and Irene, six brothers, Mike, Fred, Bruno, John, Ed, George, and one sister: Alice. She is survived by her sister, Fran Zawacki of Alaska; brother, Ken Stula and wife Joy of Georgia; sister-in-law Wanda Stula of Colchester, and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at the Cenacle Tuesday, Dec. 20, followed by burial at the Queen of Heaven Hillside Cemetery, Chicago, Ill.

Having answered God's call for her life, Sister Helen helped so many others to hear God's voice, to feel God's love, and to know His mercy. She is now with Him, in perfect peace.



## East Hampton

### Brandi Marie McWade

Brandi Marie McWade, 32 of San Rafael, Calif., formerly of East Hampton, passed away Friday, Jan. 6, surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Brandi left us in the quiet, still morning amidst a beautiful soft snowfall with a graceful smile on her face. Her presence and love of laughter touched countless lives from Maine, to Hawaii. Through her zest for life, travel and adventure Brandi taught us all to live our lives as fully as possible. We are thankful for the overwhelming amount of support and love given to Brandi during her battle with cancer. We will never forget you, Mother Wolf.

Brandi's passing is merely the beginning of her legacy. It comes as no surprise that among her final requests was that no flowers or gifts of any kind be given. Instead, Brandi insisted that any generosity expressed by those who love her would be directed to someone facing the same challenges she so bravely fought over the past five years. According to her wishes, her family requests that donations be made in Brandi's name to Larissa Podermanski, an extraordinary woman on a similar journey, now courageously fighting her own battle with cancer. To honor Brandi's life and memory, please express your loving kindness by visiting [gofundme.com/7bzm8479](http://gofundme.com/7bzm8479).

Brandi requested not to have a funeral or memorial service, but a celebration of Brandi's life is being planned.

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

## East Hampton

### William Reardon

William Reardon, 91, passed away peacefully at the Hospital for Special Care Friday, Jan. 6, with his loving family gathered around him. He was born at home May 15, 1925, on Miller Road (now South Main Street), East Hampton, to John and Viola (Madigan) Reardon.

Bill's family was his special joy, whether he was called Pop, Dad or Gramps. In addition to his wife Jackie, Bill leaves three children: Catherine (Richard) Vynalek of Durham; Jacquelyn Lee Reardon of Coventry; and Doloris (Joseph) Mascata of Winsted. He also had six grandchildren: Douglas, Richard and Lauralyn Vynalek of Durham; Faith Twining and Heather Scozzari of Middletown; and Joseph Mascata of Winsted; and 10 great-grandchildren. He also leaves one brother, James (Alyce) Reardon of Middletown, and was predeceased by their brother John Merrill Reardon.

A licensed electrician and sometimes known locally as the "Maytag Man," Bill was a favorite appliance serviceman for many years. A devotee of all things mechanical, he was a member of several antique car, tractor and truck clubs. He was widely known as the announcer for Belltown Antique Car Club's annual shows, and was a life member of B.P.O. Elks, Lodge 771.

A great fan of bluegrass music, the highlight of his year was hosting a camping weekend with his bluegrass friends at his farm every Labor Day weekend. With a keen Irish sense of humor and a penchant for storytelling, there was never a dull moment if Bill were around. Bill and Jackie spent many happy years vacationing in their motorhome, and especially loved the Mt. Washington area, camping in the National Forest. He also enjoyed spending time with his family at the shore in Westbrook.

The family wishes to express their special thanks to the staff of HSC for their compassionate care for Bill and for their support to all the family throughout his hospitalization. Donations may be made in Bill's name to the charity of one's choice.

Calling hours will take place at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Saturday, Jan. 14, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., with a period of remembrance led by the Rev. Cathy Rohrs, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

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

