

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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Hebron resident Skylar Haines said she loved the person she became – as exemplified by this photo of her sharing a slideshow of some aspects of her life back home – while she taught English in Mexico in November. Skylar's parents decided instead of the typical party or gift of a car for her 16th birthday, they wanted her to truly understand how blessed she already was via a week-long volunteering trip in another country.

## Celebrating 16 Down Mexico Way

by Geeta S. Sandberg

For plenty of teenagers, turning 16 means a lavish party – or perhaps the gift of a car. But for one Hebron resident, rather than being showered with material presents, she was given a gift of a different sort: a trip to Mexico as a way to understand how truly blessed she already is – and all she already has.

“My parents have always stressed the importance of volunteering, and instead of a traditional huge party or a car they wanted to give me a life-changing experience,” Skylar Haines explained this week.

Her mother Stephanie Haines added of the decision to take the trip, “16 is such a precious time. It’s kind of like getting ready for a new chapter in life; getting ready to drive, thinking about college and what you want to do. And for my husband and me, our hope is that as she’s thinking about all these things she’ll be a blessing to others, and that she will use the gifts that God has given her to be a message of love and hope, because our world desperately needs that.”

Stephanie furthered, “As every parent wants for their child, we want her to be happy. And we know true happiness comes from blessing others and living a meaningful life. Happiness comes from giving and in return, we receive so much more.”

Skylar said she was “very excited” about the trip.

“I think the ability to know that I’m blessed and to have this type of experience was worth so much more than material presents,” she said. “It was a really special opportunity and I’m so glad that I did it.”

Skylar, who said she’s always been interested in learning Spanish and is a fan of Hispanic culture, researched volunteer opportunities with her mother, and through their efforts they were able to set up a week-long volunteer trip to Mexico in November. There Skylar had the opportunity to teach English at a government school, and it was an experience she said she’ll never forget.

“Children are so happy with what they have, and so resilient. And going there, they were so excited and they worked so hard,” she explained.

During the week, Skylar evaluated the children on their English skills – what they know and what they need to know – and was able to come up with a plan for future volunteers to turn to so they’d know what areas need to be worked on. The school can’t afford a full-time English teacher, so English lessons are dependent upon the volunteers, she explained, which means the learning is “very inconsistent.”

“There were different levels of mastery of English, and I can’t imagine how hard it

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## Belltown Fetches \$600K to Curb Drug Abuse

by Elizabeth Regan

There will soon be a substance abuse prevention coordinator in town thanks to a \$600,000 grant to stop underage drinking and prescription drug use.

The grant is part of an \$8.2 million allocation to the state through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. East Hampton joins seven other communities, including Manchester, New Britain and Norwich.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said the first round of interviews for the new drug prevention coordinator is finishing up this week, with a second round to follow.

The full-time social work position comes with an annual salary of \$47,000 and a benefits package paid through the grant. The coordinator is responsible for using a five-step planning framework endorsed by the federal Health and Human Services department to identify and address the causes of alcohol and drug misuse in town.

The grant award also requires the town to hire a youth peer advocate to work at least five hours a week with local kids and to serve on the state Governor’s Prevention Partnership youth advisory board.

Maniscalco said the town will receive

\$150,000 per year for four years, with the ability to carry over unexpended funds to the fifth year.

He called the grant funding an opportunity to fill “a very sorely needed” position.

“The community came out very strongly last year and supported a police dog to help with [drug] enforcement efforts,” he said, citing a community fundraiser that brought in more than \$30,000 to bring back the department’s canine program. A German Shepherd named Ardo, ceremonially dubbed “Ringer,” graduated last month from the 184th Patrol Canine class of the Connecticut State Police Canine Training Unit. His partner is Officer John Wilson.

Maniscalco said the grant dovetails with the town’s enforcement focus by addressing treatment and prevention of addiction.

The grant application was put together by a coalition of the volunteer East Hampton Local Prevention Council Against Substance Abuse, the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council and town staff, according to Maniscalco.

Irene Kuck, chairwoman of the local prevention council for three years, told council members in October that her group is the

only one in Middlesex County with no paid staff members. She described the grant as a way to “elevate the [Local Prevention Council’s] efforts.”

The group receives smaller grants through the Middletown Substance Abuse Action Council to sponsor events on topics such as marijuana use, drunk driving, and making healthy choices. It partners with the school system and Epoch Arts, a local nonprofit.

According to the grant requirements, the prevention coordinator must bring together a coalition of residents, service providers and community leaders to identify the “problem substance” in town and do something about it.

The group will work to develop a broad strategic plan with goals and objectives, a work plan with action steps and a sustainability plan to ensure ongoing support.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy announced the funding late last year.

“By partnering with communities, we can broaden our efforts to educate youths about the dangers of underage drinking and prescription drug abuse, save the lives of those who may be suffering from addiction, and even prevent it before it has the opportunity

to take hold,” Malloy said at the time.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon emphasized the targeted impact of a data-driven, public health approach on teens and young adults.

“One of the best ways to address addiction is by preventing it,” Delphin-Rittmon said.

The state will also provide training and technical assistance through the grant. Behavioral health data collected through the prevention program in East Hampton will be reviewed and analyzed by a statewide workgroup charged with tracking substance misuse and mental health outcomes and using the data to enhance prevention practice in the state.

Grants were also received by Positive Directions in Norwalk (\$137,102), City of Norwich Human Services (\$138,094), Klingberg Family Centers in New Britain (\$183,004), the Town of Manchester (\$149,616), Village for Families and Children in Vernon (\$149,849), Institute for Community Research in West Hartford (\$152,335) and the McCall Center in Torrington (\$150,000).



Skylar said she was greeted each morning in the courtyard of the school where she taught by happy choruses of “maestra” – or teacher – from the students. Although many of the children in the government-run school where she taught experienced trauma in their lives, she observed, “The kids just brought out this wonderful spirit, and no matter what they had experienced or the challenges they’re facing, they always had some light and some fun.”

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would be to hold on to that information when the teaching is so inconsistent,” she stated.

During her stay Skylar also taught the students the names of the family, basic commands and greetings, and body parts using games like Simon Says, Twister and the song “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.”

Although most of their time was spent in the school in the impoverished area of Serapio, Skylar and her mother stayed with a host family about an hour away in the more developed city of Merida. Between the school and living with a Mexican family, the duo shared they felt truly immersed in the Mexican culture.

“I felt like I was living there,” Skylar stated. She added she was a fan of the food, and admired the importance of mealtimes.

At lunch, she explained, “the children all went home, which is something I loved about the culture, because the food was not only incredible but very important to them; it’s a time for family to connect, spend time with each other and talk about their day.”

Through their trip Skylar said she was able to see how warm and friendly the Mexican people are, and how hard they work for their family. She explained it’s not uncommon for someone to have a job, and then to also have a secondary business outside of their home selling clothes or food and utilizing their skills “to provide for their family – it’s a really amazing quality that I admire.”

Regarding the children she taught, Skylar added many had experienced trauma, and a lot of their parents were incarcerated. She explained, “Unfortunately they had to make choices to provide for their children. And who’s to say what you would or wouldn’t do for your child?”

And yet, despite what they’ve experienced, she said the children were full of spirit, had love for everyone and everything around them, and were enthusiastic about learning.

However, she furthered, “they have so much going against them which is really sad. When I looked at those children’s faces I also saw what I know a lot of people here might presume about them. There are so many stereotypes set against them before they’ve done anything, or made any choices, and it was difficult looking at those children and knowing that they’ll have to face that.”

Those stereotypes extend to the adults as well and Skylar, who added their trip coincided with the presidential election, had things to say about that, too.

“Mexico was closely following the election and fearful of how the president-elect’s projected policies would affect them,” she shared. “Headlines there read ‘Global Suicide’ and people were fearful.”

Skylar said it was “uncomfortable and embarrassing to be with these kind people” whom the president-elect has repeatedly insulted.

“I am aware these discriminations are far beyond Trump – many have these judgments.” But, she added, “For the record not all people from Mexico are involved with the

drug cartel, are prostitutes or uneducated, and those who are have little choice or are in very challenging or desperate situations. Who’s to say what choices we would make in the same circumstances?”

For Skylar, the trip absolutely made her realize just how blessed she is to live in a place with access to clean water, quality healthcare, a solid education, transportation and all of the other “little comforts” of home, as Stephanie called them. In addition, the trip made Skylar realize she wants to do more to help the children of Serapio.

To that end, when the Haines’ returned, instead of asking for gifts for her birthday Nov. 18, Skylar asked for donations to send to the school. She also asked the principal for a wish list, and learned one of the things that’s important to them is to not only continue the English program but to add a music program as well.

“Through the generosity of my friends and family I was able to purchase a few guitars for the school and currently a long-term volunteer there is teaching the children the chords.”

Skylar is also in the process of writing a book that will feature a collection of vignettes with photographs on her experiences and the students she met through her work. The book will be available for purchase at an event that’s being planned for May 19 which will also benefit the school.

Called “Peace, Love and Art: Hope for the Children of the Serapio School in Mexico,” the event will feature an all-you-can-eat ice cream buffet, local artists with art for sale and music by local bands, with proceeds from the event going toward a music and art program Skylar’s hoping to begin at the school.

Both, she explained, would benefit the children.

“One thing they remember from all the volunteers is the ‘Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes’ song, and to use music as a mode for learning is so important and it’s a valuable skill for them to have.”

Meanwhile, art “can also provide a valuable skill for children. And I know from teaching them that they have enough spirit and enough love for everyone and everything in the world to create really beautiful art.”

Along with her efforts for the school, Skylar added she’d also like to try and combat some of the stereotypes the Mexican people are up against.

“My hope coming back is that I can be a voice of education for people who have not had the chance to see them for who they really are – people just like us; to see [Mexicans] as greater than their stereotypes. I believe in our world today an emphasis on humanity is greatly needed.”

Skylar’s efforts and attitude are proof her birthday trip to Mexico was not made in vain – and her parents’ hope for her life are not farfetched at all, as, at only “16 and blessed” she’s already using her gifts to give to others.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I hope you all had a joyous holiday season and a good start to the new year. It’s hard to believe 2017 is here already. If past practice is any indication, though, I’ll be absentmindedly writing “2016” on my checks and other documents probably until June.

Speaking of the new year, did you see the new year’s message put forth by President Obama? He’s entering the final two weeks of his presidency, and started his New Year’s Day with a series of tweets highlighting the achievements of his administration over the past eight years – everything from sustained job growth to marriage equality to giving nearly every American access to affordable health care.

And he introduced these observations not by simply patting himself on the back, but rather by thanking the public for helping to make it possible. He wrote, “I wanted to take a moment to look back on the remarkable progress that you made possible these past 8 years.”

It was a nice thought – and oh so different from what our incoming president wrote New Year’s Day.

“Happy New Year to all,” Trump wrote, “including to my many enemies and those who have fought me and lost so badly they just don’t know what to do. Love!”

Yup, there’s our new president showing off that maturity and restraint we know so well. (At least he’s keeping up with tradition; two years ago, he wished Happy New Year to “all haters and losers.”)

How did we elect this man president? It just boggles the mind. People keep thinking he’ll change and start acting presidential. It’s a hope they’ve been clinging to for months now (I even heard one of the panelists on *Meet the Press* say a couple of weeks ago that perhaps once the Electoral College vote is over and the presidency is officially his, that Trump would start acting more presidential), and sorry, I just see very little evidence of that happening.

Maybe two weeks from now, when he’s inaugurated, he’ll prove me wrong. I’ve been hoping since the morning of Nov. 9 that this would happen. And while there is the occasional sign (I was pleased this week with his pressuring of the GOP to drop its insipid and vile plan to gut the independent Office of Congressional Ethics), I haven’t seen a whole lot of evidence this will happen.

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Speaking of quotes, I came across a recent *Reader’s Digest* that featured a story listing the “101 Funniest Quotes Ever!” And while not all were knee-slappers, there were several gems. Among them:

“If our Founding Fathers wanted us to care about the rest of the world, they wouldn’t have declared their independence from it.” – Stephen Colbert (in the guise of his classic blowhard *Colbert Report* character)

“My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of *The Lone Ranger*.” – Billy Connolly

“I don’t believe in reincarnation, and I didn’t believe in it when I was a hamster.” – Shane Richie

“I have noticed that even people who claim everything is predetermined and that we can do nothing to change it look before they cross the road.” – Stephen Hawking

“By all means let’s be open-minded, but not so open-minded that our brains drop out.” – Richard Dawkins

“People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do.” – Isaac Asimov

“I’ve come to learn that the best time to debate family members is when they have food in their mouths.” – Kenneth Cole

“They say marriages are made in Heaven. But so is thunder and lightning.” – Clint Eastwood

“My advice to you is get married. If you find a good wife you’ll be happy; if not, you’ll become a philosopher.” – Socrates

“Life in Lubbock, Texas, taught me that sex is the most awful, filthy thing on earth, and you should save it for someone you love.” – Butch Hancock

“Instead of getting married again, I’m going to find a woman I don’t like and just give her a house.” – Rod Stewart

“All the things I like to do are either immoral, illegal or fattening.” – Alexander Woollcott

“I know a man who gave up smoking, drinking, sex and rich food. He was healthy right up to the day he killed himself.” – Johnny Carson

“I was going to sue for defamation of character, but then I realized I have no character.” – Charles Barkley

“A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance and to turn around three times before lying down.” – Robert Benchley

“Cats are smarter than dogs. You can’t get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.” – Jeff Valdez

“Why beer is better than wine: human feet are conspicuously absent from beer-making.” – Steve Mirsky

“The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised.” – George Will

“The difference between fiction and reality? Fiction has to make sense.” – Tom Clancy

“Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.” – Mark Twain

“The Democrats are the party that says government will make you smarter, taller, richer and remove crabgrass on your lawn.” – P.J. O’Rourke

“The Republicans are the party that says government doesn’t work, and then they get elected and prove it.” – P.J. O’Rourke again

“You know there’s a problem when you realize that out of the three Rs, only one begins with an R.” – Dennis Miller

And lastly, a few great zingers: “He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others.” – Samuel Johnson

“He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know.” – Abraham Lincoln

“She never lets ideas interrupt the easy flow of her conversation.” – Jean Webster

“He has Van Gogh’s ear for music.” – Billy Wilder

“He is a self-made man and worships his creator.” – Henry Clapp

“He was so narrow-minded, he could see through a keyhole with both eyes.” – Molly Ivins

“He suffers from delusions of adequacy.” – Walter Kerr

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See you next week.

# East Hampton Council-School Board Lawsuit Saga Continues

by Elizabeth Regan

The East Hampton Town Council and Board of Education are trying to find a resolution outside of the courtroom in a dispute involving who has the authority to make appointments to the school board.

The latest round of talks and court filings stems from a lawsuit filed in December 2015 by the Board of Education when it asked a judge to assert the school board's jurisdiction in filling its own vacancies.

The two parties are working under a Jan. 19 deadline to report to the court on the status of the lawsuit. Last month, they submitted a joint request for an extension through March 21.

The motion, signed by lawyers for both the council and school board, said the two sides have been engaged in "potentially fruitful discussions" and are trying to avoid "unnecessary costs and expenses" of a protracted lawsuit.

The judge has not yet ruled on the joint motion for an extension.

School district business manager Karen Asetta said the school board has paid \$22,781 in legal fees to resolve the issue of filling vacancies as of this November. Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said the town has spent \$8,870 as of Nov. 30.

Board of Education Chairman Christopher Goff, who replaced former chairman Kenneth Barber last June, told fellow board members at their last meeting before the holiday break that he is eager for an end to the litigation.

"I'm trying to get this out of the courts," Goff said. "Trying to have conversation with the council and come up with a resolution."

Town Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson said in an email Tuesday she looks forward to hearing from Goff with a "suggestion for resolution" she can bring to the council as soon

as it is available.

"How nice it would be to start the year off by putting this unfortunate lawsuit to an end," she said.

The Town Council this week received an email from the town attorney outlining the school board's draft policy, according to Anderson. She said the council will be discussing the topic in executive session at their Jan. 10 meeting.

"I wish to stress that this document is a draft and not yet an adopted policy from the Board of Education," Anderson said.

The latest developments mark the end of a months-long ceasefire. A joint legal agreement filed in March halted action on the lawsuit – including the appointment of any school board members by the council – until voters weighed in on the issue at referendum.

As it turned out, those voters rejected a recommendation by the Charter Revision Commission to give the town council the authority to fill vacancies on boards and commissions and to require them to appoint a member of the same party as the one who left the seat.

The referendum question on the November general election ballot failed by 2,943 'yes' votes to 3,502 'no' votes – a difference of 559 votes. The other four proposed charter revisions passed.

The council-appointed Charter Revision Commission included two councilors: Melissa Engel and James "Pete" Brown. State statute allows only two members of a seven-member charter revision panel to be public officials, meaning the remaining five seats had to go to residents who weren't holding office at the time. Statute also specifies no party can have more than a bare majority.

In the wake of the failed referendum question, members of the school board have been working to clarify their policy on filling vacancies. The current version says the board shall appoint a member within 30 days but does not get much more specific than that.

The school board ironed out details of a revised policy at a Dec. 18 meeting and will be voting on the new policy on Jan. 17.

The draft reiterates the board shall appoint a member within 30 days, adding that the candidate with the next highest number of votes will be appointed if the vacancy occurs within 30 days after a municipal election.

For vacancies occurring outside of the 30-day election window, the language states the board "shall consider, but is not obligated to act upon, filling the vacancy with a person of the same political affiliation as the member who vacated the office."

Republican school board member Debra Devin argued for requiring the board to appoint a member of the same party as the one who held the seat previously. She suggested the seat could be opened to all interested parties if no candidates from the same party come forward.

Devin said the lack of specific guidelines for handling appointments allows boards to use a changing set of criteria to fit their own agendas.

"I've experienced how it's been changed multiple times, being on the board almost four years. It's political. It is what it is," Devin said.

But those like Democratic school board member Carol Williams said having more than one party to choose from is actually the more "apolitical" option.

"I think that's better. It's good to have differ-

ences of opinion, but with the common understanding we're doing this to make the schools better and to give the kids greater opportunity," Williams said.

The appointment controversy started in the wake of the 2015 municipal election when the new Republican-led council appointed Republican Michael Rose to the school board seat vacated by Republican Josh Piteo, who resigned upon winning a spot as a councilor.

But Rose ultimately declined the nomination, so members of the outgoing school board appointed former member Jeff Carlson, a Democrat, to the seat – tipping the new board's majority to the Democrats.

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

The town charter empowers the town council to fill any vacancy unless another "appointing authority" has been "designated by law."

The school board maintains state statute clearly makes them the other "appointing authority" referenced in the town charter, according to the lawsuit. It also points to 25 years of precedent during which the school board filled its own vacancies without opposition from the council.

A legal opinion from town attorneys Richard P. Roberts and Duncan J. Forsyth of Halloran and Sage from November 2015 acknowledged there are "substantial arguments" in favor of both sides. But they concluded "the specific reference to the Town Council as the appointing authority would prevail over an ambiguous allusion to the possible authority of the Board of Education to fill a vacancy."

## New Complex Offers Indoor Sports Opportunities in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

The sprawling new sports complex near the corner of routes 66 and 16 in East Hampton provides indoor opportunities that owner Brian Cutler wished were available when his three children were young athletes.

"My son did all the sports," Cutler said of Kyle, 18, who now pitches for the Johnson and Wales University baseball team in Providence, R.I.

There just wasn't anywhere he could play each of them under one roof, according to Cutler.

In December, nine years after Cutler first took it upon himself to fix that problem, doors opened at Sports on 66. The 42,000-square-foot facility includes 14,000 square feet of hardwood courts, 16,000 square feet of synthetic turf and two 70-foot batting cages. There's a karate studio and space for dance or exercise classes as well.

Cutler said his wife, Eileen, used to play basketball and their two daughters were gymnasts. The funny thing is, Cutler himself didn't play any organized sports when he was growing up.

Calling himself a late bloomer when it comes to sports, Cutler is now making it possible for people of all ages to use the brightly lit, climate-controlled facility for soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, baseball and golf, among others.

The expanding schedule includes leagues, tournaments, clinics, camps and drop-in hours. "Whatever level you want to be at, we'll take you there," Cutler said.

Athletic Director Miles Daniels joined the team this summer to start putting together the programs to fill the expansive facility.

Daniels, a New London native who also coaches varsity basketball at St. Thomas More School in Montville, described the facility as a community hub.

He cited high school leagues for basketball and soccer as examples of that focus.

"We want to provide a nice, safe, fun area high school kids can go to on a Monday night and a Friday night. They can relax, and we'll have specials at the snack bar," Daniels said.

Then there's Pickleball, a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Daniels said it is popular with senior citizens who drop in on weekday mornings.

"That was the hit we didn't think was going to be a hit," Daniels said. Pickleball is so popular, in fact, that he'll be bringing in an instructor once a month to give a free lesson to anyone interested in learning the game.

Unique options for adults include an 8-foot Dunk League, according to Daniels.

"There's a lot of guys that never got a chance to dunk, like myself. But if you put [the net] at 8 feet, I might catch one," Daniels laughed.

He's said he's also working on putting together a late-night drone racing league.

Meanwhile, the New London native is trying to lure professional athletes with ties to the region – like Rajai Davis of the Oakland Athletics and former UConn player Andre Drummond, now of the Detroit Pistons – to come out for clinics and meet and greets.

Former Major League Baseball player Rob Dibble is on board for spring clinics, according to Daniels.

"Hopefully we'll have a lot of celebrity clinics and camps coming in the near future," he said.

Daniels brings a bachelor's degree in sports management from Springfield University and experience in sports program development and coaching to his position. He called it one of the best jobs he's ever had.

"Brian provided a facility, a vision and things that he wants to do," Daniels explained. "Then



Players from the Connecticut Shoreline Valley travel basketball league helped break in the brand new hardwood courts at Sports on 66 in East Hampton during the All-Star Classic tournament held over the New Years holiday weekend.

he allowed me the freedom to run with things."

Cutler remains focused on handling ongoing projects, such as construction of a lounge on the mezzanine that will serve wine and beer.

He is also working on finishing touches throughout the building that will serve as subliminal – and sometimes overt – advertisements for his Traditional Innovations remodeling business. He pointed to an awning over the lounge and replacement windows in the snack bar area as examples of products that are available for purchase for home renovations.

Cutler has been running the remodeling busi-

ness for more than 20 years. He demolished his former storefront to make room for the sports facility so the two ventures could work as one.

He called the idea an example of the "outside the box" approach he's taken all his life.

Nine years out from the day he said he was going to build the sports center, Cutler said it's been an enjoyable challenge. He's persevered through the economic downturn as well as design, permitting and construction hurdles.

"I guess you can tell me 'no,' but I'll find a way around it," he said.

# Andover Selectmen Learn About Self-Funded Insurance

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday listened to a presentation on self-funded insurance, following a regional vote last month to recommend a move to self-funded medical insurance as a way to control costs.

The Region 8 Insurance Consortium – which is made up of the town and school boards in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough as well as AHM Youth and Family Services – voted unanimously to recommend the measure at its Dec. 20 meeting.

Chuck Petruccione with Brown & Brown insurance, the consultants that have been working with the consortium since July 2015, spoke to the board about the option.

He explained the purpose of the consortium was to form a group to purchase insurance together.

“That’s a good thing,” he said, “because it makes you a large employer so you receive better rates and better plans. So you have the flexibility to have whatever insurance plan the unions agree on.”

On their own, the groups that make up the consortium wouldn’t be large enough to receive the same rates and plan options.

As fully-insured, Petruccione went on, the members of the consortium currently pay an additional premium to the carrier at a rate of around seven percent to take on no risk.

“That’s a popular thing for a lot of towns and boards to stick to because of that risk,” he added.

But what ends up happening, he said, is the insurance carrier ends up keeping money that gets paid in through those premiums but never

gets used. As an example, he shared the Medical Loss Ratio, or the amount the insurance carrier has leftover in revenue (premiums) after the medical claims are paid out, over the last 12 months, was 83.9 percent. This means, he explained, that for every dollar the consortium pays the insurance company, 83 cents is being paid out.

“So 16 cents is staying in Anthem’s coffers,” Petruccione said.

An 85 percent MLR is what the carriers shoot for, stated Petruccione, adding that since July the number has only been 61 percent.

“In the proposal the consortium is discussing, the idea is to move to self-funded and instead of Anthem keeping that 39 cents, the towns keep it in a consortium fund for high cost years,” said Petruccione. “It’s basically pure math that in the long run going self-funded will save money” on overhead and taxes that only apply to entities who are fully-insured.

“Those dollar savings are the reason the consortium has made the recommendation to move forward with self-funded insurance.”

Although going self-funded would mean the consortium assumes the risk that Anthem previously carried, he 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.

The first layer is individual stop loss on each person in the plan at a level determined by the consortium. A “super conservative” number, he explained, could be \$125,000, which means the consortium wouldn’t be responsible for any

claims beyond that amount. A “little less conservative” could be amounts in \$150,000 or \$175,000, “so we’re working to figure out what makes sense.”

The second layer is aggregate stop loss protection “on the entire group’s total expected claims for the group.”

Petruccione concluded, “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.”

Over the last four-year period, he added, if the consortium had been self-funded, they would have saved more than \$30 million.

To move forward with the process, Petruccione is going to continue speaking to the members of the consortium about self-funded insurance – he was expected at the Hebron Board of Selectmen’s meeting Thursday after press time – and ultimately, each entity that makes up the consortium will need to vote on whether or not to move forward with the change.

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Also Wednesday night, First Selectman Bob Burbank presented the board with statements for the town credit card that had been taken out under his social security number and said Selectman Jeff Maguire had “extremely exaggerated” at the December selectmen’s meeting.

He also reiterated what he told the *Rivereast* last month, when he said Maguire was incorrect in claiming Burbank had redeemed \$3,000 worth of rewards points.

Burbank had said the amount redeemed was actually \$451.38 and he used that money to pay for the identity protection service LifeLock, which amounted to \$528.

At last month’s meeting Maguire had questioned Burbank about LifeLock, saying that the town paid for it, not Burbank, but Burbank said Wednesday “you will find no payments to LifeLock anywhere in town files” and stated he paid for the service via his personal Discover credit card.

The redeemed points “totaled less than LifeLock and were used for identity protection,” Burbank reiterated. “I felt uncomfortable having the credit card under my Social Security [number] and at the time I applied that was the only way I could get them.”

Maguire also inquired at Wednesday’s meeting whether Burbank had canceled the cards yet – as the board voted unanimously to have him do last month – and Burbank responded that he had not.

“I haven’t because the Old Town Hall fee for monitoring for fire and intrusion needs to be tied to a credit card,” Burbank explained, adding he’d cancel them once the town treasurer acquires one for the town.

“I’d be more than happy to cancel them as soon as we can get that done,” Burbank said. “She hasn’t been in.”

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. in the community room at Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

# Andover Resident Promoting Second Book

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Children’s author Beverly Cleary once said, “If you don’t see the book you want on the shelf, write it.” And that’s exactly what led Andover resident Christine Whitehead to pen her first novel.

Whitehead, a lawyer who has lived in Andover since 1992, shared from her office in Hartford this week that the idea for her first book came after looking for something to read at the airport.

“I had the idea rattling around but I was in the Phoenix Airport and I wanted to read about a middle-aged couple who find love and all that stuff, and all I could find was *Bridget Jones’s Diary*, which are 20-somethings trying to find Mr. Right – so I always say that’s kind of science fiction – and Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*,” Whitehead explained. “Both of which are fantastic, and believe me I wish I could write something that good, but it wasn’t what I wanted. So I said ‘I’m going to write the thing that’s been rattling around in my head.’ So I did.”

She self-published that first book, *Tell Me When it Hurts*, which was an interesting process she said “was like trying to build the pyramids from flat ground.”

And now, she’s promoting her second book, *The Rage of Plum Blossoms*, which was published last September after she won a publishing contract from Amazon’s Kindle Press.

“I got the idea for this one, and I tend to know the beginnings and the end and then I ‘just’ have to fill in the middle,” she smiled. “I never thought I’d write a mystery and this one is a mystery.”

The book follows attorney Quinn Jones,

whose husband, Jordan Chang, is found dead outside their Greenwich Village brownstone “wearing clothes that aren’t his, and was last seen at a place he never went while consorting with people he shouldn’t – and he’s vastly richer than he ought to be,” reads the book’s synopsis.

Although the New York City Police Department labels Jordan’s death a suicide, Quinn doesn’t buy it and works to uncover the truth.

Whitehead explained, “She puts together this timeline, because she’s working with this retired cop, and there’s one year that she can’t fill in, and nobody can seem to find out what he was doing that year and so that is sort of the key that enables her to unlock what really happened and why.”

She added of this novel, despite the murder element, “it has a lot more humor than the other one – it’s much lighter in tone.”

Whitehead furthered, “You almost can’t plan humor or it seems forced. It’s not like, ‘Oh, I plan to joke here.’ Really the situation has to evolve or it seems like what it is and that’s forced, and that’s not so funny.”

A majority of the book takes place in Chinatown, and the story features elements of Chinese culture, which Whitehead shared she’s always had an interest in.

“But I can’t pretend to be an expert,” she said, so to garner more insight, she spent a week in the area walking around, eating the food, taking notes and talking to people as research.

Speaking to what she particularly liked about her second novel, Whitehead added, “I love the characters; I love them. The four main characters – and I love Jordan. He’s dead but you see

him through flashbacks and you know probably what makes him tick. But their rapport, the way they develop, their bond: they’re all a bit lost – not over the edge, but they’re all sort of struggling on some level and together they help each other heal while solving this crime and it comes to mean a lot to all of them. At first it just means a lot to Quinn, then they all become engaged in it and they all become targets and so what’s at stake for them is solving it, but it also becomes, well, we have to solve it or somebody is going to die here.”

She added the characters are at different points age-, experience- and career-wise, but they all come together and work as a group.

“They all sort of become a band and I love that. And I love the ending.”

Whitehead said she likes seeing people change for the good, and as someone who works only in divorce law, she said her work definitely influences the characters she crafts and the stories she writes.

“I’m dealing with people with losses and you so want them to be ok. I’ll say to them, ‘it isn’t a tragedy. If your child has bone cancer, that’s a tragedy. [Divorce is] not happy, it’s not a success story, but the world hasn’t ended; it can be a success story and there’s an awful lot still on the road for you. And so I like to end upbeat, and that’s what I want to see for my clients.”

And so, she furthered, “I do think it influences who I pick and how I deal with them, and how I see them progressing. And I just would never want to end a book with someone in the dirt. That would depress me. I don’t want



Christine Whitehead

to write depressing stuff. ... I can deal with some heavy issues but I do want them to make it through on the other side with a better understanding and a better path – and hope.”

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*The Rage of Plum Blossoms* is available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). For more information on Whitehead and her work, go to [christinewhitehead.com](http://christinewhitehead.com). The book trailer for her latest novel can also be found on her blog at [theblogalsorises.com/2016/11/27/1949](http://theblogalsorises.com/2016/11/27/1949).

# Colchester Finance Board Holds Public Forum on Budget

by Julianna Roche

Nearly 20 Colchester residents gathered at Town Hall Wednesday night, joining the Board of Finance in a public forum regarding the upcoming budget season – giving taxpayers an opportunity to ask questions and speak out on important issues.

“We’re trying to get a dialogue going at the beginning of the budget season, rather than later,” said Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov, who also noted that this year’s budget was going to be “very difficult” especially with the town under revaluation, which is done every five years.

To start off the meeting, attendees were provided with copies of last year’s budget survey, which include questions where residents rate items of importance in the town and schools when considering the budget, such as building maintenance, public safety, public works, recreation, town hall services, and social, youth and senior services.

(Tarlov also noted this year’s budget survey will be available next weekend and residents can expect two new questions in addition to last year’s.)

The chairman then asked attendees what they

thought was the best way to provide the public with information, considering the proposed budget gets “a relatively low number of voters, especially for the first [budget] referendum.”

Responses ranged from the town website, the *Rivereast*, and First Selectman Art Shilosky’s weekly newsletters. However, those in attendance also spoke about the importance of providing information that was easily understood by the public.

“I think if you were to simplify things and put down exactly what the budget is – the whole figure, what it was last year, and the increase... most people want to know the bottom line,” said resident Tearice Peters.

Resident Michael Hayes agreed with Peters, arguing that “the best thing to do” is provide the public with “the figures – how we got there, why we got there” and then to “let them decide.”

“If you throw too much information at them, you’re going to confuse the heck out of them,” he added.

Peters also noted that the board’s role should not be to “sell the budget to the people,” but to “present it.”

As one way to help make budget information more accessible and comprehensible, Tarlov said that Vice Chairman Thomas Kane was spearheading a series of small, progressive “Budget 101” articles, which could potentially be included in Shilosky’s newsletters throughout budget season.

Another major issue discussed among residents was budget transparency.

“Credibility and transparency will go a long way to getting the budgets passed and on the first time,” said resident Jim Kelly, adding that there was also “a lesson to be learned” from last year’s education budget, which wasn’t passed until the second referendum.

“You need to be transparent and be honest,” he continued. “The people of Colchester will support a budget as long as it makes sense and money is spent wisely and on the other side of the coin... [people] will challenge you when there are doubts of it.”

During the meeting, former finance board member James McNair also spoke about “effective spending” and argued that board members should consider the importance of data

related to the school district when formulating the budget.

McNair referenced the state Department of Education’s “District Profile and Performance Report for the School Year 2014-15” for Colchester, whose data outlays problem areas in the school district, such as the increased need for high-quality special education services or increased poverty in the student body – both of which are factors that may be considered in the education budget.

“It’s hard to make a decision on a budget unless you have metrics associated with where we are and where we are trying to move the needle,” he said.

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Also Wednesday, at the finance board meeting that followed the public forum, the board appointed Colchester Independent Party (CIP) candidate Stefani Lowe as its newest member, taking over the CIP seat on the board previously vacated by McNair.

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The next Board of Finance meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

## Plans for Marlborough Business Park Postponed

by Julianna Roche

Town officials are looking to shelve the long-talked-about plans for building the Marlborough Business Park – at least for now, considering there has been little movement on the project since its original purchase in 2003.

At the Dec. 20 Board of Selectmen meeting, town officials voted 2-1 in favor of de-authorizing the remaining \$370,000 of the \$450,000 for the project, with selectman Dick Shea as the sole opposing vote.

While \$450,000 had originally been appropriated in April 2004 for the planning, design and engineering services of the town business park, most of it had not yet been borrowed or used – meaning the motion to de-authorize the rest of the funds is more a matter of “housecleaning,” according to Board of Finance Chairman Doug Knowlton.

According to Knowlton, he has been working with First Selectwoman Amy Traversa to identify such accounts that have been inactive and need to be cleared up before budget season.

“There’s no physical money to spend [in that account],” he furthered. “It’s just cleaning up things that were approved years ago [in order to] begin preparing the budget.”

According to Town Planner Peter Hughes, only \$80,000 of the total amount authorized for the project was actually used for a business park study and feasibility plan in 2007. Since, he said the project has remained “pretty dormant” and nothing has been done with the rest of the funds.

The 143-acre Marlborough Business Park is currently located east of the intersection of Route 2 and Route 66, with part of the park privately-owned and part owned by the town, which purchased its 76-acre portion over 10 years ago.

Originally, town officials had plans to draw in health care, industrial and service-related businesses, and even had several builders express interest – including Cabela’s in 2011. However, since the land’s purchase nothing has come to fruition.

In January 2016, then-first selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski said several factors may have contributed to the lack of movement on the project, including population size – which often determines the business climate of towns and how challenging it is to attract potential businesses.

Gaudinski pointed out that Marlborough’s

population of 6,400 for example, is much smaller than that of surrounding towns, such as East Hampton’s 11,000, Hebron’s 9,000 and Colchester’s 16,000 – making for difficult competition to draw in developers.

However, with the current state of the economy and amount of town debt, Knowlton said “cleaning up” accounts like this may be a good thing.

“I know there are feelings in town that people don’t want to spend more money to develop [the park],” he said. “If a developer wants to come in and develop, let them spend their own money.”

Knowlton added that because the account has been “hanging around” for so long, residents may also view it as unfair if officials moved forward with borrowing more money for the project “just because they were allowed to years ago.”

However, Shea, who voted against the motion, said there is no harm in maintaining the account “just in case.”

“It doesn’t cost us anything to keep it there,” he said. “It’s just something that we have to explain from time to time.”

Additionally, because the funds have already

been authorized, developers who express interest in the park may “perceive that as a plus or attraction,” Shea said, adding that while the board can always move to re-appropriate the funds down the line should something change, that could be a turn-off “from a developer’s point of view.”

“If you’re a developer in Connecticut, you know that as soon as you come in front of a board or commission, you could be looking at months or years [for those funds to be approved or authorized again],” he continued. “Right now that seems like a long shot, but hopefully things will change.”

According to Knowlton, per the town charter, the next step to de-authorizing the funds would be to bring it to a town meeting, which he hopes will be included as part of the board’s meeting later this spring when the budget proposal for the FY 2017-18 will be voted on.

“We’re trying to keep it low key,” the chairman continued. “It’s one of those things that if we really wanted to do something more, if the town wanted to put more money into the business park right now, that would have to go forward to the public in the first place anyway.”

## Police Seek Man in Connection to Marlborough Car Theft

by Julianna Roche

State and local police are still attempting to locate a man wanted in connection with stealing a car in Marlborough on New Year’s Day.

State Police said they responded to a report of the stolen vehicle at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1.

Police said the vehicle is a gray 2009 Honda Fit and was taken from a residence driveway on North Main Street in Marlborough. It has Connecticut plates displaying FC4193.

Police also said they responded to a scene that day in Colchester where the suspect was last seen in the area of Prospect Hill Road near Route 2. While state police has said the suspect was not a threat to the public, Colchester Police originally said they believed him to be armed.

As a result of the incident, the Connecticut Emergency Alerting and Notification System sent out an automated notification to households in Colchester and Marlborough, as well as other area towns including Salem, advising residents to be on the lookout for the suspect.

According to police, the suspect is no longer believed to be in the area; however they are still seeking a black male, approximately 30 years old, who was last seen wearing a blue winter hat, dark jacket and blue jeans.

Police advised residents that if they do see the suspect, do not approach him, but call 911.



As of Thursday morning, the case is currently under investigation. Anyone with further information is asked to call Trooper Daniel Richman at Troop K 860-465-5400.

Police also remind the public to not call the dispatch center asking for additional information, unless you have new information to report. Additional information will be released when it is available.

## York Inmate Dies Due to Apparent Suicide

by Julianna Roche

Monica Piette, a Colchester resident and former inmate at York Correctional Institution in Niantic died Dec. 22 following an apparent suicide attempt, according to authorities.

Piette, 32, was placed in York just six days before her death, on Dec. 16, after a court appearance in Norwich on the violation of a protective order charge.

She was being held on a \$92,000 bond, according to a press release issued by the Department of Correction.

Police records show that in 2016, Piette had also been arrested on various other charges, including possession of marijuana and third-degree assault.

According to the Department of Correction, Piette was found by correctional staff at approximately 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21 in her cell with a ligature tied around her neck. She was the only inmate in the cell at

the time, according to the press release.

The Department of Correction said the correctional and medical staffs “immediately initiated emergency and life-saving measures,” before Piette was transported to Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London.

She died at 9:30 p.m. the following day.

The State Medical Examiner’s office is working to determine the exact manner and cause of death, while both the Department of Correction’s security division and state police continue investigating the fatality.

Prior to her passing, Piette was the permittee of Germano’s Bar & Grill in Colchester. She was scheduled to appear in court on the violation of a protective order charge on Jan. 20.

Piette’s obituary appears this week on page 8.

## East Hampton Man Dies from Injuries in November Crash

by Julianna Roche

East Hampton resident Nicholas Gosselin, 27, died Sunday, Jan. 1, at Hartford Hospital as a result of injuries sustained in a Colchester car crash in November.

According to state police, at approximately 10 p.m. on Nov. 9, a Nissan Altima driven by Gosselin was traveling northbound on Parum Road in Colchester when it began negotiating a turn into a residence at 502 Parum Rd.

Police said the Nissan became unstable in the turn, causing it to spin into the southbound lane on Parum Road and directly into the path of a GMC Sierra K driven by Nick Pasqualini, 32, of 518 Raymond Hill Rd., Uncasville.

The front end of Gosselin's vehicle struck the passenger's side of the Nissan, leaving both vehicles to come to an uncontrolled final stop in the southbound lane in front of the residence, police said.

According to police, Parum Road was then closed for an extended amount of time, while Pasqualini was transported to Backus Hospital for minor injuries and Gosselin was transported by LifeStar to Hartford Hospital for serious injuries.

Gosselin's obituary appears this week on page 10.

### Portland Police News

12/7: Karla Depietro, 31, of 13 Lake Drive, East Hampton, was charged with third-degree larceny and second-degree forgery, Portland Police said.

12/8: Samuel Ellis, 21, of 167 Archer Rd., Old Lyme, was charged with third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

### Marlborough Police News

12/21: State Police said Nicholas S. Clement, 23, of 88 Newport Ave., West Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway.

### Andover Police News

12/22: State Police said William H. Patterson, 60, of 11 West St., was arrested and charged with breach of peace: threatening and second-degree non-threatening harassment.

12/28: State Police said they were notified of an open combination safe that was found in a wooded area between property owned by Andover Sportsman Club and Ridgeway Drive. According to police, the safe was not damaged or pried open. Anyone with information about this item is urged to contact TFC Joseph Marsh at Troop K 860-465-4500, ext. 4057.

### East Hampton Police News

12/16: Maureen O'Sullivan, 52, of 12 Flannery Row, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right and failure to carry insurance, East Hampton Police said.

12/18: Donna Defusco, 71, of 26 Hurd Park Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

12/19: A 17-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for second-

degree assault, second-degree threatening and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

12/23: Keith Goodrich, 26, of 9 N. Maple St., was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a protective order, police said. He was charged again with criminal violation of a protective order on Dec. 26.

12/23: Rachael Lazor, 18, of 40 Smith St., was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, stemming from a Nov. 11 incident, police said.

### LifeStar Called for Colchester Car Crash

by Julianna Roche

A single-car crash last week resulted in injuries to both the driver and passenger, the latter having been transported to Hartford Hospital by LifeStar for suspected serious injuries, according to State Police.

Police said at approximately 12:55 a.m. Dec. 31, a Subaru Legacy 2 driven by Alexander K. Lami, 27, of 66 Pinebrook Rd., was traveling northbound on Westchester Road, south of Church Street, when Lami lost control of his vehicle.

According to police, the Subaru subse-

quently crossed into the southbound lane of Westchester Road and drove off the left side of the roadway before hitting a tree and causing disabling damage to the vehicle, which was towed to Desmond's Auto.

Police said both Lami and the passenger, Brett D. Opalenik, 28, of 16 Hillside Ln., were transported to Hartford Hospital by Colchester EMS and LifeStar respectively, with Lami suffering minor injuries and Opalenik with suspected serious injuries.

The case is still under investigation.

### Colchester Police News

12/21: State Police said Nicholas Ricciardi, 38, of 25 Greenwood St., New Britain, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

12/21: State Police said Erica Harris, 26, of 49 Broad St., Apt. 3, Norwich, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

12/22: Colchester Police said at approximately 10 a.m., a victim reported his 49-inch Sceptre flat screen TV had been stolen from his residence on Lebanon Avenue, which he said he left unlocked for less than 10 minutes. The case is currently under investigation.

12/23: Colchester Police said James L. Wallington, 49, of 38 Balaban Rd. Apt. 210, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to drive right, operating a motor

vehicle without a license and drinking while operating a motor vehicle.

12/24: Colchester Police said a victim reported that her vehicle was intentionally damaged while parked at the Stop and Shop parking lot on Linwood Avenue sometime during the evening of Dec. 23.

12/24: State Police said Jeffrey Diccico, 31, of 75 Daniel St., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

12/26: State Police said Rafael Mangual, 33, of 46 Orchard St., East Hartford, was arrested and charged with failure to respond to a payable violation.

12/29: State Police said Jillian Fernandez, 21, of 15 Dilaj Dr., Columbia, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Thomas Douglas Sayers

Thomas Douglas Sayers, 76, of East Hampton, formerly of Glastonbury, beloved husband of 50 years to Dianne (Engel) Sayers died Friday, Dec. 23, at Hartford Hospital. Born Aug. 2, 1940, in DuBois, Pa., he was the son of the late Gerald and Eleanor (Jackson) Sayers.

Thomas had served his country in the Army Reserves and had retired from Travelers Insurance Company after 32 years, having worked in the Employee Benefits Department. He was a very active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron, and had been active in the Boy Scouts of America where he achieved the Eagle Scout rank.

Besides his wife Dianne, he is survived by his daughter Linda Reynolds and her husband Mark of Buffalo, N.Y.; his sister, Margaret Nelson and her husband William of Sturbridge, Mass.; three nephews, Rob and Jill Nelson and family, Tom and Jill Nelson and family and David and Kristen Nelson and family.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday, Dec. 28, in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. Burial was private in Pennsylvania. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, Dec. 27.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Boy Scouts of America at [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) or to St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 30 Church St., Hebron, CT 06248.

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

## East Hampton

### Clara Zirkenbach

Clara Keith Bolles Zirkenbach 95, of Essex, formerly of Marlborough and East Hampton, passed away Christmas morning after a brief illness.

She is survived by six devoted children, Richard Bolles Jr. (Karen); Susan Bolles Petell (Al); Kathleen Bolles (Wayne Beaulieu); Joanne Bolles Murphy (Tim Hurley); Keith F. Bolles (Jane); James T. Bolles (Suzy Manzo). Eighteen special grandchildren and 18 wonderful great-grandchildren also survive her.

Clara was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and moved to Newington with her parents at a young age. Clara was a lifelong entrepreneur and businesswoman, while being a kind and loving mother to her family. In early years she created a Laundromat in Newington; a nursery school in East Hampton; and developed the YMCA Kiddie Kamp in Portland. She became a real estate agent and designed buildings in her "spare time." Her gift shop at the Country Squire in Killingworth helped to cultivate her passion for retail and her sense of design.

Together with her husband, Richard H. Bolles and their children, she traveled back and forth between Connecticut and Fort Lauderdale Florida, being instrumental in the family's trade of building and developing properties. The family settled in East Hampton, Connecticut, and became very active members of the community.

Later in life, she married her husband, Carl W. Zirkenbach and assisted him in running the Marlborough Country Barn in Marlborough. Together they formed The Marlborough Country Barn of Old Mistick Village, and then moved the business to Old Saybrook, to form the Marlborough Country Barn of Old Saybrook, now known as the The Shops at Saybrook Country Barn.

Together, Clara and Carl traveled extensively, and achieved one of her goals of photographing all 50 state capital buildings. She enjoyed her summers on Cape Cod in the town of Dennis and developed many friendships. Her generous, kind, and loving spirit made her well-loved wherever she went. Anyone who met her always remembered her smile, quick wit, and outgoing ways.

Calling hours were at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Friday, Dec. 30. A brief service was also held that evening. A reception followed at Blackledge Country Club, 180 West St., Hebron. A memorial service and burial will be at a later date.

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



## Colchester

### James Edward St. Clair

James Edward St. Clair, 86, of Bozrah, formerly of Colchester, beloved husband of Maureen (Flaherty) St. Clair, passed away peacefully Thursday, Dec. 22. Born Sept. 30, 1930, in New Haven, he was the son of the late James and Florence (Holland) St. Clair.

Jim was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy. After serving in the Korean War, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree, in 1959, at the University of Connecticut, where he met Maureen. They wed Sept. 10, 1960.

While working as a claims adjuster for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Jim attended the evening division of the University of Connecticut School of Law. In 1966, he earned his Bachelor of Laws degree and was admitted to the Connecticut Bar. That year, he and Maureen moved to Colchester, where Jim joined with the late Robert F. Gregory to create the Law Offices of Gregory and St. Clair. A member of both the Connecticut and New London County Bar Associations, Jim helped thousands of clients over the years. He retired in 2010.

With a deep admiration for the town of Colchester, Jim also enjoyed serving the community. He was actively involved in the Republican Town Committee, the Farmers Club and St. Joseph's Polish Society. He served as past president of the Republican Men's Club and on the Board of Selectmen from 1973-77, alongside his good friend and first selectman, the late Loren Marvin. Jim was a founding member of the Francis Cardinal Spellman Knights of Columbus, Council 6107 of St. Andrew Parish, and an active member and past president of the Colchester Rotary Club.

An avid golfer and skier, Jim enjoyed sharing good times and laughs with family and friends. He will be sadly missed but always remembered by his loving wife of 56 years, Maureen; their children, Pamela St. Clair and her partner, Nathaniel Foote, of Old Lyme and Gregory St. Clair, and his wife, Karen, of Great Britain, U.K.; two sisters, Florence Leach of Hamden and Barbara Mooney of Branford; a brother, Raymond St. Clair and his wife, Kathy, of West Haven; and numerous extended family and friends.

Jim was predeceased by his brother, William St. Clair.

The memorial liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 3, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial with military honors followed in New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. There were no calling hours.

Donations in Jim's memory may be made to the Colchester Rotary Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 775, Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## East Hampton

### Ruth Brainerd Carlson

Ruth Brainerd Carlson, 87, of Middletown, formerly of East Hampton, widow of the late Theodore R. Carlson, died Wednesday, Dec. 28, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Nov. 2, 1929, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late William and Ruth (Anderson) Brainerd.

Ruth had worked as a personnel clerk for Standard Knapp before her retirement. Ruth enjoyed gardening, needlework, reading, watching birds and baking. Most recently she enjoyed coloring and ceramic projects. She is survived by her loving children Linda and Bob, daughter-in-law Melissa and grandkitty Kitz. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She enjoyed the companionship and scrapbooking with her cousins Barbara, Betty and Judy, and was so appreciative of Milton's chauffeur services for the scrapbooking outings.

She always looked forward to lunches and dinners with the Carlson relatives especially Dick, Edie, Roger, Bill, Peggy, Heidi, Kathy, Kristen and their families. "Auntie Eunice" always enjoyed the countless visits and small tokens from her niece Pam. Though only for a short time, she had formed a wonderful bond with her Wadsworth Glenn roommate Barbara.

The family thanks the staff of Wadsworth Glenn and the Middlesex ICC and Hospice unit for their care and compassion. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 3, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck. Friends called at the funeral home on Tuesday, before the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

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



## Hebron

### Denis A. Provençal

Denis A. Provençal passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 26, surrounded by his loving family and friends at home after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 72. Born June 30, 1944, in Shawinigan, P.Q., Canada, he was the son of Yvette (Dupont) Provençal of Shawinigan and the late Pierre Provençal.

Denis was known throughout the area for his talent and skill working as a Master Carpenter specializing in cabinetry and inside finish with attention to even the smallest of details.

He truly had a "joie de vivre" and was always on-the-go with an adventurous spirit. Denis loved to travel, especially by motorcycle with "his lil' brat" - his sweetheart - his Sonia. He enjoyed photography - capturing images of anything and everything. Anyone that knew him knew that they would be hard pressed not to be photographed.

In addition to his mother, he will be greatly missed by his loving wife and longtime companion, Sonia Mercado-Provençal; two daughters and their spouses, Kimberly and Scott Brown of Columbia and Heather and Erik Partridge of East Hampton; five granddaughters (to whom he was a loving Pèpè), Savannah, Ashley, Addison, Victoria and Jacklyn; seven siblings, Roger and wife, Mireille Provençal, Claudette and husband, Marcel Gelinac, Carmen and husband, Serge Gaudet, Diane and husband, Ernest Dionne, Pauline and husband, Denis Lavoie, Richard and wife, Louise Provençal and Johanne Provençal and her companion, Stratos Chrisafoudis, all of Canada; two stepchildren and their companions, Amaris Gomez and Jon Single of Harrisburg, Pa., and Ashton Gomez and Wes Atwood of New London; his mother and father-in-law, Lucy Mimms of Jamaica, N.Y., and Miguel Mercado of Kissimmee, Fla.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family will receive guests from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A time of reflection will be observed at 3:45 p.m., during the visitation. Those in attendance are asked to wear something blue. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to Center for Hospice Care Southeast Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360 ([hospicesect.org](http://hospicesect.org)), in recognition of their wonderful care and support extended during Denis' illness, or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)).

## Colchester

### Monica Jean Piette

Monica Jean Piette, 32, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Dec. 22. She was born in Middletown July 11, 1984, daughter of Susan (Constantine) Piette of Moodus and the late Bruce Piette of Colchester.

In addition to her mother, she leaves her daughter Marie and husband Johnny; brother Terry and wife Valerie; sister Michelle and husband Edward; brother Glen; mother-in-law Angelica; and many extended family and friends.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Jan. 4, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family received guests at the funeral home prior to the service.

In her passing, Monica gave the gift of life to many others through organ and tissue donation. Donations in her memory to benefit her beloved daughter, Marie, may be made online at [gofundme.com/monica-piette-memorial-fund](http://gofundme.com/monica-piette-memorial-fund).

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



## Glastonbury

### Arthur H. Coy

Arthur H. Coy, who raised his family in Glastonbury and returned to town in his final year of life, died peacefully Saturday, Dec. 17, at age 92. He overcame deafness to become a successful aircraft engineer.

He was born in Westerly, R.I., May 31, 1924. He was educated at Rhode Island School for the Deaf, where he learned to read lips; Westerly High School; Mount Hermon Academy (now Northfield Mount Hermon); and Rhode Island State College (now the University of Rhode Island). He spent his entire career at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, where he helped design turbines for the first generations of jet engines for civilian aircraft. In the 1960s he worked on the JT9D engine, which powered the Boeing 747.

He married Virginia (Brewster) Coy in 1957. She predeceased him. He leaves their four children: Peter Coy of Demarest, N.J., along with his wife, Ariela Keysar-Coy, and their son, Ethan; Carrie Coy of Hebron, Conn., along with her partner, Ellen Hetherington, and their children, Amy and Annie; Edward Coy of Lancaster, Calif., along with his wife, Karen Coy, and their children, Phoebe and Abigail; and Sarah Craig of Shushan, N.Y., along with her husband, Timothy Craig, and their children, Hamilton and Fiona. In 1995 he married Susan B. (Murphy) Coy, who also predeceased him. He is mourned by her two children: Betsy McCormick, along with her children, Susie and Jillian; and Jack McCormick, along with his wife, Bobbie, and their children, Jared and Rusti Simone. He also leaves numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

He was a lifelong athlete. He played basketball for Westerly High School and went on to compete for Rhode Island State in basketball, track, and sailing. In 2009 he was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. He enjoyed skiing before settling on golf and tennis, which he played weekly until his late 80s. He also excelled at woodworking, a skill he learned at Rhode Island School for the Deaf. He was known for his friendly smile, honesty, and attention to detail.

He started his family in Tolland before moving to Glastonbury. After retirement from Pratt & Whitney in 1980 he lived in Manchester, Vt., followed by Weekapaug, R.I., and Mystic, Conn. In his final years he lived in the Cottage at Avalon in Mystic, before moving this year to Brookdale Buckingham in Glastonbury. The family thanks the staffs of both facilities for their loving care.

A memorial service will take place at Christ Episcopal Church in Westerly, R.I., Monday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m. Dinoto Funeral Home, 17 Pearl St., Mystic, is assisting the family. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation, the Westerly Land Trust, or the Cure Alzheimer's Fund.



Colchester

Joseph Roger Daigle

Joseph Roger Daigle, 84, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 28, surrounded by loved ones. Born Feb. 29, 1932, in St. Francis, Maine, he was the son of the late Felix and Isabelle (Morin) Daigle.



Mr. Daigle served proudly as Airman 1st Class with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, where he received the National Defense Service and Good Conduct Medals. He was a longtime member of the American Legion Post 4 in Norwich for many years. Mr. Daigle had worked as a psychiatric charge aide for Whiting Forensic Institute State Hospital in Connecticut for over 25 years, before his retirement in 1987.

Over the years, Joe enjoyed traveling, especially camping with a good fire, along with his children and first wife of nearly 50 years, Bernadette (Dickerson) Daigle, who predeceased him April 4, 2006. Mr. Daigle had also been a member of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge 430 in Norwich for over 35 years.

He is survived by his wife of nine years, Violet Taylor Williams Daigle; five children, Adrienne Graves of Port Charlotte, Fla., Suzanne Clifford of Port Charlotte, Fla., Marie Kuper of Hebron, Louise and husband, LTC Michael Griswold of Lacey, Wash., and David Daigle and wife Sandy of Silver Springs, Fla.; five grandchildren Shane, Sheri-Lynn and husband Benjamin, Timothy, Paul and Michael, Jr.; two stepsons, Mark Williams and his wife Eileen of Ocala, Fla., and Ronald Williams of Columbus, Ohio; several step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; one sibling, Annette Powers of Presque Isle, Maine; and numerous special nieces and nephews, as well as extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents and first wife, he was predeceased by his brothers, Neal, Armand, Gerald, Jean Louis and Donald; sister Kathleen; son-in-law, Robert Clifford; grandson, Dillion Clifford; and stepsons, Gary and Rickie Williams.

Friends called Thursday, Jan. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Graveside services with military honors will be observed at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, directly at the State Veterans Cemetery, 319 Bow Lane, Middletown, followed by a gathering at the Elks Lodge in Middletown.

As Joe loved the animals, donations in his memory may be made online to benefit the Coventry Wildlife Rescue at [tinyurl.com/zcsgv9lor](http://tinyurl.com/zcsgv9lor) to your local animal shelter.

Colchester

Marie Theodora Soderlund Knutsen

Marie Theodora Soderlund Knutsen, 79, of Colchester, formerly of East Greenwich, R.I., beloved wife of John Albert Knutsen, passed away Thursday, Dec. 29, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Aug. 3, 1937, in East Greenwich, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Albert and Edna (Benjamin) Soderlund.



With a gentle and caring nature, Marie enjoyed her work with the Visiting Nurses. Later, she worked as a special education aide for the Colchester Public Schools. She also worked with the Citizens Advocacy for many years, matching people in need with community supports and advocates. Ever since she was a child, Marie was active with Girl Scouting for 70-plus years. After Marie and John retired, they enjoyed traveling visiting friends and family.

Mrs. Knutsen, even after moving to Colchester in 1964, remained an active member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of East Greenwich, of which her family had been founding members.

In addition to her loving husband of 57 years, she leaves their children, Debora Knutsen-Sterling and her husband, Jon Sterling, Laurie Anne Knutsen and her husband, Ed Marman and Paul Knutsen and his wife, Amy McGuire-Knutsen; grandchildren, Edward, Jenifer, David, Courtney, Olin, Jessie, Cori, Nicholas, Vander and Maja Grace; two great-grandsons, Eddie and Steven; a sister, Nancy Brodersen and her husband Steve Brodersen; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and special family friends, Manu, Ray and Keven.

She was predeceased by her sister, Patricia Anne Soderlund.

The family would like to send a special thank you to the team at Gladeview Rehabilitation Center, who have become extended family members while providing care for Marie and John.

Visitation was held Sunday, Jan. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services were observed Monday, Jan. 2, at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 118 Division St., East Greenwich, RI. The family received guests at the church Monday, prior to the service. Burial followed in the Glenwood Cemetery, East Greenwich.

Donations in her memory may be made to the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Pastor's Discretionary Fund, 118 Division St., East Greenwich, RI 02818.

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

East Hampton

Harold Jesse Geysen

Harold Jesse Geysen ("Junie"), 77, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Nancy (Shea) Geysen for 54 years, passed away with his loving family by his side Sunday, Jan. 1, after a long illness. He was the son of the late Harold and Mary (Kachuk) Geysen. He is predeceased by his sister Dorothy Shearer and brother-in-law Leigh Scherer.



Junie is survived by his wife Nancy, his son Kevin, daughter-in-law Joelene (Faraci) Geysen, and his three granddaughters Jillian, Jenna and Kamryn of East Hampton, whom he adored more than anything in the world! Junie is also survived by his siblings May Breece and brother-in-law Everett Breece, brother John Geysen and sister-in-law Bonnie (Strong) Geysen, all of East Hampton.

Junie was raised in East Hampton where he attended local schools, graduating from East Hampton High School in 1958 at the top of his class, where he played many varsity sports to include basketball; that same year, Junie was recommended to attend West Point. Junie proudly served in the Army National Guard for several years. He began his higher education at UConn and continued on to pursue a degree in civil engineering from Hartford State Technical College, where he graduated in 1970 with High Honors. Junie worked diligently for many years as a civil engineer for the State of Connecticut before retiring and later as a disaster recovery engineer for the federal government.

Before Junie became ill, he enjoyed fishing, hiking, cooking, and cars (especially '50s-'70s Corvettes). He planned many family vacations to Barbados and Florida. He and Nancy spent much time in St. Augustine, Fla., which became a second home to them. He was a generous, honest, and kind man who will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.

Our family would like to extend many thanks to our family and friends for their enduring support and the wonderful hospice staff at Middlesex Hospital, who made him very comfortable in his final days.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m.

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

Hebron

Mark Peter Anderson

Mark Peter Anderson, 57, of Hebron, formerly of Vernon, loving husband for 26 years of Juleann M. "Jill" (Quigley) Anderson, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.



Mark was born in Hartford June 30, 1959, son of Carl and Vilma (Gustafson) Anderson of Vernon. He was raised in Vernon, attended local schools, and was a graduate of Rockville High School, where he was a member of the baseball team. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University where he was an All-American shortstop and a recent inductee into the Wesleyan Baseball Wall of Fame. He then went on to earn his Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He and his family have resided in Hebron since 1990.

Mark has been an attorney in the Travelers Insurance Company Special Liabilities Group for the past 26 years and had previously worked for the law firm of Shipman and Goodwin in Hartford. He was a lifelong member of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester and currently served as an usher and communion assistant.

Along with his wife and parents, he is survived by two sons, Eric Peter Anderson of Minneapolis, Minn., and Scott Philip Anderson of Arlington, Va. He also leaves behind several aunts, cousins, sisters and brothers-in-law, 13 nieces and nephews, and many friends who will miss him dearly.

Influenced by his own high school and college baseball career, Mark went on to share his love and knowledge of baseball by coaching his sons' youth baseball teams in Hebron. Although his teams won several championships, Mark took the greatest satisfaction in seeing his players improve and have fun. He enjoyed watching all sports with his favorite teams being the Yankees and Giants and was an avid reader of almost anything but especially history and sports. He loved watching *Jeopardy!*, old sitcoms and sports with his sons, vacationing on the Cape, playing golf and taking road trips throughout the Northeast.

A funeral service was held Tuesday Dec. 27, at the Emanuel Lutheran Church with burial following in the Gilead Cemetery in Hebron. The Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester, had care of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hebron Youth Baseball Association, Wesleyan Baseball or the American Heart Association.

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



*Glastonbury*

**Michael John McGuire**

Michael John McGuire (Mac), 92, of Glastonbury, beloved husband to the late Teresa Veronica (McLaughlin) McGuire, peacefully passed away Tuesday, Dec. 27, in Salmon Brook Nursing Center.

Michael was born March 3, 1924, and raised on the family farm in Newburg, New Brunswick, Canada, son of the late Thomas and Mary (McDade) McGuire. Michael served in the Canadian Army during World War II with the First Division of the Carlton-York Regiment throughout continental Europe, participating in the liberation of Holland from 1942-1946. He moved to Hartford in 1952 along with his wife Teresa, where they started their family. In 1960 they relocated to Glastonbury. Michael was an active communicant of St. Paul Church and a member of its Men's Club.

Prior to his retirement, Michael was employed as a Millwright at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft from 1960-1989. He was also a member of the UAW Machinists Union. He was a devoted family man who placed his family above all else. Michael was renowned in the Mill Street neighborhood for his ability to turn scavenged parts into working bicycles for his children and neighborhood kids.

Michael was a loving father who will be dearly missed by his five sons, Thomas McGuire of Lebanon, Robert McGuire of San Francisco, Calif., Brian McGuire and his wife Carol of Glastonbury, Kevin McGuire and his wife Cathy of Lebanon, Joseph McGuire and his wife Sarah of Marlborough; his daughter, Kathleen McGuire of Glastonbury; his eight adored and cherished grandchildren, James McGuire, Allyson McGuire Vander Wiede and her husband Kevin, Lindsay, Tyler and Kyle McGuire and Megan, Michael and Daniel McGuire; as well as a daughter-in-law Noelle McGuire of East Hampton; two sisters-in-law, Betty Annucci and her husband Steven of Worcester, Mass., Patricia Palmucci of Concord, Mass.; his niece, MaryAnn Napoletano who was a frequent visitor and numerous nieces and nephews in the U.S. and Canada.

Along with his wife and parents, Michael was predeceased by a son Jeffrey McGuire and his eight siblings, Nora, Charles, Mary, Leo, Susan, Rita, Rose and Joseph.

The McGuire family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Salmon Brook Nursing Center for all the care and compassion they extended to Mac, especially Gail and René.

The family received friends and relatives Thursday, Jan. 5, at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Michael's life at St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Interment followed the Mass in Holy Cross Cemetery, Hebron Avenue and Wickham Road, Glastonbury.

To extend online condolences, please visit [farleysullivan.com](http://farleysullivan.com).

*Colchester*

**William Semkow**

William Semkow, 79, died peacefully at Middlesex Hospital Thursday, Dec. 22. He was born in Norwich Jan. 6, 1937, to the late Frank and Mary (Ulchak) Semkow Sr.

William graduated from Bacon Academy and later earned his master's degree in recreation from the University of Southern Mississippi; he proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was married to Betty Jean Bates; they spent 37 years living abroad in over seven different countries, and throughout the U.S., working for the U.S. government as a recreational services director for the military and USO. William was a wonderful husband, father and friend who enjoyed world traveling, golfing and video graphing.

William is survived by his daughter, Robia Semkow Kruse and his grandsons Tristian and Gabriel Kruse of Colchester. In addition to his parents, Frank Sr. and Mary Semkow, William was predeceased by his loving wife of 45 years, Betty Jean Semkow and his brothers Frank Semkow Jr. and Samuel Semkow.

An 11 a.m. graveside service and burial for William and his brother Frank, who died July 11, 2013, will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, at New St. Mary's Cemetery, Amston Road in Colchester, with military honors for William. A memorial gathering back on the family farm will immediately follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations in William's memory may be made to The American Heart Association.

Belmont Funeral Home has been entrusted with William's care. Visit [belmontfh.com](http://belmontfh.com) to leave condolences to the family.



*East Hampton*

**Nicholas David Gosselin**

Nicholas David Gosselin, 27, of East Hampton, son of Jeffery E. Gosselin and Lisa (Trapp) Foreman, died Sunday, Jan. 1, at Hartford Hospital, as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. Born June 1, 1989, in Middletown, he was raised in East Hampton and was employed as a welder at F.D. Welding and Repair.

Throughout his life, Nick was always full of energy and had a passion for sports (baseball, football, snowboarding, motorsports, and fishing). To Nick, life was either a daring adventure, or nothing at all. He cherished spending time with his family and friends and will always be remembered for his loyalty.

Nick, a son, grandson, brother, nephew, cousin and friend, will be greatly missed. While God has you in his keeping, we will have you in our hearts. When tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right there in your heart.

Besides his parents he is survived by his stepfather Marvin Foreman and his stepmother Kellie Gosselin, all of East Hampton; his maternal grandparents, Ron and Gloria Trapp and Beverly Warga; paternal grandparents, Richard and Marilyn Gosselin; three sisters, Lindsay Gosselin of Portland, Monica Kauffman of East Hampton and Ashley Foreman of Cromwell.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

*East Hampton*

**E. Arlene Judd**

E. Arlene (Broomall) Judd, 83, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully with her daughters by her side Monday, Dec. 19. Arlene was born on July 8, 1933, in Oxford, PA and lived most of her adult life in Connecticut.

Arlene was the loving wife of Richard Charles Judd (predeceased); the loving mother of her five children, William Moll (predeceased), Donald Moll, Charles Judd, Jennifer Judd and Georgianna Judd and the loving grandmother of her nine grandchildren, Dillon and Amy Moll, Kevin Moll, Sarah Galvin, Zachary and Alyson Augenstein and Brandon, Rachael and Alexa Lebiszczak. Arlene also leaves behind her "little brother" Fred Broomall of Pensacola, Fla., and many other extended family members that were very dear to her heart.

Arlene enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, running/walking, drives to the beach and to the Connecticut River, dancing, karate, drawing and women's basketball. But mostly she will be remembered as the most loving, kind, caring and understanding wife, mother, grandmother and person there could be, who loved spending time with her family. Arlene was very proud of and loved her family very much. There was never a day that passed that she didn't let this be known. Arlene always brought joy, laughter and silliness with her, despite life's circumstances. Through her strength, joy, caring and understanding of others, she taught others to enjoy life even through the most difficult times.

Arlene not only touched her family's hearts in so many ways but also of those whom she worked with for over 25 years as the personnel manager for the NAPA Distribution Center in Middletown. For many years after her retirement, she spoke proudly and fondly of her job, friends and colleagues. Her job and her co-workers helped her to be a happy person and to feel complete. Arlene would want you all to know this.

Arlene loved and respected all people, animals (especially her dogs and cats) and all living things. She was a giver to this world. She always said that she would not want to be remembered in sorrow but remembered with joy. Arlene will undoubtedly always be greatly loved and missed.

Her request in lieu of services was for all who knew and loved her to pick or buy flowers for yourselves and/or each other to enjoy and to remember her fondly.



*East Hampton*

**Keith Edward Morgan**

Keith Edward Morgan, 51, of Middletown, formerly of East Hampton, died Monday, Jan. 2, at his home. Born March 11, 1965, in Ottawa, Canada, he was the son of G. Fridel Lamson and the late Wayne J. Morgan.

Keith was raised in Colchester and East Hampton and was a graduate of East Hampton High School. He served in the Connecticut Air National Guard where he was a mechanic on the A-10 Warthogs. He served his country overseas in Kuwait. He was a member of the VFW Post in East Hampton and at the time of his death was employed by the West Haven V.A. Hospital. Keith enjoyed golf and had been a volunteer for the GHO in Cromwell.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his stepfather, David Lamson of East Hampton; two brothers, David Wayne Morgan and his wife Katrinka of Lebanon, Peter Andrew Morgan and his wife Melissa of Avon; a niece, Courtney Culpin and her husband Brian; and four nephews, Wayne Morgan, Billy Morgan, Lance Morgan and Carver Morgan.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 6-8 p.m. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the V.A. Hospital in West Haven at [connecticut.va.gov](http://connecticut.va.gov).

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