

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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The Middle Haddam Association, the struggling nonprofit organization that purchased the Middle Haddam School over a decade ago to prevent it from being converted into condominiums, is asking for the town's help to save the building from demolition. Photo from the Friends of the Middle Haddam School Facebook page.

## Trying to Save Middle Haddam School

by Elizabeth Regan

The former school building languishing on Schoolhouse Lane in Middle Haddam under the threat of demolition was the subject of a business proposal presented to the East Hampton Town Council last week.

Barbara Angelico, president of the Middle Haddam Association, told councilors she was at the meeting "to make a deal."

If the town buys the property, Angelico said, then the association will not be forced to raze the 1930 structure in order to sell off the land.

Elementary students passed through the doors for five decades before the school closed due to low enrollment in 1980.

The Middle Haddam Association purchased the roughly 12,000-square-foot brick building in 2005 to prevent it from being turned into condominiums by prominent local developer Wayne Rand. It wasn't the first time concerned citizens from Middle Haddam had thwarted such a proposal. In the mid-1980s, they blocked a zoning regulation that would have allowed condominiums by suing the Planning and Zoning Commission and outlasting the town in the legal battle.

The private, nonprofit Middle Haddam Association was formed in 1947, according to a database maintained by the Office of the Secretary of the State. It went dormant for a period before coming back to life with the goal of saving the small, insular village from incompatible development.

Since 2005, members of the association's board of directors have worked with several town managers and various iterations of the Town Council in an effort to convince the town to buy back the property.

Town records show that ideas discussed over the past ten years include turning the school into a recreation center, an annex for the town hall, or a water treatment facility.

"Unfortunately, we are at the juncture now where we've carried it for 11 years and we can't carry it any longer," Angelico told councilors last Tuesday. "If the town feels they cannot use the building, then our option might be to take the building down, which would be very sad for a lot of people."

Angelico described the bucolic property –  
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## Remembering the Civilian Conservation Corps

by Julianna Roche

After nearly eight years and interviews with more than 100 men from all over the state of Connecticut, East Hampton resident and author Marty Podskoch has published his seventh book – *Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memoirs & Legacy of the CCC* – which tells the stories of the men who left their homes to work and help support their families during the Great Depression.

In the midst of the Great Depression, while more than 13 million Americans were unemployed, then-president Franklin D. Roosevelt instilled a number of relief programs to help create new jobs, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

Originally known as the Emergency Conservation Work Act, the program was passed by Congress in 1933 during Roosevelt's first 100 days and is often considered one of the most popular New Deal programs.

There were a total of 21 camps in Connecticut and throughout its nine-year span, from 1933 to 1942, the CCC program employed 30,670 men in the state. The Army paid for the workers' food and shelter.

In addition to providing jobs, the CCC also featured a natural resource conservation program where men worked on projects such as planting trees, building state and national parks, fighting fires, building roads and bridges, helping farmers and ranchers prevent erosion and aiding citizens during disasters.

According to Podskoch, Connecticut's CCC program boasted a range of accomplishments, including thinning of 28,000 acres of young forest to improve its health and growth rate,

building 50 miles of fire lanes which provided access to remote areas and served as fire breaks, and creating over 1,100 acres of recreation facilities.

In the *RiverEast* area, both East Hampton and Portland were home to their own CCC camps – Camp Stuart and Camp Buck, respectively.

During his research, Podskoch was also able to interview several men from *RiverEast* towns who were once part of the program, and shared their first-person accounts of their experiences in the book. Among those Podskoch interviewed was the son of CCC worker John V. Churney of Colchester, who passed away in 2000.

Bob Churney wrote that his father came to Colchester in 1937 via bus, with the \$10 fare paid for by his sisters, as he had no money. Soon after, he joined the CCC and was sent to Camp White in Barkhamsted.

"The CCC camp instilled a good work ethic in my dad and he knew the value of a dollar," Bob wrote in the book. "These values he passed on to his four sons."

During each month of his six-month stay in the program, Churney would send \$25 of his \$30 monthly salary home "to help pay for rent and food for his family. He had just five dollars each month for spending money," Bob said.

According to Podskoch, though most boys had a monthly salary of \$30, or \$1 per day, each camp also employed a leader and assistant leader, who made \$45 and \$36 per month instead.

Podskoch added that leftover money the boys had would typically be spent purchasing items like cigarettes, candy or pipe tobacco from the



A new book by East Hampton resident Marty Podskoch details the state's Civilian Conservation Corps camps, which provided jobs to area men in the 1930s and early 1940s. A group of CCC enrollees from Camp Stuart in East Hampton are shown here taking a break with their pet dog in the Salmon River Forest.

canteen.

"The boys basically had to be poor to qualify [for the CCC]," he said, adding that many also had nothing more than an eighth-grade education since they were forced to drop out and find jobs to support their family.

East Hampton resident Larry Lavigne, who

worked at a camp in Gardner, Maine, was one such case.

"My father made me quit school and get a job after eighth grade. The Depression was awful," Lavigne wrote in the book, adding, "In the summer of 1938 I heard about the CCC from

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my Uncle Lyon. I went to the city hall and told a man that I wanted to join the CCC. That day I signed and they shipped me in an Army truck that picked up kids in our town and others.”

Similar to Lavigne, East Hampton resident – and *Rivereast* columnist – Hugo DeSarro had also joined the program to help financially support his mother, a single parent of 12 children.

“There were some days when I didn’t have a shirt to wear to school because the other kids got to them first,” he wrote in the book. “I remember going to school without a shirt and was sent home.”

DeSarro was sent to a camp in Meeker, Colo., in 1938, where his jobs included everything from cutting short cedar trees to killing porcupines because they ate tree bark, which caused the trees to die.

“Everybody knew about the CCC,” DeSarro wrote. “No one had jobs and it was popular for boys like me who wanted to work and earn money.”

“In those days, people wanted to work to earn money,” Podskoch said. “Not like today, where they wait for checks [and] carry unemployment for two years rather than go out and look for jobs.”

Though the boys worked Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., they also had free time at night and the weekends off – giving them time to just be boys.

“After a day’s work, we had supper in the mess hall,” Lavigne explained. “[Then] we went back to the barracks after eating and played cribbage. Some played poker.”

He noted however, “They played for cigarettes, not money.”

“It was six guys at a table and the food was brought to the table family-style,” Podskoch said. “The sergeant would say grace. The boys would be standing there and one guy [I interviewed] said to me, ‘We were just looking to see what was the biggest pork chop to grab!’”

On the weekends, Podskoch continued, “sometimes they would even have dances at the camps. ... They would send trucks to nearby towns to bring girls.”

**School cont. from Front Page**

with horses grazing across the street – as an ideal location for additional municipal office space.

“As I understand, it sits on an aquifer, so you have plenty of water,” she said, adding that the building is structurally sound and the property is free of “all environmental hazards.”

Middle Haddam Association treasurer Ted Rossi, a lumber executive, suggested the possibility of a lease arrangement.

Rossi said the association would be willing to lease the property for roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year while the town figures out how it can use the property.

Angelico and Rossi, who were joined by Middle Haddam Association Vice President Chuck Roberts, suggested the town incorporate a study of the Middle Haddam School into its efforts to construct a new town hall and police department on Route 66.

They said the building can be turned into a municipal facility for \$2 million to \$5 million.

“You need a facility and we have a building,” Angelico said. “And it seems like we could have some kind of a coming together where we could negotiate a good deal for you. Within two years, you could have 12,000 square feet of usable space ready to move into for less than \$5 million.”

The uncertain future of the Middle Haddam School was first brought to councilors’ attention publicly in December, when Town Manager Michael Maniscalco announced the Middle Haddam Association planned to demolish the building this spring.

Maniscalco told the *Rivereast* at the time that he heard about the impending demolition from Rossi. Maniscalco said he had not participated in any discussions with Rossi about the building or potential uses for it in the past year, nor had any of his staff.

But Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Hall said he met with Maniscalco and Rossi last spring about the idea of turning the former school into a recreation center.

The discussion built on a proposal first made in 2010, when the Middle Haddam Association presented the Town Council with the idea of turning the school into a recreational center.

Schematics by Middletown architect Jeffrey Bianco, of Northeast Collaborative Architects, showed a gym, racquetball and tennis courts, a community room and office space.

According to Middle Haddam Association records, the organization paid Northeast Collaborative Architects about \$8,000 for the plans.

Gregory Farmer, a field officer with the Con-

necticut Trust for Historic Preservation, said he also met with Hall that spring and found that the town was “certainly interested” in the property.

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson said in December and again last week that the proposed demolition – or any other plans for the building – was news to her.

“In the three and a half years I’ve been on the council, this is the first I’ve heard of this property,” she said last week. “I don’t know what discussions were going on with the previous administration, but I can tell you nobody approached me.”

In 2007, the town authorized an “architectural/engineering analysis of the Middle Haddam School,” according to finance department documents. The study was conducted by Friar Associates, the architectural, engineering and design firm that carried out a separate, large-scale assessment of the town’s municipal and school buildings during the same timeframe.

According to schematics provided by the Middle Haddam Association, the design included the probate court and health district as well as the town’s homeland security office. It also had ample meeting and storage space.

The total cost for the renovation would have been \$4.94 million, according to town records.

Town Council meeting minutes from late 2007 show the newly-elected council, chaired by Melissa Engel, decided not to pursue the project.

“If in the future the space at the Middle Haddam School is viable for town space, that could be researched at that time,” the meeting minutes stated.

When asked this week for a copy of Friar Associates’ final report on the school – which cost the town \$9,500 – town hall staff was unable to locate the document.

In 2008, meeting minutes from the Water Development Task Force state that Rossi came to them with a proposal to use the school as a treatment facility for a centralized water system. Members nixed the plan due to cost.

According to Rossi, time is running out for the Middle Haddam School.

“It’s going to be up to the Town Council,” he told councilors during the association’s presentation. “If there’s no use for it – if the best option for us is to raze the building and sell the land, which is easy for us to do – then maybe that’s the one we’ll have to explore. But it would be a shame to do it without at least giving some investigation on whether there is some sort of

community use for that building.”

In response to a question from the council, Rossi said the association has invested about \$150,000 into the former school so far; the group owes \$112,000 on the mortgage.

According to 2012 meeting minutes from the association’s board of directors, members discussed the need to put the property on the real estate market for \$250,000 due to the nonprofit organization’s lack of funds.

The property did not go on the market as planned. When Angelico was asked in December who has been covering the mortgage since then, she said “someone stepped up to the plate and has been taking care of it.”

Margaret Faber, a Middle Haddam resident and member of the state Historic Preservation Council, told councilors during the public comment period that the town is “the most logical steward” for the threatened school building.

Faber successfully campaigned last year to rescue a 1790 Cape Cod home on Bevin Boulevard from demolition. The Town Council had planned to raze the home to put up a parking lot.

Now Faber is working to save the Middle Haddam School, which she attended as a child.

One key difference between the Bevin Boulevard home and the Schoolhouse Lane site is that the school is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Connecticut, the federal designation triggers protection from “unreasonable destruction” under the state’s Environmental Protection Act and opens up grant funding opportunities.

While most of the Middle Haddam Historic District is part of the national register, the school is just outside that protected boundary.

“Rural school buildings, such as the Middle Haddam School, are rare and interesting to the State Historic Preservation Office and National Parks Service,” Faber told councilors last week, adding that those characteristics make the property eligible for listing on the historic register if the appropriate paperwork is filed.

“I have walked through the building with a structural engineer, architectural historian and an experienced builder and all agree that the building is structurally sound and a great candidate for adaptive re-use,” she said.

Faber indicated earlier this month that the building maintains “great structural integrity” despite its age, disuse and a recent act of vandalism that left the interior covered in graffiti and broken glass.

She said she reported the act of vandalism, which included evidence of fires in two places,



**As part of the CCC’s nature conservation movement, members from Camp Stuart in East Hampton built the stone and concrete dam at Day Pond State Park in Colchester.**

the CCC was a great experience because I traveled and saw so many wonderful places. I enjoyed being with other people.”

“Most of them – they loved it,” Podskoch said. “They were doing something to help their family. The other big thing was that they said ‘We learned to get along with each other.’”

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Podskoch’s book is available in local book stores, at Barnes & Noble, and on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in a soft cover for \$24.95 or hard cover for \$29.95. It can also be purchased by contacting the author at [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net) or 860-267-2442, or 43 O’Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Podskoch has also authored six other books: *Fire Towers of the Catskills: Their History and Lore*, *Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore*, *the Southern Districts*, *Northern Dis-*

*tricts*, *Adirondack Stories: Historical Sketches*, *Adirondack Stories II: 101 More Historical Sketches*, and *The Adirondack 102 Club: Your Passport & Guide to the North Country*.

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To help honor the men who served in CCC camps, the nonprofit group Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, Inc. is raising \$24,000 to build a statue to be placed in one of Connecticut’s state parks, where a CCC camp was during the Great Depression.

To make a donation, mail it to CCC Legacy, P.O. Box 341, Edinburg, VA, 22824. Include your name, address, phone number and email address. Checks should be made payable to “CCC Legacy” and note on your check “for CT Statue.”

For more information, call 540-984-8735 or email [ccc@ccclegacy.org](mailto:ccc@ccclegacy.org).



**The Middle Haddam School has been vacant for almost 40 years, but advocates for the building’s reuse say the brick building remains structurally sound.**

to the East Hampton police and fire departments.

Faber’s family has also paid to “button up” the building with plywood and plastic and to install a stronger lock system.

Faber has started a “Friends of Middle Haddam School” Facebook page and launched an online petition that garnered 74 signatures in its first week.

In an interview with the *Rivereast*, Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson lamented the timing of the Middle Haddam Association’s request for the town to take over the former school. She said it comes just as a building committee is set to begin laying the groundwork for a plan to construct a new town hall and police department estimated at \$15 million.

She said the Town Council will have to discuss if there’s an appetite among its members for another project at this time.

“It really puts us in quite a pickle. It really does. I think we have to ponder this,” she said. “Nobody wants to see a historic building demolished.”



# Hundreds in Hebron Sign Petition Backing Fracking Ordinance

by Geeta S. Sandberg

There was a full house at last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, as residents packed the meeting room at the town office building to show their support for the creation of an ordinance to ban fracking waste from town.

A petition containing close to 600 signatures – gathered in just over two weeks – was submitted at the meeting, which urged the selectmen to create an ordinance prohibiting the storage, disposal or use of waste produced by hydraulic fracking, the process of extracting natural gas and oil from underground rock formations. The method involves drilling through rock and injecting a mixture of water, sand and chemicals into the ground at high pressure to shatter – or fracture – shale and release trapped oil and gas.

Portland and Andover passed similar ordinances in June and October of last year, respectively, and it was pointed out at the meeting several other towns in the state have as well. These include Ashford, Branford, Coventry, Mansfield, Middletown, Washington, Windham and Windsor.

According to information forwarded to the selectmen from Jennifer Siskind, local coordinator for the D.C.-based public interest organization Food & Water Watch, more than 1,000 chemicals are used in the water mixture that's injected into the ground – many of which are toxic or known carcinogens – and not all of the chemicals used in the process are known; the oil and gas industry is allowed to withhold chemicals considered proprietary, or trade secrets.

The water mixture that's used then returns to the surface as fracking waste and needs to

be disposed of. Each well can produce more than a million gallons of liquid waste and thousands of tons of solid waste, which is often more toxic than the solution initially injected. This is because the solution mixes with naturally-occurring ground contaminants including volatile organic compounds, radioactive elements, and heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury.

According to a study by researchers with the Yale School of Public Health, many of the chemicals used in and created by fracking "have been linked to reproductive and developmental health problems, and the majority had undetermined toxicity due to insufficient information."

There is also concern over the waste runoff contaminating water supplies and agriculture lands, and the radioactive material eventually making its way back to humans through the ingestion of contaminated crops or animals.

A study by the United States Forest Service on the impact of fracking waste in the Fernow Experimental Forest in West Virginia found that within two days of being sprayed with drill pit fluids, all ground plants had died; within 10 days, the leaves of trees that were unlikely to have been directly contacted by the spray but were instead contaminated through the soil turned brown and dropped; and a year later 50 percent of approximately 150 trees had died.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson said at the meeting he had spoken with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and was waiting for responses from other towns regarding their decision and information on fracking.

"My mind is open at this point but I want to

make sure I have all the facts before I make a decision," Larson said.

In response Siskind, who was also present Feb. 16, offered to work with the selectmen to provide any information necessary for them to make an informed decision. She added DEEP "has not been in support of banning fracking waste and have made comments that the waste can be tracked cradle to grave" and therefore doesn't pose any risks.

"However," she furthered, "what they write on paper cannot account for accidents, spills and leaks, and information you receive from DEEP and industry insider sources will be partial information."

There is currently a moratorium on the use of fracking waste products in Connecticut, but that temporary embargo is set to expire this year, and DEEP has been charged with devising its own regulations to control the substance as a hazardous waste.

The nearest fracking operations are along the Marcellus Shale region in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and resident Richard Eldridge stated at the meeting, "Pennsylvania ships the waste to eight different states to process and we don't want to become the ninth place."

He furthered, "We're stewards of the land in Hebron. We're protecting it for generations to come; we're not here to live on it, profit from it and then abandon it."

Selectman Brian O'Connell called the number of signatures that had been gathered in just over two weeks' time "impressive" and said, "It says a lot; it says this is not only something a small group cares about, but a lot of people

care about."

Town Manager Andrew Tierney also said the number of signatures "weighs heavy."

The selectmen asked more information on the issue be sent to the town manager's office for review, and another public discussion is expected to take place sometime in May.

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Also last week, the selectmen voted unanimously to recommend the purchase of the Rifkin property, an approximately 4.4-acre parcel of land located on the south side of West Main Street.

The purchase will be funded through a supplemental appropriation from the unassigned fund balance in the amount of \$385,000.

Tierney explained the property abuts the Russell Mercier Senior Center where there are parking issues as well as a need to expand the senior housing in the area.

"Hopefully we can apply for some grants to get reimbursed and expand the housing which is full," he said.

Selectwoman Gayle Richmond, who is also the board's liaison to the senior center, added seniors in town have grown to represent 25 percent of Hebron's population, and while they no longer want the responsibility of a single-family home, "They want to stay here but they're finding no place to go. They're asking for something. This land is beautiful. It's level – it's a most ideal location."

\* \* \*

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the town office building, 15 Gilead St.

## East Hampton Officials Express Concerns with Hub Project

by Elizabeth Regan

After more than three decades of discussion, plans for a new town hall and police department are going forward – despite concerns from some officials.

The Town Council last week appointed a nine-member building committee to help select an architect, develop conceptual designs, establish project costs and send the project to voters by the second week in September.

The councilors interviewed 15 applicants to come up with the committee roster. Selected members include residents with expertise in architecture, real estate, building maintenance and interior design.

The move comes after councilors endorsed a plan by Steven and Lisa Motto of Edgewater Hill Properties LLC to construct the new municipal complex as part of their burgeoning mixed-use development on Route 66, about 1.2 miles north of the current town hall.

The Mottos said they will donate a 5.4-acre parcel to the town. Then, for a 4 percent cut of the total cost, they will manage what they estimate will be a \$15 million construction project resulting in a 32,000- to 40,000-square-foot municipal complex.

The council next week will consider waiving the town's bidding requirements in order to approve the Mottos as the "owner's project manager." That's an industry term for the company chosen to represent the town throughout

the construction process.

Typically, the job would go out to bid as part of a sealed bid process as outlined in town ordinance.

The town would only take ownership of the property if and when the project is approved at referendum, according to Maniscalco.

Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. objected to the bid waiver at a meeting last week because he felt it was a conflict to pay the Mottos to represent the town when they are so closely tied to the project from the outset.

Council member Mark Philhower said that instead of accepting the property as a donation, the town should purchase it outright and then move forward through the established purchasing procedure involving multiple bidders.

Right now, Philhower said, the town has "no idea how much this property is truly going to cost the taxpayers."

Council Chairwoman Patience Anderson told fellow councilors she has no problem with the Mottos taking a 4 percent fee.

"They're giving us the land," she said. "We know what their work is like. They're very good members of the community. It's a win-win for the town and the Mottos."

After the meeting, Steven Motto reiterated the idea of the project as public/private partnership.

"It can't be one-sided, otherwise it's not a partnership. And it can't be where they're going to come in and do whatever they want on my property. I have to have some say and some vision," he said. "This is the last, best opportunity the town has to make this happen for a new town hall at the price we're trying to give it to them."

Responding to concerns voiced by some councilors that building the municipal complex on Route 66 near the Marlborough border could sound the death knell for the village center, Motto said a study from the independent Connecticut Economic Resource Center has shown the town's economic growth is tied to the Route 66 corridor.

"Nobody's going to take a left-hand turn or right-hand turn and go down to the village center," he said. "There's not enough parking, the buildings are dilapidated, there's environmental issues. As far as your merchants, they're not going to want to be down there. They want to be where the traffic counts are, where the 18,000 to 24,000 car count is. It's not in the village center."

Motto's 59-acre mixed-use development is currently in phase one of a plan that will include restaurants, shops, offices, single-family homes, townhouses, condominiums and apartments, to be constructed over the next decade.

He said he removed 18 condominium units from his original design plan in order to make room for the town hall complex.

While a 4 percent cut of a \$15 million project would be about \$600,000, Motto said he could make \$900,000 by building and selling those condos instead.

"If [councilors] don't want it, I'm good," he said. "I'll put the 18 condos back in and we'll do fine."

On Tuesday, the Board of Finance approved a \$128,000 appropriation for architectural services that will enable the building committee to begin its work.

The building committee's most pressing charge is to issue a Request for Proposals to qualified architects and to recommend a winning bidder to the town council, according to a town council resolution approved in November.

A schedule provided by Town Manager Michael Maniscalco showed the goal is to have a conceptual design and construction budget by the end of May. A referendum will be held on Sept. 1 or 15, if the timeline plays out as planned.

Building committee members are Kurt Comisky, Jeff Foran, Fred Galvin, Glenn Gollenberg, Steve Karney, Cliff Libby, Ray Moore, George Pfaffenbach and Rebecca Sawyer.

# Local Cleaning Company Continues to Thrive in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

What started as a one-man operation with a bottle of Windex and a mop has become a thriving cleaning company with more than a quarter-century of service to the area.

Brent Salinsky of East Hampton started Swept-Away Cleaning Co. in 1990. Inspired by friends who'd found success as house cleaners in northern Connecticut, he took a leap of faith by starting his own venture east of the river.

"I didn't know if it was going to work out, really," he said. "But once I got going, I really enjoyed it."

Long gone are the days he'd grab the basic cleaning supplies from his own closet, throw them in his truck, and spend five hours cleaning a single house.

"Now I'm up to two company vans and eight employees," he said.

But Salinsky, who is known by friends and family as Benny, still attends personally to every cleaning appointment.

Cindy Foreman is his assistant manager and culinary cleaning expert, he explained. She heads straight to the kitchen, while two other employees cover the bathrooms. One staffer cleans the hardwood floors and another, the carpets.

Salinsky oversees his employees while dusting and polishing.

"We knock it out in like an hour," he said. Then it's off to the next house for a total of five or six cleanings per day.

Salinsky has found clients appreciate his attention to detail and commitment to overseeing each cleaning from top to bottom.

"Everyone has their own little thing they want

particularly done right," he said. "If they tell me there's something they want done a certain way, I make sure it's done that way."

His house cleaning business has evolved to include a community service aspect that came about after he got a call from a woman with cancer who needed help with housekeeping while she went through chemotherapy.

"I charged them the first time," he recounted. "Then I went home and said, 'I can't charge these people.' You could tell they were struggling."

He cleaned the woman's house free of charge for a year, he said. When she began to feel better, she told him she could resume her own housekeeping but asked that he pass on the kindness to another family in need.

"So that's what I do," Salinsky said. He said he has aimed to keep one pro-bono client on the roster since then.

Swept-Away covers area towns including East Hampton, Portland, Glastonbury, Marlborough, Colchester and Hebron.

While Salinsky's clientele is mostly residential, his crew crosses the river to clean several commercial sites in Hartford and West Hartford.

In the warmer months, they head out daily in the Swept-Away vans to Nelson's Family Campground in East Hampton and Wolf's Den Family Campground in East Haddam.

Salinsky attributes his success to personal attention, honesty and a crew that works together on each and every cleaning.

"Honesty is what keeps your business alive," he said. "If you have a bad reputation in that area, your whole business is going to un-



**Brent Salinsky of East Hampton launched Swept-Away Cleaning Co. in 1990 as a one-man operation. Flash forward 27 years and he now has two vans and eight employees.**

der."

Looking back on 27 years in the business, Salinsky said it's been gratifying to see his hard work pay off.

"I could've been happy with just two houses a day, but I'd just about be living. I'm always looking for new business, and what can I change in my business to make it new and interesting,"

he said.

Salinsky's options now include green cleaning products at no extra charge. He also offers a pet-sitting service.

Swept-Away Cleaning Co. is fully-insured and bonded. The company provides free estimates. Call 860-267-7465 for more information.

## Colchester School Board Approves \$40.52M Budget

by Julianna Roche

The Board of Education Wednesday unanimously approved Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu's revised 2017-18 budget, and sent it to public hearing next week.

The spending package comes in at \$40.52 million, a 2.05 percent increase over the current year's budget.

The adopted budget is actually higher than Mathieu's initial \$40.23 million proposal in January. That spending plan was a 1.33 percent budget increase – and included sweeping cuts to staff positions and sports programs across the district. But school board members balked at such wide-ranging cuts, and directed Mathieu to restore many of them, using \$367,900 in expected revenue from Norwich student tuition to offset part of the increase. Without that offset, the budget would have come in at \$40.89 million, a 2.98 percent increase over the current year.

While it saves sports, the budget approved Wednesday still includes some staff reductions, which the superintendent explained is a move that addresses decreasing student enrollment within the school district.

The budget calls for cutting a total of 4.2 full time equivalent (FTE) positions, including

three special education paraprofessionals from William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS), one special education paraprofessional and a .2 FTE math position from Bacon Academy.

However, Mathieu noted the many restorations to cuts that were in his January budget proposal. These include a 0.6 FTE world language teacher and 0.4 FTE social studies teacher at Bacon Academy, and one Scientific Based Research Interventionist English position from WJMS.

Mathieu additionally restored two library media paraprofessional positions, one at Colchester Elementary School and the other at WJMS, as well as one regular education paraprofessional position at Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS). The vacant information technology position, which he originally planned to delay filling, will also be filled.

In his original proposal, the superintendent's budget had included zero new books to be added to the library; however, that was put back in the revised version, at a \$29,955 cost.

Lastly, all of the athletic programs initially proposed to be cut in January were also reinstated – which include all sports programs at WJMS, as well as the freshmen basketball,

freshmen soccer, indoor track, tennis and golf programs at Bacon.

"I think it's important to understand that there is a tipping point," Mathieu said at the meeting. "And when you cut and you cut and you cut, year after year, it gets down to the point where there's not anything to cut but programs, and that's what you saw in January."

While the items were restored to budget, Wednesday's meeting did feature concerns expressed by residents about Gov. Dannel Malloy's proposed cuts to state education spending – which, if approved, would drastically reduce funding necessary to keep staff positions, clubs and programs afloat across the school district.

Resident Heather O'Brien questioned if the school budget was "reflective" of the current fiscal situation taking Malloy's proposed cuts into account.

"This is what we're planning to spend... [assuming] things are going to be relatively the same," Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said. "However, if revenue [from the state] comes in substantially lower than what we're expending, that will no doubt cause us to

revisit planned expenditures."

He added that "a reduction to that extent" would "really transform the district," and it would mean "cutting staff, cutting programs, cutting the whole range."

Mathieu said that if Malloy's proposed changes become a reality, he would ultimately "take over the budget" himself; typically, the budget is crafted by Mathieu and his administrative team, including the school principals.

"'Devastate' is the correct word [to use]," he continued, "because the cuts would be so hard for them [the administrative team]. They would just decimate their schools and cut things they have passion [and] love for."

The superintendent said the schools would also likely "be down to just teachers – no coaches or specialists. ... If a student can't read and gets pulled out of the classroom and gets extra help ... we'd probably lose that."

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Board of Education members encourage the public to attend the public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 28 in Town Hall at 7 p.m., where both the education and town budget will be presented and residents can voice their concerns.



*From the Editor's Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It was a get-rich-quick scheme to end all get-rich-quick schemes. And thankfully, it was thwarted before it could be put into action.

Some of you may have heard about the Florida man arrested late last week for orchestrating a plot to blow up Target stores in multiple states. What you may not have heard about was his motivation. He wasn't a disgruntled ex-employee or anything; he simply wanted to buy some stock on the cheap.

Mark Barnett, 48, of Ocala, Fla., was charged last week with possession of a destructive device affecting commerce.

According to CNN, Barnett allegedly built 10 explosive devices, disguised them as boxes of food, and then delivered those boxes to someone else, who would place the boxes in Target stores in Florida, Virginia and New York.

Barnett's plan was to set off the bombs, which he predicted would send Target stock plummeting. He would then swoop in and buy up some of the stock, and wait as the stock rebounded. He told his unnamed would-be accomplice that the plan would translate to "easy money."

Fortunately, however, the person instead brought the bombs to a probation officer, who in turn took them to law enforcement officials. Barnett was arrested last Tuesday.

Why did Barnett even need a middleman? Well, his arrest last week wasn't exactly his first brush with the law. CNN reported that Barnett, a registered sex offender, has previously been convicted of multiple felony offenses, including kidnapping, sexual battery with a weapon or force, and grand theft. He wears a GPS ankle monitor as part of his probation.

These weren't rinky-dink bombs Barnett had cooked up either. Explosives experts determined the 10 devices were capable of causing damage, serious injury or death to anyone nearby, CNN reported.

Thank goodness the plan was thwarted and countless lives saved. How desperate for money can you be? Then again, with those types of criminal charges under his belt, it doesn't seem like making morally-sound decisions sits high atop Barnett's list of priorities.

\* \* \*

Presidents Day was this past Monday, and rather than dwell on the many foibles of our current president, I thought I'd offer up some trivia items about the commanders-in-chief we have had over the years. The trivia is courtesy of *The Press of Atlantic City*, and while some of the nuggets were pretty common knowledge – such as which presidents were assassinated, who was the tallest president and which president was also a peanut farmer – I came across some items that genuinely were news to me. Among them:

Thomas Jefferson was the first president to have a pet in the White House. His beloved pet mockingbird Dick often had free range of the president's study, would sit on his shoulder, and would even sing Jefferson to sleep.

Speaking of presidential pets, Calvin Coolidge once owned a hippo. Billy the

pygmy hippo became Coolidge's prized pet, after making its way to the White House from Liberia. Coolidge, who was apparently not content with mere cats and dogs, also had a domesticated raccoon named Rebecca. The hippo was eventually given to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

There are no less than three presidents who have married their cousins: Jefferson was one of them, as he married his third cousin, Martha Wayles. John Adams also married his third cousin, Abigail Smith. A little bit more recently, Franklin Delano Roosevelt married Eleanor, his fifth cousin once removed. Interestingly, Eleanor did not have to change her name upon marrying, since her maiden name was also Roosevelt. Her father, Elliot, was the brother of Theodore Roosevelt.

Donald Trump has previously boasted he would donate his presidential salary to charity. If he follows through, though, he wouldn't be the first. Herbert Hoover and John F. Kennedy also donated their salaries to charity.

Speaking of The Donald, many of you may know that, at 70 years old, he is the oldest person ever inaugurated president, even beating out Ronald Reagan, who was 69 when first inaugurated. But who was the youngest? That would be Theodore Roosevelt, who was just 42 years old when inaugurated.

Abraham Lincoln attended séances. His wife Mary became interested in séances and the use of mediums after their son Willie died in 1862.

Speaking of Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt wore a lock of Lincoln's hair to his inauguration. Roosevelt had witnessed Lincoln's funeral procession go by in New York.

Franklin Pierce was the first president to have a Christmas tree in the White House.

Okay, I said I wouldn't, but I couldn't resist bringing up one recent foible of Trump's. During his ludicrous press conference last week, he boasted he'd won the most electoral votes of any president since Reagan. A member of that pesky media ruined his fun and corrected him, though. But it leads me to my next piece of trivia. There was only one president who was unanimously elected: George Washington.

Which president was really kind of a night owl? Chester A. Arthur, who enjoyed walking at night and often stayed up until 2 a.m.

At the other end of the spectrum, Harry Truman would get up every day as early as 5 a.m. – and proceed to play the piano for a solid two hours.

Lastly, you might think Trump was the first president to run against a woman for office. But you'd be quite wrong. Way back in 1872, Ulysses S. Grant ran against Virginia Woodhull, the nominee of the Equal Rights Party. Yes, a woman ran for president before women even had the right to vote. Woodhull wound up with zero electoral votes, though it is believed she collected at least some popular votes. (Votes cast for her were apparently not counted, according to [virginia-woodhull.com](http://virginia-woodhull.com).)

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## Driver Hits Tree on Amston Road

by Julianna Roche

A Lebanon resident was charged with driving under the influence following a single-car crash on Friday, Feb. 17 after the vehicle collided into a tree on Amston Road.

According to police, a Mercury C230 driven by Trevor Foster, 22, of 220 Norwich Ave., Lebanon, was traveling southbound on Amston Road at approximately 11:42 p.m., when Foster lost control of the vehicle while traveling over an icy patch of roadway.

Police said the vehicle subsequently hit a mailbox on the right-hand shoulder of the road, before continuing on to strike a tree.

Foster was wearing a seat belt, police said, and the airbag was deployed, but he was uninjured in the crash and refused emergency medical services. However, police said the passenger in the vehicle – Jennifer L.

Marcaurel, 40, of 40 Mountain View Rd., East Hampton – was transported by Colchester EMS to Backus Hospital for suspected minor injuries.

According to police, after failing standardized sobriety tests, Foster was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive right. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

The next day, Saturday, Feb. 18, Foster was also charged with first-degree failure to appear at Middletown Superior Court, police added.

According to police, after failing to make his \$25,000 cash bond Foster was transferred to Hartford Correctional Center and was scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 21.

## State Police Investigating Alleged Sexual Assaults at RHAM

According to an information summary filed Feb. 14, state police are currently investigating two alleged sexual assault incidents that occurred at RHAM High School.

Police said the investigation is taking place with the full cooperation of the high school

and in conjunction with the Hebron Police Department and School Resource Officer Ricky Martinez.

The case is still pending further investigation and no other information is available at this time.

## East Hampton Police News

2/4: David Andrew Benjamin, 50, of 12 Hayes Rd., was arrested and charged with interfering with police, East Hampton Police said.

2/7: Justin Taylor Goodreau, 27, of 242 E. High St., was arrested and charged with first-degree forgery, criminal attempt at sixth-degree larceny, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

2/7: Joseph W. Bartlett Jr., 22, of 482 Broad St., Bristol, was issued a summons for misuse of registration plate and possession of drug para-

phernalia, police said.

2/10: David W. Ives, 27, of 36 Geer Rd., Lebanon, was issued a summons for failure to have brake lights, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

2/12: After an investigation into a one-car motor vehicle crash on West High Street, Nathaniel B. Heroux, 21, of 30 Carriage Dr., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, evading responsibility and failure to drive right, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

2/16: State Police said Vansaleum Bounyarath, 38, of 30 New Hampshire Dr., Apt. 9, New Britain, 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.

## Hebron Police News

2/13: State Police said Cody Houston, 19, of 59 Cannon Dr., Amston, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive right.

## Portland Police News

2/20: Rhonda Forrest, 53, of 20 Beechcrest Dr., East Hampton, was charged with evading responsibility, Portland Police said.

2/20: Jessica Leach, 23, of 31 N. Turnpike Rd., Wallingford, was charged with criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said.

## Colchester Police News

2/14: Colchester Police said Terri A. Sears, 42, of 292 Middletown Rd. was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and threatening.

2/16: Colchester Police are investigating a report of a minor assault to a 6-year-old juvenile, which reportedly occurred on Feb. 14 at approximately 6 p.m.



# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Herbert Vogel

Herbert H. Vogel, 90, of Colchester died peacefully Saturday February 11, 2017 surrounded by his family. He was the beloved husband of 62 years of Edna (Cynar) Vogel.



Herb was born in Callicoon, N.Y., to John Henry and Mae (Spielmann) Vogel in 1926 and spent his childhood on a large farm in the Catskill Mountains. Life on the farm instilled a love for animals and a strong work ethic that shaped the rest of his life. After high school, Herb enlisted in the Army Air Corps serving in World War II and the Korean War where he honed his expertise in electronics and radar. Herb put those skills to good use landing a job at Southern New England Telephone Co. where he worked for 40 years before retiring in 1987.

One of his proudest accomplishments while working at SNET was traveling to Alaska and spending nearly two and a half years on contract with the Western Electric Co. to construct the White Alice Communication System, a series of radio towers connecting remote U.S. Air Force sites throughout Alaska to the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line. This experience left him with a love of Alaska and its people.

Herb and Edna lived for over 30 years in North Haven before moving to Ocala, Fla., in 1992 after retirement. They returned to Connecticut in 2011 and settled in Colchester to be near their children. The years in Florida were spent traveling and pursuing gardening and other projects. Herb was a perfectionist and loved gardening, landscaping and building. He was happiest when engaged in a project no matter how challenging. Always willing to help, he shared his talents with family and friends.

In addition to his loving wife Edna, Herb is survived by his brother Ronald Vogel of Zephyr Hills, Fla.; two sons, James Vogel and his wife Marcy of Marlborough and Gary Vogel and his wife Christy of Prospect; six grandchildren, Josh Vogel of Marlborough; Sean, Karlee, and Patrick Vogel of Prospect; Tom Vogel and his wife Janet of Columbia; and Sandy Vogel of Ellington; and two great-grandchildren, Joshua and Madison Vogel of Columbia, along with many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister, Marion Humiston, and a third son Thomas Vogel.

Herb will be missed by all who knew him. He gave selfless support of time and talent to those in need and regaled all with stories of life on the farm, the Alaskan frontier, SNET, and his travels. His passing will leave an empty spot in our hearts.

Memorial contributions in Herb's name may be made to the Youngsville Reformed Church, 3990 State Route 52, Youngsville, NY 12791.

Herb will be interred in Youngsville, N.Y., in a private service planned for June.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home, West Street at Buckley, Liberty, NY, 845-292-0001 or 845-439-5200. For online condolences, visit [Harris-FH.com](http://Harris-FH.com).

## Hebron

### Jacqueline House

Jacqueline "Jackie" House, 55, of Hebron, formerly of East Hartford, daughter of Ellen (Wadsworth) Sirois and the late James Gauthier Sr., died Sunday, Feb. 5, at Hartford Hospital, after an extended illness.

Jackie was born Aug. 17, 1961, in Hartford and had lived for many years in East Hartford before moving to Hebron in 2000.

In addition to her mother she is survived by her brother, James Gauthier Jr., two half-brothers, Joseph and John Gauthier and her longtime friend and caregiver Clark Everhart.

In addition to her father, Jackie was predeceased by her sister, Joellen Sirois.

Family and friends are welcome to attend a Memorial Mass on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 1 pm at Church of The Holy Family, Route 85 in Hebron. A gathering to celebrate Jackie's life will follow at the Green Leaf Café, 47 Main St. Hebron, CT 06248. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## East Hampton

### Stanley Edward Rotkiewicz

Stanley Edward Rotkiewicz, 86, of South Deerfield, Mass., passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of February 17, 2017.



Born in South Deerfield, Mass., on June 12, 1930, he was a graduate of Deerfield High School. On April 22, 1951, he was blessed in marriage to his love, the former Stacia Amelia Fil, Hadley, Mass. All of their married life they resided at the farm and house in which Stanley was born.

As the youngest of 10 children, he became the ceremonial farmer due to all five of his older brothers going on to fight in World War II and all five surviving the war. His four sisters, one at a time, took the train from the Hotel Warren in South Deerfield to New York, N.Y., to start their new lives.

Stanley is survived by his four children, Diane (and Gerard) Martin and James Rotkiewicz of South Deerfield, Mass., Stanley Jr. (and Katherine) Rotkiewicz of Natick, Mass., and Cynthia (and Roger) Abraham of East Hampton; and in addition, 10 grandchildren, Daniel, Christopher and Sean Martin, Sarah LeBlanc, Sheila, Caitlin, Jason and Elise Rotkiewicz, and Hollin and Nate Abraham.

He was predeceased by his nine siblings, Joseph, Peter, Edward, Leon and William Rotkiewicz, Lena Zubil, Rose Godek, Anne Marciniak and Helen Chmil.

Stanley was a hardworking and dedicated dairy farmer for 25 years, tradesman working for the University of Massachusetts for 19 years, and a lifelong farmer until his passing. Just last week, he was still plowing snow and talking of his springtime gardening plans.

His passions in life, besides his family and wife, were his diligence in the garden and caring of the land. He often spoke of his love of the view while sitting on his tractor. In addition, he stated that he said more prayers in the hayfield and garden than in church.

He loved his bride of 65 years, farming, his children, grandchildren, extended family and many friends. In addition, he loved his Polka music and the Patriots.

Stanley was a sharp talker with his fast-spirited remarks, yet underneath was a kind heart. He loved to delight and take care of the human spirit, both those he knew and complete strangers he came across.

His life was celebrated Tuesday, Feb. 21, and a Celebration of Life Mass was Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, South Deerfield, Mass.

## East Hampton

### Elizabeth Ann Turney

Elizabeth Ann (Stebbins) Turney of East Hampton went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Feb. 19, with family at her side.

She is preceded by her husband of 61 years, Judson Turney.

She was a woman who loved the Lord and made sure her children and grandchildren knew who He was. She leaves behind many family and friends. She was loved by all and will be sadly missed.

## Cobalt

### Ruth Giles Matthews

Ruth Giles Matthews, 98, of Cobalt, passed away peacefully Monday, Feb. 20, at Cobalt Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. Ruth was born in Abbeville, N.C., April 4, 1918.

She spent most of her life in Bronx, N.Y. She was married to the late Edward Matthews.

She is survived by several nieces and a nephew, and several great nieces and nephews.

The family would like to send a heartfelt thank you to the staff at Cobalt Health Care and Rehabilitation Center and VITAS Hospice for being so wonderful and supportive.

## East Hampton

### Clifton V. Culbert

Clifton (Cliff) V. Culbert, 64, of East Hampton, beloved husband and soulmate of Christine (Squier) Culbert, died unexpectedly in his sleep early Wednesday morning, Feb. 15, at his home. Born Feb. 18, 1952 in Houlton, Maine, he was the son of the late Charles and Sylvia Culbert. He was the son-in-law of Frank and (predeceased) Elsie (Hall) Squier.



Cliff spent most of his life in construction, starting as a cabinetmaker and eventually owning his own small business. At the time of his death, he was driving a truck for Belltown Motors in East Hampton. In addition to working and spending time with his family, Cliff enjoyed riding his Harley (back in the day), attending vintage car shows with Christine, and was in the process of rebuilding a 1941 Chevy Coupe.

His wife, Christine, daughters, Diane Krajewski and (predeceased) Cara Culbert, and grandchildren, Shane Chester, Alexis and Morgan Krajewski, were the light of his life as he was to them. He would love to make a last minute phone call to them to announce a day at the beach or park for a fun day of adventure. He welcomed all into his home and was known as 'Pops' and 'Grampa' by all.

He is survived by his siblings and their spouses, Edward Culbert, Gary (Margaret) Culbert, Wayne (Michelle) Culbert, Ellen (Jim) Krackowsky, Charlene (Oliver) Ford, and Carletta (Ken) Benjamin. Additionally, he is survived by many friends, extended family and, nieces and nephews.

Calling hours and a brief memorial service will be held today, Feb. 24, from 3 -5 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Immediately following, there will be a gathering at the VFW on Maple Street, East Hampton, from 4-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([stjude.org](http://stjude.org)).

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

## Colchester

### Jeanne Evans

Jeanne (Sweeney) Evans, 68, of Colchester, formerly of East Hartford, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family Saturday, Feb. 18, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Born May 22, 1948, in Madera, Pa., she was the daughter of the late Clair and Mary (Isenberg) Sweeney.



Jeanne had worked as a registered nurse at Mystic Health Care and Rehabilitation Center for many years before her retirement. Mrs. Evans was proud of her longtime membership with Mensa. She had also been an active member of the East Hartford Board of Education and had served as PTA president at Silver Lane Elementary when her daughter was young. In her spare time, she enjoyed scrapbooking and birdwatching, but her greatest joy was found in her family, to whom she was ever devoted.

She leaves her loving husband of 47 years, Herbert C. Evans; their daughter, Mary Evans-Kramer and her husband, Darin Kramer of Colchester, with whom they made their home; her stepdaughter, Victoria Davis and her husband Tim of Manchester; grandchildren Cassandra Evans (with whom she shared a special bond), Timothy Davis, Mark Davis and his wife, Bethany Rader, Crystal Coombs, Gavin Davis and Travis Whitman and his wife Hiroko, as well as Mary's expectant twins; three great-grandchildren, Mikayla Coombs and Danny and Nathaniel Whitman; her dear, lifelong friend, Judy Kennedy; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Alice Nieves.

The family will receive guests starting at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, before a chapel service celebrating her life at 2 p.m. Burial will be private.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)).

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

## East Hampton

### Benjamin Talcott Lord

Benjamin Talcott Lord, 83, of East Hampton, passed away Saturday, Feb. 18, at Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital. He was born in Willimantic, son of the late Isabelle and Benjamin Lord. He was married to his high school sweetheart Marion Youngs for 59 years.

He is survived by his three children, Sharon Furman and husband Thomas, Jeff Lord and wife Susan and youngest, Susan Mary Lord. He leaves four grandchildren, Melissa Coature and husband Bryan, Meghan Lord and partner David Vadney, Elizabeth Hyde, Daniel Hyde and partner Amanda Godwin. He also leaves behind three step-grandchildren, Danielle, Matthew and Kristin Hadjstilianos and one step-great-grandchild Isabella Ciarlglgio. He is survived by his beloved brother David Lord and wife Joan and their children David Lord, Jennifer and David Harrison and their children Ben, Sydney, Skylar and Willow. He leaves behind his loving great grandchildren Will, Adaline and Isabelle Coature, Natalie and Jack Vadney. He also leaves his good and faithful friend Billy Tyre from Florida.

Ben was a member of the Fellowship Church, a former police commissioner and member of the original town charter commission in East Hampton. He was a member of the VFW Post 5095 for over 50 years, District 6 Commander, Connecticut Commander 1999-2000 and many other state offices. He served his country in the Army for four years.

Ben loved hunting, golf and the Red Sox, but mostly enjoyed his large family and many friends. When Ben became sick he was dearly cared for by his children and wife, son-in-law Tom and his "best pal" Daniel Hyde. A special thanks to Sue for all the wonderful food, Cathy Lyman and Jay Scatlen for always being there. The family wishes to thank the Rocky Hill staff and C-upper for your exceptional care, empathy and attention to our father. It meant more than you know.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, Feb. 23. A memorial service was held that evening. Burial will be private.

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