

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Joey Logano Day...** Portland officials this week declared Nov. 19 “Joey Logano Day” after the Middletown native on Sunday clinched the NASCAR Cup championship title with his win at the Homestead-Miami Speedway. A proclamation from the Board of Selectmen lauded Logano for his racing triumph as well as his philanthropic efforts through the Joey Logano Foundation. Logano’s grandparents, Sal and Louise Logano, lived in Portland. *Photo credit: NASCAR via Getty Images.*

## Needleman Holds On In Last-Minute Recount

by Elizabeth Regan

Essex First Selectman Norm Needleman narrowly held on to his victory in the 33rd State Senate District after a last-minute recount – prompted by a reporting error in his own town – whittled down his lead to 85 votes.

Unofficial Election Day numbers from the 12-town district gave Needleman a 303-vote lead over state Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R-34). But Secretary of the State Denise Merrill last week called for a recount after an amended return from Essex showed local election officials had essentially double-counted absentee and same-day registration votes.

An automatic recount is triggered when the margin is less than half of one percent of the total votes cast.

Essex Republican Registrar of Voters John Heiser told the *RiverEast* the error occurred when election officials transmitted vote totals to the Office of the Secretary of the State. He said officials took the grand total for each candidate and then added absentee and same-day registration votes – even though the 137 votes had already been tabulated as part of the grand total.

Ziobron took to Twitter on Monday to acknowledge the journey has “come to an end” officially.

“Losing by 85 votes after being outspent over 4 to 1 is an amazing feat. I’m proud of my positive and grassroots campaign,” she wrote on the

social media platform.

The expensive, bitter campaign was one of the more high-profile races in the state Senate this year, as both candidates fought to help wrest control of the evenly-divided chamber. With Needleman’s seat clinched, Democrats are looking at a 23-13 majority when the session convenes in January.

Needleman’s self-funded campaign raised \$475,000 as of Election Day, according to filings with the State Election Enforcement Commission (SEEC). He has said he contributed most of that total himself to counter the dark money he knew would be coming in from conservative interests.

Ziobron ran her grassroots campaign based on \$95,710 in public financing through the state Citizens’ Election Program. State senate candidates are eligible for the funding when they raise \$15,300 from at least 300 individuals in their district.

A conservative, third-party special interest group not connected to the Ziobron campaign spent \$143,280 on mailers, digital ads and consulting services to fight Needleman as of Election Day, according to the SEEC database. The commission’s guidelines allow third-party special interest groups to support the success or defeat of any candidate as long as no candidates knowingly participate.

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## Nineteen Veterans Gather to Receive Valor Quilts

by Allison Lazur

It was an uplifting, emotional scene at Marlborough Senior Center Monday as 19 veterans were presented with handmade Quilts of Valor, crafted by members of the town’s Not Just Quilters group.

Approximately 60 people piled into the senior center to take part in the ceremony which kicked off on a high note as The Survivors – a Connecticut-based seven-piece swing band – played crowd favorites by Irving Berlin and Fats Waller, concluding their performance with a patriotic set.

Even the band’s alto saxophonist and World War II veteran Jules Bashkin received his own Quilt of Valor in between captivating the crowd with his melodic lines.

“It’s the first time since I’ve been out of service that I’ve gotten up and acknowledged that I was in World War II,” Bashkin, 96, said. “I kept saying one day I have to march [in a parade] just to be part of it and I never did. I always felt it was a little ostentatious to do that.”

The Quilts of Valor are 42-by-64-inch quilts constructed from three-inch strips of fabric provided by members of the Not Just Quilters group. Although not made to be an exact replica of the flag, the quilt bears the familiar colors of red, white and blue.

Organizer of the event and Not Just Quilters member Karen Whitney said the group began

work on the quilts in June and began presenting to 21 additional veterans – who could not attend Monday’s ceremony – in September.

Whitney called veterans of WWII and wars in Korea, Vietnam, Beirut, Afghanistan and Iraq to the front of the room to each have a quilt draped over their shoulders.

“Your willingness to serve and the sacrifices you made have led us to the freedoms we enjoy today,” she said. “We want to cover you with the Quilt of Valor as a tangible sign of our gratitude for your service.”

Shannon Mack was the only representation of wars in Iraq, Beirut and Afghanistan. She explained she served in the military from 1996-2005 and was in Germany, covering an active duty unit that had been deployed to Iraq.

“It’s very nice of them to honor all of the different veterans. It means a lot to those people who have been out [of the service] for a good amount of time or have gone through something traumatic,” Mack said after receiving her quilt. She added that the quilts “are beautiful and they gave each of us one.”

Whitney explained that the Quilts of Valor Foundation was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts, whose son was deployed in Iraq.

While her son was overseas, Roberts had the idea to create quilts to serve as comfort and to “ward off war demons” of veterans.

Resident Emma Cranfield shared a poem



Veterans gathered at the Marlborough Senior Center Monday to be presented with Quilts of Valor crafted by members of the Not Just Quilters Group.

during the ceremony written by her nephew who fought in Vietnam and dealt with his own post-war stresses.

“He was in Vietnam for two tours and he came back not quite the same as when he went over,” Cranfield said. “It wasn’t physical; it was emotional.”

Others were in attendance to accept quilts on behalf of loved ones who had passed away.

Henry Osipa accepted a quilt in honor of his father, Michael Osipa, who served in WWII.

“It brought back a lot of memories,” Osipa said. “He would’ve been moved greatly if he

See Veterans Gather page 2

**Needleman cont. from Front Page**

Needleman on Twitter said it's time to get to work.

"I pledge to represent all the residents of the 33rd Senate District, and will work to bridge the partisan divide that stands in the way of sensible ideas and bipartisan solutions," he wrote.

**Local Election Officials Chided**

Essex election officials on Nov. 15 alerted the secretary of the state's office to the error in their initial report. Per state statute, the error should have been corrected within three days of the Nov. 6 election.

Ted Bromley, staff attorney with the secretary of the state's office, issued a strongly-worded message to election officials in the district the same day Essex's amended report was filed. He called for a recount – or recanvass, as it is known in election parlance – despite the fact that the statutory deadline had already passed.

"It is with great concern that I must send out this notice of recanvass at this late time," he said. "Only recently have towns in your district reviewed and amended Head Moderator's returns with our office that change the vote totals for the candidates within the 33rd Senate District in such a way as to bring the vote total difference between the winning and losing candidate within the margin of a recanvass."

He emphasized that if the statutory timetable had been followed, his agency would have been able to identify the need for a recount by the Friday after the election as state law requires.

"However, the main goal of all election officials is to ensure that candidate vote totals are correct and that the public has confidence in the process," he said.

John Heiser, the Republican registrar of voters in Essex, acknowledged it took them longer than it should have to file the corrected vote totals – "but at least we did it finally," he added.

He emphasized the tabulator results were accurate and that the mistake came down to election officials transmitting the wrong figures to the secretary of the state's office.

"We didn't add any new ballots. We didn't lose any ballots. Our numbers were good from the very beginning," he said.

It's not an unusual situation, according to Heiser.

"It has happened before," he said. "It may have been caught faster before, that's all."

Bromley's letter to the local election officials said the state agency would "decide if additional action against those involved will be required" once the recount was completed.

Secretary of the State spokesman Gabe Rosenberg said Tuesday he does not yet have anything to report about whether additional action is still being contemplated or which towns other than Essex may be affected.

When asked if there were other towns that filed amended reports after the statutory deadline, he said he was not aware of any – but he mentioned the *Rivereast* town of Colchester as one that he believed had "similar issues" discovered through the recount.

Numbers tallied in the Colchester recount showed Ziobron received three fewer voters than initially reported and Needleman received nine more.

In Portland, the recount showed an additional seven votes for Ziobron and no change in the Needleman totals. East Hampton identified one more vote for both Ziobron and Needleman through the recount.

Colchester Republican Registrar of Voters Linda Grzeika acknowledged the recount totals were different, but said that's not atypical.

"You find that in every election or every referendum. There's always going to be a margin of error," she said.

She was not able to explain the reason for the difference in the votes in Colchester. She emphasized each of the roughly 7,000 ballots had to be hand fed into the tabulator machine individually.

"I don't know if [the issue] was with the tabulator, or it could've been with the count of the absentee ballots. There was so much that had to be counted," she said.

The recount results were not concerning to election officials in Colchester, according to Grzeika.

"We ran a very well-executed recount. We did all the right things," she said.

*From the Editor's Desk*

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Happy day-after-Thanksgiving, everybody. It's a day of two big questions: "What should I get everyone for Christmas?" and "What the heck do I do with all these leftovers?"

I can't help too much with the second question – my creative uses for leftover turkey begins and ends with making sandwiches – but as for the first: Yep, it's Black Friday once again. Time to start shopping, or at least start thinking about it. And while consumer trends may be changing – slightly more folks do their Black Friday shopping online these days vs. doing it in brick-and-mortar stores – it's still big business. In fact, according to [blackfriday.com](http://blackfriday.com), in 2017 174 million Americans shopped on Black Friday weekend (which now stretches from Thanksgiving Day to the following Monday – a.k.a. "Cyber Monday," which typically offers a lot of online deals). That's more than half the U.S. population.

That's a lot of spending.

Here are a few more Black Friday consumer spending facts, again courtesy of [blackfriday.com](http://blackfriday.com) (which in turn got most of its figures from the National Retail Federation):

In 2017, between Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday itself, \$7.9 billion was spent in online sales. Interestingly, the bulk of the spending came on Thanksgiving Day; \$5.03 billion vs. \$2.87 billion spent on Black Friday. Overall, online spending on those two days was up 17.9 percent from the year before.

The average per-person spending for Thanksgiving weekend in 2017 was \$335.47 – with \$251 of that going toward gifts. What age group spent the most? That would be people age 25-34, who spent an average of \$419.52 per person.

By comparison, in 2016 average per-person spending for Thanksgiving weekend was \$289.19 – with \$214 of that going for gifts.

Lastly, while most of the online shopping was done on Thanksgiving Day, when it comes to shopping the traditional way – going to stores – things were a little more even. In 2017, 11 percent of Black Friday shoppers began shopping before 5 p.m. on

Thanksgiving Day, with another 11 percent starting at 6 p.m. But there were still 25 percent who waited until 10 a.m. or later on Black Friday itself.

In my opinion, that's the way to do it. Do your shopping on Friday. Thanksgiving Day is for friends and family; the stores can wait.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to the state Senator for half of *Rivereast*-land, Art Linares, and his wife, state Rep. Caroline Simmons of Stamford, on the birth of their first child.

According to the *Connecticut Post*, Theodore "Teddy" Arthur Linares was born early last Friday, Nov. 16, just as the snowstorm was wrapping up. The inspiration for the name? That would be the couple's favorite Republican president, Teddy Roosevelt. (I guess it's a good thing for the kid their favorite president wasn't Rutherford B. Hayes.)

Linares, a Republican, and Simmons, a Democrat, made headlines last fall when they proved love can indeed cross party lines and were wed. The pregnancy was announced – on the floor of the state capitol – back in May, shortly after Linares decided not to run for re-election to his Senate seat, opting instead to focus on running for state treasurer. He was going to be moving out of district anyway, as Simmons lives in Stamford.

However, Linares lost in the primary, and will leave the Senate when his term ends in January. According to the *Post*, Linares has accepted a job with Norwalk-based TaxCloud, a free online sales tax compliance service.

Simmons, meanwhile, won her re-election bid to the state House. The *Post* reported her legislative activities will be minimal over the next month, but that she'll be ready to return to the capitol when the legislative session resumes in January.

I'm happy for them both; it's always a good thing to see a new bundle of joy welcomed into the world. Will Teddy Linares wind up making a political run of his own in 25 or 30 years? It's far too soon to tell, of course – but it definitely is in his genes.

\* \* \*

See you next week.



**Senior and Social Services Director Violet Schwarzmann proudly shows off the cake served to veterans to wrap up the Quilts of Valor ceremony at the senior center Monday.**

**Veterans Gather cont. from Front Page**

was here because he was kind of a humble guy and didn't like to talk about it even though he won a purple heart [which was] his prized possession."

At the conclusion of the event, Senior and Social Services Director Violet Schwarzmann

said the ceremony made her feel "special."

"There are people here that had served, everyone got along so well and it was just marvelous to listen to the music," she said, adding through chuckles, "We all remembered the words – that's even better."

# Awarded Grant Brings Mental Health Awareness to Colchester

by Allison Lazur

A grant received by Colchester Public Schools and Colchester Youth and Social Services in August will allow for a Signs of Suicide (SOS) curriculum to be implemented in grades seven and nine beginning in January.

The \$20,000 grant was awarded by United Way of Connecticut to “integrate and coordinate mental health promotion and suicide prevention initiatives” in the community, said CYSS Director Valerie Geato.

United Way of Connecticut provides the state’s residents with information, education and connection to services surrounding topics such as childhood development and crisis intervention and emergency response, the organization’s website states.

Geato sought approval for the implementation of the Signs of Suicide curriculum from the Board of Education on Nov. 13 and was met with unanimous support.

Board of Education Chairman Bradley Bernier said Tuesday that Gaeto has been working with the board “to give us another avenue to meet social and emotional needs of the students” as the need for mental health awareness grows statewide.

“We work hard to try to create opportunities to collaborate [with CYSS] and this is just a natural one for us,” Bernier said.

The program overview states the goal of the program is to teach students the signs and symptoms of depression and suicidal thinking, as

well as training faculty and staff how to respond to concerns.

The program includes the showing of two separate videos, *Time to Act*, which will be viewed by grade seven students, and *Friends for Life*, which will be viewed by those in grade nine. There will also be classroom discussion and the sharing of additional resources for support.

*Time to Act* covers issues such as online bullying and self-injury during a roundtable discussion, and includes a question-and-answer session between a high school student and school counselor.

*Friends for Life* features three real-life stories all surrounding suicide, while additionally addressing issues such as substance abuse and threats of violence.

The SOS program will likely be taught by Geato, health teachers and school social workers and counselors.

Geato told the *Rivereast* Monday that the suicide prevention curriculum is just one aspect of the grant.

“There are opportunities to utilize the funding that best meet the needs of our community,” she explained.

While keeping mental health as its focus, those needs include funding a program for second- and fourth-graders based around a book called *Gizmo’s Pawesome Guide to Mental Health*.

The story of good mental health is told through Gizmo, a 7-year-old therapy dog who lives in Manchester and serves as the mascot for the Connecticut Suicide Prevention Campaign.

Colchester Elementary School psychologist Katherine Wonderly explained students have an opportunity to meet Gizmo or “friends of Gizmo” – other therapy dogs in the program – after reading the book.

The Gizmo 4 Mental Health website states the program “introduces the characteristics of trusted adults, who may be one, how to practice talking with a trusted adult, and promotes proactive communication. It gives youth the opportunity to create a personal mental health plan (of action) that they can use daily, and in a time of need that can help them avert crisis.”

The program was introduced last year to second-graders as part of a pilot program before fully instating the initiative in grades two and four this January. The program will likely be taught by Geato and Wonderly.

Wonderly told the *Rivereast* Tuesday she believes the Gizmo program is so important because there is research to support what is presented to the students.

“[United Way] piloted a program and they got feedback from people so what they put forward is research based,” she said. “It gives us a tool that we know is researched and supports

best practices.”

The third aspect of the grant includes Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training for teachers throughout the district.

“The teacher training component is what it means to be a trusted adult and how to respond to a kid in crisis,” Geato said.

Once the training has occurred and the programs are up and running, the programs are projected to be sustainable beyond the two-year grant limits.

Geato explained any additional resources needed for the programs can be obtained from United Way for free.

“I can’t imagine not doing [these programs] in the future, she said.

Gaeto said she also hopes to branch out and address other areas affecting mental health. “One of the areas I would love to focus on in the future is the challenging transition from high school to college or high school to career,” she said.

William J. Johnston Middle School social worker Sue Silverman voiced her passion for the mental health awareness programs.

“I’m really excited and I think we are moving in the right direction,” she said. “Suicide is a national public health problem and it’s the most preventable type of death and the least talked about. My hope for QPR and SOS is that the conversations will begin.”

## RHAM School Board Wants \$800K for Capital for 2019-20

by Sloan Brewster

The RHAM Board of Education wants to more than triple the amount it’s currently spending on capital funding, in an attempt to fix problems that continue to plague the 15-year-old middle and high schools.

Superintendent of Schools Patricia Law presented the board Monday with an itemized list of capital recommendations. The list included \$866,970 in items for which the board will request funding in the upcoming budget cycle – as well as another \$479,100 worth of items that she feels is needed but isn’t seeking funding for in the 2019-20 budget.

Most of the items on the list are items that need to be repaired and/or replaced, and school board members were scheduled Tuesday to tour the middle and high schools to check out some of the problem areas affected.

The request list is higher than capital requests the board has made in recent years. For example, the current year’s budget includes \$243,286 for capital expenditures, which was actually a \$46,674 reduction below capital funding in the prior year’s budget.

Law and school board members said the board tends to stay around \$200-\$250,000 when seeking capital funding because they know the public will be okay with that amount come referendum time. But the end result, board members said, is that there are known problems at the two schools that haven’t been addressed – including several safety issues.

Board member Joseph O’Connor said that the school district is still addressing problems

that were known of at or shortly after the schools’ 2003 opening. He said he had a document indicating problems with the HVAC unit in the high school media center have been ongoing since 2006.

“That’s 12 years of kicking the can down the road when we have a safety issue for our kids,” he said. “We’re identifying the problems; we need to fix the problems.”

Replacing the HVAC unit is listed for \$300,000 and replacing flooring in the center, which Law said must be done at the same time, is estimated at \$110,000.

The HVAC unit doesn’t function properly and causes humidity issues, Law explained. The humidity, in addition to moisture seepage from the unsealed cement floor, dampens the carpet.

O’Connor used the windows that were replaced over the summer as an example to highlight how important it is to fix capital problems.

“Look at the window situation that we addressed; that problem’s been around since 2006 also,” he said. “It took a group of people that said, ‘we’re going to take care of that problem’... and you got new windows.”

The windows failed due to issues including stains and discoloration from long-term residual condensation and internal signs of moisture and frost during the colder months, according to a press release.

“Don’t be afraid to look at a big number,” O’Connor said. “\$700,000, \$800,000 [capital] budget – that’s the number we’re looking at.”

To show the shortsightedness of asking for

less than what the board needs, school board member Scott Fleehler used an analogy about a couple needing new tires but not being willing to spend the money. After spending \$200 on one tire instead of \$800 for the four needed, they crashed their car and were saddled with a \$20,000 bill for a new car, he said. “And God forbid somebody dies.”

Fleehler said the moral of the story was that board members owed it “to the kids” to spend the money to fix problems at the school.

Fleehler encouraged board members to attend the walk-through and see the problems.

The \$70 million RHAM middle and high school renovation and expansion project was approved by voters in 2000, with a groundbreaking on the project the following year. The schools opened in January 2003.

\* \* \*

At the start of the meeting, a handful of residents spoke in favor of one of the items on the list of capital items, \$35,000 for a feasibility study for a turf field. The residents said wetness on the field is a problem for athletes as games and practices are often moved or cancelled leaving holes in athletics programs.

A turf field would solve the problem, they said.

Frank Milone of Hebron said some local athletes attend private schools to get more exposure to athletics.

“I think we’re excelling with academics, but the athletics also play a part,” he said.

John Swanson of Marlborough spoke of a

homecoming night football game that was moved to Manchester because the field was wet. Because of the move, many couples had to miss the homecoming dance, he said.

“There was a line of girls in dresses at Manchester High School waiting on their [dates],” he said. “Imagine if it’s your daughter, she buys a dress, looks forward to everything at that homecoming dance but there she is at another school. She can’t go to the dance because we couldn’t host the [game] here.”

O’Connor this week said the field simply does not drain. He said the hope is that, if the feasibility study is approved, the RHAM board will end up with a project that is “shovel-ready” for when funding comes available.

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The school board also talked about scheduling a special meeting during budget season to get community feedback on capital needs.

“I think that’s extremely important, hearing community feedback, especially if we’re coming back double from last year,” Sue Rapelye, board member, said. “The key is really education.”

They also discussed creating a communication plan to get the message out to folks that the capital needs are safety issues. RHAM Board of Education Chairman Judy Benson Clarke said she and Law have been talking about creating a communications subcommittee.

“I know we need to do better,” she said.

# Marlborough Embezzler Faces 20 Years in Prison

by Allison Lazur

A Marlborough man pleaded guilty last week to embezzlement in a scheme that defrauded Connecticut College of \$173,000 over four years.

Michael Kmec, 40, of 68 Jerry Daniels Road, waived his right to be indicted and pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud on Nov. 14 in Hartford Federal Court, according to a press release from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Kmec is scheduled to be sentenced on February 12. He could face up to 20 years in prison.

This incident is being investigated by the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather Cherry, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Kmec began working at Connecticut College in 2004 and was promoted to Director of Auxiliary Services in 2014, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. While in that position, Kmec oversaw the print shop, bookstore, vending machines, transportation, laundry services and resi-

dence halls, as well as the Camel Card program – an identification and debit card system used at the college. Kmec also oversaw third-party reimbursements for services to the college.

Connecticut College National Media Relations Manager Tiffany Thiele said in a statement that the former employee's misconduct was identified by the college earlier this year through a planned review of auxiliary operations.

"We immediately reported it to law enforcement and fully cooperated with the investigation. Due to privacy laws, we will not be making any further comment at this time," Thiele said.

A plea agreement between Kmec and the U.S. District Attorney detailed the various schemes Kmec engaged in before being terminated by the college in April.

Kmec sent fraudulent invoices to the college in the name of Connecticut Business Systems,

according to the plea agreement. He approved the invoices and paid them using a college credit card, with the money going into his own PayPal account. He fraudulently billed and received \$24,872 with that particular scheme from 2015 to 2018.

In another scheme, Kmec created a limited liability company called Decal Graphics of Connecticut and created fraudulent invoices that were forwarded to the college for reimbursement, the plea agreement said. He approved the invoices and sent the approval to the school's accounting department, which subsequently deposited the funds into a bank account controlled by Kmec.

He also diverted checks received by the college as reimbursement for services or royalty payments, according to the plea agreement. For example, Kmec deposited a check from Copacetic Life LLC to the college – for rental of the college's vans – in a bank account he

controlled. He also diverted money from the school's Camel Card program to various bank accounts he controlled.

Additionally, Kmec stole a \$1,486 laptop from the college, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

The plea agreement went on to detail a six month stint from 2017-2018 during which Kmec fraudulently deposited more than 80 checks from Follet Corporation, a company that provides education products to schools, colleges and public libraries, that were supposed to go to students.

Follet Corporation contacted Kmec in 2017 regarding money the company owed to students who no longer had Follet accounts, according to the plea agreement. The corporation subsequently issued checks to those students and sent them to Kmec. Instead of forwarding the checks to the students, he deposited the funds into his own account.

## Another Pipe Leak Spews Sewage Near Lake in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

Only two weeks after a ruptured sewer line on Old Marlborough Road spewed as many as 10,000 gallons of sewage into the Lake Pocotopaug watershed, another leak on the same line has released an additional 1,800 gallons.

Despite the leaks, however, the town maintains it won't replace the faulty sewer pipe until next spring.

The two separate incidents occurred roughly 10 feet apart in the vicinity of 31 Old Marlborough Road, according to Public Utilities Administrator Tim Smith.

Smith said the most recent hole in the 40-year-old ductile iron pipe was caused by corrosion. The pipes typically have a useful life of 50 years.

Smith said he is working with a design engineer on a replacement for the roughly 430-foot section of pipe. The project will then be put out to bid with plans to install it in the spring.

He said only the Old Marlborough Road section of the system is currently slated for replacement.

"At this point, we haven't seen continuous failures anywhere else," he said.

When asked about the possibility of additional leaks before the targeted springtime construction timeline, Smith said they could happen – "or we may get lucky and we won't have any more."

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said the work can't be done before spring because

"there's no asphalt" until then. He said replacing the pipe and leaving it uncovered would make it "next to impossible to plow and for residents to pass through."

According to Smith, all the asphalt plants in the state close down for the winter.

Maniscalco said it's unclear at this point if it'll be necessary to close the road during construction or how long the project will take.

Officials were alerted to the most recent leak on Monday morning. Smith said the call came through the police department at around 6:45 a.m. The water and sewer department was notified and the pump station was shut off within 15 minutes, according to Smith.

The road was closed for roughly 12 hours, Smith said.

Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell said water samples taken "a couple of hours" after the leak was identified revealed low levels of E. coli contamination in the lake watershed.

For context, the state Department of Health states that a single sample with a concentration of E. coli organisms greater than 235 per 100 milliliter "is in excess of that which is normally considered acceptable for bathing."

Only one of the four samples came back at levels that exceeded that threshold. The sample, taken from a ditch that runs into the adjacent brook, came back at 650 E. coli organisms per 100 milliliters, Mitchell said.

The other samples ranged from 98 to 135 E. coli organisms per 100 milliliters.

## East Hampton Finance Board Sets Mill Rate

The Board of Finance this week officially set the mill rate at 32.21 mills, an increase of 0.89 mills over last year.

This year's extended budget season came to an end in October after voters approved a total \$45.45 million budget, including \$30.50 million for education and \$14.95 million for general government.

The contentious season was marked by complaints from education supporters who decried the failure of the Board of Finance and Town Council to restore several lost teaching positions despite about \$700,000 in unexpected funds from the state combined with a higher than anticipated 2017-18 budget sur-

plus. A compromise forged prior to the fourth and final referendum, which was approved by voters as a separate question on the ballot, ultimately restored three teaching positions to the education budget.

Property taxes for someone with a home assessed at \$250,000 will be \$8,053 for the 2018-19 fiscal year. That's an increase of \$223 over last year.

Tax bills were sent out this summer based on a temporary mill rate of 31.32 mills, which is the same as last year's mill rate. The town will incorporate the increase into the second installment of tax bills in January.

## East Hampton Police News

11/4: Bruce O'Connor, 53, of 130 Wopowog Rd., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

11/10: Edward Briggs, 69, of 66 Reservoir Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with violating a protective order, police said.

11/12: A 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was issued a summons for fifth-degree larceny and credit card theft, police said.

## Colchester Police News

11/13: State Police said Preston Boudreau, 32, of 398 Route 87, Columbia, was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

11/14: State Police said Leatta F. Bailey, 48, of Baltic, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

## Fraudulent Credit Card Charges in Colchester

Colchester Police said a report was received of multiple unauthorized credit card purchases.

At approximately 11:38 a.m., on Nov. 13, a Taftville resident reported numerous fraudulent charges on her credit card at several local Colchester businesses.

The case is currently under investigation, according to police.



A special wall honoring veterans was dedicated in a ceremony at the Colebrook Village senior housing community last week. The wall lists names of eight veterans – with room for more. After the ceremony, various veterans dismantled a flag during a symbolic flag retirement. Flags that are torn, tattered or soiled must be incinerated in a ceremony, according to the U.S. Flag Code. At right, Vance Fisher, quartermaster of Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton, removes a stripe from the flag.

## New Wall at Colebrook Village Honors Veterans

by Sloan Brewster

A new wall adorning the entranceway at Colebrook Village honors residents who have served their country – and the wall was officially dedicated at a special ceremony last week.

The Veterans Wall of Honor lists names of eight veterans – with room for additional names to be added as more former soldiers move into the senior housing community. Crowned with a flag presented to Executive Director Pamela Krist Atwood during the ceremony by Wayne Rioux, veterans' liaison at Hartford Healthcare at Home, the wall is scrolled with the words "For the veteran, thank you for bravely doing what you're called to do so that we can safely do what we're free to do."

John Byers of Lebanon, director of maintenance at Colebrook Village, came up with the saying, Atwood said.

Since Colebrook Village opened in May, the staff has wanted to do something to honor veterans, Atwood said.

"Basically we have always wanted to record the service of our veterans," she said.

The ceremony was not only a prelude to the unveiling but gave a nod to residents who served

in the military.

The Rev. Mark Santostefano, pastor at The Worship Center Church, gave the benediction and Lt. Sean Connolly, Hebron resident and former Democratic candidate for governor, gave the keynote address.

With Veterans Day the previous Sunday, Connolly said it was the week, and the month, for veterans.

"The American military has been the guard of our freedom since this country was born," he said. "This week we do observe the service of our men and women who have served."

Speaking of those who served in the U.S. and those who served abroad, whether in peace or wartime, Connolly turned to the audience and asked people to stand as he named the branch of the military in which they served. Each former soldier stood and saluted, receiving a round of applause.

Connolly then spoke of each war – all the way back to the Revolutionary War – in which this country has fought. He started with World War I, pointing out that this Veterans Day marked its 100th anniversary.

From the earliest generation that signed on

to fight for the country in 1775 to those who have served recently, veterans have a long history of giving back, Connolly said. Veterans tend to step up for their communities as well as for the country at large, including showing up in higher numbers at the polls and taking on leadership roles.

"It's our vets who continue to serve even when they come home," he said. "Yes we have Veterans Day but, you know, that's not enough. It should be Veterans Day; it should be Veterans Week; it should be Veterans Month; it should be veterans always."

Connolly closed his speech with a round of shout-outs with the audience, in which he shouted "Veterans!" and the group replied "Always!"

Atwood gave proclamations to Colebrook Village veterans from Secretary of State Denise Merrill, which thanked them for their "unwavering service."

She then introduced Rioux, thanking him for his help organizing the event, which she said took many months to put together.

Rioux pointed to a flag tacked to a stand, and said when a "flag becomes worn, torn, faded or

badly-soiled," it should be incinerated but should not simply be tossed into a fire.

Veterans then performed a symbolic retiring of a flag.

Rioux recited *My Name is Old Glory* as the veterans ceremoniously stepped up and saluted before the flag. Stripe by stripe they removed it from the stand where it was tacked. Finally, all that remained was the blue field of stars, which the last veteran carefully took down, tossing it into a barrel with the stripes. With each piece, the veteran who removed it faced a fellow veteran, who stood solemnly over the barrel, and they saluted one another.

When the ceremony was finished, Rioux presented Atwood with the flag for the Veterans Wall.

The ceremony also included a three-gun salute by members of the East Hampton Veterans of Foreign Wars, who stepped outside into the village courtyard, faced their rifles skyward and fired thrice.

A recording of the ceremony is scheduled to air on the Community Voice Channel at some point next week; it is currently in the process of being edited.

## New Director Sought for Chatham Health

by Elizabeth Regan

The Chatham Health District is looking for a new director even though the current head of the regional health department isn't planning to retire until next fall.

Don Mitchell, the district's current director, will step back from his leadership role once a replacement is hired in the new year. Mitchell said this week he will remain employed by the health district as a sanitarian while making himself "available to a new director for any questions."

The director of health job description was approved last week by the district's volunteer Board of Health.

The Chatham Health District serves as the health department for Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland and East Haddam.

Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney, board chairman, said the extended leadership transition period addresses two pressing issues: continuity and a need for more help in the field.

"[Don] would be able to mentor and transition the new person into the district and he'd also be available as a sanitarian," Tierney said.

Mitchell's salary is \$107,871 in the current budget. Tierney said Mitchell will receive a sanitarian's salary when he steps back from the director role. Salaries for sanitarians in the district currently range from \$56,100 to \$83,905 based on experience and hours.

Chatham Health District is one of 20 regional departments across the state responsible for conducting health education programs, monitoring disease outbreaks and enforcing state public health codes and environmental regulations ranging from food service inspections to septic system permitting.

Mitchell, 63, is fully eligible for retirement Oct. 1, 2019 based on a combination of years of service and age. His pension plan is admin-

istered through the town of Portland, where he worked for 15 years before joining the health district in 2004.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Chatham Health District has been making the required contributions to Mitchell's pension fund since he went to work for the regional entity.

Longtime Chatham Health District employee Steve Knauf will remain the chief sanitarian, according to Tierney. Knauf, despite contemplating retirement himself, has vowed to stay on as part of the transition.

Board member and East Hampton Town Manager Mike Maniscalco described the transition as a "win-win for everybody." He said Mitchell will have the opportunity to end his career doing the kind of field work he truly likes and which the health district is currently lacking.

"Some people are great managers, other people aren't. I don't know if he really enjoyed being in charge of the health district as much as he thought he might," Maniscalco said.

Mitchell took the helm of the sinking health district in late 2015 after a settlement agreement with the Connecticut Department of Public Health forced the resignation of embattled former Director Thad King. A conflict of interest investigation by the state stemmed from King's work as a private certified water operator at the same time he was serving as director of the Chatham Health District.

Bransfield credited Mitchell with helping to hold things together when King left and for leaving the district's finances in better shape than they were when he took over.

"That was his goal," Bransfield said. "I think he achieved that."

The district has since been plagued by difficulties hiring and retaining sanitarians, accord-

ing to Mitchell and multiple board members. Reasons cited range from a lack of professionals entering the workforce with a background in environmental services to the district's inability to compete with larger, higher paying health departments.

Tierney said the reorganization helps assuage some concerns recently aired by East Haddam economic development officials as they investigated the possibility of leaving the health district. Existing concerns were exacerbated when the town's dedicated sanitarian resigned earlier this year and the district was unable to find an experienced replacement until recently, according to documents obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

Concerns brought to health district board member and East Haddam First Selectman Emmett Lyman included a lack of experienced staff members, insufficient staff coverage in the East Haddam town hall and delayed inspections.

But after Chatham Health District staff and board members attended a joint meeting of East Haddam selectmen and the EDC last week, Lyman told the *RiverEast* the town is no longer considering leaving the district.

"It appears that everything is in order at this point," he said.

Members of the board said the district will be in a good place now that a new sanitarian with experience in food and salon inspections is set to start in December, a new director will come on board sometime in 2019, and Mitchell will be able to lend decades of experience in the field through next fall.

"It's a reworking of the Chatham Health District," Tierney said. "In doing so, we're going to take in all the towns' concerns and I think it's going to be a better place."

Mitchell said he's already talked with some

board members about what the health district needs in its new leader.

"They need somebody who can take things perhaps a little further now," he said. "I brought a certain stability. I think it would be a good idea possibly to get a little more youth in here, a little more energy. I'm starting to run a little low on that."

### Annual Review Called Off

Tierney said Mitchell's annual review, which was originally slated to take place last month, will not happen since he won't be director much longer anyway.

He said the personnel committee decided to focus more on the hiring process than evaluating past performance or setting goals for Mitchell's last few months.

Maniscalco, who sits on the personnel committee with Tierney and Colchester Selectman Rosemary Coyle, put it this way: "Let's look forward instead of backward."

Efforts to conduct a performance evaluation were also hampered by the failure of some board members to submit individual reviews of Mitchell as requested, according to Tierney.

The lack of participation is also evident on the health district's website, which shows six out of 12 regularly scheduled meetings were cancelled this year due to low attendance.

Representation on the nine-member board is based on population, with two seats for the district's larger towns and one for smaller towns. It is largely made up of high-ranking town employees or elected officials.

Tierney acknowledged participation has been a disappointment to him as chairman and that it needs to be addressed.

If members aren't effectively representing their town, he said the board needs "to get better people on there."

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Gladys A. Peay

Gladys A. (Webster) Peay, 86, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice with her beloved family by her side. Gladys was born Oct. 5, 1932, in Lebanon. She was a daughter of the late Charles and Josephine (Murowski) Webster.



Gladys was a very hard-working woman. Her accomplishments were many, including being the first woman constable in Colchester as well as serving on several Colchester town committees. She also worked for a time with the state health department and Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. Gladys was the owner and operator of several businesses including restaurateur, entertainment and retail. She will be remembered for her quick, dry sense of humor and wonderful laugh.

Most importantly, she was fiercely devoted to her family, supporting them in every way she was able. She was their greatest fan. Gladys raised her children with strength of character, and instilled a strong sense of pride in their Native American heritage.

She leaves to mourn her loss, Laura and husband Brad Wheeler of New London, George Peay of Oakdale, Michael and wife Lisa Peay of Georgia, Rita Peay of New London, James and wife Denise Peay of Lebanon, Gregory Peay of Colchester, Kenneth Peay of North Franklin, Sandra and Scott Boyle of Oakdale; nine grandchildren, Jessica and husband Chris Pierce, Sara and husband Eric Rosado, Anna Peay, Olivia and Julia Peay, Emily and Elizabeth Peay, Jared and Adam Peay; three great-grandchildren, Lucas, Lillian, and Lincoln Pierce; two sisters, Nancy Sullivan of New London, Linda Niedojadlo of Colchester; and numerous extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Charlie and Robert Webster.

A celebration of her life was held Tuesday, Nov. 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private in the Linwood Cemetery at a later date.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to the food bank of one's choice.

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

## East Hampton

### David John Stickler

David John Stickler, 60, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Claudia (Cameron) Stickler, died peacefully Sunday, Nov. 18, at his home. Born June 30, 1958, in Middletown he was the son of the late Melvin and Harriett (Robinson) Stickler.

David was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and had been employed as a CNC machine operator for APS Technologies in Wallingford. David loved his motorcycles and also enjoyed fishing.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Michael Stickler of Colchester, Tracy Woolley of Portland, Richard Tucker of Virginia, Wanda Tucker of East Hampton; brothers, Stephen Stickler (Janet) of East Hampton, Robert Stickler (Nancy) of East Hampton, Rexford M. Johnston (Brenda) of Georgia; his sister, Betsy Rich of East Hampton; 10 grandchildren; one great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a son, Chapin Stickler; a daughter, Jessica Robinson; and a grandson, Joshua Tucker.

The family will have a celebration of David's life on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 1-4 p.m., at the American Legion Hall on Route 66 in Marlborough.

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

## East Hampton

### Barbara L. Johnston

Born Sept. 20, 1927, Barbara L. (Robertson) Johnston quietly left her physical form at the age of 91 on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in Moodus.



She grew up in Binghamton, N.Y., and moved to Spencer, Mass., in high school, where she met her husband, Norm. Together they raised five beautiful daughters, added three sons-in-law, and six cherished grandchildren. They lived in Spencer, Mass.; Jay, N.Y.; and finally settled in East Hampton, where they were lovingly cared for by their daughter, Cynthia, and the compassionate staff of Chestelm.

Mom had a life full of backyard fun, including gardening, beloved pet dogs, sheep, camping, skiing, travelling, and bird watching. She loved to cook and bake, and her many well-loved recipes will continue to remind us of the joy she took in organizing and feeding large family gatherings and church events. In her quiet moments, she enjoyed knitting, weaving, and sewing, while listening to the music of Bing Crosby and Glenn Miller, and she was always in the middle of a book or two or three.

She loved us all very much: Cynthia and David Moneypenny of East Hampton; Wendee Johnston and Bill Hoover of Basalt, Colo.; Mary Johnston and Peter DeSalvo of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; Caroline and Tim Dacey of Spencer, Mass.; Kristine Johnston and Jeff Ernst of San Diego, Calif.; and grandchildren, Seth Saint Denis; Kira Shin Saint Denis and husband, Aaron; Timothy Dacey and wife, Jessica; Patrick Dacey and wife, Nicole; Kleis and Bacchus.

Our mother will live forever as part of us. We hope to maintain her legacy as a trustworthy woman who gave back to others with many acts of kindness. We will count on Dad's promise before he left us, "Don't cry, be happy, we'll all be together one day."

We would be happy to have family and friends join us to celebrate our mother for an afternoon tea at the First Congregational Church, Spencer, Mass., on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her honor to Heifer International.

Love you, Mom. Love you too, dear.

## Colchester

### Doris Diane Bernier

Doris Diane Bernier, affectionately known as "Tatante," of Colchester, formerly of Wethersfield, passed away peacefully at home Thursday, Nov. 15, at the age of 83. Born Oct. 14, 1935, in Fall River, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Hormidas and Adele (Lizotte) Bernier.

Ms. Bernier had worked as a bookkeeper and office manager for L.J. Electric Co. in Bloomfield for many years before her retirement.

She leaves her beloved sister, Pauline "Polly" Leonard of Colchester; sister-in-law, Patricia Powers of East Hampton; and numerous nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by six siblings, Edgar, Robert, Marcel, Laurent, Maurice and Aline; and two grandnephews, John Leith and Daniel Bernier.

The family received guests Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, Nov. 19, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, followed by burial in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

The family would like to extend sincere thanks to the many dedicated caregivers that were there for Doris through her final illness.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association ([heart.org](http://heart.org)) or the American Diabetes Association ([diabetes.org](http://diabetes.org)).

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

## Colchester

### Susan Gray

Susan "Sadie" Gray of Colchester passed Thursday, Oct. 11, after a brief illness. She was born March 31, 1960, in Middletown, to the late William and Lois (Dankhoff) Gray. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1977.

She leaves her grieving spouse Wayne Hampton of Colchester; daughter Catherine Hampton of Cromwell; brother William Gray of Marlborough; sister Linda Enright (Tom) of Guilford; stepsister Jill Howell (Gary) of Loxahatchee, Fla.; in-law parents Ken and Jo-Ann Smith of Cromwell; four nephews and dozens of cousins.

A memorial service for Sadie will be held Saturday, Dec. 8, at 1 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, 355 Main St., in Cromwell.

## Colchester

### Joseph Paul Gardner II

Joseph Paul Gardner II, 62, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly at home Sunday, Nov. 18. Born in Montclair, N.J., on July 29, 1956, he was the son of the late Joseph and Frances (O'Brien) Gardner. He married his beloved wife, Laurie Anne Lafontaine on May 23, 1987. The couple moved to Colchester where they made their home and raised their family.



Joe was a principal scientist, working for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals for 30 years and most recently for Green Mt. Antibodies in Burlington, Vt. Throughout his career, he was hardworking and dedicated to the discovery of antibody treatments for cancer patients. His work and scientific discovery and accomplishments were of such consequence that a vendor company in Europe named one of their research buildings after him.

Joe was also an accomplished conductor, forming the Pfizer Chamber Orchestra and also conducting for the Colchester Regional Chamber Orchestra. Joe was an avid fan of science fiction and old movies. He was also a history buff, enjoying the renaissance and civil war periods. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family for his hard work, love and devotion.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife, Laurie of 31 years; children, Joseph Gardner of Bridgewater, Mass., and Ishara Gardner of Colchester; a granddaughter, Allura Farnsworth Gardner; two sisters, Teresa and husband Todd Peterson of New Jersey and Patricia and husband Ludeman Eng of Virginia; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Services will be held Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, beginning with calling hours from 4-6 p.m. followed by the chapel service at 6 p.m. Graveside services will be observed Wednesday, Nov. 28, at Rose Hill Memorial Park, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)).

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

## Portland

### Donald J. Cahill

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved father, grandpa, brother and friend Donald J. Cahill, 57, of Portland. Donald passed away Friday, Nov. 16, at Middlesex Hospital after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Born on Aug. 14, 1961, he was employed by W.A. Parsons of Durham, for many years and more recently with Chapco, Inc. of Chester.



Our dad was an avid Cowboys, Celtics and Yankees fan. He enjoyed doing yardwork, detailing his car and spending time with his family. He will forever be remembered for his sense of humor, loyalty to his family and friends, as well as his kind and generous heart.

Don was predeceased by his mother, Katherine Mifflin and is survived by his three loving children and their partners Stephanie Cahill and Matt, Hollie Cahill and DJ, Justin Cahill and Lily; his three siblings, Kenneth Mifflin, Barbara Miller, Debra James with extended nieces and nephews. Additionally, his grandson, Julian Cahill "Beaver" son of Hollie Cahill, Sheila Ballard his longtime friend and mother of his children, Mary Ballard "Auntie" and the entire Ballard family.

It would be important to mention, our dad also had three best friends he respectfully called his "brothers from another mother," James Pianka, Edgar Pianka and Richard Pianka, who were a very important part of his life.

By everyone he touched, Donald J. Cahill will be forever missed. Heaven has gained another angel.

The funeral will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 10 a.m., in the Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday evening, Nov. 26, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that any donations be made to the hospice center at Middlesex Hospital for their generosity and care: Middlesex Hospice Unit, c/o Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

## Marlborough

### Kathleen A. Bray

Kathleen A. Bray, 42, also known as Kelly, passed away Saturday, Oct. 21, at her home in Simpsonville, S.C. Kathleen was born in Hartford and resided in Marlborough until she left for college and returned to Connecticut only for visits.

She attended Mercy High School in Middletown, where she graduated with membership in the National Honor Society. She then began her college years at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., and as a side benefit became an ardent Steelers fan through watching them from her dorm room window on their Duquesne practice field. She moved on to the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in Indiana, Pa., where she majored in dietetics, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1999.

She then entered the master's program at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., so she could complete an internship required for a designation as a registered dietitian, which she achieved in 2000. Her internship program was performed in the Greenville Hospital System which she enjoyed so much she made the decision to live permanently in the Greenville, S.C., area. She was subsequently employed in local hospitals and clinics as a clinical dietitian, which enabled her to purchase her home in Simpsonville. She also worked with Upstate Nutrition Consultants and as an adjunct faculty member at Greenville Technical College.

Her professional memberships and certifications were numerous and included a term as the Piedmont Dietetic Association President and as a PDA legislative liaison, helping to pass the South Carolina Dietetics Licensure Act. She volunteered at a variety of community health fairs and as a guest speaker at churches and schools in the area. She was a supporter of the Foothills Golden Retriever Rescue organization, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the American Diabetes Association.

She was predeceased by her brother Joseph, who died in infancy, and all four grandparents. She is survived by her parents, John (Jack) and Diane Bray of Marlborough; her sister Jennifer and husband Jessey Schlotzhauer of Eugene, Ore., and their sons Nathan and William; a number of cousins; and longtime companion Cody Robinson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation or the charity of your choice.

## Colchester

### Vincenzo F. Caronna

Vincenzo (Vincent) F. Caronna, "Jimmy," of Colchester, formerly of Glastonbury, widower of the late Dorothy (Miller) Caronna, passed away Sunday, Nov. 18, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Jan. 30, 1927, in Enfield, he was the son of the late Francisco and Maria (Gannuscio) Caronna.



Mr. Caronna served proudly with the U.S. Navy during World War II. Vincent went on to work as a draftsman with Dunham Bush Commercial Refrigeration for many years before his retirement. He loved to be at home, where he enjoyed reading, gardening and "tinkering" in the shop. Before moving to Colchester, he was a longtime communicant of St. Paul Church in Glastonbury. Most recently, Vincent was a resident of Chestelm Health and Rehab in Moodus.

Survivors include three children, Mary Webb of Lebanon, Margaret Bourne and her husband Jeff of Enfield, and James Caronna and his wife, the Rev. Cheryl Caronna of Colchester (with whom he made his home in later years); seven grandchildren, Jason, Ryan, Ashley, Kasandra, Jeffrey, Laura and Matthew; six great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild and many extended family.

In addition to his loving wife of 48 years, he was predeceased by a son, Vincent Caronna, and his sister, Mary O'Connor.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be observed Saturday, Nov. 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family will receive guests starting at 10 a.m. with visitation at the funeral home, prior to the memorial service at 11 a.m., with full military honors. Burial will be private in St. Patrick Cemetery, Enfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Antique Veterans of Colchester, P.O. Box 54, Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## Obituaries continued

### Marlborough

#### Thomas Aquinas Murphy (2/28/1932-11/17/2018)

It is so difficult to describe the essence of a man in just a few sentences.

On Saturday, Nov 17, the world lost a truly wonderful man, in the passing of Thomas A. Murphy, a kind, gentle and loving soul, he passed away at his home, in Marlborough, with the love of his life and best friend, his beloved wife of 61 years Marilyn (Erikson) Murphy, and his cherished son, Robert, by his side.

He joins his Lord, his daughter, Kathleen Murphy, and his son, Thomas Murphy Jr. in Heaven. Tom was also predeceased by his sister, Patricia, and brothers, Jack and Paul Murphy.

Tom was born Feb. 28, 1932, in Norwich, to his dear parents, the late John and Anna Murphy.

Tom will continue to be an inspiration and lovingly remembered by many, especially by his daughters-in-law, Theresa (TC) Murphy of Colchester and Rochelle Murphy of Marlborough. He also leaves his pride and joy, his granddaughters, Erica Murphy of Manchester, Kelly Murphy of Colchester and Erin Comins and her husband, Christopher Comins of Marlborough. Tom also leaves his precious great-grandsons, Quentin Murphy of Manchester and Owen Murphy of Colchester. He will be dearly missed by his extended family, and many cherished friends, especially friend and neighbor, Roger Perkins, who was considered family by Tom and Marilyn.

Tom proudly served his country in the Army during the Korean War, where he was stationed in Germany to a special assignment squad. Upon his honorable discharge, Tom returned to work for the State of Connecticut until his retirement 40 years later. Tom began as a tree climber out of the Colchester garage, where he trained many future tree climbers and truck drivers. Tom was very active in the AF of L Union, as a steward and was instrumental in helping to create change for the betterment of employees' health and welfare. Tom transferred to Marlborough as a crew leader, until he retired.

Tom started his own business, with his son Tom, Marlborough Tree Service, He worked with his sons, Tom and Bob, and friends, Howard (Sparky) Griffin and Roger Perkins.

Tom delighted in bringing his entire family on countless vacations, visiting the beach, cruising and spending time with his beloved family. Tom gifted each family member with cherished memories that will last forever. Family meant the world to Tom, and he never hesitated to express his feelings.

Tom was a big fan of UConn women's basketball games, New England Patriots football, and he had a thirst for knowledge, as he liked watching The History Channel. He loved trail motorcycle riding with his sons in Marlborough. He had fun going to the casino on occasion, playing cards, and having large picnics at his home, and making his famous clam chowder.

Tom loved gardening and found pleasure creating beautiful gardens and fish ponds every year. Tom and his friend, Roger, spent hours building stone walls, fountains and patios that could compete with the best.

The times that Tom spent with family were his greatest treasured memories. He daily thanked God for his blessed and wonderful life. Tom will always be remembered for his love of family, he was a kind-hearted soul, and a devoted and trusted friend.

At Tom's request there are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you perhaps donate to a charity of your choice, or as Tom would do, perform an act of kindness for someone.

Tom's family would like to express a special thank you to friends and neighbors, Middlesex Hospital Hospice, and especially to Dr. Divino, and nurse, Crystal Magnan, for their wonderful care and kindness.



### Colchester

#### Richard Joseph Stoddard

Richard Joseph Stoddard, 69, of Colchester, beloved husband of Linda (Howk) Stoddard, passed away Friday, Nov. 16, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 28, 1949, in Flushing, N.Y., he was the son of the late William and Helen (Marchand) Stoddard.

He served proudly with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and went on to work as a custom gunsmith for Colt Firearms for 38 years before his retirement in December 2012. A talented wordworker, Richard was a member of the Eastern Connecticut Woodturners Association and was also a member of the Rockville Fish and Game Club.

In addition to his loving wife of 45 years, he leaves two children, Richard Stoddard Jr. and his wife Amy of Enfield, and Jennifer Stoddard of Columbia, MD; two grandchildren, Zachary and Madelyn; a sister, Patricia Weiss of Islamorada, Fla.; a brother and sister-in-law, William and Bobbi Stoddard Jr. of No. Babylon, N.Y.; a brother-in-law, Benjamin Lupia of East Quogue, N.Y.; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Kathleen Lupia.

The family received guests Tuesday, Nov. 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service with military honors that morning. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Co., 18-54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

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