

RIVEREAST

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A Dwarf Shirazz Japanese Maple planted in 2012 by Marlborough resident Paul Cullen at the gravesite of his wife Michelle was hues of red as of May last year. However, last month the tree was “severely pruned,” in the words of one member of the Marlborough Cemetery Committee, to promote growth. This action – of which Cullen was not notified ahead of time – sparked outrage from Cullen and his son.

A Tree Pruned in Marlborough

by Allison Lazur

Marlborough resident Paul Cullen is demanding the town remedy what he believes to have been a mistake in partially cutting down the tree that he planted on his wife’s grave six years ago.

He is requesting an apology from cemetery committee chairman Kristine Hudock and a replacement tree from the town.

The reason why the tree was cut remains unclear.

Hudock told the *Rivereast* in an email Tuesday “I pruned the planting to meet the height of the [head]stone” to adhere to the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

However, earlier on Tuesday, Marlborough Cemetery Committee member Joan Christmas said the tree was dead and was pruned “to promote growth.” She further added that Cullen would not have received notice of this – as per the cemetery rules and regulations – because he was not in violation of the rules.

First Selectwoman Amy Traversa echoed this sentiment Tuesday and said Hudock told her directly that the tree was pruned because it was dead.

Hudock declined to elaborate on the discrepancies in why the tree was cut.

Hudock, Traversa and Christmas all disclosed that they were present at the May 5 cemetery cleanup when the tree was cut.

However, Cullen said he and his son both visited the gravesite two weeks after the cleanup and the tree was “definitely not dead” and “looked fine” at that time.

According to current cemetery rules and regulations – which were adopted in April 2017 – “no trees or shrubs are to be planted by any individual.” However, the rules clarify that “existing trees and shrubs may remain, if current owners maintain them. Trees and shrubs must be kept trimmed to not exceed the height of the monument nor encroach on adjoining plots. Owners not complying will be notified and their tree/shrubs will be removed.”

Cullen told the *Rivereast* last week he regularly maintained the tree to stay within the cemetery guidelines and visited the gravesite every couple of weeks.

“If they had given us notice I would’ve removed the tree to a planting pot at home,” Cullen said, adding “It was an absolutely gorgeous tree – it reminded me of my wife.”

Cullen’s wife Michelle, who died from terminal cancer in 2012, had a final wish; she

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Documents Allege Pattern of Lewd Behavior

by Sloan Brewster

[WARNING: This story contains language that may be offensive to some readers.]

Documents obtained this week by the *Rivereast* allege a pattern of inappropriate behavior at Andover Town Hall by Selectman Jay Linddy.

Linddy, the documents – which were originally submitted to Town Administrator Joseph Higgins – allege, used rude gestures and obscenities in his Town Hall workplace for years – with “the final straw” being when he wore an explicitly-adorned apron at the building last July.

According to a stack of records containing information on alleged sexual harassment complaints against Linddy, a now-former town employee but still-current member of the town’s Board of Education, Board of Selectmen and Recreation Commission, last July he brought the embellished apron to his office in Town Hall and showed it to his coworkers. It was not the first time he engaged in lewd behavior, the documents allege – though nothing was as graphic as the apron which, when worn, depicted a realistic-looking penis.

On Wednesday – based on a May 23 decision by the Freedom of Information Commission [FOIC] in favor of the *Rivereast* – the town released records stemming from an incident last summer in which Linddy was accused of sexual harassment.

In October, after a two-month investigation into sexual harassment complaints filed last August, the Board of Selectmen unanimously

voted to fire Linddy from his jobs as animal control officer and transfer station attendant. Linddy had been removed from his office in Town Hall in August, but retained his positions during the investigation.

Following his termination, the *Rivereast* requested copies of records containing information regarding the complaints against Linddy, which the town declined to provide. The paper subsequently filed a complaint with the FOIC.

In May, the commission determined the town must release the records, which it deemed to be public, but instructed the town to redact the complainants’ names and certain wording.

In the folder of papers, town hall employees describe frequently hearing Linddy use vulgarities while at work, often under his breath, give obscene gestures and engage in behaviors that made them uncomfortable.

One of the complainants, whose name was redacted, pleaded with Higgins for help, the documents allege.

In her statement, the employee, who said she had worked with Linddy for three and a half years, said when she mentioned the incident involving the apron to Higgins, the town administrator said he would talk to Linddy. She also relayed to him Linddy “daily makes inappropriate comments to people.”

Higgins, the complainant wrote, “then told me if it makes me uncomfortable when he does this, to tell him. I told him I had been uncomfortable for three and a half years. He said that there was not much he could do about it. He

suggested moving him out of his office, but that he didn’t want to go there.”

However, Higgins, when asked Wednesday about the complaint, denied giving the implication he couldn’t do much about it and said he told the complainant to come to him if there were any more incidents.

“Please bring it to my attention right away,” he recalled advising her.

‘Hostile Work Environment’

The documents obtained by the *Rivereast* also allege a host of other inappropriate comments and actions from Linddy, ranging from giving members of the public the middle finger to mocking the religion of a coworker.

“We are working on a class action complaint to be filed with the labor board for a hostile work environment, bullying in the workplace and sexual harassment,” Assessor John Chaponis wrote in an email to Town Attorney Dennis O’Brien, which was included in the packet.

The situation came to a head when Linddy brought in the apron which, according to one of the complainants, he donned in the workplace.

The complainant, a town employee whose name was redacted, said they shared an office with Linddy for more than three years, and that during that time Linddy would say or do multiple “vulgar and inappropriate things.”

In one incident, the complainant said Linddy allegedly repeated, several times, a vulgar version of the child’s nursery rhyme “Hickory

dickory dock...” in which the rest of the phrase was replaced with an obscenity-laced rhyming verse.

The complainant went on to list other incidents, including calling women “f—king whores” under his breath when they left the office and relaying a story about the time when he asked an 85-year-old woman, in front of a dining room full of people, “when the last time she got laid was.”

But the “final straw,” the complainant said, came last July.

“He was already in the office, when I arrived one morning, wearing an apron from Mexico,” the complainant wrote. “He proceeded to lift the apron and expose a very large skin-colored stuffed cloth penis.”

The complainant went on to say they initially mistook the stuffed embellishment for the real thing – and that they “gaged (sic) with shock.”

In documents, other employees describe the same scenario as the complainant, and they say Linddy left the apron out in the open on the microwave for a week.

In a written statement, Higgins said that after the item was removed, he spoke with Linddy.

“I told him that this was unacceptable and that I have zero tolerance for this type of behavior going forward,” Higgins wrote. “He was apologetic and remorseful.”

While Linddy did not return a call for comment for this story, he, in a six-page statement included among the documents provided to the

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A Tree Pruned cont. from Front Page

wanted the Dwarf Shirazz Japanese Maple she had fallen in love with – four months prior to her death – to be planted at her gravesite.

“We were looking for a tree to put into a planter and she fell in love with this little Charlie Brown tree that was in the back of Jessica’s Garden Shop – located in Marlborough – because it had been destroyed by the winter,” Cullen said.

Cullen explained that at the time he and Michelle left without purchasing the tree because the price was a bit high. However, after the tree remained on his wife’s mind throughout the weekend, Cullen decided to surprise her with it for Mother’s Day.

After Michelle’s passing that September, Cullen received approval to fulfill Michelle’s wish of planting the tree at her gravesite by sexton Violet Schwarzman – as there was no cemetery committee at the time. A cemetery committee was not established until 2014, according to committee meeting records.

Once a cemetery committee was formed, Schwarzman’s role with the cemetery changed.

Up until the time of the committee’s formation, Schwarzman would address issues one on one as they were brought to her attention, she said. She also noted that she took the time to speak to families individually about issues that existed on each gravesite.

Schwarzman’s role was eventually changed to an advisor to the cemetery committee, according to July 16, 2015 meeting minutes.

Cullen told the *Rivereast* that, in addition to receiving the green light to plant the tree in 2012, he also proceeded to purchase two additional plots so the tree – which was not expected to grow more than 4 or 5 feet – would have plenty of room.

However this past May, when the tree was chopped approximately 2 feet from its base, Cullen and his son Nick were outraged.

“This is a random act of vandalism,” Cullen said. “[The tree] survived hurricanes, the tornado that came through town. It survived all these winter storms, it survived the caterpillars and survived multiple other cleanups, but it didn’t survive [this committee].”

Schwarzman backed Cullen’s anger and told the *Rivereast* this week that “the cemetery committee came along and destroyed that tree,”

adding, “I think the town owes him a tree and an apology. He’s regularly [at the gravesite] and he takes care of that tree,” she said.

Schwarzman also explained that – in her experience – during cleanups like the one that occurred May 5, the cemetery committee was to pick up things like glass and cans, but there was not supposed to be any trimming.

“Clean up does not mean take down,” she said.

Schwarzman, who has been the town sexton for over 20 years, disclosed that in the past she had depended on the Public Works Department to take care of the things that needed professional attention – like the trimming of trees.

During the May cleanup, the cemetery committee trimmed the trees themselves.

Christmas told the *Rivereast* she thinks the tree was trimmed then, as “it would not have been cut at any other time.”

However, Cullen stood by the statement that the tree was still standing and healthy after the May 5 cleanup.

Cullen also wants to know what happened to the wind chimes that were hanging in the tree which he gave Michelle for what would have been her 50th birthday.

But Christmas said she does not remember ever seeing wind chimes and if they were there, they would have been moved to a lower portion of the tree that was not pruned.

While several questions surrounding the tree remain, Hudock said in her email Tuesday that “It was not my intent to cause harm to any individual.”

Hudock also stated she was never contacted by Cullen and that she invites him to express his concerns to the committee.

Traversa defended Hudock’s actions.

“It was done by a volunteer; it was beyond a severe pruning,” said Traversa. “[Hudock] is trying to do the best job she can and the act was not intentional.”

Christmas did reach out Wednesday night and offer her apologies and said that she would “look into a replacement tree,” Cullen said.

However, as of press time Thursday morning, Cullen had not received an apology from Hudock, nor told the whereabouts of the missing windchimes.

Linddy cont. from Front Page

Rivereast, denied ever showing the allegedly offensive piece of clothing to anyone but one coworker.

“I didn’t show it to anyone else,” he said. “I put the apron on my desk.”

According to Linddy’s statement, and those of several people whose recollections were included in the documents, the apron was given to him by a resident who came to the transfer station.

“I looked at the apron and put it in my truck,” Linddy wrote.

According to Linddy’s statement, the resident said Linddy should show it to one of the complainants, whose name was redacted. When the resident came into Town Hall a few days later, he asked the complainant if Linddy had shown it to her.

“She said ‘What apron?’” Linddy wrote. “And he said, ‘You didn’t show her?’ I said I didn’t bring it in because I felt uncomfortable showing it. For the next two days [she] asked me to bring it in...”

Linddy stated that when he did bring the apron in, the coworker did not express offense at it. He went on to write that he left the allegedly offending item on his desk and added, “I didn’t show it to anybody else.”

Linddy described a friendly relationship with one of the complainants whom he accuses of giving him “R-rated birthday cards” and other items.

“I left you some special things on your front seat,” Linddy claimed she once told him. “I discovered the ‘special things’ were a box of

X-rated books with a video and a 2’7” by 2’1” hand-painted nude man in a gold frame.”

Linddy also wrote that when he is made aware he is causing offense or hurting someone’s feelings, he stops the behavior in question.

“So to sum this up,” Linddy wrote, the complainant “never made it known to me or anyone else at the Town Office that our mutual joking was unwelcome or upsetting to her [and] most times she would start the joking. She never said anything or did she appear she was uncomfortable or upset, she always made it seem like we were good friends.”

Linddy insisted that the complaint was made in retaliation of recommendations he made as a member of a Board of Selectmen subcommittee to reduce some employee hours.

However, Michael Rose, an attorney who conducted the investigation into the complaints, didn’t seem to buy it.

Rose concluded that Linddy’s conduct was “serious enough to warrant the most severe employment action.”

He went on to state that the town should take additional action.

“However, substantiated reports of other misbehavior (such as referring to female political adversaries as [expletives])... and other comments (such as mocking the religion of a coworker) all require substantial remediation or action by the employer to fully comply with Title VII, the CFEP, and arguably other civil rights statutes,” Rose concluded.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

A few months ago, you may recall – or not; I won’t take it personally if you all don’t commit each of my columns to memory – I wrote about a highly enjoyable obituary I’d recently come across about a man named Terry Wayne Ward, of Indiana. Ward, by all accounts, was a beloved, fun-loving guy, and his family wanted to celebrate his good nature with a lighthearted obit that they felt he’d have very much enjoyed.

With lines such as “Terry graduated from Thornridge High School in South Holland, Ill., where only three of his teachers took an early retirement after having had him as a student” and “he had zero working knowledge of the Kardashians,” the obituary was a delight to read.

Less delightful was an obituary that went viral on Monday. As it spread across the country – and, really, the world – many seemed to have a good laugh at it. However, after my initial shock, I was struck with a feeling of sadness more than anything else – sadness that a family had been shattered this way, and that ill feelings had quite clearly never been resolved before it was too late.

The obit in question was for a Kathleen Dehmlow, and ran in the *Redwood Falls Gazette* in Minnesota. It began innocently enough: “Kathleen Dehmlow (Schunk) was born on March 19, 1938 to Joseph and Gertrude Schunk of Wabasso. She married Dennis Dehmlow at St. Anne’s in Wabasso in 1957 and had two children Gina and Jay.”

But then it took a turn. “In 1962 she became pregnant by her husband’s brother Lyle Dehmlow and moved to California.

She abandoned her children, Gina and Jay who were then raised by her parents in Clements, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schunk. She passed away on May 31, 2018 in Springfield and will now face judgement. She will not be missed by Gina and Jay, and they understand that this world is a better place without her.”

That’s pretty.....brutal. And like I said, rather sad. Maybe Kathleen deserved it; I don’t know. But it’s very unfortunate the family quite clearly couldn’t settle their differences.

The newspaper received some harsh criticism for running the obit – indeed, on Tuesday it was deleted from the paper’s website – and one of Kathleen’s relatives, a man named Dwight (who would not specify how he was related to Kathleen), talked to the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* about it, and told the paper that while the facts are true, “there is a lot of stuff that is missing.”

“The sad thing about this is there is no rebuttal,” Dwight told the paper. “There is more to it than this. It’s not simple.”

Dwight told the newspaper Kathleen – who apparently had been living in a nursing home for the past year, and her sisters were present when she died – “made a mistake 60 years ago, but who hasn’t? Has she regretted it over the years? Yes.”

Dwight said that whoever wrote the obit “decided to go out with hate,” and added, “This is going to hurt a lot of people.”

According to the *Star-Tribune*, the obituary called such a stir that the people who run Legacy.com, the website that publishes obituaries supplied by its various member newspapers, said that, in the future, the company would “review and re-evaluate” its procedures when it comes to publishing obits.

Again, I’m sure there’s more to the Kathleen Dehmlow story than I’ll ever know

– perhaps more than anyone beyond her children Gina and Jay will ever know – and maybe she deserved everything she got in that brief obit. But it just seems sad to me an obviously painful, splintered relationship couldn’t be resolved before Kathleen’s life came to an end.

While that obituary is pretty harsh, it’s not the most brutal I’ve seen. Indeed, it’s tough to top the 2013 obituary that ran in the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, of a woman named Marianne Johnson-Reddick. Right from the start, the obituary paints a horrible picture:

“Marianne Theresa Johnson-Reddick [was] born Jan 4, 1935 and died alone on [Aug.] 30, 2013. She is survived by her 6 of 8 children whom she spent her lifetime torturing in every way possible. While she neglected and abused her small children, she refused to allow anyone else to care or show compassion towards them. When they became adults she stalked and tortured anyone they dared to love. Everyone she met, adult or child was tortured by her cruelty and exposure to violence, criminal activity, vulgarity, and hatred of the gentle or kind human spirit.”

The obituary adds: “On behalf of her children whom she so abrasively exposed to her evil and violent life, we celebrate her passing from this earth and hope she lives in the after-life reliving each gesture of violence, cruelty, and shame that she delivered on her children. Her surviving children will now live the rest of their lives with the peace of knowing their nightmare finally has some form of closure.”

Ouch. What Kathleen Dehmlow got is nothing compared to this. And to be honest, it sounds like Marianne deserved all of that – and more. Her daughter Katherine, who co-wrote the obituary with her brother Patrick, later expanded on it in an essay for the site xoJane.com, and described an absolutely awful childhood in which her mother would routinely beat Katherine and her siblings at the slightest provocation, drug the younger children to keep them quiet while she had clients over (Marianne was an escort, by the way), and scream at them, “I hate you ungrateful sons of bitches and despise the day you were born.”

How torturous was her childhood? Katherine wrote that Marianne would even demand “sibling-to-sibling abuse for her entertainment and pleasure.”

“Those who instilled the greatest amount of abuse upon the other received her greatest praise,” Katherine wrote. “Those who didn’t comply with sufficient brutality became the next target.”

Like his sister, Patrick Reddick was quite happy to see his mother pass away. “Everything in [the obituary] was completely true,” he told the Associated Press, adding that his mother was a “wicked, wicked witch.”

You need a license to drive a car or to get married, you need a credit check to rent an apartment, you need a background check to land a job – but you don’t need any of those things to do the most important thing: become a parent. There are zero prerequisites for having a child. As a result, sometimes you get people as parents who have absolutely no business calling themselves “mom” or “dad.” Marianne Johnson-Reddick seems like one of those people – and my heart goes out to her tortured children.

See you next week.

New Principal for Hebron Elementary

by Sloan Brewster

There will be a new head of Hebron Elementary roaming the halls when school starts in the fall.

The Board of Education has appointed Michael Larkin as principal of the school. He'll begin July 1, taking over for Eric Brody, who is leaving Hebron Public Schools.

Larkin was one of a number of applicants and was chosen after a lengthy interview process, schools superintendent Timothy Van Tassel said in a phone call Tuesday.

"Mr. Larkin emerged as our top candidate," he said. "We're excited about the ideas and vision he will bring to Hebron."

The board appointed Larkin as the principal at a special meeting on May 22.

Larkin, who has 20 years of experience as an elementary educator, currently works at Crystal Lake Elementary School in Ellington, where he has been for 10 years, Van Tassel said. His focus is on curriculum and social emotional

learning, which are key focuses in Hebron elementary schools.

According to a press release, for the past seven years, Larkin has led in Responsive Classroom, a schoolwide approach to Social Emotional Learning that empowers educators to create engaging learning communities where students have a sense of belonging and feel significant.

Also according to the press release, Larkin has a depth of knowledge in elementary curriculum and programming.

Larkin has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Science degree in elementary education from Central Connecticut State University. He also possesses a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Administration from Sacred Heart University and recently completed the University of Connecticut Executive Leadership program.

According to the press release, Larkin was one of 65 applicants seeking to fill the principal vacancy. That pool was skimmed down to 11 by a search committee consisting of Board of Education members, parents, administrators, teachers, and non-certified staff.

The 11 were interviewed and Larkin came out on top.

Brody did not return multiple calls for comment. Van Tassel said the principal's decision to leave the school was a "personal choice." Brody was principal at Gilead Hill School for five years before transferring to Hebron Elementary for the current school year. Van Tassel said Brody made a positive impact on students and staff at both schools.

"Eric has been here six years, he has made many contributions to the school district and we're very proud of his efforts to the school district," Van Tassel said. "For the past six years,

Mr. Brody had been a constant in the district that has seen a lot of transition."

The board accepted Brody's resignation at its April 12 meeting – and school board members thanked him for his service.

"I think that you have seen a lot – I think that you have seen growth in this district," board chairwoman Erica Bromley said.

Van Tassel added that in the three years he has been superintendent, Brody has shown him "tremendous support."

"I greatly appreciate what Eric has done for the district," Van Tassel said in the phone call.

Brody said at the April meeting it was a bitter-sweet decision but that it was time to move on.

"It's been an amazing journey," he said. "Hebron will always have a special place in my heart and I will always take this community, the parents and the staff and, especially the students, with me."

\$55.37M Budget Sent to Referendum in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

After several delays throughout the budget season, residents at a town meeting Tuesday voted unanimously to send the 2018-19 proposed \$55.37 million budget to referendum.

The town decided to postpone sending the budget to referendum after Governor Daniel P. Malloy released revenue numbers in February that would have resulted in a 3 percent tax increase for residents. However, the newly-agreed-upon state budget restored education funding and municipal aid to several towns, including Colchester.

The new revenue figures – released last month – revealed the town would be receiving an additional \$1.33 million than what was projected by Malloy.

Anything that is coming in as revenue, including the state aid, is used to reduce the tax burden, Board of Finance Chairman Bob Tarlov said.

The proposed \$55.37 million budget – com-

posed of both the town and school budgets – reflects a slight increase of \$26,166 over current year spending and will result in a minor tax decrease of .25 percent for residents.

The proposed budget is one First Selectman Art Shilosky said he is satisfied with.

"I'm 100 percent confident that the budget will pass with one exception – that voters need to come out and pass it," Shilosky said in a phone call this week.

The town budget – totaling \$14.82 million – saw a \$113,227 increase over current year spending.

Items such as general government contributed \$3.65 million – a \$72,223 increase over the current year. The proposed budget also includes \$3.55 million for public works, a \$29,571 increase, and \$2.93 million for public safety, a \$66,344 increase.

"From what I'm hearing around town people are satisfied with the budget," Shilosky said. "All I'm asking the tax payers do is come out

and vote."

The revenues also saw a proposed increase.

The overall grand list increase of \$15.03 million, or 1.2 percent, equates to an additional \$486,582 in tax dollars when based upon the current year's mill rate of 32.37 mills.

The grand list represents the net value of assessed real estate, personal property and motor vehicles in town.

Interest on delinquent taxes also helped increase the town's revenue by an additional \$50,000.

The proposed school board budget of \$40.55 million saw a slight decrease of \$87,061.

Salaries occupied \$25.50 million of the total school budget, a \$426,177 increase, while the \$6.41 million in benefits saw a \$266,150 decrease over current year spending. Transportation was another big-ticket item in the budget, reaching \$2.40 million, a \$17,549 decrease.

If the proposed budget passes at the referendum, the mill rate would see a decrease of 0.09

mills, producing a 32.28 mill rate.

One mill is equivalent to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property, meaning a 32.28 mill rate would result in a resident paying \$8,070 in taxes on a home assessed at \$250,000.

Shilosky was not the only individual who was content with the proposed budget.

Tarlov told the *Rivereast* this week that he was "confident" with the budget, but added "you really don't know how informed the voter is."

Tarlov said his only concerns were that residents would not show up to vote on a budget that reflects "no tax increase," as well as possibly being unaware that "there's no fat in the budget."

"This is about as good as it gets when it comes to maintaining services and still seeing a small mill rate decrease," Tarlov said.

The budget referendum will be held Tuesday, June 19, at town hall, from 6 a.m. -8 p.m.

"We've done our part," Shilosky said. "Now it's up to the taxpayers to do their part."

Trees Repurposed in Marlborough for Mystic's *Mayflower II* Restoration

by Allison Lazur

White oak trees on two town properties will be chopped down next week and repurposed in a colossal and historic way.

The town – which is currently in the process of harvesting timber from both the business parks site and transfer station – will be able to repurpose a portion of those trees.

At Tuesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Planner Peter Hughes revealed the fifteen white oak trees located on the transfer station property will be chopped down and utilized in the *Mayflower II* restoration project, currently underway at Mystic Seaport.

Selectman Dick Shea joked "Will we get to go for a sail?"

First Selectman Amy Traversa was also excited for the use of the town's trees.

"I love that [the trees] are being used for something of such a high purpose instead of for something like firewood."

Hughes explained the town put the timber

harvest sale out to bid this spring. The highest bidder was Northeast Land Clearing, who will pay the town \$29,100 for the wood.

"The timber harvester, instead of selling the wood to a mill, is selling it to Mystic Seaport," Hughes said, adding that Mystic Seaport reaches out to several timber harvesters looking for these desired white oak trees.

The *Mayflower II* – modeled after the original *Mayflower* – is currently being restored through a partnership between Plimoth Plantation and the Henry B. DuPont Preservation Shipyard at Mystic Seaport, according to the seaport's website.

The website explains that the restoration of the nearly 60-year-old wooden vessel is projected to be complete in 2019 with the goal of preparing the ship for the 400th anniversary in 2020 of the Pilgrims' arrival in 1620.

According to Plimoth Plantation's *May-*

flower II Blog, *The Mayflower II* will return to Plymouth Harbor in Massachusetts in 2019, after its 30-month restoration at Mystic Seaport is complete.

The blog furthers that the *Mayflower II* was built from 1955 to 1957 in the town of Brixham, located in Devon, England, by shipbuilders at the Upham Shipyard.

The sailing vessel is about 25 feet wide and 106 feet long, complete with four masts. Since 2000, the *Mayflower II* has sailed to Providence, R.I., Boston and Provincetown, Mass., as well as Cape Cod Bay in 2007 to celebrate the ships 50th anniversary.

The town's trees needed for the restoration are wanted in forty foot sections with the crowns of the trees still whole for the project, Hughes said.

"They use the bigger limbs for the ribs [of the boat]."

Hughes said the white oaks are 36 inches to 54 inches in diameter and "probably 25 to 50 years old or more."

Shipyard Director Quentin Snediker spoke with the *Rivereast* this week and said the project is about halfway complete.

"White oak is what we predominately use for framing and underwater planking," he said.

Snediker said trees are sourced from "wherever they are big enough" including places in Connecticut like Mystic. He also explained that certain varieties of trees like longleaf oak and Douglas fir are procured from Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and the Carolinas.

"Most people don't, but we actually like the curved trees for the shape of the ship," he said.

Interested residents can follow the progress of the *Mayflower II* restoration at <https://www.mysticseaport.org/category/mayflower-ii-restoration/>

East Hampton Budget Sent to Referendum – Sans Vote

by Elizabeth Regan

The purpose of Monday evening's town budget meeting was to set a time and date for the 2018-19 general government budget referendum.

But this time around, despite a long tradition of direct rule built into the budget planning process, citizens and taxpayers did not get the opportunity to vote. That's because an email from town attorney Richard D. Carella, sent to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco roughly two-and-a-half hours before the start of the meeting, said the town charter doesn't require a vote to send the budget to the polls.

And the only vote that was taken – a failed motion to adjourn – was ignored by town meeting moderator Steven Greco.

Meeting minutes show Greco adjourned the meeting three minutes after it started despite the fact that 10 out of 18 citizens and taxpayers in attendance had voted not to close the meeting.

Some residents who attended said the process was fast and confusing.

It was the first town budget meeting resident Cheryl Cwierniewicz has attended.

"I was shocked," she told the *Rivereast* Wednesday. "How could it be over if we voted 'no'?"

She said she attended the meeting because she was dissatisfied with the proposed budget. She hoped that voting not to send it to referendum would compel officials to reconsider how to allocate an unexpected influx of funding from the state that was announced with the passage of the state budget last month.

"I share that opinion with others, and others who wanted to vote no attended [the town meeting]," she said.

The education advocates were stunned when there was no opportunity to vote on whether or not to send the proposed budget to referendum, according to Cwierniewicz.

Kyle Dostaler, chairman of the Chatham Party, was also flabbergasted. Dostaler said Wednesday he's been a regular voter at town meetings over his 20 years in town, and "I've never, ever seen anything like this."

Dostaler said Carella's opinion, which states that the town budget meeting "shall" adjourn

to referendum "without a vote," doesn't recognize the town meeting's vaunted place in local and New England tradition.

"It's eroding our voters' rights," Dostaler said. "I've been to dozens of town meetings and no attorney has said, and the town has never taken a position, to say your vote doesn't count."

According to a copy of Carella's emailed opinion, provided by Maniscalco, "there is no vote necessary to adjourn the meeting to a referendum because the moderator is required to adjourn the meeting per town charter."

Carella argued that since the budget must go to referendum, there's no need for a vote on it.

Carella said state statute requiring cities and towns to conduct meetings and hold votes according to parliamentary procedure does not apply to East Hampton.

Parliamentary procedure is defined by the National Association of Parliamentarians as "the rules of democracy."

The reason it doesn't apply here is that East Hampton's town charter dictates how the town conducts its town budget meeting, according to Carella.

State law recognizes that charter trumps statute when it comes to town meetings.

The meeting was conducted according to Carella's analysis despite a contradictory explanation in the information packet handed out to voters. The document, which is typically handed out at town budget meetings, stated a vote would be taken to accept the agenda and, if passed, would be followed by a vote on each agenda item. It also said that if the agenda is not accepted, the meeting cannot proceed.

Cwierniewicz said it was evident many people at the meeting were confused about what was happening.

"Clearly there was some sort of political aspect," she said, adding that the moderator should have done more to explain what was going on once he saw many people were confused.

Greco on Wednesday cited "Robert's Rules of Order," the definitive text on parliamentary procedure, as the justification for adjourning without a motion.

Robert's Rules dictates a moderator can adjourn without a motion if the end of the agenda

has been reached and, upon asking if there is any additional business, he doesn't get a response from the assembly.

Greco said he did not ask if there was any additional business.

"I announced there is no more business to come before this town meeting, so this meeting is now adjourned," he explained.

Greco did not know what Robert's Rules has to say when a motion to adjourn is made but fails.

A review of the Rules by the *Rivereast* showed voters may decline to adjourn "in order to hear one speech or take one vote" and may vote again to adjourn "when there has been any progress in business or debate." The text cautions that a moderator must be careful the privilege is not abused.

Maniscalco on Wednesday acknowledged it was not necessary to make a motion to adjourn based on the legal opinion.

Greco "shouldn't have asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, but he did. He's the moderator," Maniscalco said. "That motion failed and then he adjourned the meeting."

Whose Vote is It, Anyway?

Maniscalco said he asked for an opinion from Carella after he received two to three calls from residents asking what would happen if they voted not to send the proposed budget to referendum.

He said he and Finance Director Jeff Jylkka discussed the calls and decided they should consult Carella.

Jylkka on Wednesday said officials were aware of the education advocates' plan because of posts on social media.

"We knew this was going to be an issue," Jylkka said.

Maniscalco, Jylkka and Greco all said they thought it was unfair that a small group of voters at town meeting would try to take away the entire town's right to vote at referendum.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel shared the same viewpoint with the *Rivereast* on Wednesday. She said it's what she told a group of education advocates on the stairs of the town hall following the town meeting.

"I said, 'you're better served getting your people out to vote Tuesday. There's your vote,'" she recounted. "This [vote at town meeting] would not have stopped this budget nor should it ever be allowed to."

Engel, who served as chairwoman of the 2016 charter revision commission, said she wished she had thought to include getting rid of the town budget meeting in the list of changes submitted to voters that year.

"This was one of those stupid things nobody has ever been able to explain: That we have to go to town meeting to go to referendum," she said. "We did a lot of little housekeeping things [during the charter revision process] and that one escaped everyone's thought process. My lament is that we didn't eliminate it two years ago, because it really doesn't serve a purpose, per the interpretation of our attorney."

Councilman James "Pete" Brown agreed the town meeting, based on the attorney's opinion, is "unnecessary."

He said historically poor attendance at town meetings makes the day-long referendum the practical choice because it brings in more voters.

"The more you have, the better it reflects the wishes of the town," he said.

Dostaler disagreed with the officials' sentiment that voting against sending the proposed budget to referendum was disenfranchising the rest of the voters in town.

"There's no way that I'm trying to stop a referendum from happening. It's going to happen. People are going to have the ability to vote on it," he said.

His objection is that the town meeting vote was ignored, he emphasized.

"Government has rules and a process, and when they go about changing those rules and process because they don't like the outcome, that erodes public trust," Dostaler said. "That's an issue with transparency and it's not right. It's just not right."

The referendum will be held Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the East Hampton Middle School.

Back to the Polls in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

The \$15.17 million general government budget is going back to voters Tuesday after failing at the first referendum last month.

Polls will be open at East Hampton Middle School from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General Government Proposed Budget: \$15,168,208, a \$955,460 (6.72 percent) increase over the current budget.

The spending plan includes: \$111,570 in salary increases negotiated with town employee unions; \$10,000 increase for road maintenance; \$11,324 in police department software maintenance; \$7,500 to replace old computers in various departments; and \$14,279 in rising electricity costs.

Decreases in the spending plan: Over the course of the budget planning process, officials cut several areas of the budget proposal. Cuts include \$10,000 from the public library budget; \$5,000 from the Middle Haddam Library; \$40,000 in capital spending on sidewalk replacement; and \$25,000 in funding for the Air Line Trail (with the town providing in-kind services instead of cash to fulfill the local match requirement that came with a grant from the state to connect the rail trail to Portland).

Changes since the failed referendum:

Officials on the Finance Board and Town Council endorsed a plan to use \$716,415 in unexpected state funding that came through with the passage of the state budget last month to pay outright for \$117,000 in costs for teacher laptops and student mini-laptops instead of leasing and to use the rest of the state funding to drive down the mill rate. Officials also decided to buy a public works department plow truck and paver with cash instead of leasing them. The \$347,000 price tag would be paid for in this fiscal year using part of the budget surplus, which Finance Director Jeff Jylkka said is expected to be a little over \$460,000 by July 1. The remainder of the surplus will go into the town's fund balance.

Total impact: Combined with the already approved \$30.50 million education budget, taxpayers are looking at a mill rate of 32.41 based on the new general government budget proposal. That's an increase of 1.09 mills, or 3.48 percent, over the current mill rate. Property taxes for someone with a home assessed at \$250,000 would go up \$272 in the upcoming budget year if the general government budget passes.

Portland Schools Superintendent to Retire in 2019

by Elizabeth Regan

Superintendent of Schools Philip O'Reilly on Tuesday gave the Board of Education one year's notice of his impending retirement.

Board of Education Chairman MaryAnn Rode read fellow school board members a letter from O'Reilly at their regular meeting.

"After nearly four decades as a public school educator, I am writing to inform you of my intent to retire from my position as superintendent of schools in Portland on June 30, 2019," he wrote.

O'Reilly came to Portland four years ago to replace Sally Doyen. He brought nine years of experience as the superintendent of New Hartford Public Schools.

In his retirement letter, he described his time in Portland as the capstone of his career.

"The Portland Public Schools is filled with caring and talented people, who work tirelessly on behalf of the children (and families), and who are quite successful with so many endeavors," he wrote.

He could not be reached for comment by press time.

Rode said Wednesday that the school board is very sad to lose O'Reilly, whom she credited with accomplishing "amazing things" for the district.

"With very lean budgets, he's managed to continue to move the district forward on both educational initiatives and the physical needs of our buildings," she said. "I think he's been a unifying force for the district."

The school board will begin to discuss plans for the search process at its next meeting on June 19, Rode said.

She said it's too soon to say exactly what

they'll be looking for in a new superintendent.

"Once the board decides how they want to handle starting the search, and even when to start the search, they'll talk about some of the things they'll be looking for," she said.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said this week she's grateful for one more year with O'Reilly at the helm of the school district.

"I very much appreciate the transition time," she said. "It allows the Board of Education the opportunity to carefully select his successor."

O'Reilly came into Bransfield's office to give her the news the same day he submitted his retirement letter to the school board.

"I'm not going to say I'm going to miss him, because he's still going to be here for a year," she said. "But I'm very sorry to hear he's leaving."

Bransfield credited O'Reilly with an exemplary commitment to staff, students and the wider community.

She said he has been a key member of *This is Us Portland*, a group of local leaders, social service providers and members of the faith-based community dedicated to promoting discussions about important issues facing the community. Topics discussed so far include the opioid crisis and growing up in the digital age.

"Philip is dedicated not just to education, but to the whole growth of this community," she said.

Rode, like Bransfield, appreciated the fact that O'Reilly won't be leaving until next June.

"We feel it's been a good four years," she said. "But we have one more."

\$11.18 Million Budget Ready for Round Two at Andover Polls

by Sloan Brewster

An \$11.18 million 2018-19 budget request is headed to referendum.

This – the second referendum in the budget season – will take place June 12 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the community room in Town Hall. The first referendum, which took place Tuesday, May 22, failed.

The proposed budget was forwarded to referendum at a town meeting last week.

So far this year, there has been a string of budget proposals, three annual town meetings and one referendum.

After the proposed budget was nixed by voters, the Board of Finance tweaked the numbers yet again, bringing the total proposal to \$558,129, or 9.75 percent, below the current year's budget.

The finance board cut \$40,000 from the education board's budget, a measure that was done in consultation with Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen, who informed the finance board that two fulltime staff members had retired and the plan is to fill the spaces with part-timers, Board of Finance Chairman Dan Warren said.

The education board's \$4.19 million initial budget proposal reflected an \$80,000, or 1.89 percent, reduction from the current budget.

The board also decided to fund \$20,000 in track improvements at Long Hill Ball Field out of the non-recurring capital improvement account, a reserve fund, rather than through taxation, Warren said.

The latest numbers represent a tax increase of 4.5 percent, bringing the mill rate to 33.95, or 1.45 mills, above the current year.

When asked why the mill rate would go up

by 4.5 percent while expenditures are proposed to go down by 9.75 percent, Warren explained the proposed budget does not include expenditures and corresponding revenues from grant and special revenue funds, whereas the current year's budget does. Had the same accounting been done in the current year's budget, spending would have been \$11.12 million, which is \$617,800 less than the \$11.74 million shown in the actual budget.

In addition, in the current year, more was taken from fund reserves to offset tax increases than in the proposed budget, Warren said.

"We do not have the same situation this year because the state budget was in such flux when we were estimating [this year's] revenues last year," he said.

The final factor Warren cited is the result of an accounting change. He said the estimated mill rate value was calculated to reflect a three-year running average of tax collection, which reduced the value of one mill from the current year to next year.

"All of these factors result in the estimated increase in taxation," he said.

The accounting change was made at the recommendation of the town's auditor, Warren said. The auditor advised the town not to mix grant and special revenue funds with the general fund budget.

"People should understand that this was done in order to increase transparency and show people how much money the town is actually spending, not just from taxation," he said. "We are working with the auditor to present this information in a different format in upcoming

budgets."

Items that have been hot issues during the budget season include a proposal by the finance board to cut funding for the resident state trooper. In response to public outcry about losing the trooper, the board put \$187,000 in funding back into the budget to cover the position.

A plan to spend \$100,000 for concession and bathroom improvements at Long Hill was nixed by voters at the May 17 town meeting. That decision has led to another controversy.

During the May 17 meeting, which took place in the Andover Elementary School cafeteria, some parents were down the hall in the gymnasium at a talent show. Moderator Wally Barton said they had asked to be informed when the budget came to a vote and he said he would send a text.

Barton did not inform the absent parents of the vote to remove the \$100,000.

Since then, Board of Finance member Jeffrey Murray has claimed those parents were denied their charter given eligibility to vote and asked Town Administrator Joseph Higgins to have the town attorney look into the matter.

Higgins forwarded the request to Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien, who responded in a letter dated May 21 – one day before the failed referendum.

According to O'Brien, Murray may have some grounds.

"As a town official I am very much concerned by Mr. Murray's claims, especially that he was not allowed to check in at the cafeteria," O'Brien wrote, referring to requests by some residents to check in before the meeting and

then attend the talent show before returning for the vote.

The attorney was less convinced by Murray's assertion that the registrar violated the residents' rights by not sending someone to the talent show to inform them a vote was taking place.

Nothing in the laws requires them to do so, O'Brien wrote in the letter. He added, though, that rights may have been violated, as a promise was made to inform the parents.

"The right to vote is precious and has its roots in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States," he wrote.

If he were a judge, he said, he "might be inclined to enjoin the referendum scheduled tomorrow as it is inextricably intertwined per Charter section 8308 with the May 10 meeting."

In a phone call Monday, Town Administrator Joe Higgins said the letter was irrelevant.

"At this point now anyways, it's kind of unimportant because [the budget] failed at referendum," he said.

In addition, an advisory question on the referendum ballot asking if voters supported \$100,000 for the improvements solicited a vast majority of no votes.

While it may be a moot point now, Higgins said the town could set up some protections from similar situations taking place in the future.

"At this point, I mean, maybe, some measures [could be put] in place for if there is conflicting meetings that there's proper notification," he said.

Police News

5/15: Brandon Gartner, 21, of 90 Summer St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said. Also, on 5/16, Gartner was charged with operating under suspension, police said.

5/26: Monica Brockett, 40, of 74 Bradley Ave., East Haven, was charged with speeding and improper use of marker plate/registration, police said.

5/30: Debra Ferrara, 65, of 4 Farrell Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, police said.

6/1: Richard Vallillo, 32, of 311 Main St., was charged with misuse of plates, insufficient insurance, operating a motor vehicle under suspension and making an improper turn, police said.

Two days later, on 6/3, Vallillo, who now lives at 161 Colchester Ave., East Hampton, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of greater than four ounces of marijuana, operating a drug factory and narcotics not kept in an original container.

Sticker Shock in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

A motion to nix new transfer station sticker fees was itself nixed by the Board of Selectmen.

At its meeting Wednesday, the board – in a three to one vote – denied a motion to cancel the fees. In March, the board voted to incur a fee of \$40 annually for the first two cars per household and \$20 for every additional car.

In May, First Selectman Robert Burbank suggested reducing the fees but a motion to do so was knocked down by the rest of the board.

At the beginning of Wednesday's meeting, resident Debbie Scanlon presented the board with a petition to reconsider the fees and requested that the subject be added to the agenda.

"We oppose the fee that is for the sticker," she said. "There's a lot of emotion to this."

Scanlon reminded the board of the outcry that took place when the Board of Finance proposed cutting funding for the resident state trooper. Residents also signed a petition to remedy that situation and attended town meetings imploring the finance board to restore the funding.

Initially, the finance board refused to succumb to the pleas and voted down a motion to add \$200,000 to the budget for the trooper.

"Our Board of Finance had an arrogance about them and they did not listen to the voices of the town," Scanlon said. "They kind of ignored [the people], there was an arrogance to that."

When residents voted down the proposed budget, the finance board restored funding for the trooper position.

"Please eliminate that sticker fee," Scanlon beseeched. "No one has purchased a sticker to this point."

Town Administrator Joseph Higgins later confirmed no stickers have been issued, saying that while the stickers had been ordered, they have not yet been received. Some residents have come in looking to purchase stickers, he said.

Selectman Cathleen Dersosiers asked what folks were saying about the fee.

A few people had similar complaints to Scanlon's, Higgins said.

Scanlon suggested offsetting the loss from the fees by using the \$50,000 in the contingency budget line.

Selectman Jeff Maguire said the contingency fund should be saved for things such as repairing town bridges. First Selectman Robert Burbank was the only one on the board to vote in favor of eliminating the fees.

"I think it's kind of an imposition to charge a fee for people who don't get any other services in town," he said. "I don't think it's an equal fee so I'm for ending it."

He spoke of residents on a fixed income with no children in the school system.

East Hampton Police News

5/23: Coty Nichols, 29, of 674 Deep River Rd., was issued a summons for criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

5/24: Reid Keener, 26, of West Road, Marlborough, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting) and interfering/resisting police, police said.

5/28: Anthony Lapenta, 41, of 197 E. Robins Ave., Newington, was arrested and charged

with DUI, disorderly conduct and second-degree harassment, police said.

5/29: Anthony Fasciani, 24, of 18 Elm Rd., Cromwell, was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

From May 21-27, officers responded to 22 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and 16 alarms, and made 24 traffic stops.

Cars, Home Reported Burglarized in Andover

State Police said a home was burglarized and several cars in the area were suspected to have been rifled through on May 28.

According to police, between midnight and 5 a.m., a residence on Gilead Lane was entered without force while the home was occupied. A purse containing a cell phone, car keys, credit cards, other personal items and \$300 was taken, police said.

Additionally, the homeowners' vehicles ap-

peared to have been gone through, but nothing was reported stolen.

Police said during the on-scene investigation it was determined that other vehicles in the area were also gone through.

This incident is currently under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Avery 608 at 860-465-5400 ext.4003.

Car Crash on Route 85 in Colchester

State Police said a two-vehicle crash Monday left one with suspected injuries, and a utility pole damaged.

According to police, Matthew D. Kazierad, 30, of 17 Crescent Circle, Westfield, Mass., was traveling south in a rental Honda Civic on Route 85 when a Dodge Caravan, driven by Shawn Bennett, 53, of 121 Hansen Rd., Norwich, hesitated when turning out of a pri-

vate driveway.

As a result, the Honda Civic collided with the Dodge Caravan and then into a utility pole.

Kazierad was transported to Marlborough Clinic by Colchester Fire for possible injuries, police said.

Eversource also arrived at the scene to evaluate the damage to the utility pole, which was reported as snapped, according to police.

Andover Police News

5/29: State Police said Timothy Whitehead, 28, of 8 Kingsley Dr., Apt. D-1, was arrested and charged with violating a restraining order.

Hebron Police News

5/31: State Police said Diane P. Campbell, 54, of 215 Burnt Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

Pair of Car Break-ins in Colchester

Colchester Police said a pair of car break-ins last Saturday resulted in two stolen purses.

According to police, the two cars were broken into at approximately 4 p.m. at the recreation complex on Old Hebron Road.

Police said both vehicles had the passenger side, front window smashed and purses within the vehicle were stolen.

This incident is still under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact the Colchester Police.

Obituaries

Portland

Dean Bordonaro

Dean Bordonaro, 50, of Lake Road, Portland, passed away unexpectedly on Memorial Day weekend. He is the son of Lorraine (Chandler) Perrotti, his late father Anthony Bordonaro and his stepfather Michael Perrotti.

Dean is survived by his brother, Michael Bordonaro and his wife Nancy; a sister, Loretta Faraci and her husband Richard; nieces and nephews, Jennifer Chabot and her husband Brandon, Michael and Taylor Bordonaro, Anthony and Nicholas Faraci; also, great nephew and niece Cameron Oliver and Caysen Jones; his aunt, Elizabeth Bordonaro and uncle, Ronald Chandler. He also leaves behind his lifelong love, Rebecca Bordonaro.

He was predeceased by his grandparents Sam and Bella Bordonaro and Frank and Helen Chandler, and his uncles Thomas and Daniel Bordonaro.

At the age of 18, Dean began his lifelong career as a mason. He was the owner and operator of Portland Masonry, LLC. His masonry is a masterful work of art and his legacy will live on in the beautiful brick and stone work he created.

Dean's greatest pleasures were fishing, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, softball dirt bike-riding and hanging out with his many friends. Dean loved animals, saving three stray cats and his dog Copper, that all became his four-legged family. Dean's favorite four-legged friend was his first dog Bailey, who was often at Dean's side cruising in his truck or job sites. Dean will be forever remembered by his contagious smile, silly jokes, huge heart, kindness and outgoing personality, which are just a few of his endearing qualities.

A memorial Mass was held Tuesday, June 5, in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday evening, June 4.



East Hampton

Barton W. Blau

Barton W. Blau, 70, of East Hampton, formerly of Portland, died unexpectedly Wednesday morning, June 6, in the Marlborough Emergency Department of Middlesex Hospital. Born Dec. 2, 1947, in New Haven, he was the son of the late William and Beverly (House) Blau.

Bart grew up in Portland and moved to the lake in East Hampton in the 1950's with his parents and siblings. Bart was a graduate of Seton Hall University and was the owner of several businesses over the years. He was the past president of the East Hampton Rotary, and a Past member of the East Hampton Town Council.

Bart was bigger than life, even as a toddler: with an adorable head of curls, big brown eyes that didn't miss a trick and a gregarious personality. He would walk away from his parents and start up conversations with strangers. In grade school, he was hyperactive and industrious and drove the teachers crazy as he took control of the classroom with his wit, or walked around selling pencils to his classmates (as he later bragged was his FIRST business).

Bart never met a person he didn't or couldn't like, and spent his life with the giving heart, laughter and determination of that little boy; he would give you the shirt off his back and his last dollar. He was a free spirit who flew through the sky on his hang glider, and sailed on the lake at 50 miles an hour in the ice boat. His latest joy was the sailboat he recently restored to once again race on the lake, teach others to sail, and share his love of the beautiful lake he grew up on.

He believed the most important thing in life was time, and he gave his freely. He once remarked that you could get through anything so long as you had \$20, a roll of duct tape, and your wits.

He is survived by his wife Maria (Martins) Blau of East Hampton; son, Eric Blau and his wife Julia of New York; daughter, Britany Blau and her partner Brandon Luena of Higganum; two stepdaughters, Camila Tougas and husband Jeremy of Manchester, Caroline Laurindo and wife Carmen of West Hartford; sister, Sherry Wintory and husband Michael of Arizona; four grandchildren, Grayson, Gwendolyn, Caio and Benjamin.

He was predeceased by a brother, William Blau. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, June 8. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Food Bank, 22 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

Adeline E. Pasternak

Adeline E. (Patterson) Pasternak, 91, of Colchester, widow of the late William D. Pasternak, died peacefully at The Hearth in Glastonbury. Born Aug. 7, 1926, in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Rudolph and Adeline (Frazier) Patterson.

Adeline proudly served in the U.S. Naval Nursing Corps, graduating in 1947 with her nursing degree. She worked as an RN in many different facilities until her retirement. Adeline was a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church and was active in the East Hampton Senior Center for many years. Adeline enjoyed spending time with family and friends especially visiting those in nursing homes or the ill. She also enjoyed baking her famous apple pies and baked beans.

She is survived by her son, William Pasternak Jr. and his wife MaryJane of Colchester and Arizona; her daughter Linda Pasternak of Colchester; her granddaughter, Julie Goodale, and her husband Arthur of Marlborough; and her two great-granddaughters, Hannah and Rachel.

She was predeceased by her sister Lois Gregory.

A funeral service was held Thursday, June 7, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial followed in Westchester Cemetery. Friends called Thursday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Congregational Church, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Portland

Homer Bond Ambler

Homer Bond Ambler, 90, of Wilmington, Vt., passed away peacefully Tuesday, May 29, surrounded by his family. Born in Bristol on Oct. 12, 1927, he was the son of the late Homer and Lillian (Ashley) Ambler.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 68 years, Barbara (Reiman) Ambler, and their five children: Carol Saraceno and husband Mario, Robert and wife Barbara, Thomas, Roger and his wife Karen, and Michael. He leaves 12 loving grandchildren, as well as 11 great-grandchildren.

After growing up in Portland, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served as staff sergeant in the Occupational Forces in Japan after WWII. Upon returning home, he was hired by Cromwell Motors. Soon after he met the love of his life, Barbara, and they settled in Cromwell, where Homer continued his life of service. He volunteered for the Cromwell Fire Department for 35 years, holding the positions of Assistant Chief, as well as fire marshal. He also served in a variety of youth organizations, including 4-H, YMCA Indian Guides and Cromwell Sea Scouts.

While raising his family, Homer held a variety of jobs, including maintenance supervisor at both Cromwell Hills and Queens Convalescent Home. In 1976, Homer and Barbara opened Ambler's Bakery and Deli in Cromwell. Despite his busy work schedule, Homer always made time for the annual cross-country family camping excursions.

In 1986, he completed the construction of his retirement home. He and Barbara moved to Wilmington Vermont, where they would spend the next 32 years building countless lifelong memories for his extended family and friends. Affectionately known as The Mayor of Boyd Hill Road, Homer could always be found helping his neighbors, endlessly giving his time and talents. While in Vermont, he and Barbara owned and operated a horse-boarding facility, which forged the beginning of lifelong friendships of Belvedere Farm. He could easily be found riding his tractor, cooking a family meal, or planning one of his famous parties.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at the Coles Road Fire Department in Cromwell. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cromwell Fire Department, P.O. Box 269, Cromwell, CT 06416.

Thanks to the Middlesex Hospice for the extraordinary care.



Marlborough

Emanuel Joseph Parade

Emanuel Joseph Parade passed away Wednesday, May 30, at the age of 89, at Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marlborough. He was born in Hartford to Samuel and Rae Parade and attended the University of Connecticut, where he graduated with a degree in accounting.

In 1953, he married Sybil Lippman and soon after was drafted into the United States Army where he served in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. During his Army service, their daughter Jeryl was born. After serving for two years, Manny returned to Connecticut and went to work for Acme Auto Supply until 1969. He then opened up his own business, Manny's Auto Supply in Wethersfield, where he worked until his retirement in 1999.

People who worked for him said he was the best boss they ever had. He was kind, gentle, and honest to a fault and had a stellar reputation. There are many stories about his generosity, his courage, and his humility. He was an avid Celtics basketball fan and he loved to dine out. In retirement in Hallandale Beach, Florida he became the president of his condo association.

After 49 years of marriage, Sybil passed away in 2002. Later he enjoyed a long, pleasant relationship with his friend Phyllis

Manny leaves a son, Steven Parade and his wife Cindy, and a daughter Jeryl. He leaves six grandchildren: Stephanie (Jeffrey), Danielle (Nave), Melissa, Corin (David), Rebecca (Sam) and Samuel. He had five great-grandchildren: Bri'Nayshia, Benjamin, Davion, Leia, and Greyson. His sister Bernice Pattison predeceased him. He was close with her children Stuart and Jeffrey.

A graveside service took place Friday, June 1, at Hartford Mutual Society, 80 Wolcott Rd., East Granby. The family sat at Steve and Cindy's home in Hebron on Saturday evening, June 2.

The family thanks Masonicare Partners Home Health & Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Emanuel Joseph Parade may be made at give.connecticutchildrens.org/tribute for cancer and blood disorders.

Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford. For further information, directions, or to sign the guestbook for Emanuel, visit online at weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm.

Portland

Lorene Mifflin

Lorene (Wilkerson) Mifflin, 71, of Portland, wife of the late Charles Lee Mifflin, passed away Thursday, May 31, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Harriman, Ten., she was the daughter of the late Wayne Johnson and Mary (Gallaher) Wilkerson.

Lorene lived in Portland since 1966 and was employed at Standard Knapp, W. A. Parsons and Lee Manufacturing. She was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed gardening, fishing and camping. Most of all, Lorene loved spending time with her family.

Lorene is survived by her son, Charles L. Mifflin Jr. of Portland; her daughter, Anquinette Hoggard and her husband Nicholas of Middletown; a brother, Charles E. Wilkerson, William and his wife Jackie Johnson of Tennessee, Vincent, Albert and Arvin Johnson, all of Tennessee; two sisters, Debra and her husband, Larry Wells of Tennessee, Millas Witt of Tennessee; one sister-in-law, Teresa Wilkerson of Tennessee; four grandchildren, Elijah Williams, Shameca Williams, Sean Mifflin and his wife, Rebecca and Leah Mifflin; four great-grandchildren, Isabella Mifflin, Ronin Hamblin, Thomas Rivera Jr. and Alyssa Rivera; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her stepfather, J.B. Wilkerson; her stepmother, Carrie K. Johnson; and three brothers and three sisters.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 6, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, with the Rev. Yvonne Gallaher officiating. Burial followed in the State Veterans Cemetery. Family and friends called Wednesday morning before the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lorene's memory may be made to Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, 540 Saybrook Rd., Suite 280, Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Marlborough

Richard N. Tousignant

Richard N. Tousignant, 79, of Marlborough, peacefully passed away surrounded by his children Sunday, June 3, at the Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marlborough. He was born in Woonsocket, R.I., May 11, 1939, the son of the late Cecile Lavalley Tousignant and Noe Tousignant, and had resided in Marlborough for the past 50 years.



As a young man, Richard enjoyed trips to Block Island, although his favorite trip was to beautiful Colorado with his family. Richard served as a proud member of the Marine Corps for several years. Following his time in the Marines, Richard was a master gunsmith and a chief law enforcement armorer who worked for Colt Manufacturing Co. in Hartford for over 30 years.

Richard was a gun enthusiast who thoroughly enjoyed target shooting, hunting, and the work that he did at Colt. Additionally, Richard enjoyed photography, fishing, and horseback riding; his horse was named Mr. Blue. He was an avid outdoorsman, a member of the Glastonbury Fish and Game Club, and a volunteer for the Marlborough Fire Department.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Michele and Joseph Grasso of Colchester; his son, Johnny Tousignant of Wethersfield; his grandchildren, Carys, Camryn, Cate and Ava; his sister and brother-in-law, Suzanne and Alfred Piche of Florida and his brother and sister-in-law Gerald and Bonnie Tousignant of Florida. In addition to family, Richard leaves many great friends and neighbors who brought much joy and laughter to his life, as he did to theirs.

He was predeceased by his older brother Donald Tousignant.

The family wishes to thank all of the staff and especially one special caretaker at the Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center, Marcia, who cared for our dad with comfort, compassion, and friendship during his time in rehab and hospice.

Family has decided to respect Richard's wishes to hold a private family Mass.

In lieu of flowers, please share a memory or photos of Richard at spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Denise Ledoux Shields

Denise Ledoux Shields of East Hampton, born Feb. 18, 1956, in Middletown, to Rita (Belval) Ledoux and the late Richard Ledoux, passed away Tuesday, May 29. She was a jet engine mechanic at Pratt & Whitney.

Denise is survived by her daughter, Stacie Ristau, her husband Aris and their two children Lila and June; her daughter, Shayna Shields; brother, Robert Ledoux; nieces, Sarah D'Arcy (Haight), Megan Daley (Haight); and nephew, Roy (CJ) Haight; former husband, Kevin Shields; loving in-laws; and a host of longtime friends.

Denise was a kid at heart and loved to have a good time.

Donations can be made in Denise's name to Cure PSP (psp.org) and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (theaftd.org).

Friends and family can pay their respects at her celebration of life service Saturday, June 16, from 1-5 p.m., at Moodus Sportsmen's Club, 299 East Haddam-Colchester Tpke., Moodus, CT 06469.



Colchester

William Loughery

William Loughery, 61, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, May 27. He was born on March 30, 1957, in New Britain, to the late Francis and Elizabeth (Sullivan) Loughery.

William graduated from Bentley College in 1979 with a B.S. degree in accounting and was known for selling corn at "Bear's" vegetable stand in Colchester for over 25 years.

Bill was an avid sports fan, always bragging about his beloved Dallas Cowboys. He loved to play football, starting with midget football, moving on to the Bentley University Falcons NCAA Division II and finally many years of flag football in the New Britain League.

William is survived by his brother, James and his wife Pamela Loughery; his brother, Mark Loughery; a nephew, James Loughery Jr.; and nieces, Gina Loughery and Kimberly Loughery.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 5, at Luddy & Peterson's Funeral Home, 205 South Main St., New Britain.

In lieu of flowers, make donation to [American KidneyFund.org](http://AmericanKidneyFund.org).

To share memories or to express condolences online, visit luddyandpetersonfh.com.

East Hampton

Leo Marquis

Leo Marquis, 81, formerly of 125 E. High St., East Hampton, who resided in Moro Plantation, Maine, passed away peacefully after battling cancer. He passed at Houlton Regional Hospital, Houlton, Maine, Friday, April 13.

He was beloved son of Ruby Marquis and Leo Marquis of East Hampton, for 76 years.

He leaves one sister, Sharlene Marquis Gagnon of Maine, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by brothers Cedric Marquis and Steven Marquis.

He worked at the KUHN Center for the Handicapped for 35 years and never missed a day. He was loved by many in and around East Hampton and Maine. God Bless!

Donations can be sent to Sharlene Gagnon, 1556 Aroostook Scenic Hwy., Moro Plantation, ME 04780, in memory of him.



Portland

William J. Maher Jr.

William "Billy" J. Maher Jr. went to the top of the mountain Saturday, April 28, in Harrisonburg, Va., after a brief illness. Billy was born in Portland Dec. 11, 1944, to William and Estelle (Guzewicz) Maher.

Following his graduation from Portland High School, he began working at Continental Can/Smurf Stone Container, where he retired 43 years later. In his younger years, Billy was the drummer for a local band, played various sports and enjoyed his involvement with the St. Francis Club. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He always looked forward to his trips to Maine to visit his daughter and her family and to get his fill of homemade desserts that he would describe as tasting like a mouse's ear. Although he lived in the south, he remained an avid New England sports fan and enjoyed having his weekly game recap with his son-in-law, Galen.

Over the years, Billy touched so many lives, making special friendships and leaving us with many memories. He will always be remembered for his easy going personality, kindness to others and witty one-liners.

Missing him every day are his wife of 32 years, Hildegard (Becker) Maher of Weyers Cave, Va.; daughters, Christine (Maher) Nickerson and her husband Galen, Lori Rosano; his son, Richard Rosano and his wife, Julie, all of Staunton, Va.; sisters, Alice Cram, Evelyn Maher and Dolores Jarzabek; brothers-in-law, Jurgen and Kurt Becker of Germany; grandchildren, Brandi, Derek, Samantha and Nicholas; six very special great-grandchildren, who he loved to make laugh with his jokes and silly sayings, always reminding them that squirrels were looking for them because they were nuts, Monique, Maddox, Kaydence, Chloe, Mason and McKenzie; several nieces and nephews.

His loved ones that clear the path before him are his parents; his son, Robert Rosano; granddaughter, Jessica Nickerson sisters and brothers-in-law, Anna and Edward Bojorek, Estelle and Armand Arsenault, Charles Cram, Joseph Jarzabek and Otto Becker; his mother-in-law, Bertha Becker and his special four-legged friends, Snapper, Rags and Max.

During his final days he reminded us to aim straight and that love was real good. So in his memory, please tell those special people in your life that you love them often.

A memorial Mass will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at the Church of the St. Mary, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105, or to your local animal shelter.

East Hampton

Charles Bennett Nichols

Charles Bennett Nichols, "Charlie," of East Hampton, beloved husband of Marie (Robida) Nichols died peacefully Wednesday, June 6, at his home surrounded by his family.

Charlie was born Dec. 16, 1927, in Middletown, the son of the late Stanley and Aline (Galpin) Nichols. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Charlie was the owner and operator of Nichols Bus Service, safely transporting the children of East Hampton, Portland, Andover, Marlborough and East Haddam to school every day.

Charlie was very active in the town of East Hampton, having served on the Board of Selectmen from 1971-73, a member of the Police Commission from 1985-1989 and serving as the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1961 until his passing. Charlie was a life member of the Middletown Elks Club, a member of the East Hampton V.F.W., the American Legion Post in East Hampton, the Moose Club in Marlborough, the Falcons in Middletown, the Lions Club in East Hampton, and was a member of the Board of Directors of CBT.

Charlie was a very generous man who was always there to help someone in need, whether it was donating his services with a bus for a trip, or helping someone financially, he did it discreetly and didn't want any recognition. His favorite times were at his annual Fourth of July parties at his lake house and his Christmas parties at his home on North Main Street. Charlie was always the life of the party and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him and by his beloved town of East Hampton.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Marie (Robida) Nichols; his daughter, Deborah Johnson and her husband Carl of Portland; stepson, Timothy Stackowitz and his wife Cindy of East Hampton; stepson Courtland Rogers of Florida; stepdaughter Corinne Farren and her husband Walter of East Hampton; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and several nephews and many close friends.

He was predeceased by his sister Ann Plummer and his step son Francis Rogers.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Sunday, June 10, from 2-5 p.m. Funeral services will be held Monday, June 11, at 11 a.m. in the East Hampton Congregational Church. Burial will follow in St. Bridget Cemetery in Moodus.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hartford Health Care Hospice Program at hartfordhealthcareathome.org; Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., East Hartford, CT 06118, or to Ray of Light Farm Inc., 232 Town St., East Haddam, CT 06423.

To leave online condolences, visit spencer-funeralhomeinc.com.