

**RIVEREAST****News****Bulletin***Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland*

Volume 42, Number 39

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 6, 2018



Taylor Howes (left) stands next to her older sister Allyson. Howes, 18, a 2017 Bacon Academy graduate, died from injuries sustained in an automobile crash that occurred on June 15.

## 'Happy and Smiling Every Single Day'

by Allison Lazur

Taylor Paige Howes, 18, was a funny, vibrant, sensitive and sweet young woman. She loved Winnie the Pooh, Taylor Swift, working with children and was a forever-smiling, friendly face to anyone she met.

The responsibility of preserving her beaming personality has now fallen to those she impacted.

Howes' life came to a tragic end on June 22 after succumbing to injuries sustained in an early-morning automobile collision with a tree a week prior.

Her friends, family and colleagues have hosted events, established charity funds and created social media pages since her death and continue to take actions towards memorializing her name.

In an email to the *Rivereast*, her mother, Kathie Howes-Herring, and stepfather, William Herring, said they have plans "to talk yearly to the students of Bacon Academy – and other schools – about the dangers of alcohol and driving. "We would also like to speak to parents regarding the warning signs and their responsibility in preventing tragedies from occurring."

Howes-Herring and Herring also said there is an account in Howes' name with Webster Bank – the Taylor Howes Memorial Fund – where the proceeds will be donated to a charity for underprivileged children, as well as a scholarship with Bacon Academy that they said they hope to start with the 2019 graduating class.

Howes-Herring said her daughter "was kind even to those she didn't know," adding that her and Herring "have heard many stories of how she went out of her way make complete strang-

ers feel comfortable and not alone."

Howes' boss and owner of the Enchanted Jungle Learning Center, Kimberly Makowski, simply said, "Taylor was the best." "The kids loved her; they gravitated towards her," Makowski said. "The staff loved being around her. ... She was happy and smiling every single day."

Howes' friends, who wanted a way to never forget her smiling face, sought out Jessie Wagner, owner of Dragon's Den Tattoo and Smoke Shop in Uncasville.

Wagner hosted an event on June 25, tattooing 20 people with a permanent memory of Howes.

Wagner, who graduated from Bacon Academy with Howes' older sister Allyson, said she created the event because she "just wanted to help."

Wagner set aside a day devoted specifically to those who wished to get a tattoo to remember Howes, while donating half of her profits – nearly \$500 – to Howes' family.

"I have never got such a response," Wagner said.

Wagner said within two hours of advertising the event online she was all booked up for the day.

Some of the tattoos included a heart on several wrists and the word 'fearless,' both tattoos Howes wanted.

Wagner said others simply wanted Howes' initials tattooed.

"It was a very sentimental day," she said.

Others took to social media to honor Howes.

**See Taylor page 2**

## *Push Made for Lindy to Resign from Boards*

by Sloan Brewster

While some on social media make a push for town official Jay Lindy to resign from the boards of selectmen and education, members of the two boards remain noncommittal as to whether they'll actually ask Lindy to do so.

In a recent survey on the Make Andover Great Again Facebook page, 86 percent of 69 respondents said Lindy should resign from the boards, while 14 percent said he shouldn't.

Lindy was accused last year of sexual harassment after he allegedly brought an explicitly-adorned apron to his office in Town Hall and showed it to his coworkers, according to complaints submitted to Town Administrator Joseph Higgins and a lawsuit filed by former tax collector Donna Doyker.

Following a two-month investigation into the complaints, Lindy was fired from his jobs as animal control officer and transfer station attendant. However, he remained a member of the boards of selectmen and education – although, since last August when the investigation into the allegations began, Lindy has not attended a meeting of either board. He has, however, attended meetings of the Recreation Commission, of which he is also a member.

While Lindy did not return calls for comment for this story, he did tell the *Rivereast* in April that he would resign from all three boards and commissions in July.

First Selectman Bob Burbank and Board of Education Chairwoman Shannon Louden said Lindy had not submitted a resignation letter as of press time Wednesday.

The public Make Andover Great Again Facebook page also features a post with a link to Doyker's lawsuit, which spells her allegations out graphically.

"Warning: Contains harsh language and sexual content. If you are easily offended please do not click the following link," is written above the link to the suit.

Commenters on the Facebook page expressed chock and disgust with the allegations against Lindy.

"Wow, just wow," Meg Hutchinson Mastrangeli wrote. "I used to be proud of the town I grew up in... now, not so much."

Commenter Jeffrey Murray, who is also on the Board of Finance, slammed former first selectman Bob Burbank as well. In the suit, Doyker alleges inappropriate behavior by

Lindy had taken place for multiple years; Burbank was the chief town official until Town Administrator Joseph Higgins started last year.

"I don't know what disgusts me more. The behavior that occurred or the inaction of Bob Burbank over the years this was going on," Murray wrote. "Any First Selectman or town manager with a shred of decency and common sense knows this type of behavior is unacceptable in the workplace and would have taken action to stop it. I get reminded of it all the time at my employer of their zero tolerance policy and take required classes yearly online. Anyone in the private sector would have been immediately terminated for 1/10th of went on. We have an open and infected wound in the town hall. Both people need to do the right thing and step aside and let the wound heal so we can recover as a town, put this behind us and make Andover Great Again."

When asked if the Board of Selectmen would take any action, such as writing a letter to Lindy asking him to quit the board, Burbank said such a letter would merely be symbolic, as the board has no legal authority to remove Lindy. He referenced a situation that took

place several years ago when a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission had moved out of town but had not changed her address.

"We tried to get her out," Burbank said. "We were told basically by the state that we had no authority to take an elected official off the board."

When told that some commenters on the Facebook page blamed him for the Lindy situation as he was the first selectman and it had happened under his watch, Burbank said he had "been involved with" Lindy for many years and that his sense of humor was "kind of poor" but that he was powerless to do anything about it.

"I had no complaints from anyone in the office either verbally or in writing that would allow me to take any action other than talk to Jay, which I did several times, to say tone it down," Burbank said. "Without any complaints to deal with, I couldn't take any action. I was never in the room when supposedly [inappropriate behavior] took place and I had no complaints from the parties that have complained. If I had, I would've taken action."

**See Push to Resign page 2**

**Taylor cont. from Front Page**

A Facebook page titled "We Love You Taylor H" was created by resident Dayle Coutu where photos and sentiments of Howes can be shared.

Coutu, whose daughter and son were close friends with Howes, said she created the page because "it seemed like the most positive way to keep everyone together."

Through the page, people were asked to participate in an act of kindness event on June 24 to remember Howes.

Coutu told the *Rivereast* Wednesday that Michelle Noehren, another Colchester resident and creator of the Facebook page "Colchester is Kind," was responsible for the idea.

The event's posting read "Help us honor her memory and put some extra love in the world."

Coutu said the small acts of kindness event was appropriate for remembering Howes because she was someone who was extremely excited over the little things. Coutu recalled a time when Howes unexpectedly received a free coffee from Dunkin' Donuts and was "so excited."

"Taylor really lived in the moment – something we all should do," Coutu said.

Principal Matthew Peel shared his recollections of Howes' time at Bacon Academy.

Peel remembered the class of 2017 graduate as being "very positive and friendly."

"It was very natural for her to be social with students and teachers," Peel said. "She was kind and accepting."

He also disclosed that "academically she was very strong," taking advanced placement level classes in the later years of her high school career.

Her interest in academics led her to Manchester Community College where Howes-Herring said her daughter was studying early childhood education.

"She absolutely adored babies and young children," she said.

Howes-Herring said the outpouring of love and support from the community has been overwhelming and explained that she and Herring will continue to honor Howes through education.

"Education is key," Howes-Herring said,



**Taylor Howes, pictured at her 2017 senior prom, is remembered by friends and family as being a kind and happy person who always had a smile on her face.**

"and I believe I am in a unique situation to dedicate my life to help save other people's children even though I was not in a position to save my own."

\* \* \*

The next event scheduled to be held in Howes' honor is an all-day dog washing event which will take place tomorrow at Pet Valu on Linwood Avenue.

All proceeds will go directly to Howes' family.

**Push to Resign cont. from Front Page**

Burbank said the board has already taken decisive action against Linddy by removing him from his jobs and voting not to allow him in the office.

"I think he's pretty aware of the feelings of the board already," he said.

Selectman Jeff Maguire said "obviously" Linddy should resign but reiterated that the board has no authority to make him do so and said the board has no plans to request that he resign.

"The Board of Selectmen has no authority to request the resignation of the elected member," Maguire said, but added, "In the best interest of the town, Mr. Linddy should resign, he should. ... He's impeding the work that

needs to be done."

Maguire said a group of people had recently gone to see Linddy and asked him to leave. He said he was not in the group and did not say how Linddy responded.

Board of Education Chairwoman Shannon Louden said she would approach Linddy about resigning and bring the matter up to the board at the next meeting.

"Based upon all of the information, I believe that it is in Andover's best interest that Mr. Linddy resign and I will be asking Mr. Linddy and the Board of Education to consider such on or before our next meeting," she said.

The Board of Education does not meet again until September.

***From the Editor's Desk*****Observations & Ruminations**

**by Mike Thompson**

Shocking. Horrifying. Way too close to home.

Those were a few of the emotions I felt last Thursday afternoon when news broke about the shooting at the *Capital Gazette* in Maryland, a newsroom shooting that killed five people. If you work in journalism long enough, and you do your job well, you're going to make some people angry. It just goes with the territory. I've been screamed at, sworn at, hung up on, thrown off of property.....and I know I've gotten off pretty easy. I know others who have gotten much worse.

But journalists should never feel their life is in danger just because they're doing their job.

Having worked in newspapers since 2001, it won't come as a shock to you that I have a lot of friends in the journalism industry. What happened in Maryland shook many of them, to their core. It was especially unnerving the first few hours after the shooting, when the suspect was in custody and not much was known about him other than that he was, as seems often the case in these mass shootings, a white male. What could have been his motive? Was he a disgruntled former employee? I think I can speak for many journalists when I say one of our biggest fears was that it would turn out the shooter was an unhinged right-winger, who, after being told by his president for more than a year and a half that the press is the enemy, snapped and decided to take matters into his own hands.

Ultimately, it wound to be an unhinged person, for sure, but an unhinged person who had a beef with that particular newspaper, which stretched back several years. It started with a 2011 article the newspaper ran detailing a criminal harassment charge against Jarrod Ramos, which had been filed by a woman who was a former high school classmate of his.

Ramos eventually pleaded guilty to the months-long harassment, and was sentenced to 18 months' probation. But Ramos still sued the *Capital Gazette* for defamation, and, according to the *Baltimore Sun*, over the years he represented himself in several different court cases against the newspaper, as well as against lawyers and judges he believed had wronged him. The man was clearly off the rails.

If the above wasn't evidence enough, try this: According to the *Sun*, Ramos swore a "legal oath," in court documents, to kill the *Gazette* reporter who had written that 2011 harassment story. A lawyer had also warned a judge of Ramos' "violent fetishes."

(Now's as good a time as any to point out that, with that history, there's no way Ramos should've been able to legally purchase the gun he used in the killings. But he was. Of course he was.)

We may never know what made Jarrod Ramos decide that June 28, 2018, was the time to kill five people, after years of terror-

izing everybody involved in the matter. What set him off? It would be a stretch to blame it on Trump, certainly considering Ramos' past behavior, but the constant anti-media rhetoric spewed by our president couldn't have helped matters. (Ramos did, *Salon* reported, have connections to the alt-right.)

Which brings me to my point: Yes, Ramos may have been unhinged. Yes, he may have had a personal grudge with the newspaper. (It's worth noting, by the way, the reporter who penned that initial 2011 story was no longer with the *Capital Gazette* when last week's shooting occurred.) But it doesn't erase the fact that it was a terrifying event for all of us in the newspaper industry. And it underscores the potential danger we as reporters open ourselves up to every day, simply in our quest to report the truth, to be a voice for the voiceless, to hold accountable those who deserve it.

As I've written in this space in the past, we are not the enemy, despite what President Trump says. There are plenty of real enemies of the United States and the American people out there. Russia, for one. But certainly not journalists. As I mentioned in this space just a few weeks ago, it burns me up when Trump repeatedly calls us "the enemy of the people." When he throws tantrums and tosses around "fake news" when a media report doesn't go his way. Our jobs can be difficult enough as it is. We don't need the president of the United States – of all people! – constantly tearing us down and inspiring his base to do the same.

Sure, immediately following the shooting, Trump said all the right things; the day after the shooting he called the massacre "horrible," and said, "Journalists, like all Americans, should be free from the fear of being violently attacked while doing their job."

But you'll forgive me for saying I was a little skeptical of his sincerity – after years of treating us like we were public enemy number one. Sure enough, this past Monday brought the disgusting news that Trump had denied the request of the mayor of Annapolis, Md., to lower American flags to half-staff in honor of the shooting victims. Trump had done it for victims of other mass shootings. But I guess he thought doing it for journalists was taking things too far.

Reaction to the denial was swift – and pretty negative. But, interestingly, Trump reconsidered, and Tuesday he ordered flags to be dropped to half-staff after all. Was this a genuine change of heart, though, or an attempt by Trump (or someone else at the White House) to clean up what had quickly become a public relations mess? I suspect the latter – partly because Tuesday morning Trump was on Twitter trashing "fake news" yet again.

Journalists have a job that is often thankless – but is also incredibly important. We should be saluted by the president for what we do, not torn down.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# East Hampton Council Backs Village Revitalization Plan

by Elizabeth Regan

The Town Council last Tuesday unanimously approved a plan to revitalize the Village Center, hailing it as a long-overdue effort to give back to the town's historic industrial hub.

The vote followed a sparsely attended public hearing with no comments from residents.

The plan earmarks a portion of Village Center property taxes expressly for revitalization projects in the heart of East Hampton over the next 20 years. Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli said preliminary estimates indicate the proposal could generate approximately \$3.73 million by 2037.

The program is guided by a 25-page master plan written by DeCarli. Funds may be used for projects including the expansion of the existing water system, remediation or demolition of several contaminated mill buildings, and streetscape and facade work.

Republican council member Mark Philhower credited the Village Center with supporting the town's growth for almost 200 years.

"The center of town is what built everything else in this town," he said. "We've taken out of the center. Now it's time to give back."

According to Republican councilor Josh Piteo, officials have been talking about resurrecting the struggling center for 40 years without action. He said the new plan is a signal the town is ready to do something about it.

"Then the public sees there's something going on down there, and maybe they get excited about it. And they invest, and time goes on, and things get done," Piteo said.

He emphasized the plan is not a tax increase.

Known as Tax Increment Financing, the program would freeze property taxes in the designated Village Center area for 20 years, based on each property's Oct. 1, 2017 assessed value. While affected taxpayers would still be subject to the same increases as everyone else in town, the new revenue would be placed in a special account to be used for one-time or long-term economic development efforts.

The frozen assessed value – also known as base revenue – would support the local annual budget. The term "increment" refers to the taxes received each year in excess of that base revenue.

The district will cover the Village Center and immediately adjacent areas: Main Street between East High and Edgerton streets, Summit Street between Flanders Road and Main Street, and Skinner Street between Main Street and Middletown Avenue.

The tax increment financing program was made possible by a state statute enacted in 2015.

DeCarli at last week's meeting described the list of eligible projects as a broad cross-section of possible endeavors officials may decide to pursue over the next two decades.

He noted that any plan to extend the Village Center water system is going to cost more than the village center fund is expected to accrue.

Estimates in a December 2017 report from the engineering firm Tighe and Bond found it could cost anywhere from \$16 million to \$83 million to address the town's water woes, de-

pending on the extent of the expansion.

"Is the TIF District going to create a pot of money to fund the water system in the village center? No, it's not going to," DeCarli said. But funds can be used to defray the total cost if officials decide that's what they want to do, he added.

The master plan includes provisions to promote private development with the creation of a revolving loan fund. It would also support a program to rebate a portion of an individual taxpayer's contribution to the TIF district if the property is being rehabilitated or redeveloped.

No more than half of the incremental revenue of any property can be used for the rebate program, according to the master plan.

Councilor James "Pete" Brown, a Democrat, expressed reservations about the proposal despite voting in favor. He was primarily concerned that diverting tax dollars to one area of town means the difference will have to be made up elsewhere in the operating budget.

"Now, I know it's not a huge amount, but every time you take a dollar out from somewhere, something has got to replace it," Brown said.

Democratic council member Dean Markham said the plan has merit but is far from a definitive solution to the Village Center's problems.

"I'm very much concerned it doesn't do much of anything, or if it does do anything, it's not going to be for a number of years," he said.

The Planning and Zoning Commission in

May voted unanimously to recommend the master plan to the council, with the caveat that councilors consider any additional tax burden on all property owners in town as a result of revenue being diverted from the general fund into the tax increment financing fund.

Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said this week the council fully considered the issue before making its unanimous endorsement of the plan. She described the amount of money that would end up in the tax increment financing fund as "very insignificant" compared to the total amount of revenue going into the general fund.

But she said it's a "very healthy start" to addressing problems like the lack of a larger-scale water system.

Engel said the council will be creating an advisory board to help guide the process in the future.

The state statute enabling the tax increment financing program encourages cities and towns to designate a board of community stakeholders to advise local leaders on the "planning, construction and implementation" of the tax increment district once the master plan has been completed.

Engel said the council will likely discuss the advisory board sometime in the next few months.

"There's no rush because we want to look at a couple years' buildup of money," she said. "But there absolutely needs to be one."

## 'Glorious Celebration' Returns Next Week in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

It's been four decades since a group of volunteers revived a centuries-old celebration rooted in the town's rural tradition.

The 40th annual Old Home Days Glorious Celebration will take place Thursday, July 12, through Saturday, July 14.

The modern incarnation of Old Home Days began back in 1978 when volunteers decided to rekindle a ritual that had fallen to the wayside several decades prior.

One of the founders, Red McKinney, has said the event harks back to the time when farmers would get together for "Old Home Day" to eat, drink and dance after the last of the hay was cut and all the crops were in.

Old Home Day Association President Jennifer Collingwood described the festival as a cozy, hometown event that gives her the "warm fuzzies" year after year.

"Our goal is to provide an affordable family event, bringing everyone together. That's our mission statement, in a nutshell," Collingwood said.

This year also marks the 20-year anniversary of the Glorious Gallop, a 5-kilometer race that takes participants from Seven Hills Crossing, down Mott Hill, around Lake Pocotopaug, to Center School. It will be held Friday at 7:15

p.m.

The road race is coordinated by Sheila Oakes and her daughter, Maggie. The event typically draws 400-500 runners, according to organizers.

Another hallmark of the event is Saturday's 1.5-mile long Old Home Days Parade, which will step off from North Maple Street at 11 a.m. It includes numerous floats, antique vehicles, bands and community groups.

Parade organizer Kyle Dillon said the New London-based 7th Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps will be back again this year. The energetic and captivating youth marching unit has been a crowd favorite for the past several years.

The parade has been billed by the Old Home Day Association as the largest parade in Middlesex County, which Dillon said will hopefully hold true again this year.

Collingwood said she's been attending the event ever since she moved to town more than 10 years ago.

"If people haven't been, they need to check us out," she said. "And if there's one thing they check out, it should be the parade."

### Event Details

This year's Glorious Celebration includes a wide array of free musical entertainment rang-

ing from Americana to psychedelic rock. Carnival rides, food vendors and activities will fill the three-day extravaganza.

All children 12 years old and younger who enter the gate will receive a raffle ticket for a bicycle and helmet. Twenty bikes will be given out each night at 8 p.m.

Collingwood said watching children lined up in front of the bikes waiting to see if they are among the lucky winners is the most rewarding part of the celebration.

She credited sponsorships from businesses and individuals with making the giveaway happen year after year.

Thursday night will be Family Night, with \$15 All-You-Can-Ride wristbands for the carnival rides. Matt "The Balloon Man" Martin will perform at 6 p.m. in a show that begins with a magic show and ends with balloon twisting.

Carnival wristbands will cost \$20 each on Friday and Saturday.

The Led Zeppelin tribute band Physical Graffiti will start things off when it takes the stage Thursday from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Someone You Can X-Ray, a fusion of folk and psychedelic sounds, will open for the Neybas on Friday starting at 6 p.m. The Neybas

have been playing 60s and 70s rock for the past 25 years.

Saturday's lineup includes classic rock covers and original music by East Hampton-based The Last Rhino at 1:30 p.m., Americana music by Plywood Cowboy at 6:30 p.m. and contemporary tunes by Pulse at 8:30 p.m. Pulse, which bills itself as "the east coast's freshest party band," has a set list spanning the top 40, dance, hip hop and rock genres.

The 38th Annual Old Home Days Glorious Celebration will be held on Thursday from 6-10 p.m.; Friday from 6-11 p.m.; and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The fairgrounds are located on the grounds of Center School, 7 Summit St.

Shuttles from East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St., to the Village Center run throughout the three-day event. People can park at the high school and take the shuttles. Return shuttles will be provided throughout the festival from Center School, and on Saturday at the end of the parade on Main Street in the Village Center. The service is donated by DATCO, Inc.

For more information, visit [ehohd.org](http://ehohd.org), or search "East Hampton Old Home Days" on Facebook.



A postcard from the early 1900s was discovered in a California antique store and mailed back home by Lowell Joerg, a nonagenarian from Stockton. "I like to call my little hobby a 're-distribution of happiness,'" he wrote. "Our world sure needs it."

## 'Redistribution of Happiness' Leads Lake Postcard Home

by Elizabeth Regan

A Lake Pocotopaug postcard from the turn of the last century has made its way back to East Hampton as part of one California man's "redistribution of happiness."

Lowell Joerg sent the postcard and a note across the country to the East Hampton Town Council last month.

The 90-year-old resides in an assisted living facility in Stockton, Calif.

"I was at an antique store here and found this old circa 1909 picture card showing your beautiful lake," Joerg wrote. "I suppose by now it's all built up."

The front of the postcard shows a sailboat, visible through a clearing in the woods, sitting placidly on the empty lake.

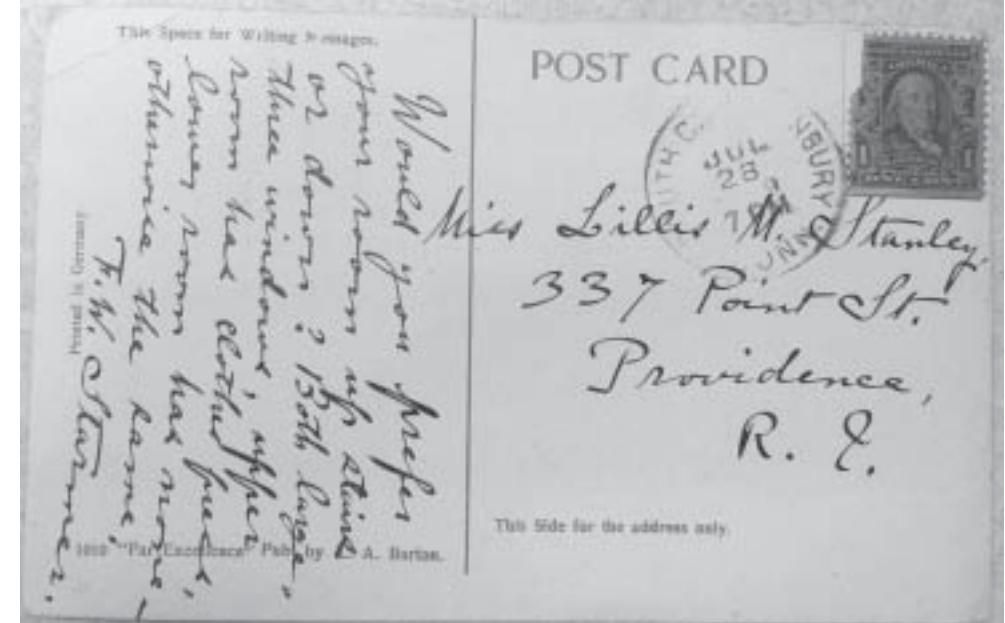
On the other side of the card, an F.W. Starmer

wrote to a Miss Lillie M. Stanley of Providence, R.I.

"Would you prefer your room up stairs or down?" Starmer asked.

Two available rooms were described as large, with three windows. The "upper room has clothes porch, lower room has none – otherwise the same," he concluded.

Local historian and town council member Dean Markham said it's likely Starmer was associated with one of the many resorts that sprung up around the lake after the construction of a dam around 1903. The dam, which was built by the town's titans of industry to harness water power, had the fortunate effect of raising the level of the lake to allow for recreation.



walking from the Village Center to their chosen resort or lodge there to relax, enjoy sports and lake activities, and party to live entertainment."

Joerg, describing the postcard as an "old-time classic for sure," told councilors he wanted to send it back where it can be appreciated.

"Our heritage is important to us all and should be preserved," he said. "Lots of changes, I suppose, too."

The Stockton man said the postcard cost him \$3 at the antique store.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco mailed Joerg a five dollar bill for his efforts, along with a message of thanks.

"Your 're-distribution of happiness' surely made our day," Maniscalco wrote.

## Hebron Water Ban to Last All Summer

by Sloan Brewster

The ban on outdoor water usage in the center of Hebron has been extended, and may last all summer.

In a letter to Commissioner of Public Health Paul Pino, David Radka, director of water resources and planning at the Connecticut Water Company [CWC], said the company anticipates a Declaration Order in effect from the commission will continue "for the foreseeable future." He requested a water ban that's part of the order be extended during the peak demand season.

The well that supplies the most water to town has been coming up short since early last month and on June 13, Pino declared a public drinking water supply emergency in the area it serves.

The order mandates a ban on outdoor usage for anyone who uses the center system, which comprises Main Street to Loveland Road and its offshoots, the Russell Mercier Senior Center and RHAM High School. The ban is also extended to Hebron Country Manor, an apartment complex on Wall Street. The water supply for the apartment complex has been tied into the center system to help compensate for the shortage.

The shortage came on suddenly and unexpectedly, according to town officials, who first discussed it publicly at the June 7 Board of Selectmen meeting, when Town Administrator Andrew Tierney said he had been informed by the water company that one of the wells was not pulling enough water. He said the shortage was significant and the water company was bringing tankers of water in to restore the supply.

Since then, the water company has been look-

ing for the cause and trying to determine the best way to bring an additional water supply online, according to updates sent to the town from Paul Lowry, superintendent of customer service for the water company, and included in the town's weekly management report.

Tierney said according to the update, consumption has been going down but attributes the decline to the closing of schools for the summer.

Folks have been cooperating with the ban, Lowry said.

But not everyone is pleased with it.

"I also know there are some residents that are unhappy," Tierney said.

The Board of Directors of the Village at Loveland Hills, an active adult retirement community off Loveland Road, is concerned about what the ban will do to the sprawling grassy lawns on the common property of the 55-unit complex.

"The concern we have is probably the same as everyone else where we have to limit our water usage, but we rely on our sprinklers in the summer," said Charles Cappello, vice president of the board. "The looks of our place are very important to us and obviously during the summer is when your lawn should look good and if we can't water our lawns it affects the looks of our property."

Cappello said he wondered if Colebrook Village, a 113-unit senior community that opened in May, had something to do with the mysterious water disappearance.

"It seems strange that they're not able to pinpoint the problem and fix it, I have to assume that the opening of [Colebrook Village] has to affect the water usage," he said. "It's just coin-



The Board of Directors of the Village at Loveland Hills, an active adult retirement community off Loveland Road, is concerned how the sprawling lawns at the village will fare, since a ban on using water outdoors may stretch through summer.

cidental that when they opened that all of a sudden we don't have any water."

Dan Meaney, director of corporate communications for the water company, said the company has not pinpointed a cause for the shortage. Water from the well decreased by nearly 50 percent in a matter of months, he said. There can be a number of reasons why underground bedrock wells produce less water and the shortage is not the result of the village coming online.

"What we saw predominantly in Hebron center was a decrease in the production of the well,"

Meaney said. "While there may have been an increase in demand there was also a drop in production."

Cappello said the lawns at the complex won't stay green for long without being watered.

"By [the end of summer], if we don't get a lot of rain we'll have brown lawns, which is not the end of the world," he said. "It's just an inconvenience as far as I'm concerned. As long as we have water in our faucets and our showers, I guess we don't have anything serious to complain about."

# Attorney Kaback Celebrates 25 Years in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

Attorney Gilbert P. Kaback has spent the last 25 years running his own law firm, which has focused on serving the needs of individuals instead of corporations.

"My whole career I've tried to keep it real," Kaback said, adding that he comes to work half the time in jeans.

"No court, no clients means no suit," he said.

Kaback – who said the bulk of his practice revolves around family law and bankruptcies – just opened his 2,800<sup>th</sup> new client file last month.

While Kaback stressed his focus is on the individual, he did clarify that he accepts some cases from businesses that are owed money.

Before venturing out on his own, Kaback worked at a law firm in New London for two years and it's where he said he learned how to run a business.

His first job out of Vermont Law School, however, was at the clerk's office in Norwich Superior Court.

"Unbeknownst to me, it was actually an excellent first position because you learn the rules of civil procedure cold," he said.

Kaback said it was his job to "make sure the lawyers were complying with the practice book."

Additionally, he was able to witness many lawyers present arguments which he said helped him learn what made some lawyers good and others bad.

But before Kaback had even stepped into a court room, he got a job at the Capitol building in Hartford as part of the staff for the House Republicans, while he was working on a

Master's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut.

Kaback explained that when the legislature was in session he was a "runner," which meant that when pieces of legislation came up to be voted on, he had to make sure the original bill and amendments were complete and in the hands of lawmakers.

"Because the legislature is only part time, the rest of the year we were sort of like a press corps," he said.

Kaback said he created newsletters on behalf of given representatives and made phone calls, as well as participated in election preparation when the legislature was not in session.

However, Kaback wasn't always on the path to become a laid-back, denim wearing lawyer. He told the *Rivereast* he was a computer science major at the University of Hartford up until his junior year when he switched to political science.

"I was very argumentative and was always trying to prove my point. People would say 'oh, what do you think you are, a lawyer?'"

Kaback, who is originally from Cranford, N.J., said he decided to open his practice in Colchester because of the "potential for high growth."

When Kaback opened his firm the town's population was 6,700. It has since grown to approximately 16,000.

When the town changed, so did Kaback's business.

When he first began, Kaback said he spent a "considerable amount of time on real estate and personal injury," but as time went on he

switched the focus of his firm to bankruptcy and real estate. However, once "real estate peaked and dropped off," he said he switched his advertising to target family law and bankruptcy cases again.

"You have to be able to bob and weave and adjust your practice to your environment," he said.

For Kaback, adapting over the last 25 years has also included handling the impact of the internet on his business.

"The internet has made access to what I went to law school for readily available," he said.

Kaback explained that items such as writing up a will can now be done online for a fraction of the cost, but at a significantly less quality than what an actual attorney can offer.

"All of a sudden a lot of the skills that I possess are being given away for free by the internet," he said.

Kaback also said he's been challenged with keeping things "on an even keel."

He compared running a business to a sound wave that "oscillates."

"It's very difficult to fill in the troughs," he said. "You could make a lot of money in two or three weeks and then the next two or three weeks you make nothing."

Despite the obstacles, Kaback said he has had some memorable cases over the last two and a half decades.

One he specifically noted was a case where his client wanted to move out of state with a 1-year-old child.

"I had to prove six or seven things in order for the judge to approve it and I won," he said.



Attorney Gilbert P. Kaback, amateur photographer, skier and herpetologist established his own law firm in Colchester 25 years ago and opened his 2,800<sup>th</sup> client file last month.

## Colchester Schools Chief Gets 2.5-Percent Raise

by Allison Lazur

The Board of Education last week unanimously voted to renew the contract of Superintendent David Sklarz for another year with a pay increase of 2.5 percent.

The new contract, which began July 1 and ends June 30, 2019, reflects a new, annual base salary of \$84,048 for the part-time superintendent.

Sklarz told the *Rivereast* Tuesday he's never looking to make more money, but rather an average and fair salary when compared to the rest of the administration and staff.

School board Secretary Louise Concodello told the *Rivereast* this week that the 2.5-percent increase was determined by the board to be roughly in line with what the rest of the town employees received in raises.

Sklarz, who is entering his tenth year as superintendent at the elementary school, spent 14 years in the West Hartford School District prior to coming to Marlborough. Before coming to Connecticut, he held a superintendent position in Santa Cruz, Calif. for four years.

"He's been a superintendent for over 25 years; He could've retired, but he continues to do this because he loves it," Concodello said.

Sklarz echoed his love for the job when he called himself "lucky" to be in a district with "great people who care about education."

He went on to say when you find a "match with people who care about children as much as you do, it makes for a great partnership."

Concodello also said the board was lucky to have Sklarz as their superintendent.

"We were all very pleased with him," she said, adding "we get his expertise at a part-time basis."

She continued by explaining Sklarz is never truly off the clock and continues to work even after he's gone home for the night.

"His first thought is the children, along with the staff, administrators, parents and board," she said, adding "this is his true gift in life."

Board of Education Vice Chairman Wesley Skorski also praised Sklarz.

"I think he's a great benefit to the school with his experience and I'm very happy we have him for another year," Skorski said.

Sklarz said this last year with the school was "wonderful." He also said he was happy additional offerings in art and music classes were able to be achieved this year and is something he said he will continue to focus on in the future year.

"The big focus we have is not only academics, but more in the arts and special subjects to create a more well-rounded child, which has always been the focus of Marlborough," he said.

## East Hampton Police News

6/23: Eric Markham, 47, of 43 Chestnut Hill Rd., was charged with first-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

6/24: Kristen Chapone, 28, of 4 Depot Hill Rd., was taken into custody pursuant to five active warrants for her arrest, four of which were held by East Hampton Police, police said. Police said Chapone was charged with evading responsibility, failure to grant right of way, improper left turn and operating a motor vehicle under suspension stemming from a car vs. motorcycle accident that occurred Jan. 31 in the area of West High Street and Depot Hill

Road. Chapone was also charged with violating a protective order and three separate counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

6/27: Benjamin Rosado, 45, of 49 Flanders Rd., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and was charged with possession of an assault weapon and two counts of possession of large capacity magazines.

Also, police said, from June 18-24, officers responded to 15 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and four alarms, and made 14 traffic stops.

## Andover Police News

6/29: State Police said Peter Munsell, 70, of 92 Hutchinson Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree reckless endangerment.

## Marlborough Police News

7/1: State Police said Joseph T. Ward, 35, of 1 Arlington St., Hartford, was arrested and charged with speeding over 70 mph, DUI and failure to stop on right side of road.

## Portland Police News

6/27: State Police said Jacob R. Distefano, 27, of 10 Lake Rd., Portland, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and third-degree strangulation/suffocation.

## Hebron Police News

6/27: State Police said Jacob R. Distefano, 27, of 10 Lake Rd., Portland, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and third-degree strangulation/suffocation.

## Vehicle Stolen from Colchester Driveway

State Police said on June 27 a Gray Subaru Outback was stolen from a driveway on Cousins Road.

At approximately 2:14 a.m., police responded to a report of a motor vehicle with CT license plate AL60722 being stolen from a driveway by an unknown suspect. The Subaru was unlocked with the keys in the vehicle, police said.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Troop K at 860-465-5400.

## Colchester Police News

6/25: Colchester Police said Terry Brick, 45, of 24 Old Colchester Road Ext., Oakdale, was arrested and charged with DUI and operating a motor vehicle on the sidewalk.

# New Maker Space Coming to Andover Elementary School

by Sloan Brewster

Andover Elementary School is making a new space to create projects.

At the June 13 Board of Education meeting, the board gave Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen the go ahead to move some classes around and build a Maker Space – a place to make and create projects connected to lessons they are learning.

"[We're] giving [students] a real space where they can take what they are learning and translate it into making something," Doyen said.

The board even gave her more money than she asked for to furnish the space, which will be in the library/media center.

Doyen requested up to \$15,000 to be taken out of a \$150,000 surplus in the current year's budget. The funds were left unspent due to the resignation of the school's assistant principal, who was not replaced, and because an outplaced special education student moved out of town.

Board chairwoman Shannon Loudon asked if \$15,000 was enough.

"I would prefer that it go to our Maker Space rather than returning \$160,000 to the town," she said.

Doyen said \$25,000 would do the trick and the board agreed to give her that much.

The plan for the new space is based on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adopted by the state in 2015, Doyen said in an interview last Tuesday. The broad, hands-on standards empower students to make things and understand how things are made in fields of

computer science, engineering, electronics "and all the big areas of the sciences."

The next generation standards tie into Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Education, which provides for an integrated approach to learning, she said.

The idea is to create a Maker Space learning triangle that "pulls things together," Doyen said. To do that, the art room is being moved one room over so that it is directly across from the media center, which is already next to the technology room.

Having Maker Spaces is a growing trend in Connecticut classrooms but they are few and far between in small elementary schools, according to Doyen.

"As far as we know there certainly are Maker Spaces in schools in Connecticut, I'm not aware of many elementary ones in a small district as we are," she said.

Kirstina Frazier, technology teacher at the school, has toured some Maker Spaces in the state. The idea is that the space has flexibility and mobility, with smaller tables that can be combined for groups of six to eight children or left individual for smaller groups. They can also be folded up and placed in a corner to make more room or easily moved to another room, she said.

The space will also include a 3-D printer and a tabletop dry erase board on which students will be able to sketch ideas and thoughts be-

fore designing a final product, Doyen said. To make the creative process visual, there will be a giant wall-mounted Lego board so kids can manipulate and draw their designs.

Students will create projects, work through challenges and brainstorm for solutions to problems while learning about specific curriculum, Frazier said.

For example, every year Frazier's class does an interdisciplinary project called the Bow Wow Biscuit Company, in which they make dog biscuits, design logos and sell and package the biscuits, learning about and overcoming the complications of running a business. A community service aspect of the project involves donating the proceeds to The Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation while at the same time learning about visual impairments.

While working on the projects in the Maker Space, Frazier said she might ask the children to think about a situation where a person who's visually impaired might have a challenge and solve that.

"It's exciting, it's extremely creative, I think the kids would love it," Frazier said at the board meeting. "I think it's really a very forward way of looking at education."

One reason Doyen pressed to get the maker space at this time was due to declining enrollment that will leave some classrooms empty.

According to the numbers, Doyen presented the board at the June meeting, by school year

2020-21, there will be 175 students and 13 to 14 classes, compared with 202 students and 15 classes this year.

"We're going to see numbers go up again once millennials start to have their children," Loudon said.

If the numbers do rise again, the rooms can be returned to their previous condition as the modifications are not physical changes to the structure, Doyen said.

Doyen said she hopes the Maker Space will be a draw to folks considering moving to town and that she plans to work with local real estate agents to get the word out to prospective buyers about the school's innovative approach to learning.

Last Tuesday, when the *Rivereast* toured the school with Doyen and Frazier, the art room had been emptied in preparation for its move to the room next door and Doyen had ordered most of the furnishings for the Maker Space and expects much of them to arrive by the end of summer.

The media center will be emptied over the summer in anticipation of a new carpet, which is being installed free of charge by the carpet company to replace the damaged one that was installed last year. After that, the space will be reconfigured to include the Maker Space and the new furnishings will be arranged.

"The first couple months of school we will still be setting up the space," Doyen said.

## Andover Finance Board Chairman Steps Down

by Sloan Brewster

Daniel Warren has resigned as chairman of the Board of Finance.

Warren, who has been on the board since 2015, resigned as chair on June 18. He said this week he will, however, remain on the board and will continue to take the lead on the budget.

He said he gave up the chairman's seat due to work responsibilities and to spend more time with his family.

"I'm the only Board of Finance member that has been to every Board of Finance meeting for the last three years," he said. "I just can't keep up with the time commitment."

When asked if his resignation was connected to negative remarks about the finance board made during the budget season, he said there was no connection.

"I don't mind that at all," he chuckled. "I relish it."

During the budget season, there was public outcry when the finance board eliminated funding for the resident state trooper. Despite a pe-

tition to restore the funding and speakers rallying for it at meetings, the board stuck to its ground.

Residents subsequently accused the board of ignoring them.

"Our Board of Finance had an arrogance about them and they did not listen to the voices of the town," resident Debbie Scanlon said at a Board of Selectmen meeting in May. "They kind of ignored [the people]. There was an arrogance to that."

Ultimately, the board restored the funding after the budget was knocked down by voters at town meeting.

Warren would not say if he planned to run for a seat on the board in the next election.

Warren is deeply rooted in Andover and on the finance board. He was born and raised in the town, as was his mother. His grandfather, an uncle and a cousin have all been on the finance board.

"It's in our blood," he said.

Warren, who is married and has two young children, has a degree in plant science and is a project manager for an engineering company. In addition to his day job, he and his brother Scott Warren have a hog farm in town.

The farm is on property formerly owned by his godmother that was seized by eminent domain in the late 1980s by the Connecticut Department of Transportation [DOT] for the creation of a Route 6 expressway that was never built. Warren's godmother got the land back and in 2010, when he was returning to his hometown after living in New York City, he bought it.

Finance board member Adrian Mandeville said Warren has taken his agricultural wares to the Andover and Coventry farmers markets, is entrenched in the community and puts the town first.

Mandeville also said Warren keeps an open mind, works well with folks on both sides of

the aisle and has a motto of "town first, party second."

"As a Republican who had to work with [Democrat] Dan Warren over the last two years, I feel that he has really genuinely put Andover first," Mandeville said. "One reason he was elected as chairman was because we really believe he had an open mind."

None of the other members are interested in the chair position and it's unclear what the board will do, Mandeville said.

"Nobody wants it," he said. "We don't know [what we'll do], we don't know because no one actually wants to take the position."

Warren offered a warning about the future financial situation of the town.

"It's been a fun ride, but I think the town has a lot to grapple with in the next 20 years," he said. "I still don't think people are aware of how challenging things are going to be in the near future."

## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### Marlene Carol Rioux

Marlene Carol (Webber) Rioux, 81, of East Hampton, widow of C. Gary Rioux passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit Saturday, June 30. Born April 28, 1937, in Van Buren, Maine, she was the daughter of the late James and Rose (Sirois) Webber.



Marlene met her husband Gary at Hudson College in Maine. She had worked at the East Hampton High School cafeteria for many years, also Diamond Pizza, Rossini's and Mr. D's restaurants.

Marlene is survived by her three sons, James Rioux and wife Kate of Prospect, John Rioux of Middletown, Paul Rioux of East Hampton; her daughter, Cynthia Rioux of East Hampton; a brother, Mark Webber of Florida; a sister, Sandra Webber of Florida; her four grandchildren, Jeffrey, Gregory, Casey and Sarah; and her good friend, David Garrett.

She was predeceased by her husband Gary; a son-in-law, Richard Pratt; two brothers, Gary "Butch" Webber and James Webber.

Friends called Tuesday, July 3, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A funeral service was held that morning. Burial was private at the convenience of the family in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the ASPCA at [aspca.org](http://aspca.org) or to the Alzheimer's Foundation at [alzfdn.org](http://alzfdn.org).

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

### East Hampton

#### Lawrence E. Emmons

Lawrence E. "Larry" Emmons, 84, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Mary Jo (Richichi) Emmons, died peacefully at his home Saturday, June 30, surrounded by his loving family. Born June 29, 1934, in New Milford, he was the son of the late Donald J. and Jessie (Howland) Emmons Jr. Larry was a graduate of New Milford High School and he proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.



Larry woke each morning, after calling his hawk to the feeder, he would sit and have his breakfast watching the hawk eat, listening to 92.5. He saw the hawk for the last time on his birthday. He cherished his hunting trips to Jackman, Maine, for many years with his buddies and in later years enjoyed watching deer on his property. You would often see Larry and his best friend Red make the rounds at the local clubs and then lunch at the Portland Restaurant. Larry and Red had many adventures together.

He was a member of over 20 organizations, active and proud to have served his community. Leading the Old Home Day Parade in his Model A Ford, helping his neighbors in anyway he could, each snowfall plowing out the neighborhood. Larry taught his daughters the joy of fishing and would get up early opening day to go to his special spot and bring home their limit. He instilled the values of love of family and trust, and helped his girls to grow strong and he cherished his grandchildren with all his heart.

It was his pleasure to host many club events at Emmons Golden Pond. Two of the last where the annual Yankee Pole Cat Insulator picnic and the kids fishing derby sponsored by the American Legion in Marlborough. Larry was a member or life member of over 20 organizations including the Masons, VFW, Elks Club, American Legion, Old Home Days, Belltown Antique Car Club, to name only a few. In his younger years he rode his Harley with the Bridgeport Motorcycle Association.

After retirement, Larry kept busy repairing small engine equipment, worked part-time at Nichols Bus Service and selling shiners from Emmons Golden Pond, cutting and stacking wood and keeping his property looking like a park. Larry was very proud of his pond, which was registered as Emmons Golden Pond and named the most natural pond in the state.

Besides his wife Mary Jo, he is survived by his daughters Tammy Scherp and Patty Ann Emmons of East Hampton; a sister, Bette Lou Emmons of New Milford; brother, Wayne (Judy) Emmons of Florida; brother, Richard (MaryAnn) Emmons of New Milford; sister, Judy (Dan) Volstad of Bethel; sister-in-law, Patricia Lamphier of Massachusetts; grandchildren, Amanda Januszewski (Mike), David Scherp (fiancée Jenn Cole), Joshua Hurley, Sarah Scherp (fiancé Adam Rogers); great-grandson Timmy; great-granddaughter Cali; step-grandson Jason Livingston; several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Gary Emmons.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., today, July 6, from 5-7 p.m. Burial with military honors will be held Saturday, July 7, at 9 a.m., in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown.

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

### Portland

#### John J. Cooney Jr.

John J. Cooney Jr., of Portland, and Plant City, Fla., husband of the late Marilyn Behm Cooney passed away peacefully Thursday, June 21. Born in Middletown, the son of the late John and Florence (Cardillo) Cooney, he was a graduate of Portland High School.



He attended Providence College and later graduated from Middlesex Community College. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve receiving an honorable discharge with the rank of Corporal. He worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in Facilities and Services for 37 years before retiring in 1992.

He was a member of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 1746, serving as a former officer and negotiator. He also served as past president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 in Portland, and was named Irishman of the Year in 1991. He was a member of American Legion Post 69, and a member of Middletown Elks Lodge 771. John was a parishioner of St. Mary Church in Portland, and St. Clements Church in Plant City, Fla.

John loved watching sports in his later years. As a young father he took pride in teaching his children basketball and baseball.

John is survived by his four sons, Timothy Cooney and his wife Eva of Durham, Michael Cooney and his wife Melissa of Naugatuck, Brian Cooney and his wife Jodi of Middletown, and Patrick Cooney of Portland, and a daughter, Melissa (Cooney) Wagner and her husband Dan of Middletown, as well as eight grandchildren, Timothy Cooney Jr., Zachary Cooney, Taylor Cooney, Brian Cooney Jr. and his wife Katelyn, Jordan Cooney, Joseph Cooney, Lauren Cooney and Maci Cooney; and three great-grandchildren, Aiden, Connor and Max. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews and cousins. John leaves behind his faithful and loving companion of 21 years, Helen Sweeney of Plant City, Fla.

John was predeceased by his sister, Marilyn (Cooney) Lovejoy.

A memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, July 7, in St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot with military honors in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, tonight, July 6, from 5-7 p.m.

### Colchester

#### Rosaria Brady

Rosaria (Sadie) Brady, 83, a lifetime resident of Colchester, entered Heaven's gates Friday, June 1. She was the loving and devoted wife of the late Wesley R. Brady Sr. with whom she shared 49 happy years of marriage. Sadie was born in Connecticut Feb. 10, 1935, and was the daughter of the late Mary and Charles Guarnaccia.

She was predeceased by her three siblings Charles Guarnaccia, Carol Kelly, and Salvatore Guarnaccia as well as her niece, Mary Parlee. Sadie was a dedicated and prosperous hair stylist and salon owner in Colchester for over 50 years alongside her daughter. Her passion was her business, and she was dedicated to her clients, whom she loved seeing each week. Her vibrant, warm and outgoing nature was what everyone loved about her. Sadie loved people and always lit up a room.

Sadie is survived by her daughter, Mary Lu Reed and son-in-law Rick Reed of Hebron; her granddaughter, Maryssa Edele and husband Keith Edele of Hebron, and her beloved great-grandchildren, Ella and Branden Edele; among many other nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Sadie's passing was unfortunately and insensitively withheld from her family and friends until just recently, which is incomprehensible. In order to celebrate her life in a manner in which she deserved, details regarding a Celebration of Life will be announced in the upcoming weeks.