

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Veterans led the way down Route 66 during Hebron's annual Memorial Day parade on Monday. Hebron residents had a busy day of celebrating Monday, as they marked not just Memorial Day but the 300th anniversary of the town's incorporation.

## Hebron Celebrates Memorial Day and 300th Anniversary

by Sarah McCoy

Across the state and the nation Monday, towns marked Memorial Day with the standard array of parades and ceremonies. And in Hebron, those festivities had extra significance this year.

Monday was a day of remembrance for Hebron, as residents not just honored men and women in uniform but also celebrated the 300th anniversary of the town's incorporation.

The Memorial Day parade and "Proclamation Day" anniversary festivities drew hundreds (if not thousands) of residents who packed the edges of Route 66.

"You can sit when the baseball players pass, but we stand for our veterans," Hebron resident Jeff Snyder said to his son as the parade kicked off on Monday morning.

Beginning with local veterans, hundreds of local politicians, emergency personnel, youth athletes, scouts and musicians made their way from RHAM High School to St. Peter's Church along Route 85. Despite Monday's heat, the parade path was lined with residents and visitors. This year's parade featured two new additions, the newly restored 1937 fire truck (Hebron's first) and a float carrying men in uniform representing each of the nine major wars/

conflicts the country has been involved in. Painted on the back of the float was the statement, "Every time our nation called-Hebron answered."

Across the nation, citizens were asked to stop and remember what exactly Memorial Day means. "It's more than just a day off from work," Hebron American Legion Post No. 95 Commander John Tuttle reminded listeners Monday afternoon.

"I've lived in Hebron since I was five years old," resident Tonya Snyder said. "My family and I come out to the parade almost every year. I love reminding my children how we can even be here. It reminds me of family and home."

Family and home seemed to be the operative words on Monday as the town celebrated Hebron. On May 26, 1708, exactly 300 years from last Monday, nine families gathered together to incorporate Hebron. Since then the town has ebbed and flowed, ranging in population from those nine families to 879 in 1930 to currently almost 10,000.

On Monday dignitaries and local officials were on hand to recognize the town's birthday and celebrate Hebron.

With a 42-star flag from the late 1800s draped behind the podium, Gayle Mulligan, acting chair of the Board of Selectmen, began 300th birthday celebrations. On behalf of the selectmen, she proclaimed May 26 to be the town's official birthday.

Marlborough selectman Riva Clark, a member of her town's 200th celebration committee, followed Mulligan. "I am honored to be here," she said. "And Marlborough will always be indebted to you as one third of our land came from Hebron about 205 years ago." She presented the town with a plaque from the town of Marlborough and commended Hebron residents for their sense of "oneness" as they celebrate their town.

United States Congressman Joe Courtney was also on hand Monday to congratulate Hebron. Courtney, who represents the eastern half of the state, said that through his campaigning he noticed how many Connecticut towns are named after Middle East areas (Lebanon, Bozrah). "Hebron is no different," he said. "The word 'hebron' means friend and that describes what the town of Hebron is all about."

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Unable to attend Hebron's Proclamation Day, Governor M. Jodi Rell sent the town an official state proclamation, which State Representative Pam Sawyer read to the crowd. In it, Rell recognized Hebron as one of the oldest towns in the nation (St. Augustine in Florida is the oldest at 443) and for maintaining its character as it progresses into the 21st century.

Hebron 300th Celebration Committee Chair Peter Moon, who emceed the Proclamation Day festivities on Monday, commented on how fortuitous it was for the town's birthday to align with Memorial Day. Perhaps no one echoed those sentiments louder than State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

Blumenthal, who later Monday spoke at the deployment ceremonies for the Plainville-based Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines division, said, "Today, on this milestone celebration, we are reminded of the importance of community, family, and public service.

"Whatever you think about the war," he said, "where ever it is – Iraq, Afghanistan – we owe our military men and women unconditional support."

Blumenthal also praised the town for its character, saying, "You really don't look older than 100."

Also present at Proclamation Day were state Comptroller Nancy Wyman and State Senator

Edith Prague. Prague exclaimed, "I don't know where you're going to put all these certificates," as she presented a proclamation to the town of Hebron from the state Senate and House of Representatives, bringing the grand total to 6.

Michael Bradley, a junior at RHAM High School, won the right to speak at Proclamation Day, as his essay encapsulating Hebron and its future was selected by principal Scott Leslie and social studies teacher Mark Logan. He spoke of how technology has revolutionized the world, including Hebron, and predicted something as outstanding as the car or the Internet to be forthcoming.

Bradley said he received his inspiration for his essay by reading a 1908 speech delivered by then-Trinity College President Flavel Luther who contended that to see into the future, you must look at where you've been.

Of course, no birthday party would be complete without singing and cake. So, at the end of the ceremony, residents sang "Happy Birthday" and were treated to cakes decorated by local residents Lily Humphrey and Linda Stevenson. One of the cakes depicted the eagle rock, which has served as the icon for the town's 300th celebration, and three other cakes depicted a farm scene with the slogan, "Timeless Beauty."

## Andover Voters Defeat \$10.28 Million Budget

by Sarah McCoy

Disappointed.

That was the word First Selectman Bob Burbank used to describe his feelings upon hearing that taxpayers had voted down the town's proposed \$10.28 million 2008-09 budget.

"I thought we had a tight budget going in," Burbank said.

But Andover voters apparently disagreed. They voted down the budget at a Tuesday referendum, which represented a 4.49 percent increase in spending, by a count of 210-160. "I think people are frustrated with what we have to pay at the gas pump and what we have to pay for groceries," Burbank said. "The only place people have to complain is by turning down the town budget.

"I was fairly optimistic," Burbank said. "The budget had passed at the town meeting and voters had approved a 4.66 percent increase for the RHAM budget." (Voters in the three RHAM towns – Andover, Hebron and Marlborough – all approved a \$23.55 million budget at a May 6 referendum.)

After Tuesday's budget defeat, it was back to the drawing board Wednesday for Burbank and the Board of Finance (BOF), which held a meeting to take the next steps in the budget process. At that meeting, Burbank reported an additional \$15,000 had been cut from the budget from a host of areas, all coming from the town government spending. This brings the mill rate from a projected 1.34 increase to 1.29 and represents a 4.33 percent increase to spending.

The BOF has no control over the RHAM budget, and finance board members opted not to touch the local Board of Education (BOE) budget after understanding some of the changes that will affect the school in the coming year. Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia said the BOE had underestimated its costs by as much as \$75,000.

This discrepancy is largely based on the rising costs of fuel. Last winter, the school paid \$2.18 per gallon for heating oil, and the school

board estimated costs rising to \$3 per gallon for the 2008-09 school year. The latest estimate, though, is much higher. "Who would've thought we'd be paying \$4.19 a gallon," Maneggia said. "When the board met in January we thought \$3 was a fine estimate."

If the district uses the same amount of oil it did this year, and prices hold steady at \$4.19, the BOE will be \$52,000 underfunded for oil. Maneggia also said the school system is \$10,000 short in the diesel fuel account, and an additional \$12,500 will be needed to cover the magnet school tuition for students opting for an alternative to Andover Elementary School.

With these expenses, BOF members felt it was prudent to hold the BOE budget constant, which meant that any reductions were going to have to come from the town government budget.

Burbank estimated that about 40 areas were trimmed at Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting, as the board tried to spread the pain of budgetary cuts. However, none of these were major cuts, Burbank reported.

"We haven't added any frills to the budget," he continued. "Things like fuel just cost more this year."

Voters will have an opportunity to express whether the reductions were major enough Tuesday, June 3, when the town will hold its next budget hearing. That meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Andover Elementary School cafeteria.

At Tuesday's referendum voters were also asked for input on the general spending patterns of the town. When asked about the town government spending 260 voters said the expenditures were too high. Fifty-five said they were too low. Two hundred thirty eight voters felt that the school expenditures were too high, compared with 76 who said they were too low.

There was a 17 percent voter turnout on Tuesday, down from 22 percent last year.



From left, Brandon Costa, Chris Wysocki and Steve Brunell, all juniors at RHAM High School, work to construct a shed on the school's property as part of the Construction Technology class. The class offers students an opportunity to develop residential carpentry skills through hands-on learning while providing a service to the school.

## Construction Technology Students Building Shed for School

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM High School Construction Technology class is leaving a lasting mark on the school. Combining hands-on learning and serving the school, the 12 members of the class are in the process of constructing a shed on the school's campus.

The full-year class gives students the opportunity to learn the trade of residential carpentry while providing a 16 by 24 foot shed for the high school football team. Keith Moyer, the Construction Technology teacher, said the regional school district had received a quote of \$12,000 to build the shed, but his class has been able to complete the project for half of that cost.

"It's a win-win situation," he said. "The kids learn the skills needed to be a residential contractor and the school gets a wonderful, useful shed."

Many of Moyer's students had never done any carpentry work before but step-by-step they're learning the trade. The class started with an overview of safety procedures and tools and soon moved on to creating scale models of houses out of balsam wood. "That gave the students an opportunity to learn the different parts of a house and the process of constructing it," Moyer said.

The class has been working on the shed now for a couple months, with each construction day yielding more and more results. The shed, which stands at the southern end of the school property, now has its roof rafters and walls installed. After one more construction day Moyer hopes to finish up with students installing ar-

chitectural shingles and vinyl siding. It will eventually be used to store equipment and tools for the high school football team.

"This project is more than preparing students for a career, it's teaching them life skills too," Moyer explained. "I run my class like a job and the students know they've got to respond."

Students are enjoying the project so much they're even volunteering to come in on Saturdays to work on it.

"I enjoy it," Peter Knochenhauer, a senior at RHAM High School, said. "I'm not that good at school book-wise but with this hands-on class I'm finding the kind of career I want."

Knochenhauer is the president of the RHAM student chapter of the Home Builders Association of Hartford (HBA).

As part of the class requirement, Moyer's students developed their resumes and mailed them into HBA. Moyer is expecting many of his students to land jobs, either for the summer or permanently, through the organization.

Moyer came to RHAM in 2006 after 20 years of running his own contracting business. "One of the reasons I left my business was to be able to pass on some of the knowledge I've accumulated," he explained.

His career change hasn't been in vain, as these 12 young men have successfully executed their construction plans from blueprint to finished product. Moyer plans to continue the class in the years to come with students slated to build additional sheds for the track and field team and Technology Education department.

# Memorial Day Celebration Moves to New Veterans Park in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Though the weather has not felt like May of late, the skies were clear and the air was warm for Portland's annual Memorial Day Parade Sunday afternoon.

Once again, Dave Kuzminski donned his red, white and blue hat and served as the master of ceremonies, giving a play-by-play of the action as it passed by. Kuzminski returned to his spot in front of Brownstone Intermediate School on Main Street and warmed the crowd up by playing old tunes by Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, and John Mellencamp. He commissioned the crowd: "If you see a veteran, thank them, because without them we would not be here, enjoying the freedom we so often take for granted."

The parade kicked off at 2 p.m. from Victoria Road, making its way down Main Street and up Waverly Avenue. However, this year, instead of stopping in front of the senior center, the parade finished up at the newly-named Veterans Memorial Park behind Town Hall. For the first time, the Memorial Day ceremony was held on the new stone patio in front of the elegant memorial.

All told, the parade carried six divisions. Leading the charge, as the Portland Police Department and the American Legion Colorguard reached the huge American Flag hoisted in front of the Main Street post office by two ladder trucks, Kuzminski played a recording of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"Believe me," Kuzminski said, as the Veteran Affairs Committee padded by in their truck, "they start planning tomorrow for next year's parade." Though they share many members, it is the American Legion Ormont Post No. 669 that plans the parade.

As First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield approached the reviewing stand, Kuzminski joked, "Susan ordered this sunny weather for us today." The first division also included several other selectmen, the day's key speaker Captain Jason DeRing, parade marshal Richard G. Murphy, and Richard P. Murphy's 1971 Cadillac El Dorado.

The second division was brought in by the Army National Guard 141st Medical Company Color Guard, and included town organizations like Portland Pumpkin Growers, Portland Emergency Services and the Girl Scouts of America.

A number of floats were sandwiched between the music. Preceding them was Connecticut Valley Field Music, dressed in blue, playing an old-fashioned fife and drum number. Their foil followed behind the floats. This was the Portland High School Band, led by Kristin Novak. Dressed in red, they strolled down Main Street to the Beatles' "Twist and Shout." That marked the beginning of the parade's third division.

One new addition to this parade included the First Company Governor's Horse Guard. This is the oldest continuous mounted cavalry in the country and was organized in 1778. Kuzminski said this guard escorted Presidents Washington, Monroe, and Jackson, as well as the Marquis de Lafayette, during their time in Connecticut.

The rest of the division contained the YMCA Camp Ingersoll Float, as well as two classic cars. One of these was Karl Helming's 1926 Model T Ford, prompting Kuzminski to jest, "Every year that thing cranks along like clockwork."

Division 4 belonged to the Shriners. Kuzminski told the crowd that the Shriners have been a part of the Portland parade for about the last 10 years and support 22 burn units throughout the northeast and have cared for more than 865,000 children. All the medical attention provided by these hospitals is free.

Once again, it was the Sphinx Temple from Newington and the Melha Temple from Springfield, MA, who represented the organization in Portland. Groups of Shriners sporting the names Funsters, Sachems, the Cycle Unit, the Mounted Sheiks and the Motor Patrol (which included a mini-tractor trailer) all found creative and zany ways to proceed through the parade in various motorized machines.

Division 5 began with the East of the River Classics, a collection of vintage fire trucks which Kuzminski once again referred to as, "the big toys for the big boys." Alluding to one of the more striking vehicles, he said, "How often do you see a blue fire truck?" The rest of the division was composed of the Portland Little League and Girls Softball and the town Republicans, complete with an elephant float.

More contemporary engines brought up the rear in the parade's final division. One of these was the heavy rescue truck. "I call it the Boar's Head Cold Cut truck," Kuzminski laughed.

Not everyone rode a truck, however. In ad-



As in years past, Jeff Kelsey (left), and his daughter Mackenzie (in the background, on the right), concluded the Memorial Day Ceremony with "Taps" in echo style.

dition to Chief Bob Shea and Deputy Chief Jim Lynch, the officers of the town's three fire companies accompanied on foot. Also walking was the department's Precision Drill Team, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary, escorting Brit, the department's resident Dalmatian.

The service began with an invocation by new fire department chaplain Reverend William Hodge. "Make us mindful," Hodge prayed, "that this is not just a day for picnics and cook-outs. ... Open our eyes and our hearts. ... Let us not be so callous that even one of the patriots is forgotten today."

Mark Melville of the Portland High School Band sang the national anthem.

During her standard Memorial Day remarks, Bransfield said, "It's a beautiful day. I don't think I can remember a better Memorial Day in Portland." She went on to acknowledge the parts Public Works director Rick Kelsey, ground division head Carl Johnson, Jim Landry, owner of Evergreen Landscaping, the town's garden clubs, and the Veteran Affairs Commission

played in the full realization of this new site.

"We will continue to develop this park and make it a special place for those who live in Portland," Bransfield said. She also read the winners of the float contest. Boy Scouts of America Troop 2 took third place, for their recreation of the Iwo Jima flag raising. Second place went to the Portland Pumpkin Growers, and Girl Scouts of America Troop 2883 took the top prize for their giant 'thank you' letter to the veterans who have fought for the United States.

The key speaker of the afternoon was Army Captain Joseph DeRing, who served a yearlong tour in Iraq from 2003-04. More recently, this past October, he returned from a year in Afghanistan.

According to Richard G. Murphy, Adjutant of the American Legion Ormont Post No. 669, plans are already underway for next year's Memorial Day festivities, and the Legion has already been approached by organizations eager to be part of the 2009 parade.

# Marlborough Residents Remember the Real Reason for Memorial Day

by Kristina Histen

It's easy to get caught up in Memorial Day weekend, especially with 80-degree weather, as it marks the beginning of summer, a day off from work and an excuse to eat an excessive amount of pasta salad.

However, residents of Marlborough remembered the real reason the holiday is celebrated by taking time out of their day Monday afternoon, to pay their respects for those that have fought for our country at the town's Memorial Day Parade.

Hundreds lined the streets of School Drive, South Main Street and Route 66 for the parade, where they witnessed representatives of such organizations as the Marlborough Youth Athletic League (MYAL), the Marlborough Soccer Club, the Girl and Boy Scouts, the Marlborough Martial Arts, the Marlborough Arts Center and the Volunteer Fire Department march.

Color guards from the American Legion Post 197 and the VFW Post 5095, the American Legion Auxiliary and veterans from World War II, Vietnam and Korean War also participated, and helicopters from the National Guard flew overhead. Attendees also enjoyed music played by the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps, the Connecticut Valley Field Music from Portland, Colchester Continentals Fife & Drum Corps and the RHAM Middle School Band.

"It was a pretty good turnout," American Legion and VFW member, and co-chair for organizing the parade Jim Dwyer said. "Probably the best we ever had." Dwyer said he helps out to honor the fallen veterans, but the day is especially important to him because he has a lot

of friends that have made it back.

"It's a holiday, so it's a time to celebrate a little that you're still living," World War II veteran Richard Proch said, and added, "I don't know how I'm still living." Not only had Proch been held as a prisoner in Russia for eight days back in 1945, he had been hit in the lung, shot down in Poland, bombed in Berlin and experienced events during the war that made him wonder how he ever made it back to America alive.

Eight-year-old Zach Gianetti, who walked with the Cub Scouts Troop 39, said people have Memorial Day to celebrate a "time that people lived long ago, like our ancestors and those that fought in war, most lived and died." He thought the parade was "great," but – along with his brother Josh, 5 – he didn't like how long they had to wait before the parade began.

Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department members Brendan Fiala, Andrew Andrasik and Dylan Parr marched to show respect for the town and the veterans that passed away.

"It's the littlest thing we can do to thank the men and women that gave the ultimate sacrifice," Fiala said.

Colchester Continentals Fife & Drum Corps member Jessie Klemyk admitted it being hard to walk while playing. "It takes a lot to do both and remember the song," she said. But she does it because it's a "nice holiday to remember all the people that fought for our country."

This year, it seems Marlborough may have taken a back seat to Hebron, as that town is celebrating its 300th anniversary, World War II Veteran, American Legion Member and Parade Planner Carl Carlson said. He said Connecti-



The town had its annual Memorial Day Parade Monday. Shown here are World War II veterans Richard Proch, left, and Shirley Tourtillotte, who enjoyed refreshments after the celebration.

cut's Second Congressional District Representative, Joe Courtney, usually speaks and the RHAM High School band also usually marches in the parade, but both were present for Hebron's celebration. Still, Carlson said, the town had "record numbers" of how many

people watched and participated.

"I am pleased we have Memorial Day," he said. "It is something our country needs and we certainly have to pay respects to our veterans that gave their all."

# Lost Colchester Dog Found... in Old Lyme

by Kristina Histen

With the help and support of the community, a lost dog has returned home.

Buffy, a German Shepard mix, traveled nearly 22 miles and was missing for almost two months before her owners Bill Ruocchio and Sue Wrubel saw her again.

Ruocchio and Wrubel, of Ridgewood Drive, had just adopted Buffy from a kennel on Good Friday in March, but the dog got loose the next day. Coincidentally, when they brought her home, they immediately put a collar on her with an ID tag from one of their previous dogs that had their telephone number on it. Also, even though they don't take a lot of pictures of their animals, Bill said, that same day Sue had decided to take one of Buffy.

When Buffy first went missing, Ruocchio went around his area of town with business cards that had a brief description of the dog and his phone number and handed them out to people. On Easter Sunday, one woman was driving when she saw Buffy over on Chestnut Drive. She turned around and drove back to her house, which was three or four miles away, to get the card Ruocchio had given her. She got a hold of Wrubel, who met up with the woman right away, to try and find the dog while Ruocchio searched the woods near their home. Unfortunately, they had no luck in finding Buffy.

But, all hope was not lost, because the call had at least given the two an idea of where Buffy had been. That Monday, they had fliers made up with the only picture they had of their dog, and started distributing them in that area. They received many calls from people that had seen her that Saturday, Sunday and Monday around Westerly Terrace, Chestnut Drive, Pleasant Street and Halls Hill Road, Ruocchio said.

That Monday night, Ruthanne Tucker, of Prospect Street, gave Ruocchio and Wrubel a call because she had seen Buffy three times – once in her yard, once in the neighbor's yard and once on the street. She put food out that night and the next morning it was gone. So, over the course of the next several nights, Tucker left food out while Ruocchio scoped out

the area hoping to catch a glimpse of his dog.

But it seemed that maybe Buffy just wasn't ready to go home quite yet, because she avoided Ruocchio and waited until he left before she ate. Tucker even tried recording activity by the food for many nights with a surveillance camera, but Buffy had moved on by then to continue on with her travels. However, Tucker continued to be a great help by enlisting the support of her many contacts in town and was a constant source of ideas and optimism, Ruocchio said.

After Buffy stopped coming around to Tucker's home, "the trail really went cold," Ruocchio said. Although there were still some sightings of the dog, there was nothing they could really focus on. Most owners would have probably given up in the hopes of the return of their dog, especially since she had no real connection to them, but not Ruocchio and Wrubel. Ruocchio researched the situation, hoping to understand how they could get her back because she was an aloof dog. She wasn't going to go to people easily, Bill said, but at some point she may. They also knew they had the support of the community.

"Just the way people throughout town reacted was just great," Ruocchio said. "People were really looking for her. We got a lot of calls, calls that didn't end up leading us anywhere, but nonetheless, we knew people were looking. We felt really good that if she was in the area, someone was going to recognize her and contact us."

They put ads in the *Rivereast* for about five or six weeks, and these generated calls from Hebron, East Hampton and Marlborough. They also distributed about 400 to 450 fliers door to door and had great cooperation with local businesses, the police, mail carriers and newspaper carriers, Ruocchio said. With the support of the community, the leads helped them track Buffy's movements and focus on the search, Ruocchio said. Throughout the weeks, people continued to call, checking in to see how everything was going and if they had made any progress with finding their dog.



**Buffy, a German Shepard mix, spent nearly two months on the lam, before she was finally found 22 miles away.**

Finally, on Monday, May 19, nearly two hours after Buffy first took off, Ruocchio and Wrubel received a call from Old Lyme. Buffy had gotten on to someone's property that had a fenced in yard and therefore she was unable to get out. It was a rather large estate and the people who lived on the property took two days to lure Buffy to them, Ruocchio said. It took some time for Buffy to get beyond her fear and go to the woman that rescued her because she was such an aloof dog, he said. But eventually she did, and the woman in Old Lyme was able to contact Ruocchio and Wrubel thanks to the ID tag they had put on Buffy that first day.

When Ruocchio went to pick Buffy up, it seemed she may have been appreciative of her owner's hard work and effort to bring her home,

because she jumped right in the car before he even had a chance to put a leash on her.

After traveling about 22 miles for almost two months, Buffy had lost an awful lot of weight, going from roughly 80 pounds down to about 54 pounds, Ruocchio said. Currently, Buffy has been under a vet's care and "doing great," Ruocchio said. She has really bonded with him and Wrubel and they are "thrilled" to have her back in their lives.

"We're extremely grateful to the community for their help and support," Ruocchio said. "All we could do was react to the information we received from various individuals."

Seems like superhero Underdog's got nothing on Buffy.

## Resignation from EH Lake Commission Prompts Heated Discussion

by Michael McCoy

At Tuesday's East Hampton Town Council meeting, exactly two weeks after the proposed fertilizer ordinance was rejected, it was announced that Lake Commission Chairman Bob Hart has resigned from the commission.

During public comments, Lake Commissioner John Jordan declared, "Bob Hart is probably the heart of the organization," and added, "[Lake Pocotopaug] is on the cusp of going one way or the other."

Fellow commissioner Tom Wells commented, "I was really disappointed when Bob Hart resigned." (Hart resigned May 14.) Wells called Hart "a clear thinker," and said, "The issue of the lake is a very important one. I think it's important that the replacement have some technical expertise."

Hart's resignation is the second departure the Lake Commission has seen in recent months. James Smith resigned from the Lake Commission on March 20 due to illness. According to Town Council member Christopher Goff, there were only two applications to fill the Lake Commission vacancy, and one was eventually withdrawn. The sole remaining applicant was long-time owner of Paul's and Sandy's Too Paul Peszynski, whose comments during a March Town Council meeting prompted several more weeks of discussion on the proposed fertilizer ordinance, a discussion that eventually led to

the ordinance being rejected.

During Tuesday's meeting, council member Scott Minnick said, "I think we should hold off on any votes until we get more applicants," and suggested that an advertisement for the position be run in the paper.

However, council member Tom Cordeiro felt differently and said, "I think Mr. Peszynski has proven himself to be a qualified candidate."

Council chair Melissa Engel said, "I think it's unfair to tell the council [a Lake Commission appointee needs] a degree in chemistry or biology. You don't want a group of like minds."

Telling Lake Commission members that it would be silly to suspect Peszynski of undermining their work, Engel said, "Mr. Peszynski is not going to lose his business if we pass a fertilizer ordinance. Trust me." Engel also admonished Lake Commission members for suggesting that Peszynski wasn't a worthy candidate on grounds of not being a scientist.

Though Hart's resignation came one day after the fertilizer ordinance was shot down, Engel said, "I would like to think he didn't resign because an ordinance didn't pass," mentioning she has been unhappy with a number of council decisions, but has remained on the council.

She went on to say, "I'm sad Bob Hart left.

He was doing a great job. He was very give-and-take."

Sue Weintraub backed Minnick's statements, and said, "I agree that we should get some additional applications. I don't think we're in a rush to make a decision tonight."

Speaking on Peszynski's first-hand experience with the lake, Town Council member Bill Devine said, "I think 60 years of experience is equal to any degree."

Council member John Tuttle credited Peszynski with having "passion" and "a vested interest" in Lake Pocotopaug. He elaborated, "As difficult a time as we have filling these spots, you can't ask for more than that."

The council voted to appoint Peszynski 5-2, with Minnick and Weintraub voting against the appointment.

Later in the meeting, Jordan took issue with Engel's comments, and said the Lake Commission never singled out Peszynski.

Wells agreed with Jordan's comments that the qualifications of Peszynski were never specifically questioned, and said, "I'd like to welcome Paul into the commission."

He also alluded to Engel's use of the phrase "like minds." "Bob and I didn't agree on a lot of things," Wells said. "Sometimes I changed his mind. Sometimes he changed my mind.

Sometimes we agreed to disagree." In any event, he summed up Hart's virtues, by saying, "There was an expertise there that was very much needed and welcomed." (Hart is a professional engineer.)

Prior to the vote, several Town Council members, suggested to Minnick that perhaps Irene Curtis be removed from the Lake Commission, since he placed so much emphasis on possessing a science degree.

Curtis said at a second public comment session later in the meeting, "I was very disappointed to hear four members of the council flip out and say that I should be removed from the council." Seemingly quite distraught, she added, "That hurt."

Peszynski also spoke, and said, "We already have people with a scientific background. We know what's wrong with the lake." He went on to say, "The fertilizer ordinance: to me that was an issue that was just insignificant."

"I am also saddened by the fact that Bob Hart quit," he added. "I told Chris [Goff] today that I was looking forward to working with him."

The Town Council encouraged anyone interested in joining the Lake Commission to fill out an application at town hall. The Lake Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

# Belltown Place Proposal Clears Major Hurdle

by Michael McCoy

After two lengthy public hearings and two sessions of deliberation, the East Hampton Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) has unanimously approved the Belltown Place development slated for the South Main Street neighborhood.

However, the decision, made Wednesday, appeared to be made with a heavy heart.

Belltown Place is a project being pushed by Pelletier Brothers of Glastonbury, who have dubbed it “a townhouse community.” The proposal calls for 127 units constructed on a 24.4-acre parcel.

IWWA opened the public hearing on the matter in late February. The hearing was closed March 26. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) also held two hearings on the project, and these events sometimes drew upwards of a hundred people.

Building official Jim Carey set the tone for the deliberation, when, during his initial comments, he said, “They’ve really got no specific activities in wetlands areas.”

After much sighing and many sullen looks, the IWWA passed three motions.

The first motion was “to accept the delineation of the wetlands as depicted by the soil scientist on file with the Planning Department.” It passed 7-0.

After making the second motion, agency member Dean Kavalkovich figured, “I know folks aren’t going to like that, but we’re sort of

boxed in by state statutes.” Fellow member Josh Wilson added, “It’s like we’re told what we can and can’t do.”

This second motion was “to designate that the activities for constructing a water system fall within the definition in Section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes for a water company. The facilities are necessary for the withdrawal, impounding, storage of water in connection with a public water supply. The use and operation are permitted as of right pursuant to the East Hampton Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Regulations, Section 4.1.e.” This also passed 7-0.

In reference to this particular motion, IWWA chairman Jeff Foran seemingly expressed his frustration: “I don’t understand how something in concept, that hasn’t been done yet, ... can fall under the definition of this.”

Finally, the agency voted 6-0, with one abstention (in the form of Marc Lorah), to approve the application. However, this approval came with 29 specific conditions, including an IWWA-approved site monitor, proper signage, stamped approval of the final plan by a licensed professional engineer and an eastern box turtle screening.

Carey also appeared to find fault with the state’s impositions and said, “All I can hope for is maybe we can achieve some positive change,” adding that this particular case has

gotten plenty of attention at the state.

Foran figured, “We’re caught between a rock and a hard place.”

After the meeting, Foran seemed unhappy, but offered little comment other than, “It passed.” However, he did further express being stymied over the project qualifying as a water system.

“I think we did the best we could with what we had,” commented Wilson.

Town Council member and South Main Street resident Scott Minnick expressed displeasure over the outcome but admitted, “It’s good people on that commission.”

A number of concerned residents who live near the proposed development have formed the South Main Environmental Trust (SMET). Though Dan Miller, one of the members, said last month there were somewhere around 25 members, he reported Wednesday night, “We are losing members.” He said “only a handful [have] remained,” due to legal costs increasing as the group moves forward.

Commenting on the outcome, Miller said, “I can’t say I’m surprised. Obviously, I’m not happy about it.” However, he did seem to think the IWWA had good intentions, and when asked if he thought they did everything they could, he responded, “I think they believe that.”

SMET attorney Keith Ainsworth said, “I think the South Main Environmental Trust was

prepared for this eventuality,” and added, “We’ll be weighing our option of whether we need to appeal.”

Ainsworth also said IWWA decision was “certainly disappointing.” Speaking as to whether the IWWA member’s hands were simply tied by the law, he figured, “The Inland Wetlands can make their own decision.”

Mark Branse, attorney for Pelletier Developers, said, “I would say that the wetlands agency followed the law of the state general statutes, in spite of intense public opposition.” He continued, “We have reviewed the additional conditions, and we consider them reasonable and we accept them.”

When asked if he was surprised by the ruling, Branse only said, “I respect the commission’s dedication and adherence to its legal jurisdiction.” He added, “I admire the commission’s courage.”

Branse also called the IWWA process a fair one and added, “I felt the staff reviews were very professional.”

After the meeting, Carey said, “I think the outcome was as it had to be. ... In this particular case [IWWA members] didn’t really have a choice but to approve that application.

“They really can’t reasonably vote the way people want them to vote,” Carey added.

The PZC is set to rule on the application at its meeting June 4.

# East Hampton Skateboarders Get Temporary Home

by Michael McCoy

After around a year, the town’s Skatepark Committee has received a temporary solution to their problem of where to skate.

The Town Council voted 7-0 Tuesday night during its regular meeting to allow skateboarders to use the basketball courts adjacent to Center School during the summer months.

During the meeting, council chair Melissa Engel read a letter from Tom Kennedy, pastor of the Congregational Church of East Hampton. The membership of this church has recently been allowing skateboarders to skate in their parking lot.

In his letter, Kennedy wrote, “Our youth do need positive youth activities, and a safe place in which to enjoy those activities, and in my working with these young people, I find that they are eager to comply with town regulations and church rules as they seek to make skateboarding a respected, positive activity for themselves.”

The letter continued, “In my youth I was an avid bicyclist and motorbike rider, and a land owner in town allowed us to use his extensive lot...” Kennedy said this “kept us away from the troubling lures and temptations that lurked in other parts of town which might have caused us more long-term harm than the scrapes and bruises which we experienced with off-road bicycle and motorbike racing.”

Acting Town Manager Bob Drewry explained that while the town is always liable in the case of injuries with such a facility, the town’s insurance company said this allowance would not affect the current premium.

According to Drewry, skateboard ramps, which would be assembled by the committee, would be installed on the courts after school lets out for the summer and would be removed by Labor Day. During the summer, the ramps would be removed for about a week for Old Home Days and stored at the public works facility.

Though Drewry recommended that the Town Council approve this temporary solution, he said, “I think it is incumbent upon [the skateboarders] to be aware that how they represent themselves could set the tone for the possibility of a skate park in East Hampton over the next 10 years.” He later added, “If this goes well, I’ll ask the council to consider a permanent skateboard park.”

Kimberley Fontaine, the driving force behind securing a legitimate spot for kids to skateboard at, has been a vocal presence at town council meetings over the past year or so. She is the adult facilitator for the Skatepark Committee, and the founder of the Village Center Community Corporation, which is the umbrella organization the Skatepark Committee falls under.

“I think it’s a step in the right direction,” said Fontaine, continuing, “I’m sad that it took so long.” She later added, “This should definitely not be the end of the discussion.”

Fontaine expressed her gratitude for the Congregational Church, saying, “Pastor Tom has been phenomenal.”

Fontaine doesn’t have any children that would use the skate park. When asked just what

instilled the passion in her to see this through, Fontaine shared, “Because I asked God to use me in ways that would help my community, and [the skatepark] is what God laid on my heart.” She explained that while passing through the village center and observing a number of kids skating, she actually stopped and asked them why they were not using the park.

The former permanent skatepark is located behind the Co. 1 Firehouse in the village center. Fontaine called the spot, erected in the mid-1990’s, “very secluded,” and said that one of the chief reasons the park fell into a state of disrepair was vandalism – which was rarely at the hands of those who used the park.

According to Fontaine, who called the old park “a haven for vandals,” the town’s insurance company demanded the park be shut down, and the Town Council did just that in September 2006.

Fontaine said that, while the committee has had donations, they can only be used for a permanent skatepark. She said the committee needs about \$1,500 to build the desired ramps for the summer and only currently has around \$100.

Pete Zipf, youth pastor of East Hampton Bible Church, is also a member of the Skatepark Committee. “We work with a lot of kids in the area. This is just one avenue to tell kids, ‘we want to meet you where you’re at.’”

Concurring with Drewry’s comments about the potential for a permanent park, Zipf added, “We have something to prove.”

# Youth Burned in Explosion Spends a Few Weeks at Home

by Kristina Histen

The young boy that was severely burned in a backyard explosion in February continues to make progress in his recovery – and was even able to spend a few weeks at home recently.

Jordan Hyde, 10, received his 13th surgery on Thursday, and it won’t be the last, his aunt Tracey Meeker said. The latest surgery is called a “release” to his neck; the doctors took grafted skin from his legs, and inserted it into his neck, releasing the neck area from being so tight. The tightness was due to previous grafts, Meeker said. As grafts attach and the body and skin grow, the grafted skin does not want to stretch, she said. Surgery helps relieve it, Jordan’s mother Leslie said, but the continuous support of occupational therapists and physical therapists will help him maintain it, which may result in less surgery in the future.

“It’s just a long-term process,” Leslie said. “It’s surgery-by-surgery, just like the first few months were day-by-day.”

Jordan has also had a tracheotomy, and the doctors say there are at least two to three more surgeries before his scarring will be in place and the skin is strong enough and they can re-

move the tube, Leslie said. The tracheotomy tube was put in his neck for the surgeries, she said. Once that is out, he can finally go swimming, which is his favorite sport, Meeker said. He just loves the water, his mother said, “he’s a fish.” So much so, his family has even put up a pool for him, his father Mike, who was also injured in the February explosion, said. They are trying to filter in salt water that would be good for the healing of his skin, Mike said.

“We are always trying to think ahead and do whatever we can,” Mike said.

Jordan was home from May 12 to May 28. During that time he was able to visit with friends, spend time with his dog, go fishing with his dad and even attend a fundraiser comedy show that was held on his behalf at RHAM High School on May 17. But, Jordan knows his limitations, and admits when he’s too tired and ready to go, which happened both at the comedy event and during fishing, his mother said.

“Whatever he’s up for, I’m up with him,” Leslie said. “He’s very strong.”

Although it was an adjustment to be home, with appointments everyday from occupational

therapists and physical therapists to speech therapists and school tutors, Leslie said it was nice for the family to all be together again. Depending on how his next few surgeries go, they are hoping to be back at home for another visit again in a few weeks, she said.

“We are so grateful to the community, it was a rough time,” Mike said. “The State Police and the Fire Chief handled everything great. We appreciate everything everyone has done for us; the list is like a mile long. If I can afford to stay in town, I’ll never leave Marlborough. Everyone has been so nice, everybody, it knocks the wind out of me.”

Mike sustained third-degree burns to his hands and face in the backyard explosion, but has “been alright,” he said, and has been taking better care of himself. The hardest part is dealing with it mentally.

“We wish the best for our children,” he said. “We want them to grow up, go to school, get a good job, have their own families. This is so far away from your thinking. It’s a tragedy, wishing the best, and this happens.”

Unfortunately, this wasn’t the first time Mike has dealt with this sort of thing. As a kid he was burnt badly and put in intensive care for a couple of weeks. But, to this day he is pretty much scar less.

“Jordan is a typical boy,” Leslie said. “He’s up, he’s doing very well and he’s moving better everyday. We have been very fortunate and a lot has to do with this hospital staff and my ability to be with Jordan. I wouldn’t be able to do that without the community’s help and the fundraisers.

“We are very appreciative,” Leslie added. But, despite it all, a kid will still be a kid. Nerf guns have already been banned from the hospital. When Jordan returned to Shriners Hospital in Boston this week, he brought two of them for him and his friend, another burn victim from another country, and after about an hour, the nurses suggested keeping the Nerf guns in the car from now on.

Donations can still be made to The Jordan Hyde Family Fund at any Bank of America. The account was opened in Texas.

# Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron Marking New Addition

by Sarah McCoy

It's been 10 years since Reverend Denise Esslinger took the job as Pastor of Gilead Congregational Church. In that time, much of her energy has been focused on the long-term. And the church will celebrate what they hope will be the start of a bright future when they open the doors to their new addition next month.

Set back from Route 85, attached to the sanctuary of the historic Gilead church, is a 2,300-square-foot addition. This space will soon be used to house Sunday School, music rehearsals, youth group and other church and secular functions. "Our theme for the project is 'Building...To Serve,'" Esslinger said. "With our hope being that this space can be used to serve our community and the larger surrounding community. There just aren't a lot of large spaces to gather in in Hebron. We want this space to be one that all of the community can use."

"We've been very crowded," Jim Kenniston, co-chair of the church's building committee said. "That was the impetus for change."

In 2000, the church started to consider their options, settling on an addition soon after. But, Esslinger said, parishioners didn't want just any addition. It had to fit with the needs of the congregation and look of the existing structure (originally built in 1858).

The main part of the addition is a social hall that runs parallel with a hallway and patio outside. That design was intentional as Esslinger hopes the area will encourage a regular flow of people. Also, the addition is set back from the original structure, as not to dwarf the historic church sanctuary. Instead, the gentle, sweeping addition looks as if it could have been there for years.

"A strong sense of community. A warm sense of hospitality. Energy to share the love of Christ," Esslinger said of her congregation. "We try to have a balance of fellowship and service."

This space, Esslinger feels, will allow the church to continue to do both.

This summer, the church will host a series of three potluck dinners and praise songs to break in the new addition. On July 16 and 30 and Aug. 13 residents are invited to check out the space and get to know one another.

The building isn't the only change to Gilead Congregational Church. Six months ago the church began offering two services, one at 9 a.m. and another at 10:30 a.m. "I think one of our strengths as a church is our caring community," Esslinger said. "I questioned if we'd lose that by going to two services but that hasn't been the case at all."

On Sunday, June 8, the church will hold its building celebration and dedication ceremony. That will be held at 10:30 a.m. and will be the only service that day. Throughout the summer Gilead Congregational Church will shift to a one-service set-up with that service beginning at 9 a.m. Two services will again be offered this fall.

Esslinger commended her parishioners for being a group "not afraid of change." That trait is evident in the changes to the service format, and is certainly evident in the building construction.

"A step of faith," Kenniston said of the building project. "A big step of faith."

Despite the \$1.4 million price tag for the construction, the church has given extreme support to the project. Through their capital campaign the church raised \$700,000 to put towards



Parishioners at Gilead Congregational Church are getting ready to celebrate a new 2,300-square-foot addition (shown here to the left of the sanctuary). A building ceremony and dedication will be held June 8.

the building. They also used a \$400,000 endowment to further defray the cost, leaving the church with a relatively small mortgage.

It's not just money that churchgoers are contributing, though. About 50 different members turned out to pitch-in with landscaping earlier this month.

Esslinger estimated that 150 people attend the church on a given Sunday. If this number increases, the church will be ready. "We didn't

box ourselves in with the new building," Kenniston said. "We purposely kept spaces open in the event that we needed to build out the sanctuary."

For now, the Gilead Congregational Church is enjoying this addition and the future opportunities it will provide. "I hope it will be a place where people will experience welcoming and that lives will be transformed with the love of God."

## Colchester Police News

5/14-Dawn Gulizio, 43, of 10 Scofield Rd., turned herself in to State Police on the charge of failure to pay or plead, State Police said.

5/16-A youth offender was charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault, State Police said.

5/17-Peter Kevorkian, 23, of 44 Brainard Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, weapons in vehicle, possession out of container, improper registration and insurance coverage fails minimum requirements, State Police said.

5/19-Justin Muszynski, 18, of 32 Swing Ln., Wethersfield, turned himself in to State Police on the charges of manslaughter with a motor vehicle, DWI and reckless, State Police said.

5/20-Sera Thomson, 26, of 52 Loomis St., Hartford, was charged with driving under sus-

pension, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to have headlamp, State Police said.

5/20-Kevin Paul Shepard, 35, of 57 Colchester Commons, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

5/21-Zachary Sargenti, 20, of 282 Deepwood Dr., Amston, was charged with possession of marijuana, State Police said.

5/22-Joseph Madona, 43, of 25 Sims Ln., East Haddam, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

5/24-Darmon Williams, 27, of 57 Quarto Rd., Norwich, was charged with operation under suspension and speeding, State Police said.

5/26-Joseph Dombrowski, 28, of 50 William St., East Hartford, was charged with reckless driving and DWI, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

5/10 — Patrick Small, 53, of 435 Old Hebron Ave., Colchester, was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, East Hampton Police said.

5/16 — Michael Cooper, 37, of 1 Paleroy Place, Middletown, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for third-degree larceny, police said.

5/19 — Jason Pangretic, 28, of 1852 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield, was arrested for violating a restraining order, police said.

5/19 — Jessica Way, 35, of 100 Young St., was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a hand-held mobile phone and failure to wear a safety belt, police said.

5/20 — Shannon M. Bodamer, 24, of 14 Wildwood, Kegan J. Schunk, 18, of 23 Moun-

tain View Rd. and Norbert J. Heil III, 19, of 196 Wopowog Rd., were issued tickets for failure to wear their seatbelt, police said.

5/21 — Michael L. Wheeler, 19, of 34 Raymond Rd., Jerry Root, 46, of 26 North Main St. and Kathleen A. Lapico, 51, of 24 Bellview Ave., Southington, were issued tickets for failure to wear seatbelts, police said.

5/22 — Nicholas T. Anderegg, 20, of 1 Cromwell Terr., was issued a ticket for failure to wear a seatbelt, police said.

5/23 — Ryan Bousquet, 18, of 137 Young St., and Eric Russak, 50, of 7 Grist Mill Ln., Cobalt, were issued tickets for failure to wear their seatbelts, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

5/22-Carl Anderson, 65, of 62 Boyer St., Springfield, MA, was charged with DWI and failure to maintain established lane, State Police said.

5/25-Jonathan Costello, 21, of 55 Attawanhod Trail, Hebron, was charged with DWI, State Police said.

## Salem Police News

5/25-Cassidy Lineback, 21, of 36 Kenwood Dr., Manchester, was charged with DWI, State Police said.

5/25-John Belardo, 28, of 58 Noble Hill Rd., Oakdale, was charged with criminal impersonation, reckless driving and no passing zone, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

5/22 — Tasha Saltus, 23, of 24 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with violation of probation, Portland Police said.

5/24 — A 17-year-old male was arrested on charges of possession of alcohol by an underage person, police said.

5/24 — Bryan A. Fischlein, 19, of 1113 Portland-Cobalt Rd. No. 10, was charged with possession of alcohol by an underage person, police said.

5/24 — James J. Jarzabek, 18, of 124 Jobs Pond Rd., was charged with possession of alcohol by an underage person, police said.

5/24 — Travis J. Puida, 18, of 214 Thompson Hill Rd., was charged with possession of alcohol by an underage person, police said.

5/25 — Andrew D. Frizen, 19, of 68 Lake Rd. was charged with possession of alcohol by an underage person, police said.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Rudolph Pierre Landry

Rudolph Pierre Landry, 79, of Main Street, Portland, died Friday, May 23. He was the youngest child of the late Henry J. Landry Sr. and Nellie (Landry) Landry, born on May 15, 1930, and raised in Paincourtville, LA. Rudy graduated from St. Elizabeth School in Paincourtville, LA and Belle Rose High School in 1948, and entered the U.S. Air Force that same year. In the Air Force, he was very fortunate to meet and later marry Janet Carlson of Portland who passed away March 17, 2007, after 55 years of marriage.

Rudy leaves behind to mourn him, his son James and his wife Gail, his daughter Jacalyn and her husband Charles Shefcyk, and his son-in-law Henri Barillaro, all of Portland. He leaves his four sisters, Grace (Boo) Blais of New Orleans, LA, Ethel (Mamie) and husband Walter Smith of Manderville, LA, Nellie Sullivan of Hingham, MA and Carmen (Sis Sis) and husband Herman (Buck) Rivere of White Castle, LA; his sister-in-law, Earline Landry of Donaldsonville, LA; and sister-in-law, Jane and husband Ed Glinski of Swansboro, NC; his grandchildren, Allison and Tim Kercher, Stacey and Eric Gibson, Patrick Landry, Dana Barillaro, Kayla Landry, Daniel Barillaro, Traci Shefcyk and William Shefcyk; his great-grandchildren, Noah and Samuel Gibson, who called him G.G. He was godfather to his precious Jessica Rousseau Baye, Jane Carlson Glinski, Joel Sullivan, Chris Landry and Louis Smith.

Also, many nieces and nephews who held a special place in his heart, and many dear friends, especially Jeannie Hadden Bastura, who was like a sister to him; Todd and Beth Roccapriore, whom he referred to as an extra set of grandchildren; and Scott and Ethel Duvall of West End, NC, his dear friends and traveling companions to the many trips they took with Rudy and Janet all over the world. He never lost contact with the many friends he had in his hometown. Besides his wife, Janet Carlson Landry, and his parents, he was predeceased by his loving daughter Joy Landry Barillaro, his brother Henry J. Landry, Jr., and brothers-in-law Robert Blais and Albert (Sully) Sullivan.

Rudy attended Hillyer College of Business in Hartford and was employed by Jarvis Products Corp. for 40 dedicated years before his retirement. After his retirement, he worked with his son at Evergreen Landscaping and then rode the oil truck at C.S.B. Inc. In his earlier years, he helped coach Little League Baseball, was a past member of the Knights of Columbus, Portland Chapter, member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Dept. Company No. 2 since 1953 and past drill team member, past chairman of the budget committee of the Middletown chapter of the United Way and past chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

Since his retirement, he was a member of the Portland Senior Golf League and was able to play golf three times a week. He established close friendships with his many golfing buddies, Jack Davis, Frank Sanborn, Ed Haddad, Ed Sonstrom, Bill Schneck and Scitty Cameron and the guys at Portland Golf, Jim Newsom and Mark Sloan. Friendship was so important to Rudy and we believe he will be remembered as a caring and loyal friend. Rudy's hobbies were following UConn basketball and his beloved LSU Tigers, the Boston Red Sox, golf, and working endless hours restoring his home, tending to his vegetable garden and the lost art of chair-caning.

The family of Rudy Landry wishes to express many thanks to Sr. Ida Dolan and Sr. Laura Marie Meskill for their many visits (his "girls" as he would refer to them), Father John Ashe whom he cherished talking with and the many dinners they shared together at Wednesday night dinner, to Frank Sanborn who never missed a Sunday visit this past year, and a special thank you to Middlesex Oncology and Middlesex Hospice.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Church of Saint Mary Thursday, May 29. There are no calling hours. Interment with military honors followed at Center Cemetery where he and Janet were together laid to rest. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, Portland Fire Dept. Company No. 2, or to Middlesex Hospice. We will miss you Daddy, you were a first class Dad and we know Mommy and Joy had their arms open for you, waiting to wrap them around you with our Lord. We love you. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home 231 Main St., Portland.

## Portland

### Stephen Melesko

Stephen Melesko, 79, of Portland, son of the late Stephen and Jennie (Dobensky) Melesko, died Sunday, May 25, at home, following a long illness. He was born in Meriden and attended Meriden High School. Steve was a veteran of World War II serving with the US Navy, before entering the Naval Academy in 1947 and graduated in 1951. He also served during the Korean War and his first assignment was to the USS Benham. He retired as a Lieutenant USNR in 1958. He then worked as an industrial engineer for Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY. His manufacturing career took him to several different companies through the years. In 1991, he retired as a manufacturing manager with the former Napier Co. of Meriden.

Before he became ill, Steve was a very active in professional, educational, charitable and church organizations as well as the Naval Academy Alumni Association, where he served as president of the Connecticut Chapter and then trustee of the USNAAA Board representing Connecticut. He was a chapter president in Connecticut and also regional V.P. for the American Institute of Industrial Engineers; past president and director of MARC; charter member, board member and President of RMS (Residential Management Services) where he was involved in developing an organization to administer several area ARCs (Middletown, Meriden, Southington, Bristol and New Britain) group homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Steve was the representative and chairperson for MARC's first group home at Powder Ridge in Middlefield. He also served many years as a director on the Board of ARC Connecticut and the Harkness Committee. Previously, he served on the Board at Kuhn in Meriden. Steve was an active parishioner, lector and member of the Parish Council at St. John Church in Middletown.

Mr. Melesko is survived by his loving and caring wife of 56 years, Mary (Cote) Melesko of Portland; his daughter, Susan and son-in-law Neil Jay of East Hampton; his son, Robert Melesko, and daughter-in-law Sharon, of Rhode Island; his granddaughter, Christy Melesko of Rhode Island; two brothers, Gerald Melesko and sister-in-law Mary Beth of Meriden, Vincent Melesko and sister-in-law Marlene of East Lyme; two sisters, Mary Ellen Melesko of Southington, Charlotte Legonski and her husband Edward of Farmington; also several nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a daughter, Karen Melesko and son, Brian Melesko. Steve was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He will be missed greatly.

Funeral services were Thursday, May 29, from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a Funeral Liturgy in St. John Church, Middletown. Burial with military honors will be in St. John's Cemetery. Friends called at the Biega Funeral Home Wednesday, May 28. Those who wish may send memorial contributions to St. John Church, St. John Sq., Middletown, CT 06457 or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of CT, 300 Research Pkwy., Ste. 310, Meriden, CT 06450.

## Colchester

### Charles H. Barnes

Charles H. Barnes, 84, of Colchester and formerly of Old Saybrook, widower of the late Linnie M. Barnes, passed away Wednesday, May 21, at the Masonic Home in Wallingford. Born April 13, 1924 in Medford, MA, he was a son of the late Warren and Marion (Enos) Barnes.

Mr. Barnes was a Warranty Manager of Saab Motors in New Haven and had also worked as a Field Auditor for the American Mutual Insurance Co. for many years before his retirement. He was also a Life Member of Tranquil Lodge No. 29 A.F. & A.M. in Auburn, ME.

He is survived by his two sons, Stephen and wife Carolyn of Colchester and Timothy of Killingworth; three grandchildren, Chad and David Barnes, both of Colchester and Kelsey Barnes of Killingworth; his sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Donald Slipp of Portland, ME; two nephews and their wives, Dana and Paula Slipp of Cumberland, ME, and Gary and Kim Slipp of Gorham, ME; his former wife, Jean R. Barnes of Colchester; and numerous extended family members and friends. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his daughter, Nancy Jean Barnes.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, 06492. Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Imogene Rona Ursin

Imogene Rona (LePage) Ursin, 83, of East Hampton and formerly of Cromwell, widow of the late Andrew C. Ursin, died Wednesday, May 21, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in Moodus. Born Dec. 14, 1924, in Collinsville, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Bertha (Blanchard) LePage. She had lived in Cromwell for more than 50 years before moving to East Hampton in 2004.

Imogene was retired from Aetna Insurance formerly on Elm Street in Hartford where she had worked for 23 years. She had been a member of the Aetna Women's Club, a volunteer at Middlesex Hospital, an Elections Volunteer in the town of Cromwell, and while living in Cromwell was active in St. John's Church in Cromwell. Since moving to East Hampton she regularly attended St. Patrick Church and Haddam Neck Covenant Church.

She is survived by her son Dale Ursin and his wife Linda of East Hampton, two brothers and their wives, Truman "Ted" and Flo LePage of East Hartford, Gerald and Fran LePage of Southington, a sister and her husband Muriel and Joe Lascari of FL, a sister-in-law Jane LePage of East Hartford, a brother-in-law Charles Casey of Rocky Hill, three grandchildren, Keith Ursin of East Hampton, Chad Heidenis of Portland and Kate Ursin and her fiancé Victor Martins of Glastonbury, two great-grandchildren Giselle and Andrew Martins, and an "adopted" grandson Mark Niglio. She also leaves numerous nieces and nephews and her favorite dog Jake. She was predeceased by two brothers Bud LePage and Pete LePage and a sister Lurley Casey.

A Funeral Liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, May 27, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private, in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery in Collinsville. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Tuesday.

Mrs. Ursin cared for the children of the world and particularly the work of Leead International Inc. a not-for-profit organization providing for the educational needs of the children in the country of Ghana. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Leead International Inc. 20 Riverside Street, Portland, CT 06480. To leave online condolences or for directions visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Virginia Batogowski Helmecki

Virginia (Balch) Batogowski Helmecki, 87, of New Britain, passed away Thursday, May 22, at the home of her niece, Frances Stockburger, in East Hampton. She was the widow of Edmund Helmecki who died in 2000 and was also predeceased by her first husband, Edward Batogowski. Born in Bristol, she lived in New Britain most of her life and was a graduate of New Britain High School, Class of 1938. Virginia worked at New Britain Machine Company as a payroll and cost clerk for 43 years, retiring in 1981. She was a member of the South Church, New Britain.

Besides her niece, Frances Stockburger, she leaves several other nieces and nephews as well as five step children including Edmund "Buzz" Helmecki of Kensington. She was predeceased by two brothers, Arthur and Kenneth Balch and a sister, Mabel Kardok.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, May 28, at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Calling hours were Wednesday morning at the funeral home. Burial will be in West Cemetery, Bristol, at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made to the South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain, CT 06051.

## Hebron

### Wayne Paul Fruke

Wayne Paul Fruke, 69, of Hebron loving husband of 38 years to Katherine Mary (Kirchhoff) Fruke passed away Thursday, May 22, at Rockville General Hospital. He was born Oct. 24, 1938, in Tracy, MN, son of the late Paul and Lillian (Scherbert) Fruke and was raised on his grandfather's farm in Balaton, MN.



Wayne had been a resident of Hebron for the past 34 years. Wayne served his country in the U.S. Army. He was employed as a data processor for over 40 years with the Hartford Insurance Group. He was very active with the Hebron Lions Club for over 33 years and received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Humanitarian Service from the Lions in April 2007. Wayne was a loving person and will be missed by all that knew him.

Besides his wife, Wayne is survived by two sisters-in-law, Lana Fruke and Joan Farinella; two brothers-in-law, Edward Kirchhoff and his wife, Mary and Harold Kirchhoff and his wife, Barbara and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his two brothers, David Fruke and Leland Wamsted.

Funeral services will be today, Friday, May 30, at 10 a.m. at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at St. Maurice Church, 32 Hebron Rd., Bolton. Burial will follow in New Hebron Cemetery, Hebron. Calling hours were Thursday, May 29, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse & Health Services Inc. North Central Hospice, 8 Keynote Dr., Vernon, CT 06066 or the Hebron Lions Club, 347 Gilead Road, Hebron, CT 06248 or the AHM Family Resource Center, Pendleton Dr., Hebron, CT. To sign the online guestbook or for directions to the funeral home, visit [www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Portland

### Virginia Guild

Virginia Guild, 88, of Portland, passed away Thursday, May 22, after a long illness. Born April 7, 1920, on Fishers Island, NY, to John Will Stephens and Annie Gardiner Stephens, she grew up in Waterford and later lived and worked in Meriden. Before marriage she worked in the WPA program followed by World War II employment at International Silver Co. making munitions for the War effort. In 1944, she married Warren Wesley Guild and settled at Great Hill Pond in Portland to raise a family. Her 42-year marriage ended in 1986 with the death of her husband.

While raising five children she supplemented family income as a housekeeper to neighbors and later as a food service employee at Portland's Elmcrest Psychiatric Hospital where she retired after 25 years. A Depression-era child, she left school at 16 to work on the family farm. However, long after her children graduated from Portland High School she enrolled and did too. As all who knew her can attest, for her entire life she worked "non-stop" to provide loving care to family and friends alike. Her house was "home" to all who entered through an unlocked open door. With a hug and slice of pie, she soothed everyone's troubles and never forgot a birthday. Blessed with a long life, large family and countless friends, she experienced all the joy and sorrow that life brings and never lost her caring way.

Virginia Guild leaves five children and spouses, Elwin Guild and Joan Giesemann, Baltimore, M.D.; Roger W. and Elaine Guild; Roy S. and Joann Guild both of Portland; Gail and Theodore Johnson, East Hampton; and Bonnie Jackson, Middletown. Grandchildren are Warren Guild; Elizabeth Velerio; David Guild; Roy A. Guild (predeceased); Daniel Guild; Roger R. Guild; Johna Flannery; Erin Guild; Erika Johnson; Kristof Johnson; Stephen Guild; Carl Guild; Wesley and Dylan Jackson, and Caleb Jackson (predeceased). Great grandchildren are Sean and Julia Flannery, and Elizabeth and Grace Johnson. Virginia leaves her devoted and beloved sister Angelina Young of Meriden and her children Carol Duperry, James and Glenn Feldhouse, Christine Young and Susan Cyr. Other siblings are John W. Stephens Jr., Geraldine Marccantonio and Karen Sztaba. Also left is dear friend and helpful neighbor Randy Guilmette.

There are no calling hours. The funeral service is tomorrow, Saturday, May 31, at 10 a.m., at Portland's First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., with burial at Center Cemetery. In lieu of flowers those wishing to express sympathy may make a contribution to the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.