

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Nicholas Aubin, second from right, was crowned Mr. RHAM at the high school's annual pageant last Saturday. Also shown are, from left, Allie Turgeon, Stephanie Eldridge, Elizabeth Rey, Robyn Caron and Aubin's escort, Kelly Moquin.

## There He Is, Mr. RHAM

by Lindsay Fetzner

There was a little bit of a Miss America-type atmosphere in Hebron last Saturday, as RHAM High School held its annual Mr. RHAM pageant.

The Jan. 30 pageant had different components throughout the night, providing the audience with a wealth of entertainment. The event featured a beauty pageant-type entrance, a sports segment, a talent portion, a contestant dance, a question-and-answer segment, and even homemade video presentations.

The contestants for this year's Mr. RHAM pageant were: Larry Fawcett, Cameron D'Auria, Chad Averill, Casey Zammiti, Scott Adamson, Mark Eells, Nicholas Aubin and Mike Reardon.

(And, as this wasn't a men-only affair, each of the seniors had escorts. The teens listed above were escorted by, respectively, Alicia Mathieu, Becca Billings, Emily Carpenter, Libby Fuimara, Brenna Kaplan, Jess Blier, Kelly Moquin and Sam Blake.)

Aubin wound up winning the Mr. RHAM crown, with second place awarded to Mike Reardon and third place to Scott Adamson.

Kim Hills, a physical education and health teacher, as well as senior class advisor, at RHAM, said Monday the pageant was an opportunity for contestants to "have fun and be silly," and although it was a challenge at times putting the pageant together, was "definitely worth it."

"It is a fun event for [the students] to go to," Hills said. "It shows pride in your school."

Over 500 people turned out for the pageant, nearly filling the RHAM auditorium. Hills said that almost 200 tickets were sold head of time.

Contestants were judged in a variety of areas. For the entrance and sport portion, they were judged on creativity, humor and audience reaction. The talent segment was judged on originality, presentation and audience reaction. The top two best performers were voted for in the dance presentation. And, for the question aspect, accuracy, humor and creativity were considered.

The judges for the pageant were a collection of teachers, audience members, alumni and the previous Mr. RHAM pageant winner.

See Mr. RHAM on Page 2

## Giant Rose Heralds Colchester Musical

by Katy Nally

A 39-foot shimmering rose towering over the town green is meant to conjure visions of dancing tableware, a fairytale love story and dazzling costumes.

The rose was donated by Norwich, a city also known as the "rose of New England," to promote the upcoming Colchester Community Theater (CCT) production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Donna Brown, a CCT member, watched in anticipation Monday morning as the giant flower was set up with the help of two bucket trucks. Later that night she went back to the green to see the glowing rose. "It's beautiful, they did an awesome job," Brown said. "No matter where you are you can see it because it's so huge."

Personnel from Harbor Electrical Contractor in Colchester donated their time to install the wiring on the rose, Brown said. The only cost for the town, Brown said, was the electricity the LED lights use, which she described as minimal. Any extra wire or tape was paid for by the CCT, she added.

According to Brown, this is the first time Norwich has loaned out the rose to another town. *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed next weekend, so the flower will remain on the green, as a beacon of fairytales, for the next 10 days.

"The magic has already started," Wallis Johnson, the director *Beauty and the Beast*, said. "Norwich and Colchester really worked together; it was such a collaborative effort."

First Selectman Gregg Schuster called the rose beautiful and said it was a great way to

celebrate the play. But he also said he hopes the giant structure doesn't fall on him when he camps out on the green to raise money for the fuel bank this weekend.

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein, who also plays Monsieur D'Arque, said the rose will hopefully contribute to the buzz around town about the show. Goldstein plays the "creepy, crawly" proprietor of the insane asylum that takes away Belle's father, Maurice. This is the fifth CCT production for Goldstein, who said the organization is always able to cook up magic on stage.

So far, the upwards of 80 cast members have been rehearsing as their French alter egos for one month. Much of the cast is composed of the ensemble, at about 60 members.

The challenging part for this year's production was the extravagant song and dance numbers, Diane Ozmun, president of CCT, said. "Be Our Guest" utilizes about 65 actors who demonstrate several different types of dance during the scene, including the can-can and the tango. "It's in constant motion," Ozmun said. "It's such a creative song, there are so many elements."

Another hurdle was the elaborate costumes, Ozmun said. This was the first year the CCT rented several costumes, some of which, like the armoire, are quite extensive. Ozmun said CCT members asked local business to sponsor a costume to offset the cost.

Dunkin' Donuts and Veneziano Enterprises, for example, sponsored Ozmun's costume of Mrs. Potts. "We tried to make connections that seemed logical," Ozmun said. John Gagnon's Pet Resort sponsored the beast costume, Skyview Realty sponsored Belle's wardrobe

and Nathan Liverant and Son sponsored Cogsworth.

"It's a fun connection for [the sponsors] so they can support the arts," Ozmun said. "The whole outside community has been great. ... It makes us feel very validated and excited."

As costumes arrive and set construction comes to a close, Ozmun said the play has really started to come together. "It's going great, we're very excited," she said. "All the pieces are becoming glued together."

See Musical on Page 2



Personnel in two bucket trucks assembled a 39-foot rose on the town green Monday to promote the upcoming Colchester Community Theater production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.



It was fun for all at the Mr. RHAM pageant last Saturday. At left, Cameron D'Auria (and his escort Becca Billings), spoke during the question and answer portion of the Mr. RHAM pageant last Saturday. Mike Reardon, who wound up winning second place, showed off his celebrity-impersonation skills, as a member of the show *Jersey Shore* (center), using protein powders as props, and as Tiger Woods. Shown at bottom are event emcees Alex Crockett, left, and Chris Langlois. Photos by Randy Anagnostis

**Mr. RHAM cont. from Front Page**  
Brendan Lamb.

For this year's pageant, Aubin, a Hebron resident, chose "Bhotian Hypnotic Subconscious Speed Reading" for his sport presentation. He said he did the performance without any rehearsal. Other contestants portrayed their skills in cross-country, gardening and NASCAR on a Nintendo Wii, to name a few.

Aubin drew on his electric guitar skills for the talent segment, where he demonstrated how to attract women. Aubin said he picked different songs that were aimed at different types of women. He included the songs "Barbie Girl" by Aqua and "Brown-Eyed Girl" by Van Morrison in his performance. Hills described Aubin's acts throughout the pageant as "honest" and drawing from "his true talents." Other contestants sang, "fist-pumped" with inspiration from the show *Jersey Shore*, and demonstrated their smoothie-making skills.

Aubin said he was "completely surprised" when he was crowned Mr. RHAM. In celebration of his win, Aubin wore the crown to school the following Monday after the pageant.

"We were just having a good time," Aubin said about the pageant. "It was a wonderful experience." Being in the accompaniment of his friends was one of the best aspects of the pageant, he said.

Hills said the two hosts for the night, Alex Crockett and Chris Langlois, were equally as entertaining as the contestants. She described them as "phenomenal" and that they "made the

show." Hills said each MC had to audition for the part.

The first Mr. RHAM pageant took place in 1998, serving as a fundraiser for the senior class. That year's freshman class came up with the idea. Presently, the junior and senior classes organize the pageant together and the money raised benefits the senior class. Hills said the senior class has been preparing for the pageant for "a long time." The first efforts began shortly after students returned from Thanksgiving break.

Hills said the goal for this year was to raise \$3,000, the amount that was raised at last year's pageant. The RHAM seniors were able to surpass that number, bringing in approximately \$3,500 for their class. The money goes to various things for the senior class, including the prom, senior outings, T-shirts made in the spring, and the senior banquet, to name a few.

The top three contestants in the pageant were awarded prizes. The third place winner, Adamson, received a bobble head and gift certificate to Marlborough florist It's so Ranunculus, for a corsage for the prom. Second-place winner Reardon, won a gift certificate to the florist for a corsage and boutonniere, a bobble-head doll and one prom ticket. And, in addition to the title of Mr. RHAM, Aubin won received a gift certificate to the florist for a corsage, boutonniere, and bouquet of flowers, a bobble-head doll and two prom tickets.



**Musical cont. from Front Page**

On Valentine's Day weekend, the CCT cast members will tell the story of an outcast "beauty" of a small French town who falls in love with a beast. The beast, however, was once a prince who did not value inner beauty so a spell was cast that turned him into the spiteful creature. The beast's entire staff at the castle was also affected by the spell, which can only be reversed by true love.

Although many theatergoers may be familiar with the story, Ozmun said she thought the audience would still be wowed by the production. "Even if you've seen it, you don't know what to expect next," she said.

Wallis said seeing Belle and the beast in person is like going to Disney World and meeting Mickey Mouse for the first time. "We really bring the cartoon, as everyone knows it, to life," she said.

With the combination of "phenomenal" costumes and "very elaborate" sets, Wallis said she envisions an amazing performance. The audience, she said, "can expect to have magic happen before their eyes."

Opening night for *Beauty and the Beast* is Friday, Feb. 12, with additional performances on Saturday, Feb. 13, and Sunday, Feb. 14, at Bacon Academy. Tickets are available at Wild Geese, Plotkin's Jewelers, Tracy's Tunes and online through the Parks and Recreation Department website, [www.colchesterct.gov/parks](http://www.colchesterct.gov/parks). They are \$8 for seniors and children under 12, and are \$10 for adults.

Light-up roses will also be sold at Wild Geese and the lobby of the show to benefit CCT. Anyone who purchases a rose will be entered to win a dinner for two at Café Mangia.



The rose, on loan from Norwich, will stand on the town green until next weekend serve as a reminder of Colchester Community Theater's *Beauty and the Beast*. Opening night for the show is Friday, Feb. 12 at Bacon Academy.

# Piping Remains an Issue with Big-Box Proposal in Colchester

by Katy Nally

A three-pipe debate was again a focal point of discussion Wednesday night as the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) continued its deliberation of a proposed big-box development. Ultimately, a vote on the project was postponed.

The application is for a 253,000-sq. ft. development in between Parum Road and Chestnut Hill Road. The 72-acre plot is zoned for a retail center, but no tenants have been announced.

For the second PZC meeting in a row, board members discussed a three-pipe issue, since the public hearing closed on Jan. 6.

At the last meeting on Jan. 20, the board discussed a discrepancy between the applicant's plans and a map. The plan showed two pipes, while a map displayed three in the same area.

At Wednesday's meeting, Town Planner Adam Turner told the board the state Department of Transportation (DOT) had reviewed the area and did not find a third pipe. The inspec-

tions from town staff and the applicant had the same results, he said.

Turner said he also went out to the site and dropped a five-foot steel poker into the ground where the supposed pipe was and nothing was found. But this did not discredit the existence of a third pipe.

"It's not to say there isn't anything there," Turner said. "I'm just telling you I didn't hit anything."

An e-mail from the DOT was also brought up at the meeting. Turner said he received correspondence this week saying the DOT believed the pipe was there and said the state would work with the developer to ensure the issue was addressed.

Turner asked the board for an additional two weeks to review the new findings and seek instruction from Town Engineer Sal Tassone.

Upon hearing about the e-mail from the state DOT, PZC alternate James Miller said he thought the public hearing should be reopened

so residents could comment on the new information. Miller also said he thought the third pipe, confirmed or not, should be added to the applicant's plans to comply with the town's regulations that say drainage structures must be shown on plans. He said the drainage flows must be calculated as if the third pipe were open.

However, PZC Chairman Joe Mathieu said much of Miller's concerns could be addressed by attaching a condition to the board's approval of the project. The condition would ask the applicant to have an inspection for, or of, the third pipe. Then, if it's discovered the pipe has a discharge, a further inspection would be required and the applicant would modify their drainage calculations, Mathieu said.

Mathieu also said there has been plenty of public input throughout the application process.

The board also addressed a question about fire safety raised at its previous meeting. At the Jan. 20 meeting Turner addressed whether or not Colchester's emergency services could

handle a project of this magnitude.

At Wednesday's meeting, Turner said he had met with both Fire Chief Walter Cox and Fire Marshal Reed Gustafson, who each signed off on the plans. Turner said Cox reviewed the plans in 2002, 2004 and several months ago and his recommendation is still valid.

Turner said Cox looked at water prevention tools like a sprinkler system and at the ability to suppress fire in the development. He said Cox also has an agreement with other towns should the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department need assistance in an emergency.

According to Turner, Gustafson said the plans meet the Connecticut fire safety code.

After further debating the third pipe and clarifying the safety of the development, board members agreed to postpone a vote on the project.

The next regularly scheduled PZC meeting is set for Wednesday, Feb. 17.

# Andover Selectmen Discuss Charter Review Committee

by Lindsay Fetzner

The formation of a Charter Review Committee was a significant topic of discussion at Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

The board decided on a suitable range of members for the committee and three possible interview dates for candidates. As of Feb. 2, a total of 14 residents were interested in taking part in the committee. Of those, seven are currently serving on a board or commission, while the other seven are not. Selectman Jay Linddy described the list of electors as "a great bunch of people" and the importance of choosing people who are familiar with the charter and have worked with it before.

First Selectman Bob Burbank said the committee must not have fewer than five people, but no more than 15 electors. No more than one-third of the committee can hold a public office, nor can the majority of the committee represent one political party. Linddy said it is important for interested people presently not serving on a board or commission to realize that if they are appointed during elections held this year, they cannot hold a position on the committee.

The committee must also present its draft report within a 16-month period from the date of their appointment, a time frame Burbank described as "pretty intense." In light of this and other restrictions candidates may run into, Linddy plans to draft a letter to those interested

highlighting some of the responsibilities and duties of the position will require of them.

"The key issue is that you have to have the right people to do this work and make sure it's done properly," Burbank said.

The commission is required to hold at least two public hearings, one which occurs before the bulk of the work on the charter is completed, and one after the completion of the draft report. Selectwoman Elaine Buchardt said this gives the public the opportunity to come forth and express their concerns with the current charter and any changes they would like to see the committee make.

Resident Dianne Grenier proposed to the board during public comment that the committee looks at a new form of government for the town. She said the current size of the town and growth in residents might make a new form of government more practical.

"It is a much different town than when the charter originated," she said. "Let's see if we can revamp the whole thing."

Linddy agreed with Grenier, commenting that when the charter was originally started, it went in the right direction. However, at the current time, some adjustments can definitely be made. Burbank stressed that before any major changes to the town structure are made, the town must make sure the proper finances are in order.

Linddy drew on past discussions that suggested a committee of nine people, six not currently serving on a board or committee and a total of three not currently serving. Susan England said she thought the committee should not exceed nine people, as a number higher than nine would be "too cumbersome."

The board decided on three tentative dates to interview prospective committee members: March 17, 25 and 31. This will allow interested parties to review the packet, which details the responsibilities of the committee. Selectwoman Susan England recommended that no more than five candidates attend any of the three sessions. The board hopes to appoint the committee members at the April 7 regular meeting of the BOS. New candidates will be considered until shortly before the interview process commences.

"Right now, we have a very good pool to choose from," England said.

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Also discussed Wednesday was an Emergency Operation Center Grant. The grant is through the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Multiple items would be included in the grant, placed in the town office building for safety purposes. Among the products would be a first aid kit, defibrillator and hand radio. Burbank said the upside to these particular items is that if an

emergency were to occur, they could be used with little or no training. The cost of the items would be a 75-25 split with the town. Andover would be responsible for approximately \$600 of the \$2,400 cost of the emergency equipment. Burbank said the town could look into saving more money on the items if the prices could be adjusted to a lower rate.

Meanwhile, Buchardt discussed an opportunity to apply for a \$40,000 grant from the Capitol Region Council of Governments. The grant is for a new town van that has the capability to transport wheel chairs. Buchardt said the van, which would be free to the town, would be "much more economical to run on medical trips." The town currently has two larger vans, which were originally the property of the state. The town was given the opportunity to purchase them at a relatively inexpensive price and did so.

Buchardt said the selectmen needed to ask the question of whether the larger vans were the right answer for shorter medical trips, or if the new van would serve as a more practical option. Burbank advocated taking the new van. He said if any of the larger vans the town currently has needed to be replaced, it would cost the town a significant amount of money. Also, he added, a longer life expectancy would probably result from the newer, smaller van and would save the town on fuel costs.

# Marlborough School Board Looks for No Budget Increase

by Katy Nally

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz last week presented the Board of Education (BOE) with a proposed 2010-11 budget that calls for a .53 percent increase over current year spending – and the school board quickly went to work reducing that figure.

Sklarz presented a \$6.95 million proposal last Thursday, Jan. 28. After making several more cuts, the school board was able to create a potential \$6.91 million budget – a figure that represented a zero percent increase over the current year's spending plan.

The meeting "went extremely well," Sklarz said Wednesday.

BOE chair Betty O'Brien said the board would discuss the proposed changes at its Feb. 25 meeting, including eliminating one full-time paraprofessional position and a receptionist, reducing the school year by one day and instituting a moratorium on purchasing new books. "This board has really tried to show awareness for people and taxes," O'Brien said Monday.

BOE member Louise Concodello said it is not known whether one paraprofessional will be laid off or hours will be cut from several staff, which would equal one full-time position.

In addition to the paraprofessional and the receptionist, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School will lose Principal Loraine Giannini and one fifth-grade teacher who will both retire at the end of the school year.

The BOE began its search for a new principal at a meeting yesterday, after press time.

O'Brien said the fifth-grade teacher will not be replaced, and instead the sixth-grade classes will increase from 18 to 23 students. Concodello called the class-size increase "doable" and said sixth graders will soon enter middle school where some classrooms have 25 to 28 students. Sklarz said this class size is a "norm" when compared to other schools in the area.

Sklarz said all the cuts were hard, but any time a budget involves personnel the situation is especially difficult.

Other proposed cuts up for discussion at the Feb. 25 meeting include reducing salary increases from 3 percent to 1.5 percent, eliminating non-mandated professional development conferences for faculty and opting out of associations for both the BOE and the superintendent like the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

The board will also discuss additions. O'Brien said scenario writing, which was removed from last year's budget, was reinstated in the subcommittee's proposed budget with an approximate cost of \$2,000. Also listed in additions was a \$20,000 placeholder for sewer fees. Concodello said this is just an estimate and hopes the actual amount will be less.

Overall, Concodello said the cuts will "hurt" but, for the most part the classroom has been

left alone, with the exception of the increased sixth-grade classes.

The school budget that passed last year did not increase class size and no one was laid off. Instead, the school switched to a part-time superintendent after Sal Menzo left and a full-time challenge and enrichment (C&E) position was eliminated, but the teacher filled an opening in fifth grade. A paraprofessional also switched from C&E to another department, Concodello said.

By the time it was passed by voters last June, the 2009-10 education budget actually saw about a 3 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year.

O'Brien said C&E would not be an issue for the 2010-11 budget. She said the challenge for this year is getting the taxpayers to pass the budget in June.

Concodello said it was important to the board to reach a zero percent increase because of the town's tough economic times. She said the Board of Finance (BOF) warned the BOE this year and the next would be "very difficult." BOF Chairwoman Cathy Gaudinski said she recognized the BOE and selectmen have been hard at work to take their budgets down to a zero percent increase.

Concodello said two aspects would continually impact the proposed budget – debt and insurance rates – both she referred to as "moving

targets."

According to Concodello, new insurance rates are constantly changing and during last year's budget season they were finally pinned down in April.

The debt, Concodello said, was partly incurred by the renovations of the elementary, middle and high school and the sewer project. Gaudinski noted other sources of the town's debt including roads, public works, fire equipment and the business park.

Even if the town creates a budget with a zero percent increase for the upcoming fiscal year, taxes will still go up because the debt must be covered, Gaudinski said.

Last year, the debt was at \$2.3 million and showed about a 13.6 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. Gaudinski was hesitant to nail down a debt figure for this year because the numbers have not been finalized.

Although the BOE has proposed a budget with a zero percent increase, Concodello said it was possible board members would take it a step further and strive for a decrease in spending to accommodate the debt.

"Stay tuned," Concodello said. "There's more to come."

The BOE is expected to discuss and pass a school budget at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25. It will then be forwarded to the BOF.

# Hebron School Board Passes \$12.18 Million Budget

by Lindsay Fetzner

After trimming from the superintendent of school's December proposal, the Board of Education (BOE) last week passed a \$12.18 million proposed 2010-11 budget.

The proposal is an increase of \$467,000, or 3.99 percent, from the current year. Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz originally proposed a budget to the BOE of \$12.22 million in December, which was an increase of 4.33 percent, or \$513,371, from the current budget.

The budget passed last Thursday, Jan. 28, lets parents choose either full-day kindergarten or half-day kindergarten. "It becomes a parent's choice," Cruz said. The budget calls for six full-day kindergarten classes and one half-day kindergarten class. The pilot for the full-day program was started two years ago, and Cruz said it has been a very successful intervention. In response to the lottery system instated in the past, Cruz said she did "not want to go back" or to be put in a situation "where some go into a lottery and some don't." Many parents voiced their concerns regarding the lottery system at past BOE meetings during public comment.

As of Jan. 28, 103 children were registered for kindergarten. Cruz said a total of 116 students are anticipated for next year, which could hold true, if families moved into town over the summer months or more parents enroll their children. Board member Mark Allaben said at the meeting that the numbers for kindergarten enrollment do typically go up. Cruz said that

past projections made by New England School Development Council the last two years have been fairly accurate.

A poll was conducted by the office of Kathy Veronesi, principal of Gilead Hill School, that surveyed parent's interest in the half-day versus the full-day program. Out of the 103 students, 82 parents wanted all-day kindergarten, 10 parents wanted half-day kindergarten, nine were unsure and two did not respond. Three parents said they were unsure, but said that if the all-day program were offered, they would prefer it to the half-day program. Although there is a significant amount of interest in the full-day program, Cruz stressed that parents who want the half-day program would be accommodated for.

"What we are really striving for is options for parents," Cruz said Thursday.

To give parents the choice for either enrollment option, the increase is \$48,824 for a teacher, \$12,175 for benefits and \$500 for furniture. "This is the only incremental difference," Cruz said.

Despite the inclement weather last Thursday, parents turned out to express their continued support for the full-day kindergarten program during public comment.

"I think full-day kindergarten here at Gilead Hill is an amazing gift," Christina Bravi said. Bravi has a daughter in full-day kindergarten and volunteers her time in the classroom. She

said the extra time allows for concepts to sink in and the opportunity for questions to be asked. The financial impact to the taxpayers for the increase to the budget is very minimal, Bravi said, but the gift families receive in return is more than money can buy.

Heather Halotek told the school board she feels there are a lot of skills children have to learn in order to prepare for first and second grade. The half-day program, she said, was a very rushed day, but full-day kindergarten allowed the children to have adequate time to learn the necessary skills. Halotek said there is noticeable difference in children enrolled in the full-day versus half-day program once they move from kindergarten onto the first grade.

"Extra time will only benefit in the grades that come after kindergarten," Halotek said.

Board members also agreed with parents and voiced their opinions in the full-day program. BOE Chairwoman Jane Dube said the full-day program teaches the same concepts as half-day, but gives kids a chance to reinforce those concepts. Giving parents the option to choose is a commitment she felt needs to be honored.

"I really support full-day kindergarten," board member Brian O'Reilly said. He said he believes it is a good investment for the future and commended Cruz and her staff for "a wonderful job."

The budget will move on to the Board of

Selectmen and Board of Finance for discussion during the months of February and March.

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Also last Thursday, Cruz gave an update on the Connecticut Shandong Province Partnership with China. Two teachers have been chosen to go overseas during April vacation. Laura Quarticelli, a fifth-grade teacher at Hebron Elementary School, and Kim Pedersen, a music teacher at Hebron Elementary, are currently planning which programs and lessons they will implement during their visit.

It is a rich opportunity," Cruz said.

The program, started in 2007, is largely supported by grants and is at no cost to the community. This year, the two grants that had been applied for – one from the Connecticut Association of Schools and the other, a Title II grant for Innovative Programs – were both received. Cruz visited China in 2007 and Veronesi traveled there in 2008. Veronesi is currently interviewing candidates to offer after school Chinese lessons. Information will be available to parents at the end of February. Board members were in agreement with the positive opportunities the program has to offer for both the staff and students.

"I think it's terrific," Dube said.

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The next meeting of the BOE will be Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., at Gilead Hill School, located at 580 Gilead St.

## Hebron Resident Awarded \$18.3 Million in Suit Against State

by Lindsay Fetzner

Hebron resident Gina Malapanis, owner of Computers Plus Center, Inc. (CPC), not surprisingly feels a sense of vindication after a Waterbury Superior Court jury last week awarded her \$18.3 million in a countersuit she had brought against the state.

"Each juror listened intensely to the facts and the evidence," Malapanis said Wednesday. "I was finally able to be heard, a privilege that the State of Connecticut did not allow me to have."

In 2003, a civil lawsuit against Malapanis was filed by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, on behalf of the State Department of Information Technology (DOIT), in 2003 for \$1.75 million. The lawsuit stated that the East Hartford-based CPC sold computers to the state that lacked essential parts. A press release from the Attorney General's Office in 2003 stated that CPC served as a vendor to the state for more than 10 years, entering over 20 contracts with the state, some of which were estimated at \$15 million.

The release said that Malapanis provided the state "thousands of computers that did not contain specified parts, while fraudulently charging the State for the missing items." It went on to mention that the company did not credit the state for substitute computer parts nor did CPC adhere to the specifications of the items that had been ordered.

Audits completed by the DOIT found the company had installed generic memory instead of the required level of factory-installed memory, according to the press release. This occurred on at least 44 of the computer servers. The computers were also missing one of the two network interface cards, required by the contract between Malapanis and the state. Although the release said only one card was installed, the state was billed for computers containing two cards, running at approximately \$50 apiece.

Malapanis and CPC were accused of "bilk-

ing the State out of more than a half million dollars, and possibly much more." Blumenthal said in the release he had intentions to recover the taxpayer money and that the case sent a "strong message about zero tolerance for contractor misconduct."

According to published reports, in June 2004, Malapanis was arrested and charged with first-degree larceny. Charges were later dropped, and Malapanis filed a countersuit against the state and Gregg Regan, then head of DOIT, in response to Blumenthal's 2003 suit, denying the claims brought against her and her company, published reports said. Malapanis said the state violated both her and her company's civil rights, according to published reports, and that the complaints about her company had severely damaged her business. Malapanis countersued the state for breach of contract and insisted she had done no wrong, published reports said. A jury last Friday, Jan. 29, sided with Malapanis.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal issued a release Jan. 29, after the verdict was delivered. In the release, Blumenthal stated the verdict was "wrong" and "inconsistent with law and evidence presented at trial." Blumenthal said in the release he would "vigorously and aggressively fight to reverse this flawed finding." According to the release, Blumenthal plans to ask the court to throw out both the award and verdict. If the verdict stands, Blumenthal said "we will appeal."

Malapanis said Wednesday that "for anyone to question the decision of the jury is paramount to questioning the judicial system itself."

Milapanis also said, "This case is not about the money, it was about doing the right thing. I was confident that when the truth came out, justice would prevail."

Attorney James Wade of Hartford represented Malapanis. When reached this week, Wade's secretary said he could not comment on the case.



A one-car accident on Wall Street Monday morning led to the Life Star emergency helicopter being called to the scene. Photo by Dave Wrobel

## Wall Street Crash Results in Life Star Call

by Lindsay Fetzner

A second call to Life Star in nearly two weeks was made on Monday, Feb. 1, when a Hebron resident drove off Wall Street, according to State Police.

The accident occurred during the morning commute at about 7:30 a.m., according to State Police. Graham Waddington, 18, of 260 Skinner Ln., was heading southbound and drove off of Wall Street, into a tree, State Police said.

Waddington sustained what appeared to be "non-life threatening injuries," State Police said, and was extricated by the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD). Waddington was taken by Life Star to Hartford Hospital.

HVFD Lieutenant Kevin McDonnell said, based on what he saw at the scene, Waddington sustained a right leg injury.

Hartford Hospital said Wednesday that Waddington was in "very stable" condition.

The accident occurred on level ground, McDonnell said, and the car ended up approximately 20 feet off of the road. He was driving a 1988 Chrysler Conquest, which sustained front-end damage. McDonnell said the passenger door of the car was jammed. The fire department used hydraulic tools to open the passenger door. Waddington was removed from his vehicle in 11 minutes.

The crash led to Life Star's second trip to Hebron in about 10 days. On Jan. 23, the medical helicopter was called after a one-car accident on Crouch Road in Amston.

The case is currently under investigation.

# Marlborough Public Works Supervisor Gets to Keep His Job

by Katy Nally

For now, Chris Corsa will keep his job of Public Works supervisor, while just days ago he thought his position was eliminated.

Corsa said he heard his position would be affected by budget cuts on the first day back after the winter holidays. He said he was told his position would switch from the town's budget and be absorbed by the Board of Education (BOE) budget.

Corsa said the paperwork he received all indicated his last day with the town would be Jan. 15, but after discussions with the union, that date was extended to Jan. 29. "All the paperwork provided indicated that was the case," he said Wednesday.

"We were led to believe that the Board of Ed. was absorbing Chris's hours of work," Larry Dorman, a spokesman for the union that represents Marlborough town hall employees, said this Wednesday.

But things got more complicated when he spoke with Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz last Wednesday, Jan. 27. Corsa said he was told the BOE could not afford to take on

the position of public works supervisor.

Because the BOE could not take on his position, Corsa assumed he would not return to work the following Monday and a story in last week's *Rivereast* reported that he was out of a job.

However, Corsa's luck changed on Friday afternoon when he was called into Bill Black's office. The first selectman told Corsa he was surprised to hear Corsa's last day was Friday, Corsa said. Then Black told him the town, not the BOE, would continue to fund his position, Corsa said.

Black did not return calls for comment for this story.

Sklarz said Wednesday Corsa's job is secure until at least June 30, which allows enough time for the boards to discuss the funding.

Corsa said he was "very surprised" to hear the news from Black, but happy to still be employed.

"There's been a great deal of miscommunication in many, many ways," Corsa said. "I am still happy to still be there," he added.

## East Hampton Police News

1/20 — William F. Welton Jr., 67, of 10 Clearview Rd., Moodus, was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant for operating under suspension, operating without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and second-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

1/20 — Patrick Burbank, 19, of 4 Wangonk Tr., was arrested for breach of peace and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

1/21 — Robert A. Dickenson, 49, of 4 Wangonk Tr., was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant for first-degree criminal trespass, sixth-degree larceny and second-degree failure to appear, police said. Dickenson was also arrested for disorderly conduct, police added.

1/21 — Paul Violette, 48, of 4714 Ararat Highway, Ararat, VA, was issued a ticket for having an extended load and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

1/22 — Cherie L. Carrier, 40, of 202 Hillard St., Manchester, was arrested for damaging private property, police said.

1/22 — Meagan Bibisi, 18, of 17 Midwood Farm Rd., and Jordan E. Derr, 19, of 3 Edgerton

St., were issued tickets for creating a public disturbance, police said.

1/23 — Robert T. Kostoss, 37, of 172 Champion Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for speeding, police said.

1/26 — Joann A. Anderson, 51, of 32 West St., was issued a ticket for illegal passing, police said.

1/26 — Robert D. Saltus, 27, of 18 Middletown Ave., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

1/27 — Kimberly L. Benoit, 26, of 3 Wilkes Rd., was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

1/26 — Jennifer A. Pettine, 36, of 48 Emily Ln., was issued a ticket for speeding, police said.

1/26 — Shawn G. Vecchito, 40, of 22 Lakeview St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

1/26 — John R. Forbes IV, 23, of 29 Main St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of disorderly conduct, second-degree breach of peace, second-degree threatening, third-degree criminal mischief and interfering with a police officer, police said.

## Salem Police News

1/28: Sometime between Monday, Jan. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 28 a residence on Morgan Road was burglarized, State Police said. Intruders took an 8,000-watt gasoline powered generator.

2/1: At about 4 p.m. a home on Hartford Road was burglarized, State Police said. Intruders took jewelry, money, a cell phone, car and house keys and DVDs. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Trooper Carson Konow at 580-537-7555 ext. 4046.

2/1: At about 4:50 p.m. a home on Rathburn Hill Road was burglarized. Intruders kicked in the front door and took various jewelry, State Police said.

## Hebron Police News

1/28: A 17-year-old of Amston was traveling west in her 2002 Chevy Blazer on Route 66 near the intersection of Buck Road when she hit a telephone pole, State Police said. The 17-year-old crossed into the opposing traffic lane, State Police said, and slid out of control due to slippery conditions caused by a snow squall. The driver complained of minor injuries sustained in her chest and shortness of breath, State Police said. She was transported to the Marlborough Emergency room via Hebron Emergency Medical Service personnel, according to State Police.

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

By the end of the month, the Bernie's chain of electronics and appliance stores will no longer exist. I'm kinda bummed about that.

Oh, I haven't stepped foot inside a Bernie's in years. Yet, it was nice to know it was always there. And if you're of a certain age, and grew up in Connecticut, Bernie's really has always been there, its commercials featuring the business' jolly-looking, smiling spokesman sort of burned into your brain.

The shuttering of Bernie's is also sad in that it represents yet another regional chain going by the wayside. Last week in this space, I sung the praises of my new DVR. But there's one thing a DVR can't do, and that's allow you to watch things from 20 years ago. Last year, on one cold December night not long before Christmas, I dug out a VHS copy of *A Christmas Story* that my family had taped off of Channel 61 back in 1988. The commercials hadn't been edited out, so watching the movie was truly like stepping back in time.

Where am I going with this? Well, there were ads for all sorts of businesses that don't exist anymore. There were spots for Bradlees, Sound Playground, Anderson-Little and even Crazy Eddie's. There was an ad for Bernie's too (although in those days it was known as Bernie's Newmark & Lewis).

When you're 9 years old – as I was in 1988 – you of course don't think that the day will come when none of these stores will be around. You just sort of take them for granted (along with other long-gone retail outlets not represented on that old tape, such as Caldor or Ames). It's kind of difficult to believe that, a little more than 20 years since that recording was made, those stores are all just memories.

There's something rather sad about the closing of all these regional retail chains. The stores provided an added sense of uniqueness to an area. National chains like Wal-Mart, Target or Best Buy are all well and good, but there's no local flavor to them. A Target in South Windsor is more or less exactly the same as a Target in Los Angeles. (And I've been to Targets in both places, so I know whereof I speak.) But you couldn't shop at a Caldor in, say, Texas, or at a Bradlees in Wyoming. The mere mention of these names in those states would likely have fetched you quizzical looks. They were part of your geographic heritage; part of your Nutmegger imprint.

Regional chains still exist, although mainly in the form of supermarkets (good luck finding a Shaw's or Price Chopper in Alabama) and occasionally restaurants (ditto D'Angelo's or Friendly's). So we're not completely homogenized yet. But it's still a sad day to see the end of another regional chain, a place that was uniquely New England.

\* \* \*

I was rather saddened when the news came out last week about John Edwards. I wasn't taken totally by surprise, but I was still disappointed to learn he had fathered a kid through that affair he acknowledged in 2008, and then had proceeded to lie about it ever since.

As I've written here in the past, I had liked John Edwards for a while. I liked him in 2004, when he was John Kerry's running mate. And I was even leaning towards voting for him in the February 2008 Democratic primary (of course, he wound up withdrawing from the race a few weeks before the "Super Tuesday" vote, relieving me of that decision). There was something about him, a likability, a wholesomeness, that appealed to me. There were all the rumors in the supermarket tabloids, but there have always been rumors about politicians in the supermarket tabloids. (Had it been around back then, I'm sure *National Inquirer* would have offered some scandalous George and Martha Washington stories for people to read while waiting in line at Ye Olde Stoppe & Shoppe.)

My estimation of Edwards took a hit, of course, when he acknowledged an affair with

campaign employee Rielle Hunter. But I still believed him – perhaps because I wanted to – when he vehemently denied Hunter's baby was his. I don't know, there was something about him, something that made me not want to completely doubt him.

But, of course, he had lied. Not only had he cheated on his cancer-stricken wife, he fathered a child and then denied it for nearly two years. Who knows, he may have kept on denying it if not for the fact a former aide has a new book coming out that was basically going to expose the whole thing. (And, according to the former aide, Edwards went to some pretty sleazy lengths to cover the whole thing up, even ordering the aide at one point to get a doctor to fake a DNA test. I'm a little leery of these wild, salacious claims former employees or campaign aides come up with in these tell-all books; you gotta wonder sometimes how much of it really happened, or how much of it just an attempt to sell books. But frankly, it's a little difficult right now to give John Edwards the benefit of the doubt.)

Look, I'm not saying Edwards should be perfect. He's a human being, and certainly allowed to make mistakes. But this was a pretty big one, and he just kept on compounding it (in fact, if there's a lesson Edwards can teach us in all this, it's that a web of deceit can get quite tangled indeed). Coming from a man I had pinned such high hopes on just a few short years ago.....well, like I said, it was pretty disappointing.

\* \* \*

While at the supermarket the other day, I was standing in line behind someone at the customer service desk who was looking to get a rain check for some sale item he had sought to buy but that obviously wasn't there. As I looked at the rain check, I got to thinking: I wonder where that expression came from? A quick search of the old Internet turned up the answer and, since it's been a while since I've taken a stroll down Etymology Lane, I thought I'd share it.

The expression is a born-and-bred Americanism and like many of the finer things in life, has its roots in that grand game of baseball. Back in the 1880s, if a game a fan was attending were postponed, he or she would be given a whole new ticket to a different game. But, around 1889, one savvy player-manager named Charles Abner Powell decided to change this practice.

Powell's minor league team, the Pelicans, played in New Orleans, where rainouts were commonplace. Apparently, fans would sneak into a game, by climbing over a fence or slipping past a security guard, and, when the game would get called due to rain, would simply walk out and collect a shiny new — and free — ticket. As a result, Powell said, the team "ended up giving back a whale of a lot more tickets than we sold in the first place."

So, Powell came up with a solution. Instead of collecting entire tickets from fans upon their entry to the ballpark, gate attendants would only take half the ticket, and leave the fan with a dated stub that they would use as their ticket on another day, should the game they were attending get rained out. So, the only people who received tickets to a new game were the people who paid for tickets to the one that got called. This new stub was, not surprisingly, called a rain check.

Over time, the use of the term was expanded to include tickets for other forms of entertainment, then to include vouchers to allow store customers to buy an item at sale price at a later date, in case the item was not in stock. And now it's also used as a simple expression — and can be heard in verb form just as easily as noun form — for when somebody wants to postpone something (such as, "Can we raincheck that lunch? I'm swamped").

And to think: it all began with a soggy baseball diamond.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Ludwig Stanley Savitsky

Ludwig Stanley Savitsky, 90, of Colchester, widower of the late Josephine (Plaga) Savitsky and Margaret "Peggy" (Adams) Bayley Savitsky, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, at home. Born April 24, 1919, in Colchester, he was a son of the late Joseph and Casimera (Modrzejewski) Savitsky. He was a 1936 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester.

Mr. Savitsky owned and operated the family dairy farm in Westchester since 1946. He and Josephine were married Feb. 20, 1943, and shared 46 years of marriage before she predeceased him Aug. 9, 1989. He later married Peggy Oct. 26, 1991 and they shared 14 years of marriage before she predeceased him May 11, 2006.

He was a faithful and active member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Westchester, which had been a longtime dream that he helped come to fruition through his donation of the property on which it stands. He loved dancing and music (especially playing the accordion) and will be remembered both for his strong work ethic and even stronger faith.

He is survived by two sons, Royce Savitsky of Willimantic and Ludwig Savitsky, Jr. of Yakima, WA; two grandchildren, Matthew Savitsky of Columbia and Crystalyn Espittia of Greenville, SC; her daughter-in-law, Carol and husband, John Kozelka of Columbia; a special stepdaughter, Kelley and her husband, Don of Walkill, NY; a brother, Joseph "Babe" Savitsky of Colchester; a sister, Regina Mlenar of Van Nuys, CA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wives, he was predeceased by a son, John; six siblings, Ann Furlong and Julius, Stanley, Theodore, August and Anthony Savitsky.

Friends can visit the family Saturday, Feb. 6, beginning at 1:30 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 2 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Westchester Road (Route 149), Colchester (opposite Savitsky's Farm).

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Burton L. Way

Burton L. Way, 90, of East Hampton passed away peacefully Jan. 26, surrounded by his loving family.

He leaves behind his wife of 64 years, Marjorie (Larson) Way and his three children, Ann Parsons and her husband Dick of Hersheypark, PA, Lynn Podskoch and her husband Marty of Colchester and Greg Way and his wife Sallie of Galway, NY. "Pop Pop" will be missed by his 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, along with his brother Dwight Way with his wife Ann and his sister Myrtle Frazer. Seven brothers and sisters predeceased him: Henry, Stanley, Mildred, Ruth, Doris, Leon "Buddy" and Mabel.

Born in Middlefield in 1919 to Louis and Minnie Way, Burt took over his family farm on Way Road at the age of 27 and from there continued his lifelong passion for doing farming in Connecticut and upstate New York. Burt was an avid gardener as well as a Yankee fan.

Friends and family wishing to pay their tribute to his memory are invited to the Ways' home Saturday, Feb. 6, from 1-4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to East Hampton Ambulance Service at P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 or East Hampton Fire Department, 3 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

## Colchester

### Joyce McCarthy

Joyce McCarthy, 82, wife of the late John J. McCarthy Sr., of East Haddam and formerly of Colchester, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Aaron Manor in Chester. She was born Nov. 30, 1926, in Hartford, daughter of George and Hazel Davis Wollerschief. She was a nurse's aid for many years.

Surviving are two sons, John J. McCathy Jr. and Gary S. McCarthy, both of Colchester; three daughters, Lorraine Cannatta of East Haddam, Joyce Noy and Susan Parker, both of Lebanon; nine grandsons; five granddaughters, six great-granddaughters, four great-grandsons and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Wednesday, Feb. 3, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Norwich Avenue., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment followed in New St. Andrew's Cemetery.

Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of arrangements.

## Colchester

### Estelle Magnani

Estelle (Hominick) Magnani died Friday, Jan. 29, at the age of 93. She was born on June 14, 1916, in Colchester to the late Harry and Pauline (Styko) Hominick.

Estelle was a graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester and went on to attend Bryant College in Rhode Island. She settled in Springfield in the late 1940s and was a communicant of St. Paul's Church.

Her husband of 53 years, John F. Magnani, died in 1999.

She leaves her daughter, Karen Magnani, of Springfield; her son, John Magnani Jr. of Framingham; her sister, Ann Clauson of Colchester; and several nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends were invited to meet at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave., Colchester, on Wednesday, Feb. 3, for a service of divine liturgy. Burial followed in Old St. Mary's Cemetery, Colchester.

Tazzini Funeral Home of Springfield, MA, is entrusted with the arrangements.

## Marlborough

### Francesca Andrasik

Francesca "Frances" (Montano) Andrasik, 87, entered into eternal rest Sunday, Jan. 24, at Marlborough Health Care Center, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Hartford on Jan. 11, 1923, she was the daughter of the late Louis and Katherine Montano, and was predeceased by her brother Joseph, to whom she was fondly known as "Kid." She resided in West Hartford for over 50 years where she enjoyed raising her children.

Frances is survived by Joseph, her husband of 65 years, and her children, Catherine Gerent of Kensington, J. Stephen Andrasik and his wife Barbara of Westbrook, John Andrasik of Marlborough, Patricia Lewis and her husband Jim, also of Marlborough, and Deborah Cosker and her husband Robert of Windsor; 10 grandchildren, Cara Gerent of Newington, Mark Gerent of Kansas City, KS, Stephanie Andrasik of Portland, Jessica Andrasik of Westbrook, Joseph Andrasik of Worcester, MA, Sean Andrasik of Arcata, CA, Andrew Andrasik of Marlborough, Michael Lewis of San Francisco, CA, Kimberly Lewis of Tucson, AZ, and Robert Cosker Jr. of Windsor; and two great-grandchildren.

She will always be remembered for her love and devotion to her husband, her guidance and support of her children and her grandchildren, and her strength and spirit. Mom, we will miss you so much.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the south wing staff of Marlborough Health Care for their care and love of Frances and for their support of the family. To Mercy, Koren, Pam, and Rosanne, who are all angels, a special thank you.

A funeral service took place Friday, Jan. 29, at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury. Visitation was private. Burial followed in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Frances' memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 279 New Britain Road, Kensington, CT 06037, or to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450-1004.

To leave an online tribute or condolence, visit [www.glastonburyfuneral.com](http://www.glastonburyfuneral.com).

## Hebron

### Stuart H. Bon

Stuart H. Bon, 66, of Amston, died Sunday, Jan. 24, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 9, 1943, in Manchester, he was the son of the late Donald O. and Catharine (Green) Bon. Stuart had been employed as a maintenance worker for the Coventry A.R.C.

He is survived by his two sisters, Catharine Bon of Newington, Martha Sears and her husband Norm of Marlborough; three nieces, Kori Sears, Catharine Bon, Candace Bon and a nephew, Timothy Sears and his wife Haley.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff of the Papermill Group Home for the love and care they provided for the past 15 years.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in the family plot in Marlboro Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Stuart's memory to the Hartford Hospital Palliative Care Unit, 80 Seymour St., Hartford, CT 06102 or to VNA Health Care, 969 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

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

## Colchester

### Paul N. Wengloski

Paul N. Wengloski, 61, of Colchester and formerly of Lebanon, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Hartford Hospital, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Dec. 2, 1948, in Norwich, he was a son of the late Isidore and Theresa (Stegal) Wengloski.

Paul was a 1966 graduate of Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon. He proudly served with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War between 1970 and 1974. Mr. Wengloski was a professional driver for the Teamsters and worked for Nabisco-Kraft for 34 years before his retirement last year. Paul was a train enthusiast and enjoyed the outdoors, especially gardening and hunting. Over the years, he was a frequent donor to the American Red Cross and was a "3 gallon member."

He is survived by three siblings and their families, Louise Manor, her husband, Bernie, of Marcellus, NY and their son and daughter-in-law, Justin and Brenda of Cambridge, MA; Mary Ellen Wiczorek, her husband Charlie and their children Natalie and Bradley, all of Lebanon; and Philip, his wife, Ann and their children, Lindsay and Joseph, all of Lusby, MD; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Joyce Ann Wengloski.

Friends may call 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service with military honors will be observed at 3 PM. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Friends of Cragin Memorial Library, P.O. Box 68, Colchester 06415 or to the Adler-Boluck Post 6990 VFW, c/o William Moletich, 252 So. Main St., Colchester 06415.

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

## Colchester

### Mary Jean Gervais

Mary Jean (Peabody) Gervais, 85, beloved wife of Neil, of Colchester and formerly of Middletown, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice in Middletown after a courageous battle with cancer. Born June 2, 1924 in Webster, SD, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Horace and Ida (Oslund) Peabody.

In September of 1944, she enlisted in the Navy, serving proudly as a Hospital Corpsman during both World War II and the Korean War. On Aug. 17, 1953, she and Neil were married at the Navy Chapel in Washington, DC. Mrs. Gervais was an X-ray technician for many years before her retirement.

She was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon and was active with the Colchester Commons Association as well as with the Donald A. Bigelow American Legion Post 54 in Colchester. Her greatest joy was found in her family, to whom she was ever devoted.

In addition to her loving husband of 56 years, she is survived by six children, Mark and wife, Joanne of Medfield, MA, Michael and wife, Pon of Alamogordo, NM, Claudia of Washington, Margot Asfal and husband, Greg of Cromwell, Joel and wife, Diane of Durham and Lisa Erickson and husband, Rob of Stillriver, MA; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call from 4-7 p.m. today, Friday, Feb. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. An American Legion memorial service will be observed at 6:30 p.m. Friday. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal with full military honors will follow in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## East Hampton

### John C. McInvale

John Calvin McInvale, 56, formerly of East Hampton, died Jan. 31, at his residence in Macon, GA.

John is survived by his three daughters, Courtney, Savannah and Shelby McInvale of East Hampton. John is a graduate of the University of Georgia and a former sergeant of the East Hampton Police Department, between 1983 and 1994.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, at 2:30 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. His family will receive relatives and friends at Biega Funeral Home Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m., prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to: Mental Health America, Bell of Hope Memorial, Attn: Gift Office, P.O. Box 16810, Alexandria, VA 22302-0810.

## Colchester

### Kathryn A. Swierczynski

Kathryn A. Swierczynski, 79, of Colchester and Englewood, FL, beloved wife of Chester, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice. Born March 27, 1930 in Dodge City, KS, she was a daughter of the late William and Anna (Grantham) Pool.

On Aug. 14, 1965, she and Chester were married in California. She loved flying with her husband in their own plane to visit family and friends. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, whose greatest joy was taking part in all of their daily lives. Katie was a faithful member and a dedicated Prayer Warrior with the Colchester Bible Baptist Church for many years. In her spare time, she loved to decorate and volunteer her time at the church.

In addition to her loving husband of 44 years, she is survived by three children, Laurel Koncki of Columbia, Eric Swanson of Lebanon and Chester Swierczynski, Jr. of Ramona, CA; eight grandchildren; two great grandchildren; a sister, Charlotte French of Lawrenceville, GA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by four siblings, Coral Westlake, Eleanor Schoen and John and Fred Pool.

Friends called Thursday, Feb. 4, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble starting at 10 a.m. today, Friday, Feb. 5, at the funeral home, before processing to an 11 a.m. service at the Colchester Bible Baptist Church on Chestnut Hill Road. Interment will follow in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

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

## Portland

### John F. Nicki

John F. Nicki, beloved husband of Rita (Day) Nicki for 54 years, passed away peacefully at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center on Friday, Jan. 29. He was born in Hartford on Jan. 5, 1931, the son of the late John and Mary (Rutkauskas) Nicki.

John had lived in Portland for the past 28 years. He graduated from Hartford Public High School, attended the University of Connecticut and was a graduate of Officers Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, GA. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War for four years as a 2nd Lieutenant and then was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. After his military service, he acquired a position with Pratt and Whitney Aircraft (UTC) in Quality Control.

In 1967, as a supervisor, he was given the opportunity to work at Volvo Flygmotor in Trollhattan, Sweden, where he managed production for Pratt and Whitney. John and his family (wife and three children) lived there for approximately three years. Another opportunity came in 1977, when he was promoted to Director of Manufacturing and Lab Quality Assurance, Europe, to be a part of the NATO Consortium, Brussels, Belgium, for the production of the F16 aircraft, with responsibility for the quality of the engine. Once again his family accompanied him and lived in Teruren, Belgium, for four years.

John returned to Pratt and Whitney to become Manager of Product Quality Control and then Senior Product Quality Support Specialist. He retired in 1992, after 36 years with the company, and then worked part-time as a consultant for Norsk Jetmotor, Kongsberg, Norway.

John leaves his wife and three children, David and his wife Deborah Nicki of Atlanta, GA, Lisa (Nicki) Perry of Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, and Bruce Nicki of Portland. He was blessed with eight grandchildren, Alexander, Andrew, Lauren, Anna, Aela, Armael, Steven and Joshua. He also leaves his brother, Richard and wife Jayne, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, and brother-in-law, Raymond Day and wife Barbara, of Higganum. He also leaves his beloved lab, Summersweet.

John was an avid Boston Red Sox fan; one of his greatest pleasures was watching them play on many occasions at Fenway Park. He also saw the '99 All Star Game. John and his wife enjoyed traveling throughout the U.S., Europe and Scandinavia, and, in later years, taking many cruises.

The funeral is Saturday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.m., at Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, with a Mass of Christian Burial. The family will receive relatives and friends today, Friday, Feb. 5, from 5-8 p.m., at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. In the springtime John will be buried at the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

For directions, or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).