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Yellow ribbons were tied around a tree in the center of town Tuesday, to honor East Hampton soldiers. The ribbons will be removed, one by one, by each soldier upon returning home to Belltown.

Belltown Salutes its Soldiers

by Joshua Anusewicz

Rain pushed parade-goers inside on Monday, so East Hampton residents packed the high school auditorium for a Memorial Day ceremony to honor those who have served our country.

The festivities also included the presentation of yellow ribbons to the families of people currently serving in the military. The ribbons were then tied around a tree in the center of town on Tuesday, when the weather was nicer.

Monday's Memorial Day ceremony kicked off with members of the Fowler-Dix-Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095 presenting the colors, followed by the East Hampton high school and middle school bands playing patriotic songs like "You're A Grand Old Flag" for the crowd.

Following the bands, Father Walter Nagle of St. Patrick's Church led a prayer, asking residents to not forget those from East Hampton who served.

"Pray for those who have generously given their lives to protect us," Nagle said.

After local Boy Scouts led the crowd in a Pledge of Allegiance, East Hampton High School band members Blake Szkoda and Molly Maturo read the "Gettysburg Address" and "In Flanders Fields," respectively. (Due to the heat, one of the band members fainted, but she is reportedly fine.)

Lou Carillo of the East Hampton Veterans Association then announced that 5-year-old Zoe Martin is this year's Poppy Queen. Poppies have been sold by the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 5095 to assist veterans at the Rock Hill Veterans Home.

A smiling Zoe clutched her trophy and said "thank you veterans," much to the delight of the crowd.

Ron Christopher, chaplain at VFW Post 5095, delivered a prayer for the deceased veterans, while Gina Gendron, chaplain of the Ladies Auxiliary, gave the benediction.

"God bless those who come home to us," Gendron said.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Sgt. Arron McLaughlin. McLaughlin graduated from East Hampton High School in 2002 and joined the United States Army Reserve that year. He has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and has been awarded several medals, including a Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal. He returned home in 2010 and still serves with the Army National Guard in New Haven.

McLaughlin asked the crowd to "forever remember the courage and selflessness" of our veterans. "Your dedication to this country exceeds our expectations," he added.

He also thanked his "family of servicemen," as his father, uncle, and grandfather all served in the military. He said that he and his family "have been shaped by the Army."

McLaughlin's speech segued into the part of the ceremony that dealt with the Yellow Ribbon Program (which, incidentally, was spearheaded by McLaughlin's grandmother, Ann). He introduced Town Council member Christopher Goff, who helped welcome the four families that have sons currently serving in the military.

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Hebron Vets Say 'Don't Rain on Our Parade'

by Courtney Parent

While rainy skies and thunder sent many towns into hiding this past Monday, Hebron stuck to a "rain or shine" policy for its Memorial Day parade.

Despite ominous clouds on Monday morning, residents lined the streets, most sporting rain jackets and seeking cover under umbrellas. However, the "don't rain on my parade" request was apparently granted, as the rain ceased and the sun came out just as parade participants started their march around town.

The parade, much like the crowd of spectators, was full of men, women and children of all ages. While many were war veterans, others were members of different teams and organizations. Included in Monday's event were numerous boy scout and girl scout clubs, baseball and lacrosse teams, and bands from RHAM High School, RHAM Middle School and Hebron Elementary School.

While most parade patrons stood or brought their own collapsible chairs to sit in, as the morning showers had dampened the ground, it couldn't put a damper on residents' spirits.

Residents Jim and Anita Kores said that they were "glad the rain quit" and that it was "great timing," as the rain ceased just as the parade began.

The pair said they came to the parade to watch their two grandsons (who participate in the Cub Scouts and tee ball) march. Their youngest grandson, 4-year-old Noah, was right by the couple's side during the parade, with a dry front-row seat in his wagon. Jim Kores said that Noah's favorite appearances were made by the fire trucks and tractors.

Parade coordinator John Tuttle pointed to a new addition to the parade, a World War II stretcher which carried a helmet and boots, surrounded by lilies, which denoted the fallen soldiers. The stretcher was carried by two members of the Sons of the American Legion Tuttle said. Hanging off the side of the stretcher was a sign that read "Every day is Memorial Day," which one random voice in the crowd described as "simply beautiful."

The parade proved to be a delight for the eyes and ears, with touching additions such as the WWII stretcher and with local youth showing their respect and honor in a musical salute.

After parade participants made their trip around town, they gathered just off the intersection of routes 66 and 85 at the site of a new memorial honoring those who gave their lives in the Civil War. The memorial was put in place

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A new addition to Hebron's Memorial Day ceremony this year was this World War II-era stretcher, to signify POW-MIAs.



Adhering to the concept of Memorial Day, members of the parade brigade hold their heads high, as well as their flags as they honor those serving our country during Monday's festivities.

Hebron Vets cont. from Front Page

this year in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Once everyone was gathered around the memorial, three different speakers – Ronald Parkyn, Roger Krasusky and Warren Holbrook – took a turn addressing the public. Each was introduced by American Legion Post 95 Commander Joe Fetta

Parkyn, who served as the past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Hebron for 14 years, gave a brief speech on POW-MIA (Prisoners of War Missing in Action), pointing to the anguish of families who never had their loved ones return home.

Krasusky, the new commander of Hebron's VFW, gave thanks for all the veterans who returned this year. Krasusky named those veterans, as well as those who are currently serving in harm's way. He also read Roll call of those veterans who had departed within the last year.

Holbrook, a veteran of WWII, the US Navy and the Coast Guard, had an amusing turn before the crowd. After several attempts at using an uncooperative microphone, he threw the device down on the podium in front of him and belted out the words he had written before him.

"That's what the man does," Tuttle said, laughing. "He throws it down and takes over."

Tuttle explained that due to the rain, the brand new speaker system could not be hooked up until late and as a result there were some "glitches." But he said, "as in the military we adapt and move on."

Gilead Congregational Church's pastor, Rev. Denise Esslinger, also stood before the podium at the memorial site, asking everyone to bow

their heads while she led the community in a prayer for the brave men and women serving our country.

Standing proudly next to the new memorial and adding to the musical element of the parade was the Russell Mercier Senior Center's a capella group, the Sunshine Singers. Led by Barbara Soderberg, the group recited the words of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Many members of the crowd could be heard faintly singing along.

While everyone finds excitement and inspiration in different aspects of the Memorial Day festivities, resident Diana Bogue said her favorite part of the parade was seeing the "older veterans riding around" in the convertibles with the "tops down."

Bogue, who recently moved from Colchester, noted two differences she saw in the town's parades.

"Colchester's was definitely a lot longer, but I think there was just so much more spirit in today's parade," Bogue said.

Bogue also emphasized the small-town community feel to Hebron's parade, pointing to the numerous people she knew both in the parade and viewing from the sidelines.

The honorary grand marshals in Monday's parade were veterans, brothers and longtime residents: Emil and Adrian Caron. According to Tuttle, Emil is a WWII veteran while Adrian served in Korea.

"I was very appreciative that the town turned out and that the weather changed for the good and so were the veterans," Tuttle said. "And I believe the entire event went very well."



Pictured is the newly-adorned tree in the Village Center, surrounded by flags.

Belltown Soldiers cont. from Front Page

Goff said he didn't hesitate when asked to be involved in the program, saying it "honors all friends, neighbors, family, and residents who protect us."

Goff introduced the families of Air Force Airman Nicholas Pawlak, Marine Private 1st Class David Jensen, Navy CDR Michael Flatley, and Marine Lance Corporal Anthony Strong, who all received a standing ovation as they each received a yellow ribbon with the soldier's name on it. On Tuesday, family members joined members of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary to tie the yellow ribbons around a tree on an island in the Village Center. When the honored soldier returns to East Hampton, he will cut off the ribbon himself.

Pawlak is a graduate of East Hampton High School who has been serving at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. He is expected to return home this summer and will finish his service in 2012, and plans on attending law school.

Jensen is also a graduate of East Hampton High School and is currently stationed with the Marine Corps in California. He is currently awaiting deployment.

Flatley was deployed in 2010 and has served in both Kuwait and Afghanistan. He is expected to return this summer.

Strong is a graduate of Vinal Technical High School in Middletown and joined the Marines in 2008. He is currently serving in Afghanistan.

At Tuesday's ribbon-tying ceremony, Ann McLaughlin said she hopes to find out the exact dates each soldier will be returning, as she plans to have a "welcome home" ceremony, where the streets will be lined with residents waving American flags before the soldier cuts off his ribbon.

McLaughlin said that at least two more residents will join the military this summer, after graduating high school, and she hopes to have their ribbons replace the ribbons of returning soldiers in a joint ceremony.

McLaughlin said coordinating the Yellow Ribbon Program has been "a whole lot of work," but being from a family of military men, she knows how much it will mean to the soldiers.

"They risk their lives," she said. "They certainly deserve it."

Andover Selectmen Discuss Website, Security System

by Courtney Parent

While there were more than 20 items on the agenda for Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting, the evening can be condensed down to four main topics: the presentation of a Top Dog award, the town's in-the-works website, a security camera system and a new radar gun.

The meeting began unlike any other, with quite a ruckus as first and second place Top Dog winners, Blitzen and Quincy, entered the community room of the town office. When the dogs were presented with their awards by First Selectmen Bob Burbank, flashing lights appeared from every direction as multiple community members emerged from their seats to take photos. There was a resounding laughter from those in attendance as Andover's official Top Dog, Blitzen Duval, sat politely and shook hands with Burbank while being clothed with his Top Dog scarf.

A rather lengthy conversation came when selectmen reached the website line item. The new Andover town website, which has been a long time in coming for many, is finally almost here. Wednesday night's website discussion focused on the term "official." Burbank said that since the website has not been completed it should not be referred to as the "official" website, as there have been some errors noted, as well as incomplete fields. Burbank also noted that, to be an official town website, there are

certain criteria that must be met. Among these is the posting of meeting minutes and agendas, which is something that requires the use of a special program that is currently not on the website.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Jay Linddy also brought up the concept of linkage, and selectmen discussed which groups or sites should and should not be linked to from the town website. Burbank said links included on the site should be governmental, and that anything used for political advertising would not be appropriate. Selectmen discussed whether or not certain committee members, such as members of the Republican and Democratic town committees, who were not elected by the community, should be included. As an end result, the selectmen decided to table the topic until later in the month when they could receive a presentation from the website committee and provide a public forum for comments or questions.

Another main item on Wednesday's agenda was in regards to implementing a security camera system at the town hall. Linddy stated that the main concern was that with so few office staff and some downstairs and some upstairs, if someone comes in upset, others in the building have no idea.

Burbank explained that the majority of visi-

tor dismay centers on tax assessments and similar situations.

"I think what happens is somebody gets a little irate and before you know it, it becomes a screaming fest and they don't even realize they're screaming," said Burbank.

Burbank said that if Linddy or he were aware of the situation they would be able to intercede, but if not then the situation may not get dissolved so quickly.

At this time, the selectmen have estimates from two different companies in regards to putting the security system in place: Security Technology and J.C.L. Protective Systems, LLC. The price estimates vary significantly, with Security Technology offering a \$2,350 estimate and J.C.L. Protective Services offering the system for \$4,832. Both systems include equipment and labor; however, Burbank said the "gentlemen" for Security Technology kept his costs more "reasonable" as he was selling the equipment at cost and charging for labor. The proposed security system includes four cameras; one on each entrance and two in the hallways.

In a similar vein, the selectmen also discussed the need for new radar gun. Linddy pointed to an excessive amount of speeding on Route 6. He also noted that the town receives a

set dollar amount (previously \$10, recently raised to \$25) for any ticket that is written when the offender is found guilty. However, the town does not receive that \$25 unless tickets stick in court, which a new radar detector would aid in.

According to Linddy, the town's current radar gun is over 15 years old. According to Burbank, a radar gun is one of few items that are not provided by the state police as it is used primarily within the town.

Two other topics mentioned at Wednesday's meeting were ladybugs and the appointment of members to a new sub-committee. According to Burbank, 1,500 ladybugs landed in Andover last week. The ladies are being used as a solution to a fungus problem with the plants around the Town Office Building, which Burbank said has been working already.

"We decided ladybugs are kind of cute and don't give you any lip," Burbank said, laughing. "They just go about their job and do it in a very professional way."

Selectmen also stressed the need for members for a sub-committee for a potential septic ordinance in the lake district. Appointment of members will take place in July.

The Board of Selectmen will hold its next meeting Wednesday, July 6, at 7 p.m. in the community room of the Town Hall.

East Hampton Group Says New Devices Scrubbing Lake Clean

by Joshua Anusewicz

There is something lurking in Lake Pocotopaug. It sits just below the surface of the water and doesn't stray far from the shore. It doesn't have any teeth and is not poisonous, but it can kill living organisms just by looking at them. More of them are coming into the lake every year.

But fear not, East Hampton. These little "critters" are here to help you.

The "critters" are called ultrasonic algae control units. In the past four years, the organization The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug has purchased the units for use in various spots around the lake and, according to members of the group, the devices have shown results.

"People have told us that the lake hasn't looked this clean in 20 years," said Jack Solomon, a member of The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug. "We know it could be a combination of factors, but we think that what we're doing is working."

The units are being used to combat algae in the lake that has given the water a green tint. The algae the group is looking to get rid of is called cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, which has grown in the lake in recent years. Solomon said that during the summer months, particularly in July and August, the blue-green algae can bloom and is very visible. Residents have had concerns that the algae could irritate the skin of swimmers that use the pond in the summer.

The group estimates that the amount of algae grows 10 percent per day, Solomon said.

The purpose of the ultrasonic algae control unit is to generate ultrasonic waves that keep the algae from growing, said Solomon, who has a PhD in chemistry. The waves "fan out" 180 degrees and can reach a distance of almost 1,000 feet. The waves cause the algae cells to "explode," he said.

A quick biology lesson from Dr. Solomon: blue-green algae are simply two types of alga,

blue and green. When the ultrasonic waves are generated out, the vibrations cause the vacuole of the cell, which holds gases that keep the algae afloat, to "explode." This causes the algae cells to sink to the bottom of the lake, where it doesn't receive the sunlight it needs to grow and reproduce. The ultrasonic waves do no harm to plants, animals, or humans, which have harder cell walls that can resist the frequency of the waves.

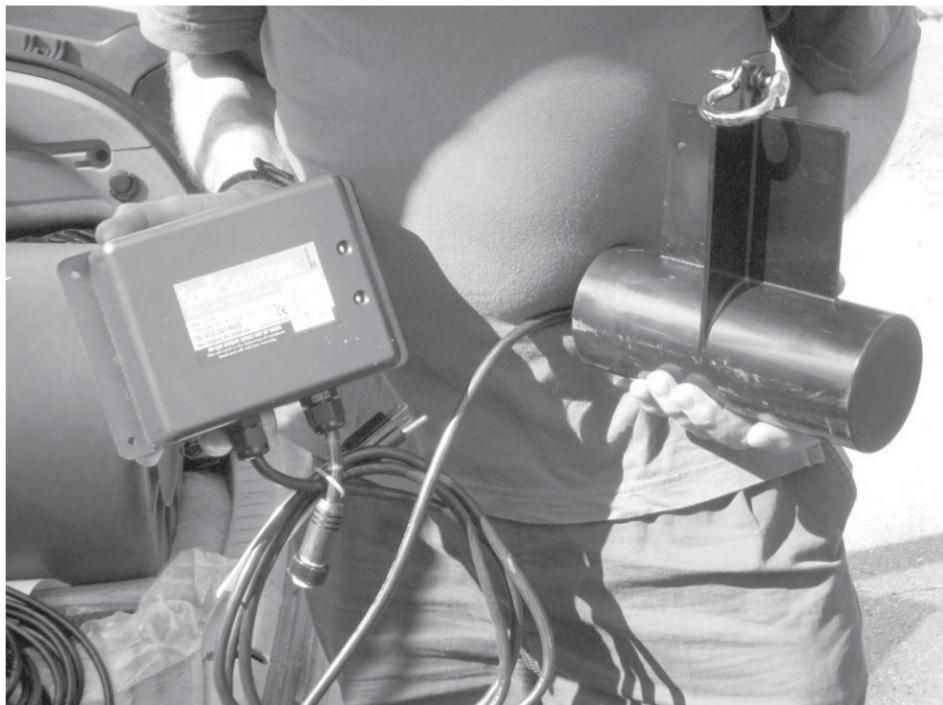
The units are submerged roughly 18 inches under the water and are connected to the shore by an electrical source. The waves are emitted by a transducer that is attached to a waterproof electrical box. Solomon said the electrical source can be a restriction, as not all waterfront property has an electrical source readily available. The units need roughly 3-5 watts of electricity to run, which Solomon said adds about \$5 per month on a household's or business' electricity bill.

Steve Diemer, chairman of The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, said there will be 22 units in the lake this summer. Angelico's Lake House Restaurant, West Shore Marina, and multiple homeowners with property at the lake have agreed to install the units, which stay in the water from May to September. Solomon, who owns Laurel Island on Lake Pocotopaug, has also installed four units around his island to help the effort.

Diemer said that while the number of residents that are involved has been growing steadily, the size of the lake presents a problem for the reach of the units.

"With the sheer size of the lake, some areas are not controlled," Diemer said. "So we have to try and incrementally control the growth [of the algae]." Both Diemer and Solomon said there has been a marked improvement in the areas where the units have been installed.

However, the ability to control algae in the lake may have improved, but the ability to con-



Ultrasonic algae control units, like the one shown, are currently being used in Lake Pocotopaug to help rid the water of blue-green algae.

rol what causes algae to come into the lake is a different story. Solomon said fertilizers from residents' lawns and runoff from local roads has helped feed the algae. He said that "controlling the watershed," which includes local streams and brooks, could also help keep the algae in the lake in check.

Diemer said that another challenge the group faces is the ability to pay for the units. The group pays for all of the units, which are the largest units available and cost over \$4,000 a piece. The money, Diemer said, comes from donations and fundraisers like the annual boat parade and

cash raffle held in August. Diemer said the group usually raises between \$16,000-24,000 a year, all of which "goes back into the lake."

Solomon said that studies have been done on small ponds and water treatment facilities that have used the units and "it absolutely works." The group hopes that with more funding, the positive results will continue.

This year's boat parade will be held Saturday, Aug. 13, at 2 p.m. The cash raffle will be drawn on that day at Angelico's. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Angelico's, Governor's Tavern and Paul and Sandy's Too.

East Hampton Voters Approve \$37.76 Million Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

With almost 800 more voters and \$100,000 in additional cuts, East Hampton's second budget referendum passed Tuesday, by a tally of 1,129-788, giving some town officials the chance to breathe easy.

"Words can't describe how relieved I am, how much we all are," Board of Finance Chairman Matthew Walton said. "I'm sure the Town Council and the other departments are very relieved."

The 2011-12 budget will be \$37.76 million, a \$235,903 reduction in spending, or a 0.62 percent decrease, from the 2010-11 budget.

Tuesday's turnout was markedly higher than that of the May 3 referendum, at which just 1,166 taxpayers showed up, and defeated the budget proposal by a mere four votes, 585-581.

For this week's referendum, 1,917 voters showed up. According to election moderator Red McKinney, this represented a turnout rate of 23.3 percent of the town's 8,205 voters, as opposed to the 14 percent that went to the polls on May 3.

Town Council member Thom Cordeiro was one of two council members present for the vote count Tuesday night, along with Barbara Moore, and he admitted it is a good thing the budget is resolved.

"We know there are people still out there struggling, but we believe this is where the town

needs to be," Cordeiro said. "And I think this time, the margin [of the votes] is enough of a mandate that we know the town really felt this way."

Cordeiro also said he was "pretty happy" with the improved turnout, giving credit to increased signage in town and more discussion on the internet with getting the word out.

Since the first referendum failed, the Town Council approved \$100,000 in additional cuts to the budget proposed on May 3, which are slated to come from the Board of Education budget.

The school budget proposed in February was \$26.61 million, which represented a 2.82 percent increase from 2010-11. After a \$146,000 cut from the Board of Finance in April and the recent \$100,000 cut, the education budget will receive a \$332,695, or 1.29 percent, increase over the current fiscal year.

The Board of Finance held a brief meeting after the referendum results were announced to discuss the mill rate, which is projected to be at 25.68, or a 0.5 percent decrease from the current year. However, board members opted to delay any action on setting the mill rate. Walton said he would contact Finance Director Jeff Jylkka about scheduling a special meeting to set the mill rate before the board's regular June 20 meeting, which would give tax of-

ficials enough time to make up their bills before the 2011-12 fiscal year starts on July 1.

(As the Rivereast went to press, it was announced that the special meeting would be held on Monday, June 6, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.)

Many residents will see a fluctuation in their tax bills from last year, due to the recent revaluation. According to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, roughly 60 percent of residents would not see an increase in their taxes.

Engel said Wednesday she was pleased with the improved turnout and also credited increased publicity with spurring more residents to vote. She also said the \$100,000 cut to the education budget was necessary to help keep taxes lower, but believes it won't "decimate" the schools.

"Every cut is felt by everyone," Engel said. "The schools shouldn't lose any programs or teachers, which is a good thing."

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden said Wednesday that she was "very pleased" with the budget passing and thanked voters for turning out. She added that no matter what the amount of the school budget is, her focus is on educating the students.

"We will provide a quality education, regardless [of the budget] because that's our job," Golden said.

Golden also commented on residents who have targeted the education budget, particularly the administration, as an area to be cut, saying that "having less resources makes everyone's job more difficult."

Golden said that she will meet with the finance committee of the Board of Education this month to discuss where the cuts will be made from the proposed budget, and those cuts will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. She did not comment on where the cuts might be made.

Board of Education member Don Coolican said Thursday he was pleased to see the budget pass, as the board "can now start making plans for next year." He said he wouldn't comment on the \$100,000 cut, but did remind residents that the budget is "only an estimate."

"Some years, we might have a little extra in one place, we might have a little less in another place," Coolican said. "We have to make adjustments every year."

And while more people showed up at the polls than at the first referendum, Coolican said the turnout was still "pathetically low."

"This is the one vote that truly affects [the residents'] life in East Hampton for the next year," he said. "I don't understand [the low turnout]."

Hebron Top Dog Beats the Odds

by Courtney Parent

The votes have been counted and the results are in. Put your hands and your paws together for the winner of this year's Top Dog Competition: Halo.

Halo is an 8-year-old Cairn Terrier-Shih Tzu mix and it was love at first sight when she met her owner Michele Waters.

Waters is a veterinary technician who first met Halo (then referred to as Suzie) when she was dropped off at the veterinarian office.

According to Waters, when the two first met, Halo had weight-induced diabetes and was receiving shots of insulin twice daily. Her owner was "sick of giving her shots," Waters said, and had brought her in to be euthanized. It was on that day, Oct. 1, 2008, that Waters adopted her new best friend.

Halo is now on an all-organic diet and is down to 14 pounds; eight pounds less than the 22 she weighed in at prior to her adoption. She has unique eating habits, receiving baby carrots as her treats and being an avid fan of pickles, according to Waters. In January, Waters also started her on Chinese herbs and said she is hopeful that by the end of the year Halo's new diet will aid her in getting off her medication entirely.

While Waters stressed Halo's sweet and lovable nature, she placed the greatest emphasis on her intelligence and large vocabulary. According to Waters, Halo understands approximately 20 to 25 words. While some are typical commands such as "sit," "stay" and "lay down,"

others are a bit more complicated. Two words in particular are "hydrate" and "perch." "Hydrate" can be easily deciphered by most; when Waters says "hydrate" Halo goes to her water dish to get a drink. However, the "perch" command is a bit more complex. Waters uses the term as a distraction when trying to exit her home.

Upon hearing the word, "she'll go in the [back] room, sit on the bed and watch out the window," Waters said.

"I throw some carrots to her and run," she added, laughing.

While Waters might have literally been Halo's "life saver," that does not mean the sweet Shih Tzu was completely out of harms way after being adopted.

Just in February, while brushing Halo's teeth, Waters found a mass in her best friend's mouth. After being examined, the mass was discovered to be cancerous. However, Halo must have been surrounded by angels because Waters said the mass was removed and, once again, Halo avoided tragedy.

While many refer to dogs as "man's best friend," Halo is more than that; she is also a horse's best friend. Aside from her companionship with Waters, Halo also shares a special bond with Waters 10-year-old Arabian mare.

"She goes with me to horse shows and actually sleeps in the car with me for days on end," said Waters.

Turning our focus back to the competition, Waters said that while Halo came out victorious this year, last year was a different story. As Waters pointed out, this was Halo's second time competing in the Top Dog Competition. Last year she earned a second place finish; receiving 20 votes, just two votes less than the winner.

"My parents wouldn't go down to vote," said Waters. "When they finally did, the voting was closed."

Waters joked she spent all year reminding her parents that their two votes could have helped Halo tie for Hebron's Top Dog title.

However, this year the competition was a landslide, with Halo receiving 38 votes and the second place competitor receiving approximately 10.

According to Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz, while the voter turnout was high, with 80 votes being counted, the number of participants had dropped to just 14. Pomproicz said that in past years the town has seen as many as 50 participants in the competition.

The second place title in this year's competition was awarded to Penn, a Labradoodle owned by Susan Stewart, and third place went to Sweet Pea, a mixed breed, owned by Gladys



Top Dog winner Halo shows off her skills, as owner Michele Waters rewards her with her favorite treat: baby carrots.



Top Dog Halo

Bryant.

Now, many say that pets resemble their owners; if that's true, then Halo is a prime example. (In essence that is, since Waters does not share Halo's black, curly mop). Just like her owner, Waters, who was named "Miss Hebron" in 1992, Halo has been accepted by the town and

crowned for her beauty and grace. (And possibly even a few of her funny faces, such as the "Elvis lip" Waters said Halo likes to give company).

So embrace the "perch" prompt, sport the Elvis lip and say hello to this year's Top Dog, she has been named and that name is Halo.

Peters Resigns from Portland Board of Selectmen

by Joshua Anusewicz

After six years of service, Sharon Peters has resigned from the Board of Selectmen, just five months before the November elections.

In a letter sent to Town Clerk Bernadette Dillon, Peters cited "growing family and professional commitments" as her reason for resigning. The board unanimously accepted her resignation at Wednesday's Board of Selectmen meeting.

Peters, a Democrat, was first elected to the board in 2005, replacing former selectman Dr. Howard Rosenbaum. Prior to joining the Board of Selectmen, Peters had been on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Thursday that Peters has been "a valuable member" of the board during her tenure and that the selectmen will "miss her dearly."

Bransfield also said Peters, who is an attorney, has a "brilliant legal mind," which she said was an asset when proposing ordinances and other legal matters.

Peters, who could not be reached for comment for this story, isn't totally leaving town politics. According to Bransfield, Peters will continue to serve on the School Facilities Study Committee.

Bransfield added that Peters had alerted the board that she would be resigning "quite a while ago," which gave the board time to look for another candidate. Bransfield said that, according to town charter, the board is able to appoint

a new member in the event of a resignation, and the board did just that Wednesday, unanimously appointing Fred Knous to the board to complete Peters' term, which expires this November.

Knous, a Democrat, is expected to be sworn in by Dillon next week, and will officially join the selectmen at their next meeting. Bransfield said that when a board member resigns, it's standard for the board to find a member from the same political party.

Knous is a former member of the Clinton Board of Education, and also served as that town's treasurer. However, his resume also includes a stint in the state Senate, with Knous having spent four years representing the 33rd District in the 1980s. While in the Senate, Knous served as the chairperson of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee and the Executive Nominations Committee, as well as serving on the environment, education, and appropriations committees.

After moving to Portland, Knous became the chairman of the Economic Development Commission (EDC). He is currently a lobbyist, which he said he has done "for a number of years," with Evans & Associates in Hartford, where he works with local trade associations and individual businesses.

Knous said he was approached by the board about the position and said he "was certainly interested." He said he hopes his experience at

both the state and town level will help Portland grow.

"I have a lot of experience and understanding of how the government operates," Knous said Thursday, adding that his knowledge of "how the state government affects individual towns" will be helpful to the board.

Knous said that he hopes to discuss the board's current objectives with Bransfield and the current board members, but said that one of his goals will be to "enhance communication between the Board of Selectmen and local businesses."

"It's important to improve [the town's] business climate," Knous said. "That is crucial to improve our tax base."

Bransfield said she is looking forward to Knous joining the board, as he provides "a wealth of experience in government." She also credited Knous with bringing in Mary Dickerson, a consultant for the EDC, who has helped draw more businesses to Portland.

In his free time, Knous can usually be found outdoors, riding his bike. He said he particularly enjoys using the Air Line Trail in East Hampton, where he said he likes seeing families and children using the "great resource."

But for now, Knous is expected to get down to business with the Board of Selectmen. The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Wednesday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m., at Portland Library.



Sharon Peters



Scores came out Monday to watch the annual Memorial Day parade in Marlborough. The parade featured participants both young and old. At left, the RHAM Middle School band marches up South Main Street, while at right, members of the VFW dutifully carry flags.

Marlborough Loves a Parade

by Mike Thompson

It may have rained on the Memorial Day parades of other area towns, but no such fate befell Marlborough this week. When it came time for the annual event to begin early Monday afternoon, the skies were sunny and the temperature was balmy.

And parade-watchers seemed to love every minute of it.

Folks from in town, out of town and even out of state lined South Main Street to watch the parade ascend up the road from Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. Among the first marchers to come into view were, fittingly, members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, stoically holding flags. They were greeted with polite and appreciative applause from the onlookers.

Up next came state Rep. Pam Sawyer and Marlborough selectmen Riva Clark and Joe La Bella, all three cheerfully waving and shaking hands with the crowd. Following the appearances of more military veterans – this time riding slowly in cars – came the first of multiple bands: the Marlborough Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corps., which performed patriotic tunes in a style befitting the Revolutionary War era.

Other bands that participated in the Marlborough parade included the Colchester Continentals, Connecticut Valley Field Music and the RHAM high school and middle school bands. All the groups performed songs appropriate for the day, but the high school kids also added some levity. In between songs, they performed the Tomahawk Chop and War Chant (familiar to fans of the Atlanta Braves), and also tossed in some lyrics borrowed from hip-hop star Lil Jon, shouting in unison, “what!” “yeha!” and “okay!”

Of course, a Memorial Day parade wouldn't

be complete without gaggles of young children, and the Marlborough one did not disappoint. Proudly marching – many with their parents – were members of local Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scout troops, as well as the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The local youth baseball teams were well-represented, as were the Marlborough Soccer Club and Marlborough Martial Arts.

As has become common at Memorial Day parades, many of the youngsters happily threw out lollipops, candy and pieces of gum at kids watching the parade. It was a welcome occasion for many of the viewers, with the children – and/or their parents – eagerly catching the sweet treats.

In fact, one young parade-watcher, Jazalyn Clark, quipped that the free candy was her favorite part about the parade. She seemed to like the rest of it too, though, and called the event “excellent.”

Jazalyn and her mother, Alissa Clark, had come from El Paso, TX, to watch Isabelle Hudson – Jazalyn's cousin and Alissa's niece – march with the Girl Scouts in the parade. They had also made the trek north for a wedding and a 40th birthday celebration, in what was one busy Memorial Day weekend for Alissa, formerly of Canton.

Following the parade, the Memorial Day celebration moved up the road to the Town Green for a special ceremony, led by American Legion Post 197 Commander Bernard Hoyland. After an opening invocation by post chaplain Ray Theobald, Sawyer gave her traditional reading of “In Flanders Field.”

La Bella also spoke, and reminded the crowd, “We're here to remember those who have served and those who gave their lives ... so we can meet on days like this.”

La Bella also challenged the kids in attendance to find an adult who served in the mili-

tary and simply say, “Thank you.”

“That's what today is all about,” he said.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was RHAM Board of Education member Sandra Sudduth, a former Navy Lieutenant Nurse Corps officer who served for over nine years in an active duty status. She told a story about a very personal loss.

After enlisting in the Navy, Sudduth told the crowd, she received her bachelor's degree in nursing and was commissioned as an ensign in May 1991. She then headed to Newport, RI, for Officer Indoctrination School, to learn how to be a Naval officer. She was first assigned to Portsmouth Naval Hospital, where, in a training program for new ER nurses, Sudduth met her future husband, a “seasoned Navy man,” as she described him.

“It was kind of ironic that I was a senior nurse to this salty Navy nurse,” Sudduth quipped.

After marrying, the two were assigned to Groton Naval Hospital, where they started out as staff nurses. However, when the couple's youngest child became very ill during his infancy, Sudduth said she left to care for him. She said her husband decided he would retire the following year, after having served 24 years. Sadly, though, he died suddenly, just seven months shy of his retirement.

Sudduth said the only place she could think for her husband's burial was Arlington National Cemetery. She said she waited for three weeks after his funeral to give him “the burial he deserved,” with full military honors.

Like La Bella, Sudduth reminded the crowd that Memorial Day is for honoring those who gave “the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, so we could all be here today enjoying our freedom.”

Sudduth then relayed a story about a time she witnessed a “lack of respect for this country and those who have and are serving in the

military.” She said she was at a function at the elementary school where the National Anthem was referred to as a “patriotic song” and people in the audience refused to stand, remove their hats and place their hands over their hearts. These were adults who did this, she noted, and she asked, “What kind of role models are they to our youth in regards to paying respect?”

“So don't be surprised if this 5'2” lady approaches you after you fail to show your respect for our flag and National Anthem,” Sudduth continued. “These are symbols of our freedom. Freedom that many gave their lives for.”

Following Sudduth's speech, Hoyland read a list of deceased members of Post 197. The VFW firing squad then fired three volleys, leading into a somber playing of “Taps.”

After the ceremony was over, Sawyer said “small-town celebrations for Memorial Day are most moving. You look out and see friends, neighbors ... those who are here to do exactly what's expected: take the time to show their respect, honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Dianne Grenier, an Andover resident who unfortunately saw her town's Memorial Day festivities rained out Monday, enjoyed the Marlborough event. “What's there not to love about a parade?” she said. “It's great. It's a real great time.”

While Grenier attended both the parade and the ceremony, several of the parade-watchers seemed to head home after the marching subsided, and skipped the ceremony. This did not go unnoticed by selectwoman Riva Clark.

“I'm always disappointed when people come to the parade but not to the speeches,” Clark said. But, she added, “you can't preach” to people. “They either feel it or they don't.”

Marlborough Couple Setting Sail on New Life Together

by Courtney Parent

Today begins an eight-day countdown until two of my dear friends will be wed. Cyndi Michaels, 23, and Jesse Palmer, 31, both of Marlborough, will make their way to the altar next Saturday, June 11.

The love birds first met when working together at Giovanni's Restaurant in Wethersfield six years ago. Now, they say that Venice is the most romantic spot in the world; well, that must be true because the Italian cuisine definitely worked its magic on Cyndi and Jesse. The duo got engaged on June 9, 2009.

Jesse proved to be quite the romantic, taking Cyndi by surprise with his proposal. After reading notes and a poem that she found left around their apartment, Cyndi turned around to Jesse down on one knee. It was like something straight out of a movie (or so it sounded to this hopeless romantic).

However, to understand the sheer genius of the proposal, you have to be enlightened to the happenings of the Christmas/Hannukah prior. Christmas 2008 brought one present that put a few “rocks” in their road to love. For those of

you who don't know Cyndi and haven't heard the story of the “bag o' dirt,” let me fill you in. After many years together, Cyndi was hopeful (as any girl would be) that her Christmas present would contain something small, circular and shiny with a promise of forever. However, when Christmas morning finally arrived, Cyndi was shocked to find a five-pound bag of dirt under the tree with her name on it. (The bag was something Cyndi and Jesse had seen advertised, which actually contained beautiful gemstones that you had to sift through the dirt to find.)

But in the end, the joke was on Cyndi, as Jesse was already in possession of her engagement ring and was simply plotting and planning the perfect way to ask for her hand. In the end, the proposal was an utter success, and of course she said ‘yes.’ (Otherwise there would be no need for this story.)

The wedding will be held at Mystic Aquarium and promises to be quite the unique shindig. Adhering to the venues ocean theme, the entire wedding will be centered around the magic of the deep blue sea.

For starters, in order for guests to find their

seats, cards displaying varying “sea creatures” will be attached to wedding favors. (The favors will include miniature fish bowls with toy fish and blue sea rocks.) Guests will then play a figurative game of “Where's Waldo” matching their individual sea creature to those residing at the center of each table. The creatures vary from beluga whales, to sea lions, to turtles, sharks and more.

In terms of appearance, the groom and his entourage will be dressed in traditional black-tie attire. However, they will not be the only ones sporting tuxedos; there will also be a group of penguins which will be mingling among family and friends during cocktail hour. The bridal party, including yours truly, will also be embracing the ocean theme, styling horizon blue dresses.

But all joking aside, I wish you both a wonderful day full of smiles and laughs and moments that will last you a lifetime. And now I leave you, my dear friend Cyndi, with this special poem and just as these sentences do, it too will rhyme:

At long last, your special day has arrived; it's come, it's finally here.

There is nothing left to do but sport that big ol' smile from ear to ear.

After months of plotting and planning, the chaos has finally come to an end.

Today's your day and you embrace it surrounded by your closest family and friends.

As you slip into that infamous white dress looking as beautiful as can be, a smile appears upon your face, knowing that the two of you were truly meant to be.

As you stand with your father, waiting for them to “play your song,” a confidence overwhelms you, re-assuring you that a love like yours could never be wrong.

Walking down the aisle, staring into your soon-to-be-husband's eyes you know this moment is real.

At long last, you exchange rings and share in a momentous “G-rated” kiss to officially “seal the deal.”

Marlborough Elementary School Enhances Educational Experience

by Courtney Parent

If one were to visit an elementary school on any ordinary weekday evening, they could expect to hear deathly silence and see tumbleweeds slowly drifting through the hallways. However, this was not the case at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School this Wednesday, June 1.

An open house put on by the Marlborough Education Foundation provided the school with a different evening atmosphere. As parents made their way around the room, observing different elements to be included in the soon-to-be Learning Lab, children loudly cast their voices in excitement as they experimented with microscopes, built structures out of gumdrops and toothpicks and indulged in pieces of a volcano cake.

Eric Brody, math and science specialist for the school, explained that the implementation of the Learning Lab is a 2-year plan with the goal being to provide students with a “special learning experience.” The lab will incorporate not just science, but also math and technology skills.

“It will incorporate a little bit of everything and serve as a hub,” said Brody.

Brody said that while math and reading are generally placed in the “forefront,” Thienes-Hall is proposing a shift. While the Learning Lab will include many different subjects, it will place an emphasis on the importance of science instruction.

While the school is looking to get state-of-the-art equipment such as interactive white boards and Smart Boards to enhance the learning process, Brody said they also want to make sure the equipment is user-friendly. The same philosophy goes with the furniture, as it should be adjustable so it can be easily operated by children of all ages and sizes.

Brody said the immediate goal would be to get every class in the Learning Lab for one period of the day during the upcoming school year. The end goal, he said, would be to utilize the facility for after-school programs and summer camps offered to children outside of Thienes-Hall as well.

Former Thienes-Hall Principal Loraine Giannini, who has been credited with the idea of implementing a learning lab, was also present at Wednesday’s open house.

Giannini said the idea for a learning lab all evolved from a casual conversation she had with a few parents during the previous school year. The conversation focused on different ways to provide enrichment for the children through a “new lens.”

With budget restraints, Giannini said several parents began doing research on how the funds could be raised to “provide enrichment” for the students. As a result, the Marlborough Education Foundation was formed. After the foundation was officially formed, Giannini said, the Learning Lab was number one on the priority list.

Current Thienes-Hall Principal Scott Nierendorf explained that while the Marlborough Education Foundation is focusing on fundraising efforts, the school is placing an emphasis on education.

“That’s our challenge,” Nierendorf said, “to make sure this investment of time and energy will provide the children with an enhanced learning experience.”

According to Nierendorf, names for the soon-to-be Learning Lab are currently being tossed around. One name that Nierendorf said is on the top of the list right now is the “Steam Room.” Nierendorf explained the clever title would have multiple meanings. It would be based off the closely related acronym STEM,



Parents and students explore the magic of science at an Open House for the proposed Learning Lab, at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School on Wednesday evening.

which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education. It would also serve as a descriptor as steam often makes an appearance in varying science experiments.

Overall, Nierendorf said, Wednesday’s open house was a success, with cooperating weather outside, engaged students inside and a good number of families being represented.

Brody addressed the positive community feedback that had been seen so far, pointing to

a wall of butterflies which signify donations that had been made as of June 1.

“If the butterflies are any indication the community reaction has been extremely positive,” Brody said.

As of Wednesday, the Marlborough Education Foundation had raised approximately \$8,000 of their \$20,000 goal for Phase One. For more information or to make a donation online, visit MEFct.org.

Hebron Kids Compete in the Heat in Track and Field Games

by Courtney Parent

Last Wednesday, May 25, marked the 34th annual Hershey’s Track and Field Games. The program was offered to Hebron Elementary School students and was held at RHAM High School.

Despite smoldering heat and blistering sun, children competing in Wednesday’s events were nothing but smiles. While parents and grandparents present were chasing after children trying to apply sunscreen and keep them hydrated, the children’s concerns seemed to center more on what events they were entered in.

According to Recreation Coordinator Josselyn Salafia, Hershey’s Track and Field Games is offered through the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association. Salafia said that the association organizes the program and then finds a representative from each town to sponsor it. At that point, Salafia said the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department (who sponsored the event), contacts RHAM High School, secures a date and advertises the event within the community.

According to the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association website, crpa.com, Hershey’s Track and Field Games is a “playground program” which introduces children to the concept of physical fitness through basic track and field events. The website said the program “emphasizes participation, friendship and sportsmanship.”

Salafia described the goal of the program similarly as promoting activity and getting kids involved. She also noted that while sports such as baseball or basketball are offered to children all through school, track and field is often not

offered until middle school or sometimes even high school. This allows students to “get a touch of it” beforehand.

The program is offered to children ages nine to 14 years old. Each child is allowed to participate in three events, either two running events and one field event or two field events and one running event.

Events are broken up by age and sex and there are seven events to choose from for all children participating. Boys and girls ages nine and 10 have a choice of the 50 meter dash, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 4 x 100-meter relay, standing long jump or softball throw. Meanwhile, the older children, boys and girls ages 11-14, have the option of an 800-meter run or a 1,600-meter run, instead of the 50-meter or 400 meter dashes.

According to Salafia, awards are given for first-, second- and third-place finishers in each event. Last Wednesday’s event served as the “local” competition, those who earned first place finishes will now move on to a regional competition said Salafia. Anyone who finishes first at the regional competition will then go on to the state finals.

Salafia said there was a great turnout this year, with 40 participants. Last year, she said there were only a “couple” students from Hebron as they tried to do a combined event with East Hampton. According to Salafia, this becomes difficult in regards to transportation, as students are bussed to the event, but need to be picked up by parents afterwards.

While the Hershey’s Track and Field Games are a yearly event for children ages nine to 14, that does not mean there is an age limit on physi-



Hebron Elementary School students show off their speed while competing in the 34th Annual Hershey’s Track and Field Games at RHAM High School.

cal fitness nor does it mean there is only one day dedicated to it.

Those looking to kick-start their fitness regimens, or to introduce their kids to physical fit-

ness, can call Parks and Rec. at 860-530-1281 and ask for information about their running club.

Colchester Police News

5/25: Steven Korten, 19, of 279 Leonard Bridge Rd., Lebanon, was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, no registered motor vehicle and no signal device, State Police said.

5/27: Brandon Ashley, 29, of 180 Fort Pond Blvd., East Hampton, NY, was charged with DUI, failure to drive in proper lane and risk of injury/impair the morals of a child, State Police said.

5/28: According to police, the left side of a vehicle was “keyed” while parked on a road in front of an Alfred Drive home during the overnight hours of May 27-28. Anyone with information is asked to call Sergeant Robert Suchecki at Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

5/28: Carlos Valentin, 44, of 29 Williams St., Hartford, was charged with two counts of fail-

ure to appear, State Police said.

5/28: William Michaud, 64, of 79 Mohawk Dr., Wallingford, was charged with DUI, Colchester Police said.

5/29: Jason Levitsky, 32, of 175 Briar Ln., Norwich, was charged with DUI and making an improper right turn, Colchester Police said.

5/29: Tomas Zukowski, 26, of 14 Cadwell Ct., New Britain, was charged with DUI, evading, failure to drive in proper lane, possession of a controlled substance/narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said. According to police, Zukowski was found on Hartford Road after fleeing the scene of a property damage accident on Route 2 west, prior to exit 16. Heroin and insulin syringes were also found in his vehicle, police said.

Marlborough Man Skids Off Road, Strikes Tree

A local resident was taken to the hospital for treatment of “non-evident, possible injuries” after colliding with a tree last week, State Police said.

According to police, Andrew Andrasik, 18, of 19 Millstone Dr., was traveling north on

Ogden Lane Road when, while negotiating a sharp left turn on a wet road, left the road and struck a tree on the right side of the north-bound lane.

Andrasik was transported to Marlborough Clinic, police said.

Two-Car Crash in Colchester Sends One to Hospital

A two-car crash on Chestnut Hill Road sent one to the Marlborough Clinic last week, State Police said.

According to police, at around 10 a.m. May 28, Christina Blanchard, 31, of 5 Bay St., Baltic, was driving north on Chestnut Hill, behind Roger Olson of 28 Chestnut Hill Rd., whose age police did not have listed. Police said Blanchard failed to stop as Olson was

attempting to make a left turn into his driveway.

Olson was transported via Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department to the Marlborough Clinic, after complaining of pain in the neck and back, police said. Blanchard was uninjured in the crash.

Blanchard was issued a warning for following too close, police said.

Portland Police News

5/28: Robert Hills, 18, of 772 Brooks Rd., Middletown, was charged with operating under suspension and failure to obey a control signal, Portland Police said.

5/28: David Carlson, 21, of 8 Coe Ave., was charged with permitting a minor to possess alcohol, police said.

5/29: William Meyers, 45, of 64 Great Hill Pond Rd., Portland, was charged with violation of a restraining order, police said.

5/29: Daryl Adamaitis, 24, of 6 Privilege Dr., Bloomfield, was charged with operating under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

East Hampton Police News

5/20: John J. Ducki, 60, of 64 Childs Rd., was arrested for driving under the influence and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

Hebron Police News

5/26: Robert L. Roncaioli, 25, of 19 Jones St., Amston, was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

5/28: David Welch, 24, of 12 Wood Acres Rd., Hebron, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I hope you all had a good Memorial Day, one that featured not just cookouts and time at the beach but also remembrance of the soldiers who have died for this country. I know it's almost become a cliché these days, the almost-angry reminders that “Memorial Day is more than just a day off from work!” or “Memorial Day is about more than just burgers and beer!”, but it's true; it is. And while I'm not here to lecture, hopefully you found at least a few moments Monday to think about it.

As the *Rivereast* is currently down a reporter – a new one's going to start next week – I slipped back on my reporter cap and headed out to Marlborough Monday to cover that town's Memorial Day parade. A full write-up of the event appears on page 26 in this week's paper, so I'll just briefly give my thoughts here. It was really quite nice. The parade was perhaps a little shorter than I was used to – though, growing up in Manchester and frequently watching that town's parade, I guess that's to be expected – but very enjoyable nonetheless. The veterans stoically carried flags, the local politicians smiled and waved and such groups as the RHAM bands performed patriotic tunes. Local scouts and youth sports players also participated, many happily throwing candy at the people lining the streets to watch the festivities.

Then it was off to the Marlborough Green – which was just up the street from where I'd been perched to catch the parade – for a brief ceremony. Considering the throngs of people that had lined the streets to watch the parade, it was a little disheartening the green wasn't more crowded than it was. Oh, there were a lot of people there, but there could've been more; there should've been more.

But those who stuck around were rewarded with a nice ceremony, which featured, among other things, the traditional reading of “In Flanders Field” by state Rep. Pam Sawyer, the firing of rifles and playing of “Taps” and a moving account from RHAM Board of Education member Sandy Sudduth of her own experience in the military (for more on this, you'll have to read my recap of the parade; yep, I just plugged my own story). Like I said, it was a brief but very nice ceremony.

Also very nice was the weather. The thunderstorms of the morning that wiped out the parades in several towns across the state had long since subsided; instead, we were treated to beautiful sunny skies and 90-degree heat. And yes, I loved that 90-degree heat. After the winter we had and, more recently, the May we endured (which felt like just one long rainy day), I'll gladly take the heat, for however long it wants to stick around. And I hope it's a while.

Anyway, to go back to Memorial Day: while Andover's and East Hampton's parades were rained out, Hebron's and Portland's continued – of course, it helped that Portland's actually took place on Sunday – and pictures

from those two parades, as well as pics from the Marlborough parade (yep, I just plugged my own photos too), are up for viewing at rivereastnews.net. Just click on “event photos” and then “*Rivereast News Bulletin* photos.” And as an added bonus, there are also pictures from Tuesday's yellow ribbon ceremony in East Hampton, as it was supposed to be part of Monday's Memorial Day festivities. Pictures from last year's parades are up there too, in case you want to take a little memory lane stroll. Enjoy!

Saw some real sad news this week out of Chicago. On Monday, 38-year-old Edward Gardner was driving on the Tri-State Tollway (a.k.a. I-294) at around 9:30 a.m. when he spotted a family of wild ducklings trying to cross the road. He pulled over to the right shoulder, got out of his car and attempted to get the ducks off the interstate.

Unfortunately, a limousine driver apparently didn't see Gardner and hit him. Paramedics rushed him to the hospital, but he was pronounced dead at 1:24 p.m.

Now, you can certainly make a point that you should never pull your car over and get out on a busy interstate unless it's an absolute emergency. But perhaps to an apparent animal lover like Gardner, assisting those helpless little ducks *was* an emergency. Either way, it's still a tragic story; a man killed much too young while trying to do a good deed.

On a cheerier note, it's National Doughnut Day! The ubiquitous Dunkin' Donuts chain is giving away a free doughnut with every medium beverage purchased, and I'm betting smaller doughnut shops may be offering promotions too, so you may want to call around and find out (after you get done reading the *Rivereast*, of course).

The story of how National Doughnut Day came to be is an interesting one. And yes, it's a story I told last year at this time, but it bears repeating. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the Salvation Army started the holiday way back in 1938. Why are they the ones behind it? Well, in World War I, Salvation Army volunteers handed out doughnuts to soldiers on the front lines. (The volunteers who provided the treats, by the way, were all women, and they were nicknamed “doughgirls.”)

Prior to the war, doughnuts were just “exotic European creations,” as the *Chronicle* puts it. But after the war ended, and the soldiers returned home, they grew nostalgic for the doughnuts (and perhaps for the doughgirls who supplied them, the *Chronicle* surmises), and, boom, a fatty but delicious industry was born.

So, even if you don't normally chow down on them, have a doughnut today; it's practically your patriotic duty.

See you next week.

Obituaries

Hebron

Floyd A. Fogil Jr.

Floyd A. "Buzzy" Fogil, Jr. entered into eternal rest Wednesday, May 25. Buzzy was a native of Hebron and had lived there all his life. He was born January 5, 1937, the son of the late Floyd and Alice (Doreau) Fogil.

After high school, he worked as farm help for a short while before being inducted into the Army during the Korean Conflict. After the service, he was employed by United Technologies for 33 years and also drove a school bus for Clark Transportation of Colchester.

Buzzy was an avid boater. He loved spending time with his family and friends on the water. He also loved clamming from his boat.

Survivors include his loving wife, Evelyn, of 42 years; a stepson, Darian W. Irish and his wife Rose, of Stafford Springs; a granddaughter, Kelly and her husband Sam of Stafford and dear friends, Mike Porter and his wife Donna Lee of Hebron.

Funeral services will be held at a later date to be announced. Burial will be in the Gilead Cemetery in Hebron.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Dept., 44 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248-0911.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Lucille Beckley

Lucille (Robinson) Beckley, 90, of Freestone Avenue, Portland, wife of the late William Beckley entered into eternal rest Wednesday, May 25, at her home. She was born March 21, 1921, in Portland, and was raised in Portland, the daughter of the late William H. and Sarah (Cunningham) Robinson.

She was a previous member of St. John's Church, where she was a former lector and Eucharistic minister. She was a member of St. Mary's Church in Portland and was a member of R.S.V.P. and Home Outreach. She volunteered at the Middlesex Hospital Thrift Shop for the past 14 years. Previously, she belonged to AARP in Portland, until it disbanded. She was also active in the Portland aerobic group.

She was employed at Daniel's Oil Company for twenty years and after her retirement, became an active volunteer.

She is survived by her two daughters, Sheryl Ghantous of Morton Grove, IL and Paulette Bacon of Portland; also three beloved grandchildren, Dr. Seth Ghantous and his spouse Jean of Lake Forest, IL, Sarah Stein and her spouse Brett of Evanston, IL, and Elizabeth Phillips and her spouse Greg of Schaumburg, IL; eight precious great-grandchildren, William Beckley Ghantous, Samantha Ghantous, and Quinn Ghantous, Ethan Stein, Emma Stein and Ellie Stein, Nora Phillips and Ryan Phillips; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by three brothers, William, James and Lawrence Robinson, three sisters; May Robinson, Elizabeth Robin and Lorraine Glowinski.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, May 28, at St. Mary Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial will be at the State Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Lucille's memory may be made to St. Mary's Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland, CT 06457 or Middlesex Home Hospice, c/o Middlesex Hospital, Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Carmelina Mrozinski

Carmelina "Millie" Mrozinski, 93, widow of Conrad Victor Mrozinski, of New Britain and Marlborough, passed away Tuesday, May 31, at St. Francis Hospital, after a brief illness.

She is survived and will be dearly missed by her five daughters, Patricia Burns and husband William of Enfield, Carol Golas and husband David of Canton, Barbara Toczko and husband Eric of Colebrook, Pamela Mrozinski and Deborah Szewczyk of Middletown; her precious 12 grandchildren; five sweet great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Millie was also predeceased by her siblings: Angie Caramma, Harry Brancato and James Cianci.

Visitation services will begin Saturday, June 4, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the New Britain Memorial Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain, followed by the funeral liturgy at 10 a.m. in St. Jerome Church. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill.

For directions, a detailed obituary or to express an online condolence, visit newbritainsagarino.com.

Colchester

Roger Ledoux

Roger Ledoux, 77, of Colchester, husband of Theresa M. Ledoux (Langevin), died peacefully with his family by his side Wednesday, May 25, at Harrington Court in Colchester.

Roger was born June 1, 1933 in Woonsocket, RI, son of the late Camille and Bernadette (Beliveau) Ledoux. He and his wife resided in Meriden for most of their married life prior to moving to Colchester to live with their daughter and her husband. Roger was employed at Allegheny Ludlum Steel in Wallingford for many years until he retired in 1995.

In his active years, he enjoyed deep sea fishing, clamming, sports and spending time at the shore. Roger was a loving and devoted husband, father, and brother whose sense of humor and spirit to live will be missed by family, friends, and all who knew him.

In addition to his wife of 47 years, he is survived by his daughter Kristina Nurnberg and her husband Ron, a sister, Jeannine Morrisette and her husband Maurice of Wakefield, RI, three brothers; Richard Ledoux and his wife Pat of East Hampton, Roland Ledoux and his wife Becky of San Antonio, TX., Ronald Ledoux and his wife Cindy of Gwynn, VA, and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service and burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

Mere words cannot express the depth of gratitude owed to the staff of both Harrington Court and Vitas Hospice for the compassion, love, and care provided to Roger and his family during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Vitas Hospice, 628 Hebron Ave., Suite 300, Glastonbury, CT 06033.



Hebron

Anna Koval

Anna (Genthner) Koval, 81, of Hebron, wife of the late Maxey Koval, died peacefully Friday, May 27, surrounded by the love and comfort of her family. Anna was born May 30, 1929, in Nobleboro, ME, and was a longtime resident of Hebron. Prior to her retirement, she worked at D&D Caterers in Manchester for 25 years.

Anna will be remembered by her children, Carol Madison and her husband Tom of Windsor, CO, Sandi Markey and her husband Jim of Glastonbury and Bob Koval and his wife Michelle of Bolton; her loving grandchildren, Nick Girouard and Shelby Markey, her sister Madelyn (Genthner) Creamer of Waldoboro, ME, and her very special niece Brenda Betchley of Mattapoisett, MA.

She was predeceased by her two brothers, Theodore and Milliard and her sister Evelyn Peters.

She had many loves, especially her grandchildren. Additionally, she was a diehard Red Sox fan, Celtics fan, enjoyed the challenge of a crossword puzzle and was a member of the Tallwood Women's Golf Club.

A special thank you for the care given to Anna and her family by Helen and Michelle of Vitas Hospice.

Calling hours will be Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m.-noon, immediately followed by a short service at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

Memorial donations in Anna's name may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT. 06067 or to a charity of your choice.

For online tributes, visit mulryanfh.com.

East Hampton

William J. Naughton Sr.

William Joseph Naughton Sr. of East Hampton passed peacefully from this life to eternal rest Thursday, May 26. Bill was born Feb. 4, 1923, in New Britain, son of the late William and Caroline (Paissan) Naughton.

He graduated from New Britain High School in 1941, worked for CL&P as a meter reader, enlisted in the Army Air Corp at the start of World War II, and served in Italy and Africa. Upon discharge, Bill enrolled in Central Connecticut State Teachers College. He was editor of both the school newspaper, *The Recorder*, and his class yearbook, *The Dial*. It was during this time, and through this work, that he met "the love of his life," Jean Blackford.

Bill graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949, and although he was invited to join the faculty at Central, he chose to accept an offer to return to CL&P. Bill and Jean were married in 1950. Bill received his Master's of Science degree from UConn in 1952, and held positions for CL&P in Willimantic, Berlin (training coordinator) and East Hampton (district manager).

Upon the formation of Northeast Utilities in 1966, Bill was recruited to be employment and training manager, and in 1973 he was promoted to the position of director of human resources and compensation, a position he held until his retirement in 1984, after 38 years with CL&P/Northeast Utilities. In retirement, Bill and Jean traveled the country in their Winnebago, including two trips to Alaska, and they spent winters in Bonita Springs, FL.

Bill provided exceptional care for Jean in her later years, right up to her passing on Sept. 3, 2005. He missed her every minute since that day, but now they are together again, in eternal life.

Bill is survived by a daughter, Debra; two sons and their spouses, William, Jr. and Olga; and Robert and Cynthia; four grandchildren, Katy, Kelly, Vanessa and William; and one great-grandchild, Adrian. He is also survived by his sister, Rita (Naughton) D'Amato from Southington, her husband Victor, and their children, his three nieces and nephew.

He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, his son, James, his grandson, Kevin, and his nephew, Joseph.

Friends paid their respects at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, May 31. A funeral liturgy was celebrated at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton on Wednesday, June 1. Interment immediately followed in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery.

The family wishes to acknowledge the exceptional level of care Bill received in his final days from Dr. Kenta-Bibi and the staff at Water's Edge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Salem

James Duffy

James "Bob" Duffy, 85, of Colchester and formerly of Salem, died Saturday, May 28. He was born April 28, 1926, in Brooklyn, NY, only child of Helen (O'Shaughnessy) and James Duffy. Bob served in Japan during World War II and in the Korean War as a United States Marine and was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Upon leaving the military, he married Eileen Thornton in 1952. They moved from Brooklyn, NY to Westport, where he worked as a freelance commercial artist and raised his family.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Eileen and his five children: Deirdre and her husband Gregory Moran; Brendan and his wife Sharon; sons Patrick and Sean and a daughter Delia and her husband Michael O'Connor. Bob has nine grandchildren: Bridget Moran O'Halloran, Caitlin and Eamon Moran, Jordan and Quinn Duffy, Lucas Duffy and Jack, Grant and Derek O'Connor. His cousins Dr. Alice O'Shaughnessy, Kathleen O'Shaughnessy Hearn and Kevin O'Shaughnessy also survive him.

His youngest cousin, Thomas O'Shaughnessy predeceased him.

Bob was a talented artist and woodworker, a lifelong Dodgers fan, an avid follower of the UConn women's basketball team and proud of his service in the Marine Corps.

The family received guests Thursday, June 2, directly at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 752 Norwich-Salem Tpke., Oakdale. The celebration of the funeral liturgy followed, and that was then followed by committal with military honors in the Salem Green Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Central Regional Office, 128 Providence St., Worcester, MA 01604.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

James C. Boule

James C. Boule, 63, of St. Petersburg, FL, husband of Joan Boule and the son of Janice and the late Henry Boule, passed away Tuesday, May 24, from complications of blood clotting issues. He was born on March 4, 1948, and raised in East Hampton. He graduated from Vinyl Technical High School, Middletown, and continued his education at Hartford College, Hartford.

Besides his beloved wife, Joan, of 29 years of marriage, Jim leaves cherished memories to mother Janice of East Hampton; brother David and sister-in-law Helen Boule of East Hampton; three children, daughter Deborah and son-in-law Raymond Inlow of East Hampton, daughter Allison and son-in-law Kyle Dillon of East Hampton, and son Darren Boule of St. Petersburg, FL; four grandchildren, Joseph, age 9, Liam, age 8, Olivia, age 7, and Christopher, age 11 months; wonderful nieces, nephews and friends.

Jim was an entrepreneur. His success started by owning his own businesses in Connecticut. He continued his success in the plastic injection molding machines in Somerset, NJ. With the desire to move to Florida, Jim moved to St. Petersburg with his wife Joan and son Darren and made it their home for 26 years, along with the triumph of his businesses. Living on the water, boating became one of his favorite pastimes and his other interests included a great game of cards with friends and family, golfing, and traveling. For the last 16 years, Jim and Joan enjoyed six months of the year at their mountain home located near Killington, VT.

Jim will be remembered most as an outgoing individual with an unforgettable laugh. His personality was one of a kind. He had an amazing mind, allowing him to relate to any topic. He had tremendous courage and a passion to teach others from all his own past experiences. His wisdom allowed him to enjoy a challenge and he always excelled his best efforts. He was a proud man, someone who could do it all, from building houses to owning his own corporations. Jim was a magnificent leader and his wit will never be forgotten. He lived a wonderful life and was dearly loved by his family and many friends.

Respecting Jim's wishes for cremation, a celebration of his life will be held Monday, July 18, at Saint Clements Castle, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland, at 11 a.m., followed by a private family gathering.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Suncoast Hospice Woodside, 6770 102nd Ave., Pinellas Park, FL 33782, or to your favorite charity.

Hebron

Joseph Lucien Dionne

Joseph Lucien Dionne, 77, of Hebron, peacefully passed away Tuesday, May 31, in his home following a courageous year-long battle with cancer. He was born Feb. 28, 1934, in Madawaska, ME and was one of 16 children who lived and worked on the family potato farm.

At the age of 17, he joined the Army and became an Airborne Ranger, serving in the 82nd Airborne Division in the Korean War. He was injured by friendly fire when an artillery strike came short and landed in the middle of his unit. He often said jumping out of planes as a Ranger was one of the greatest experiences of his life.

Upon returning from the war, he met "his girl" whom he later married, Barbara Ann Melody. They were married for 54 years. Joe started a career as a painter until finding his calling in the moving industry relocating families from coast to coast for over 30 years. He retired at the age of 67. He made the skill of moving an art form. In retirement he enjoyed spending his time playing poker, going to auctions, watching horse racing, the Yankees and the Cowboys, but most of all, spending time with his family.

Joseph is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; his sisters, Dorilda Lagasse, Annette Johnson, Constance Dionne and Angela Charleton; his children, Deborah A. Kulwich and her spouse Mark of Granby, Gail D. Houle and her spouse Raymond of Marlborough, Joseph Richard Dionne and his spouse Carolyn of Coventry; his grandchildren, Stephanie Kulwich, Matthew Kulwich, Britani Houle, Danielle Houle, Erika Houle, Lauren Jo Dionne, Joseph Connor Dionne; and his great-grandchildren, Victoria Kulwich and Sabrina Kulwich. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews whom he loved.

All services will be held at John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St. in Manchester, on Saturday, June 4. Calling hours will be from 9-11 a.m. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. with military honors. Family and friends are welcome.

Memorial contributions can be made in Joseph's name in lieu of flowers to the Make a Wish Foundation at wish.org.

To share your memories and photos with Joseph's family, visit his memorial tribute at tierneyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

William Frederick James Jr.

“I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.” On Memorial Day, May 30, Jesus took into his loving arms his faithful servant, William Frederick James Jr. of East Hampton, who passed peacefully from this earth with his loving family by his side.

William was born Oct. 19, 1934, in Brooklyn, NY. As a young man he joined the Merchant Marines and worked on the ships the *Brown*, the *Surna* and the *Bessegan*. He then spent seven and a half years proudly serving our country in the U.S Navy during the Korean War.

Taking a spouse in 1957, he married Betty Alden Holmquist and resided in Rhode Island, where they worked side by side raising a family and working for the Lord. With a servant’s heart, William worked with troubled youth in the mission “Second Chance.” Providing opportunities to inner-city youth, he spent his time working at summer camps, visiting inmates in prison and started several churches reaching out to those in need.

Moving to Connecticut in 1972, he founded the East Hampton Bible Church continuing his work for the Lord. He worked side-by-side with his son-in-law Jeff Sonnichsen in “All American Builders” and was always looking for opportunities to help. His recent service for the Lord was pastoring the Cornerstone Bible Church and establishing the Sunday School outreach program at Chatham Court. He was part of the family of God and found peace in knowing that; “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.”

The family will forever be grateful for the loving care he received from the staff of Marlborough Health Care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christian Aid Mission, 1201 5th Street Ext, Charlottesville, VA 22902.

A service will be held Saturday, June 4, at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church at 2:30 p.m. Following the service, friends and family are invited to a reception at the Haddam Neck Parish Hall to celebrate his life.

Colchester

Earl G. Gardner

Earl G. Gardner of Colchester passed away Sunday, May 29, after a brief illness. He was born June 14, 1921, in West Wyoming, PA, to Reuben and Ethel (Posten) Gardner.

During the Great Depression he worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps in the American Southwest. He proudly served with the United States Marines in the South Pacific during World War II. On May 28, 1949, he married Theresa D. (Dumas) Gardner and they spent the next 58 years together, until her passing in 2007.

Earl and Theresa raised their family in Columbia. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, camping, and was involved with the Columbia Canoe Club. After retiring from Pratt and Witney Aircraft in East Hartford, Earl and Theresa spent much of their later years traveling all over the United States and Mexico, and they lived for a few years in Zephyrhills, FL, before returning to Connecticut.

Earl was also predeceased by his son, Bruce E. Gardner, formerly of Ashford, and by three brothers and four sisters.

Earl is survived by brother Alton Gardner of Enfield; sister Marge Holub of PA; his daughter, Cheryle Billian and her husband Skip of Plainville; daughter Lesley Gardner and her boyfriend Tim McComiskey of Norwich; daughter-in-law Linda Scanlon of Ashford; grandchildren Aubry Aube of Shelton; Cryptological Technician First Class Scott Gardner Bettencourt USN of Norfolk, VA; Nichole Gardner of Ashford; and Nicole McComiskey of Norwich. He is also survived by three great-grandchildren, Tye Bettencourt; Jackson Aube; and James Bettencourt.

Arrangements are being handled by Bacon Funeral Home in Willimantic. There are no calling hours. There will be a graveside service at the West Street Cemetery, Lake Road, Columbia, today, June 3, at noon.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that contributions be made to the American Heart Association.

Visit baconfh.com to register your condolences online.

Amston

Janet Laura Koziol

Janet Laura Koziol, 64, of Amston, passed away Wednesday, June 1, at Hartford Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Oct. 10, 1946, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Laura (Macner) Koziol of Amston, and the late Mitchell Koziol.

Janet worked in the family business, Mitchell Machine in Glastonbury, for over 40 years. As vice president, she served the company in many different capacities.

Janet enjoyed crossword puzzles, reading and spending time with her family. She was a devout Catholic. As a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester, Janet was very active, serving on the Ladies Guild and supporting many different Catholic charities.

In addition to her mother, with whom she made her home, survivors include her brother and sister-in-law, Mitchell Paul and Hannelore Koziol of Colchester; a nephew, Mitchell Lawrence Koziol; a niece and goddaughter, Marysia Chabotte; and many extended family and friends.

Friends may attend calling hours today, June 3, from 5-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will gather at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 4, at the funeral home. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew Church in Colchester with Fr. Michael Giannitelli officiating. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedicts Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Mary M. McKinney

Mary M. McKinney, 88, of East Hampton, widow of the late Harry W. McKinney, died Friday, May 27, at Aurora Senior Living of Cromwell. Born Jan. 7, 1923, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Clarence and Mary (Mele) Spencer.

She was a lifelong resident of East Hampton, a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam, a life member of the VFW Post 5095 Women’s Auxiliary, a member of the American Legion Post 64 Women’s Auxiliary and had been appointed an honorary member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

Mary is survived by her two sons, James McKinney and his wife Elizabeth of East Hampton, Stephen McKinney of East Hartford; a daughter, Patricia McKinney of East Hampton; a daughter-in-law, Roberta McKinney of Stafford Springs; 11 grandchildren, Jim, Paul, Scott, Paula, Danielle, Larry, Kurt, Cathleen, Sean, Nicholas, Ethen; and five great-grandchildren, William, Mathew, Ryan, Alexander and Erin.

She was predeceased by her son, Harry Jr., and her sister, Florence Ely.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 1, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home Wednesday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, 5 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.