

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**O Holy Night...** Parishioners at Christ Lutheran Church in Amston gathered for services at 7 and 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The driveway was lit with luminaries and the sanctuary was aglow with candles. Pictured here is Reese Henderson holding a candle during the 7 p.m. service. *Photo by Gina Henderson.*

## Therrien, Hebron Part Ways

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron rang in the New Year with a change in administration, as Town Manager Bonnie Therrien and the town parted ways due to what the Board of Selectmen described as a “difference in philosophies with managing staff resources.”

Therrien had been the town manager since April 2010, when she took over from a three-member team of Public Works Director Andy Tierney, Town Planner Mike O’Leary and Executive Assistant Donna Lanza. The team had been handling town duties since Town Manager Jared Clark left in 2009.

Now, one of the members is stepping in again. On Dec. 30, Tierney said he was asked to become interim town manager. The separation of employment between Therrien and the town was effective that day, and on Jan. 3 it was Tierney, not Therrien, who could be reached at Town Hall.

In a press release, the Board of Selectmen said it “appreciates” Therrien’s efforts and leadership, but said its “direction of managing and allocating resources going forward is different than Bonnie’s.”

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said Therrien had a mentality that stemmed from her prior work with larger towns, and that didn’t necessarily work for Hebron.

“We have a lot of confidence in our department heads and employees as a small town,” he said, “and my feeling is, I think Bonnie has always come from a larger town, where there’s probably more resources to get things done.”

He went on to say Therrien had done “a lot of good things,” but doing too much at once in a small town such as Hebron “becomes very tough to do.”

Selectman Mark Stuart said he wished Therrien well, and noted Thursday she had started some new programs and led the town through the recent one-two punch of Tropical Storm Irene and the October nor’easter. But he said “it was just professional differences in philosophies with managing staff resources to support the town,” that led to the separation.



**Therrien**

“We can’t work quite as fast as maybe Bonnie would like us to be able to do,” said Watt, adding “my feeling is that it was kind of a mutual, amicable resolution.”

The release said both Therrien and the selectmen “felt it would be better to separate employment ties.”

“I think it was the best decision for both parties,” selectman Brian O’Connell said Tuesday.

Board of Finance member Malcolm Leichter said he was disappointed to learn of Therrien leaving, but wasn’t surprised.

“There did appear to be some... a difference in philosophy is the best way to put it... and so I can’t say I was surprised it happened [but] I was surprised it happened when it happened – I thought it would be a little further out,” Leichter said, adding, “I wish Bonnie the best, I enjoyed working with her and I hope that we are able to find somebody nearly as qualified, but has the same philosophy [as the selectmen].”

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## Senator Prague Recovering from Stroke

by Geeta Schrayter

State Sen. Edith Prague is recovering in an undisclosed rehabilitation center after suffering what Senate President Donald Williams Jr. referred to as a “minor stroke” on Christmas.

In a statement released on Dec. 29, Williams said he had spoken with Prague that week and “she was in good spirits and eager to begin her rehabilitation.”

Prague has served the 19th senatorial district – which includes Andover and Hebron – since 1994.

Details regarding Prague’s condition are scarce, as her family has opted for privacy during this time, but state Rep. Pam Sawyer was optimistic about her recovery, saying Tuesday “she has always placed a strong emphasis on keeping physically fit through exercise and diet, and I think that will do her well as she works through the recovery time.”

Sawyer added “she’s a very strong woman for an 86-year-old and she has a very strong spirit.”

Hebron Board of Finance member Malcolm

Leichter agreed, saying, “I don’t think, based on what I’m hearing, that this is going to be the end of her career or even a long-term leave of absence type of a thing, and between her good health from her daily exercise and her inner strength to just move forward with things, I think she’s going to recover quickly.”

He stated the good news he’s hearing is that she’s doing just that.

“She’s getting the strength in her left side back,” which he’d heard she’d been having some problems with. “I would not be surprised to see her back early in the next session... she might even make it back sometime in February, based on what I hear.”

Hebron Board of Selectmen Chair Jeff Watt is also confident in her recovery, saying he has “no doubt” with all Prague has done “with her personal life and her personal career, that this is something that she’ll be able to overcome and be with us again soon.”

Prague is known for her work with seniors throughout the state. She serves as the senate chair of the Labor and Public Employees Com-

mittee as well as the Committee on Aging. Additionally, she is vice-chair of the Appropriations Committee and a member of the Public Health Committee.

“Our thoughts – our prayers – are with her. She’s been a real campaigner. She has helped anybody who’s asked for help, especially the seniors,” said Andover selectman Jay Linddy. “If she fought a battle, it was right to the end - for everyone.”

Linddy added, “I just hope she bounces back to enjoy the remaining years of her life. She deserves that.”

Recently, town officials in Andover lamented over losing her representation after the 2012 elections as a result of recent redistricting.

“She’s done a lot with the town of Andover and her whole community block,” Andover First Selectman Bob Burbank said this week. “You could always depend on [Prague] to get the job done.”

Even when they didn’t agree, Burbank said “I always respected her views and when it came

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**State Sen. Edith Prague**

### Town Manager cont. from Front Page

"I know there are emotions both ways in Town Hall," Leichter continued. "Some people are very disappointed that she's gone and some people aren't so disappointed."

Leichter added that what he knew of the exact reasons for the decision were "all hearsay," and he'd rather not get into them.

On Tuesday, Therrien was contacted at her home in Wethersfield and said "the best thing to say is 'no comment,'" adding, "it's not worth it."

She also stated she enjoyed working with the people in Hebron and will especially miss the seniors, calling them "a great bunch of people" and wishing everyone well.

Therrien said she's now applying to positions all over the country.

"It's a new year and a new adventure," she said.

Back in Hebron, Tierney acknowledged the hard work Therrien had done but said he felt confident he'd be able to do what was required.

"Bonnie was a great town manager, so they're big shoes to fill," he said, but added "I'm privy to a lot of the information" the position requires and have a "very, very professional staff."

"I think with their help, we're going to make the taxpayers and the Board of Selectmen happy," he said, noting "it's going to be a challenge, but I'm looking forward to it."

Watt was also confident in Tierney, saying he's "a very capable town manager, he's done

it before and he's done a great job."

Watt also explained he expects Tierney to be in place until after the budget process, so both the budget and the search for a new town manager can get the attention they need.

"All of us need to be kind of focused on the budget right now," he said. Afterwards, Watt added "we can give attention to [the search for a new town manager]," which "takes a lot of effort to go through."

But right now, "for the people of Hebron, we need to focus on the budget," he said.

### Senator Prague cont. from Front Page

to something that benefited the town, for the most part she was right there with all the assistance that she could give."

Burbank added Prague was "a very caring person," and said after learning they were going to lose her to redistricting "it was a great loss to the town, and now it's a great loss for all her district towns."

In a statement released Dec. 29, Governor Dannel Malloy and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman expressed their well wishes and hope for a quick recovery.

"Senator Prague is a much beloved figure at the Capitol – an outstanding advocate for her district, and a staunch ally and friend to seniors across the state," they said. "We send her our well-wishes, offer her family our support, and hope for her speedy return to the Senate."

### From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

In my last column of 2011, I wrote that one of my favorite annual lists would be coming out soon: Lake Superior State University's list of banned words.

The Michigan university officially calls it the "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness." It's a tradition that dates back to 1976. Of course, no one seriously expects these words to go anyplace, but it's always fun to see the words that make the cut – and to see if you too think the words need to go.

This year, 12 words (well, to be fair, they're words and phrases) made the list. Listed in no order, the 12 are: baby bump, occupy, ginormous, man cave, the new normal, shared sacrifice, blowback, amazing, pet parent, win the future, trickeration and thank you in advance.

Not surprised to see some of those up there – particularly the politically-charged words like "occupy" and "shared sacrifice." And I got a chuckle out of "man cave." I think I first heard the phrase earlier than last year, but the list-makers were right; it really took off in 2011.

Some of the entries I'd flat out never even heard of, such as "pet parent," "win the future" and "trickeration" (which, come to think of it, sounds like something that would come out of a George W. Bush press conference. I can picture it now: He'd lean over the podium, with that cocky little smirk of his, and say, "Saddam's gonna try to get us, with his trickeration, and his deceivery.")

I was heartened, though, to see "ginormous" on the list. Although it's been overused since well before 2011, it's one of those needlessly hybridized words that, frankly, don't need to exist.

I do have to take exception, though, to "amazing" making the cut. As a longtime fan of the Amazin' Mets, I feel it's practically my duty to do so. As long as there's baseball in Flushing, the word "amazing" has a place in my vocabulary.

\* \* \*

On a more serious note, I was shocked and saddened last week to read about state Senator Edith Prague suffering a stroke. Edith has represented Andover and Hebron – and, in my view, she's done a fine job.

In the several years I've covered the two towns, first as a reporter and then as an editor, I've seen Edith involved in a host of issues concerning the two communities. When it was announced recently that the redistricting of the state's senatorial districts would shuffle Andover out of Edith's district, town officials lamented losing her representation,

and understandably so; she's done a lot of good by the residents of that town, and those of Hebron.

Whenever I spoke with Edith for a story, she was always nice, gracious and helpful – and more often than not would offer a great quote. As I've written in this space in the past, Edith almost always says exactly how she feels about things. She has a candor that's refreshing, especially for a politician.

Get well soon, Edith.

\* \* \*

There's a lot I like about being a Catholic – particularly in regards to the Mass. I enjoy listening to the homilies (well, the interesting ones anyway), singing the classic hymns, the structure of the Mass, with the ample time to pray (strange as it may sound, not every church I've been to offers a lot of praying time), and just the overall warmth that can come from a faith community like that. I've met an awful lot of very nice people during my time as a Catholic.

But, as I've written in the past, there are several issues with which I differ from the Catholic Church's stance. I was reminded this week of another of those issues: the Church's stance on homosexuality.

I read in the *Hartford Courant* Tuesday the Archdiocese of Hartford has announced it is launching a local chapter of a national ministry called Courage "to support men and women who struggle with homosexual tendencies and to motivate them to live chaste and fruitful lives in accordance with Catholic Church teachings."

That opening sentence lost me, right off the bat. I know several gay people, and they're not "struggling with their homosexual tendencies" – they're perfectly happy with who they are.

Now, the Catholic Church is tolerant of gay people – to an extent. It maintains same-sex attraction is okay, as long as the attraction isn't acted upon. In other words, the Church is fine with gay people as long as they don't actually act gay.

In a press release the *Courant* quoted from, the archdiocese's Office of Diaconate director, Robert Pallotti, says, "Through support and spiritual intervention, we can help people with same-sex attraction lead moral and fulfilling lives," Pallotti said.

Personally, I think a great way to help gay people lead fulfilling lives is to not treat them like second-class citizens, like their sexual orientation is an abnormal tendency that they "struggle" with.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## East Hampton 11-Year-Old Killed in Christmas Day Crash

by Joshua Anusewicz

An unspeakable tragedy shattered the holiday spirit on Christmas Day in East Hampton, when a local youth was killed in a motor vehicle accident on Wopowog Road.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police, Matthew D'Amico, 11, was pronounced dead at the scene after the car he was riding in collided with a tree on Wopowog Road near the intersection of Brook Hill Drive at around 8 p.m. Matthew was the lone passenger in the car, which was being driven by his 15-year-old cousin, Kelly said.

The initial investigation, Kelly said, showed that "speed and operator inexperience were the primary causative factors" for the accident. Kelly said the two boys had gone outside to warm up the 15-year-old's mother's vehicle after a Christmas party at the D'Amicos' Wopowog Road home.

The 15-year-old, whose identity has not been released, was transported to Hartford Hospital by LifeStar helicopter after sustaining significant injuries. As of Thursday, Kelly said the teen is still in serious condition.

The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, particularly at East Hampton Middle School where Matthew was a sixth-grade student. Principal Nancy Briere said the entire school, students and faculty, has been "deeply saddened" by the tragedy.

"It was one of our kids," Briere said Wednesday. "It's a deep, profound loss. It's a real tragedy, losing someone so young like that."

Briere said that EHMS was open all last week for grief counseling, and was open before and after the funeral, which was held at St. Patrick's Church last Friday. On Tuesday – the first day back from winter break – Briere said she made an announcement to the students and observed a moment of silence in honor of Matthew.

"It hasn't been the easiest thing for any-



**Matthew D'Amico was an avid sports fan, and particularly enjoyed playing baseball as a member of the East Hampton Little League. He was described as "a joy to be around with his affectionate smile and grin."**

one," Briere said. "But students have been taking advantage of the counselors."

Briere added that the faculty has met as well, and discussed the best ways to support the students and to teach the children "how to deal with grief."

Matthew is survived by his parents, Maurizio and Maria D'Amico, and his older brother Ryan. The D'Amicos declined to comment on the matter at this time, but a full obituary about Matthew appears elsewhere in this issue.

## Andover Budget Workshops Planned

The Board of Finance has scheduled a number of workshops during the coming weeks, as it works on the 2012-13 budget.

In January, the workshops will be held as follows: Jan. 12 at the Old Firehouse/Senior Center, with the Town Clerk, Fire Department and Board of Selectmen; Jan. 17 at the Old Firehouse/Senior Center, with Registrars/Elections/Municipal Agent/Driver Dispatch/Senior Transportation, Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen; Jan. 23 in the Town Hall Community Room with the Board of Education, CIP, and the Board of Selectmen.

On Jan. 25, the Board of Finance has sched-

uled a regular meeting and budget workshop with the Board of Selectmen, and on Jan. 30, there will be an additional budget workshop, if needed, in the Community Room.

In February the workshops will take place in the Community Room on the following dates: Feb. 7 with the library, fire marshal, AHM and Board of Selectmen. On Feb. 9, 13, 15 and 21, workshops for the Board of Selectmen budget will be held as needed.

On Feb. 22, there is a regular meeting and budget workshop with the Board of Selectmen, and on Feb. 23 and 29 there will be two more workshops for the board, if needed.

All meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m.





Those traveling down Bush Rock Road in Colchester recently may have noticed this gruesome image – a dead deer carcass – on the side of the road. The carcass is believed to have been left by a group of hunters, and a local resident has brought the matter to the attention of town officials and the State Police for further investigation. According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, this improper disposal is a violation of state hunting laws.

## Colchester Resident Complains of Deer Carcass on Side of Road

by Bailey Seddon

For the last two weeks, when children have rode the bus and families walked their dogs on Bush Rock Road, they have been greeted with the grotesque image of a deer carcass apparently ripped apart by hunters and left for everyone to see.

According to Amston resident Randy Anagnostis, the carcass has been on Bush Rock Road for a week and a half as of Monday. And this isn't even the first time this has happened on the road, he said. In 2008, Anagnostis said, a carcass was left for all to see – and smell – as they passed by. Eventually, he said, four turkey buzzards gathered around to feed off the carcass. At the time, Anagnostis said, he talked with then-First Selectwoman Linda Hodge and presented her with photographs he had taken of it, but nothing was done about the animal.

Anagnostis also said the same thing happened again in 2010, but he opted not to take pictures of it. This was due in part to the carcass being further back from the road, but also, Anagnostis said, because of the lack of response he got in 2008.

Anagnostis said while he has no problem with hunting, it does not mean it's okay to leave

a dead animal in plain sight.

"Hunting is normal," but leaving the carcass right on the side of the road is not, said Anagnostis. He said he is not sure why someone would do this, whether it was due to laziness or simply a lack of caring.

Anagnostis speculated the ones who left the dead deer on the side of the road this year are the same ones who did it in 2010 and in 2008 because the deer is in the same place and residents see the same trucks parked on the street during hunting season every year.

"The most disturbing part about it is...these carcasses are left literally two feet to the end of the road," Anagnostis said. He also said that school buses go down the narrow road, and kids "must be" seeing the dead deer.

"There's no way that the kids cannot be seeing this," said Anagnostis. He said he was surprised that no one else had reported it, as "a lot of people" walk their dogs on Bush Rock Road.

Anagnostis said he sent an email with pictures of the deer to First Selectman Gregg Schuster on Dec. 23. Schuster emailed him back two days later and said, "I understand your frustration." In the email, Schuster added that he

was "unsure if this is a violation of any law," but said he would forward the email to the police department and have them look into it.

This week, Schuster said it "certainly is bad taste" to leave the carcass in plain view. However, he said this is something that does not happen a lot, as most hunters "are very respectful" and discard remains "properly." It is "not a common occurrence," he said.

Schuster said he forwarded the pictures and details to State Police and hopes something can be done about the animal.

On Dec. 27, Resident Trooper Supervisor Marc Petruzzi emailed Anagnostis saying he was "just as disturbed" as he was, and was going to have officers do patrol checks in the area to try to find out who might be dumping the remains.

"I am also forwarding this complaint to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection [DEEP] as they have investigative authority over issues with wildlife and hunting," Petruzzi said in the email. In a phone interview, Petruzzi said police are working with the DEEP to resolve the issue. "They have the expertise and knowledge in those areas," he said.

With these responses, Anagnostis is hoping things will be different and something will be done to stop whoever is leaving the deer behind.

"I would think Colchester would at least send out someone from the Public Works Department" to remove the carcass, he said.

Anagnostis said he has lived in Amston for 10 years, and even though he does not live in Colchester he lives close enough that he and his wife drive on Bush Rock Road on a regular basis and see the carcass.

"It's just wrong," Anagnostis said. "This is not right."

Instead of being near the road, Anagnostis said a dead animal should be discarded, preferably by being taken much further into the woods so other animals can feed off of it, he said.

DEEP spokeswoman Cynthia Chanaca said what has been done with the deer carcass is a violation of hunting laws.

"It is illegal to dispose of or dump a deer carcass on the side of the road...although it is very difficult to determine the identity of the suspect unless there were any eyewitnesses," she said.

## 2011 a Big Year for Emergency Calls in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department has had its hands full in the last year, with emergency calls up from the previous three years.

There were 1,967 emergency calls in 2011, higher than what the department has seen in years. This was an increase from the 2010 call volume of 1,779 and the 2009 calls of 1,835. The previous high for the fire department was in 2008, when the number reached 1,865 calls, which had been up from the 1,693 calls in 2007.

The increases are all across the board, "kind of a little bit of everything," said Deputy Fire Chief Don Lee. In 2011, fire calls were down by 14 calls compared to 2010 but medical responses (includes motor vehicle accidents) were up by 85 calls.

"We saw a spike there," Lee said.

In addition, hazardous conditions calls, such as down power lines, were up by 42. Fire Chief Walter Cox went on to say that calls have increased by 50 percent since 1992.

As to why the calls have increased, Lee said, "We really can't put our finger on it." However, he said Colchester is getting to be a larger town with a greater influx of motor vehicles coming in and out of town, which results in more accidents.

"It's going to impact emergency services across the board," Lee said of the increased traffic.

Lee also said Colchester is becoming an "older community," with more senior citizens

in town than in previous years, resulting in more EMS calls; there were almost 100 more such calls in 2011 than there were in 2010, he said.

The problem, the men said, is there are not always enough volunteers for the amount of calls the department receives. The department's roster can hold 135 volunteers; currently there are 106. Lee said 135 would be a "comfort zone" for the department; it would mean there would be enough people to help with the high number of calls without the department becoming overloaded.

Lee said it can be hard getting volunteers; a person would have to spend 240 hours in training just to be able to ride in a fire truck. In order to actually help in an emergency there is much more training involved, he said. This includes practice skills classes and a national exam. To become cross-trained as an emergency medical technician (EMT) would require an additional 90 hours of training. On top of all that, many at the fire department are volunteers; they receive fuel compensation but not much else. This can be a lot for volunteers who spend an average of 16-20 hours a week at the firehouse and also have part- of full-time jobs.

In addition, during natural disasters such as Tropical Storm Irene and the October snow-storm volunteers are putting in even more hours of service. In the "long term it just adds to what we normally do," Cox said.

"It was definitely a challenge" to provide service during the two weather events, he said,

noting that, during Irene, the firehouse was staffed 24/7, with between 20-40 firefighters there at a time.

Also, many of the men and women who volunteer and train with the Colchester department are going on to get full-time jobs with fire departments in other towns. Because of the bad economy, some people have even had to get second jobs, which Lee said puts "a strain on people's ability to volunteer."

But even the paid, full-time firefighters are positions Colchester has had a difficult time filling. There are six full-time firefighters. Lee added that most of them are in their mid-40s, and said he'd like to see more full-time firefighters that are in their early 30s.

"Young people are not staying in the community anymore," Lee said. Before, he said, there were generations of firefighters "passing off the torch" to their children – something that is not happening as much now.

Even when there are no emergencies, volunteers are busy "maintaining the health of the fire company" and attend events which bring public support to the firehouse, Lee said. This includes the annual Santa on the Green, the New Year's Day marathon, the 57 Fest and other such events.

"We are demanding a lot of our volunteers," Cox said, and he and Lee both said these types of demands make it hard to recruit volunteers. "It's a real struggle," Cox said.

Cox said the fire department is trying to come

up with new ways of recruiting volunteers. He said the department is currently in negotiations with the town for a new contract; it has had the same contract with Colchester for the past 35 years.

"We are trying to come up with some incentives" in the new contract, Cox said.

Lee said the department is "actively looking at other initiatives," such as a pay-per-call system, a points system and a retirement program – although he cautioned that nothing is set in stone.

Cox said the incentives needed to be included in the contract, as they obviously would need to have funding. "It has to be something the town supports," he said.

Cox estimated a new contract should be able to be worked out in the next six months.

While 2011 has passed, the high call volumes have not. "We are already cranking at a pretty good pace," at five and a half calls on average a day, Lee said. The fact that the calls are holding steady means the hunt for new volunteers continues to be an important one for the fire company.

"We are continuing to be in demand," Lee said.

Lee said anyone looking to become a member or volunteer can call the firehouse at 860-537-2512, or simply stop by; the firehouse is located at 52 Old Hartford Rd. They can also visit the fire company website at [colchesterfd.com](http://colchesterfd.com).

# Marlborough Receives \$400,000 STEAP Grant

by Bailey Seddon

A pair of grants – including one that may or may not go toward the controversial sidewalk project – highlighted discussion at Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski told the board that the town has been awarded a \$400,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. During the last administration, the Board of Selectmen had applied for \$500,000 for the final phase of the sidewalk project and this is what they received, Gaudinski said. The new sidewalks would go from Ofshay Drive to Pettengill Road.

While the board was happy to receive the STEAP funds, there was some discussion as to whether the money would be best used for the sidewalks.

"I have mixed feelings about the sidewalks," Gaudinski said.

Selectman Mike Gut agreed, saying he has gotten different reactions from residents about the sidewalks – some like them and some do not.

Gut also said he would like to ask businesses in the area if they were in favor of the sidewalks before they make any decisions. Gaudinski agreed, saying it was "a little early yet to commit" to the sidewalks. Selectman Dick Shea said before anything is done the board should look at the plans for the sidewalk extension so they can better make a decision.

The board also discussed the possibility of asking the state if they could repurpose the money to use somewhere else. If the town did repurpose the money, Gaudinski said the board should find out if it would have any negative impact for future applications. She noted that the town already repurposed \$250,000 last year,

when the town received STEAP grant money in 2010 for renovations for the Richmond Memorial Library. The previous administration instead used money for the sidewalks outside the library.

Whatever they decide to do the board has time, Gaudinski said they have three years to use the money for a project in town.

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Also discussed was the town possibly applying for a Small Cities Grant. Information was presented to the selectmen by Larry Wagner, president of L. Wagner & Associates Inc, a consulting firm that, according to its website, provides "administrative support and technical assistance to the public and private sectors for projects and programs in the areas of housing, community development and economic planning and development."

Wagner is not yet the consultant for Marlborough – the town has to go out to bid first – but the new Board of Selectmen had questions about how the process of hiring a consultant works. To this end, Wagner went before the board at Tuesday's meeting to demonstrate what a consultant could do for the town.

"We have done a lot of work in the Small Cities program" and therefore could help the town in obtaining these grants, Wagner said. He told the board that on June 1, cities can submit one project to the state for consideration in a grant. Wagner said the projects the state usually gives grants for are housing related to help moderate to low-income households.

First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski liked this, saying the town would benefit from applying for a housing rehabilitation grant.

Wagner said this would help people who may be "house-rich but cash-poor." With such a grant, he said, homeowners could use the money to fix roofs, install more energy efficient heating, conduct lead paint removal, do electrical upgrades and many more such fixes.

Wagner also told the board how these types of grants work. If awarded a grant, the town would receive the money based on how many residents are income-eligible. For instance, a household with one person would need to make no more than \$45,500, a two family household would make no more than \$52,000 and a family of four could make no more than \$65,000 to be income-eligible.

Another good thing about the grant, said Wagner, is that it is based on the income of the person, not the assets they have; this would make it easier for more people to apply for the money. If Marlborough were awarded the grant, the town would loan the money to homeowners and place a lien on the property. The money would come back to the town when the resident is no longer the owner of the home, such as if they decide to sell their home or in the case of their death. Once the money comes back to the town, it can again be loaned out to residents for housing rehab purposes. Wagner told the board that the town could keep using the money over and over again this way.

"One application per community per year" is all towns get, said Wagner. This means Marlborough has to make sure that they do everything they can to try to get a grant, he said. This is where Wagner's firm, if it is chosen, would come in.

Town Planner Peter Hughes said there are at

least 15 to 20 residents who are income-eligible for the program. In the next couple of weeks Hughes said he will send out letters to these people letting them know about the opportunity for the housing rehab program. People who are interested would then fill out the necessary forms and put a package together with their income tax returns. These would be sent to Hughes, who would then send the information to Wagner's firm. Wagner would look through everything and make sure each resident is eligible. His company would then do the bidding for the contractor and make sure everything runs smoothly.

"Part of our role is to make sure the process flows," Wagner said. If he is chosen, Wagner said he would need to apply for the grant by June 1.

"I would be interested in the demand" for the grant by residents, said Gut. Hughes and Wagner noted that it was important to try to get everyone who qualifies or else the state may not think the town is eligible for a grant.

Gaudinski asked if there were anyone in the sewer district who would benefit from the program. Hughes said there were three or four people who would, but added that "whether they would do it" is another story. He said pride could cause some people to turn down the funding opportunity but noted that he does not see the information in the paperwork homeowners send him; he just sends it to the consultant, making it a very private transaction.

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The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

## Colchester Business Owner Charged With Not Paying Wages

by Bailey Seddon

A Salem resident with a business in Colchester was arrested Dec. 21 after allegedly failing to pay one of his employees nearly \$40,000 worth of wages.

Charles Dutch, 63, of 60 Buckley Rd., Salem, was charged with failure to pay wages, State Police said. Dutch owns Dutch and Associates, a land-surveying company located in Colchester. The arrest stemmed from a June 2011 complaint one of Dutch's employees, Gordon Sime, lodged with the state Department of Labor (DOL). According to Gary Pechie, the director of the wage and workplace standards division at the DOL, Sime complained that he had not been paid for months of work he had done for Dutch's company.

Pechie said Sime alleged he had not been paid from September 2010 to March 2011, at which time Sime quit working at the company. Pechie said Sime told the DOL he worked for months without pay, hoping that eventually he would receive payment, but it never came.

As to why Sime went on for months of working and not getting paid, Pechie said he could not speak for Sime but speculated that, in the current economy, employees "don't want to seem like they are quitting a job" and sometimes keep working, said Pechie.

"It's a chronic problem in this economy," he said.

Sime, who was paid \$33 per hour, calculated he is owed \$38,280 by Dutch for the hours he did not get paid, according to a complaint. By state law, it is a Class E felony if any worker is owed \$2,000 by their employer, and is punishable by a \$2,000-\$5,000 fine or five years in prison, Pechie said. He said the DOL files about 60 warrants a year in wage-related issues such as this one.

After the complaint in June, Pechie said the DOL sent a letter to Dutch, saying he owed

Sime the money. Pechie said the DOL was hoping to resolve the problem quickly and without complications. Pechie said Dutch responded through his attorney, saying that Sime had been working for the company as an independent contractor and therefore the DOL has no jurisdiction over matter.

While it is true that the DOL only handles employee/employer cases, Pechie disagreed with this, saying Sime had worked for Dutch and Associates since 1980 and had always been considered an employee before this incident.

Pechie said Dutch's response seemed to be a tactic to try to avoid paying an employee. "They had not tried to come into compliance," Pechie said. He said Dutch was even warned of the forthcoming arrest warrant, but still chose not to pay. While Pechie is not sure why Dutch chose not to pay, he said it "will come out in court."

Dutch's attorney, Mark Balaban, said "state evidence in this case is heavily disputed" and there is much more to the story. While he said he has not yet seen the affidavit, Balaban said he does not believe Sime was an employee at the time of the alleged work. Balaban said Sime had previously worked for Dutch and Associates, but his contract had been mutually terminated in the past, and had on occasion been working for Dutch as an independent contractor. However, Balaban said Sime was actually not doing work for Dutch during the months the alleged payment was owed, but rather doing work as a surveyor for himself or other companies.

"I don't believe this is a case where my client failed to pay Mr. Sime," Balaban said, and this will be proved in the hearings.

Sime could not be reached for comment for this story.

The first hearing for the case began Thursday.

## Portland Corrections

In the story entitled "Resident Fighting Hartford Schools Over Dismissal," which appeared on page 15 of the Dec. 23 *Rivereast*, it was written that Portland resident Joseph Dinegar claimed Hartford Transitional Learning Academy administration requested his certification be put up for non-renewal. They actually recommended his contract be non-renewed, not his certification.

The story also said Dinegar requested a copy of his personnel file after his April 2009 hearing with the Board of Education. However, he said he actually requested a copy before the hearing.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

## New Housing Development Coming to Marlborough

by Bailey Seddon

People driving down Route 66, near the Marlborough Animal Hospital, might notice a street where one wasn't before. That new road, Rhonda Way, will be home to a nine-lot subdivision known as Buck Run.

The owner of the residential developments is Richard Farley and, according to Town Planner Peter Hughes, the land has been in the Farley family for the past 30 years. The development, which was passed by the Planning and Zoning Commission last April, is on 36.9 acres, of which 22.6 acres, or 61 percent, will be open space. The remaining acres are where the nine homes will be built on.

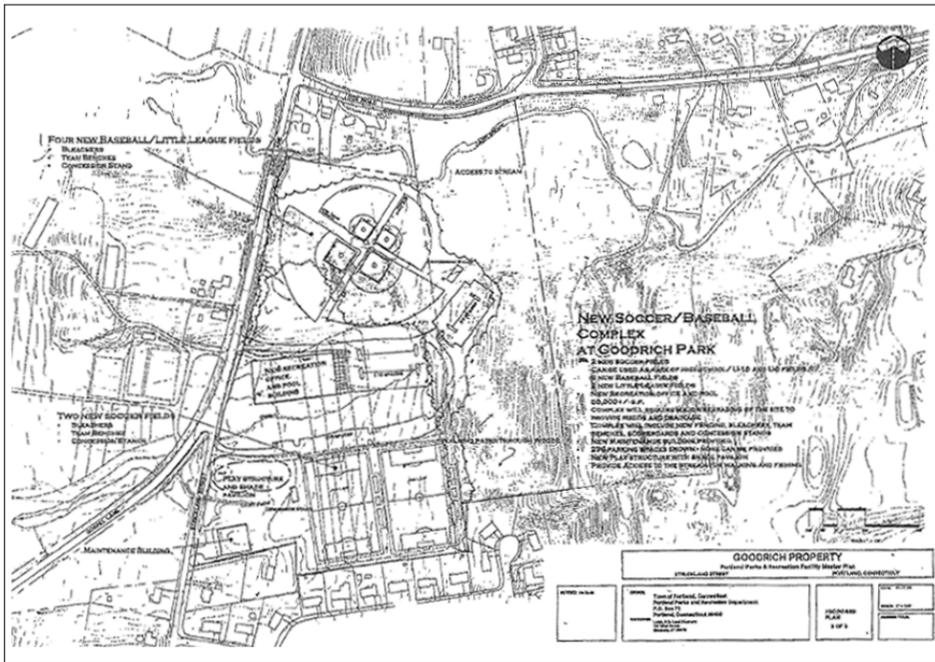
While the development is in Marlborough, it is within 500 feet of East Hampton. Because of this, Farley had to get permission from the neighboring town before getting Marlborough's approval. This was not a problem though, as Hughes said East Hampton "did not have any comment" and was fine with the new development. There were also two Marlborough homes that had driveways on Route 66, which have now been reconfigured on Rhonda Way, something the homeowners are likely happy about, said Hughes.

Once constructed, the residences will all be four-bedroom homes, and while Hughes said there is no way to know the cost at this time, he estimates they would sell for between \$350,000 and \$400,000.

However, Farley will not be the one to build the homes; he will sell the development to a third party, who will then go on to build the homes in the future, Hughes said. He said this transfer will likely take place in the next week or two. Hughes also said a final coating of asphalt needs to be placed on the 12,000-foot Rhonda Way, and the street will not be considered an official town road until this is done. He said the final coating likely would not be placed until after the houses are built, as construction trucks coming in and out of the development could ruin a final coat.

Hughes is hoping the subdivision will bring more people to Marlborough "as things develop in the future," he said. From 2005 to 2008, there were an average of 18 houses a year built in Marlborough; however, since then, only three per year have been built.

"Hopefully things are going to pick up," said Hughes.



With the state recently approving a \$230,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to the town, plans are already underway to convert the 23-acre Goodrich property, right, on Gospel Lane into a town recreational complex. Preliminary site plans, left, include baseball, softball, and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, and a playground. Town officials say that the centrally-located complex would satisfy the community's need for athletic facilities, as the participation in recreational activities grows. There is currently no timeline for this project.

# State Announces Funding for Recreational Complex Project

by Joshua Anusewicz

In this, the season of giving, Portland received quite the Christmas gift from the state of Connecticut – a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for \$230,000 that will fund the design of a recreational complex at the Goodrich property on Gospel Lane near Strickland Street.

“We are very pleased,” said First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield on Tuesday. “This program has been quite effective [in the past] and has allowed us to work on various projects around the town.”

The grant, which was announced Tuesday, Dec. 27, by Gov. Dannel Malloy, will fund various aspects of the design process for the project, including surveying, wetlands assessment, environmental testing, traffic engineering and architectural and landscaping work. After the preliminary work is done, the 23-acre parcel is

planned to be converted into athletic fields – soccer, baseball, and softball – walking paths, tennis and basketball courts, a playground and a concessions stand.

The parcel of land was purchased by the town in 2006 from resident Nelson Goodrich for \$510,000, which is being paid in installments that will run through 2015. The land was traditionally used for tobacco farming, and a section of the land is still being used by Gotta’s Farm for growing pumpkins and corn. Bransfield said small amounts of residual pesticides still exist in the soil and will need to be removed during the preliminary work.

Bransfield said the project was pitched as part of the Parks and Recreation Department’s facility master plan in 2006. According to the STEAP application, the plan was prepared by Landscape Architectural Designs Associates (LADA), P.C., of Simsbury, which evaluated

the immediate and long-term recreational needs of the town. Currently, the town uses several privately-owned recreational sites – like Camp Ingersoll and TD Bank Oakwood Soccer Park – for youth athletics; this complex would provide a centrally-located site that would attract out-of-town visitors, which could positively affect local businesses and job growth.

And, Bransfield added, more children are participating in community sports each year.

“Our neighbors have been gracious enough to let us use their facilities, they are nice things to have,” said Bransfield. “But we knew that, eventually, we would need to plan for the next generation. Our parks and recreation is excited to get started on our own facilities.” She said the project is expected to be a cooperative effort between her office, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Works, the town engineer, the Planning and Land Use office, and

the Economic Development Commission.

State Rep. Christie Carpino also expressed how happy she was that Portland was able to secure the funding, adding that “a community’s amenities” are one of the biggest factors that people look at when trying to decide where to “grow roots.”

“Recreation is an important piece of that pie,” Carpino said, “and this grant will help Portland enhance its reputation as a community that offers a great quality of life to folks who choose to call it home.”

This portion of the project is expected to be completely funded by the STEAP grant, Bransfield said, and will commence after the paperwork is received from the state and signed. Bransfield said there currently is no timeline for the project, but that the contract would go out to bid when all of the design work is completed.

## Pipe at Valley View School in Portland Springs a Leak

by Joshua Anusewicz

With students off for winter break last week, one might think school custodians would have had a little time to kick back and relax as well. For the custodians at Valley View School, however, it was quite the opposite.

Custodians arrived at the school Tuesday, Dec. 27, to find a heating pipe leaking in the main office of the school, causing “significant water damage,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen.

“It was a mess,” added First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield. She said damage was sustained to the ceiling tiles, flooring, drywall, paper and electronics – some of which will have to be discarded. Most of the damage

occurred in the secretary’s office and conference room in the main office.

Bransfield said the leak – the pipe did not burst – was caused by a “fault” in the pipe, not by freezing or overheating.

Both Doyen and Bransfield said the town’s insurance will cover the majority of the damage, but a total cost is not currently known. Doyen said the affected areas have been cleared and dried out, and that work has already begun to replace the damage to the ceiling, walls and floors.

School was “not interrupted,” Doyen said, and students returned on Tuesday, Jan. 3, as scheduled.

## Marlborough Accident Caused to Avoid Animal

A man was transported to the Marlborough Clinic after striking a guide rail Tuesday, Dec. 20, State Police said.

Joseph Woszczyzna, 56, of 50 Wellwyn Dr., Portland, was driving his 2002 3 Series BMW east on Rt. 66 when he swerved right to try to avoid an animal, police said. His car struck a metal beam guide rail on the right side of the road then proceeded to the left, crossing into the other lane and hitting an embankment off the roadway, where it stopped, police said.

Woszczyzna was transported to Marlborough Clinic for evaluation and treatment of a left-eye injury, police said. The BMW was towed from the scene.

## Hebron Pedestrian Hit

A pedestrian was hit Friday, Dec. 23 and transported to Hartford Hospital with minor injuries, State Police said.

Edward Ellis, 68, of 768 Gilead St., was at a private residence on Hardy Road, when he was accidentally struck by a 2004 Dodge Ram being driven by Werner Rechlin, 46, of 105 Pond Rd., North Franklin, police said.

Rechlin did not see Ellis and hit him, causing the victim to suffer a broken leg, police said.

## Colchester Police News

- 12/18: Police are investigating the larceny of three chestnut beams stolen from Deep River Rd. Each beam is an estimated 20 feet long and weighs approximately 300 pounds. Anyone with information is asked to contact Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.
- 12/20: Thomas Falvey, 29, of 70 Woodland Rd., was charged with possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.
- 12/22: David M. Klein, 66, of 75 Girard Ave., Hartford, was charged with DUI, State Police said.
- 12/22: Sydney L. Nute, 46, of 92 Bozrah St., Bozrah, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.
- 12/23: John Vonutter, 67, of 48 Harbor Rd., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

- 12/24: Cheryl McKeller, 53, of 52 Catherine St., Middletown, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.
- 12/27: Jon Murray, 47, of 41 Lewiston Ave., Windham, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.
- 12/29: Joshua Koplowitz, 24, of 16 Birmingham Ct., was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.
- 12/29: Sabina Zygmunt, 22, of 63 Gill St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.
- 12/31: Gregory Rose, 44, of 67 Flanders Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.
- 1/2: Amber Pierce, 19, of 531 Old Hartford Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

## Andover Police News

- 12/30: Brian M. Konochik, 24, of 28 Shoddy Mill Rd., was charged with second-degree assault and first-degree reckless endangerment, State Police said.
- 1/2: Jason D. Haberman, 39, of 288 Willington Hgts., Willimantic, was charged with fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

- 12/23: David Smith, 21, of 7 Freestone Ave., was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with police, Portland Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

- 12/17: Anna Maria Long, 30, of 22 Skinner St., was arrested for DUI, East Hampton Police said.
- 12/20: Jason Pangretic, 32, whose address was listed as Hartford Shelters, Hartford, was arrested for criminal trespass, violating a protective order and two counts of second-degree failure to appear for separate incidents, police said.

## Hebron Police News

- 12/20: Richard Haagerson, 22, of 232 Boretz Rd., Colchester, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.
- 12/27: Martin A. Bowen, 40, of 234 Deepwood Dr., Amston, was charged with DUI, operation of a motor vehicle when license is suspended and improper hand signaling, State Police said.

## Marlborough Police News

- 12/24: Steven James Marinelli, 23, of 645 Pine St., Bristol, was charged with DUI and improper parking, State Police said.

## Obituaries

### East Hampton

#### Margaret Costello

Margaret (Savalle) "Margo" Costello, 87, of East Hampton, died Friday, Dec. 23, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in East Haddam. Born Jan. 27, 1924, in Colchester, she was the daughter of the late Vincent and Sylvia (Brown) Savalle.

Margo had lived most of her life in East Hampton. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church and had worked for many years at the former Wall's Dairy in East Hampton.

She is survived by her three sons, James J. Costello of East Haddam, John T. Costello of East Hampton, Joseph D. Costello of Middletown; a brother, Charles "Mo" Savalle of Salem; a sister, Mary Moon of Lebanon; two grandsons, John Costello Jr. and Sean C. Costello; a great-grandson, J.T. Costello III; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents she was predeceased by her former husband, James D. Costello, and her two brothers, John and Vincent Savalle.

The funeral procession was held Wednesday, Dec. 28, beginning at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, followed by a funeral liturgy later that morning in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. The burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday, Dec. 27.

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

### East Hampton

#### Minnie McKinney

Minnie (Hickey) McKinney, 92, wife of the late Leon McKinney, passed away peacefully Sunday, Jan. 1, at Cobalt Lodge Health Care. The daughter of the late John and Minnie (Boyce) Hickey, Minnie was born Sept. 29, 1919, in Naugatuck, and lived most of her life in Middle Haddam.



She is survived by her son, Robert "Red" and Anne McKinney of Middle Haddam and her four grandchildren, Shannon Roy and her husband Daniel of Middle Haddam, Taren O'Connor and her husband Brian of Clinton, Kirsten McKinney of Middle Haddam, and Ryan McKinney of Manhattan, NY. She also leaves her four great-grandchildren, Colin and Elise Roy and Nolan and Brennan O'Connor, and several nieces and nephews.

Minnie was predeceased by her six brothers and two sisters.

A very hard worker, Minnie was first employed at Colt Firearms in Hartford, then at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, and Round the Clock Hosiery in West Hartford. Above all, her most rewarding years of employment were those spent working with her "family" at Paul's and Sandy's Too in East Hampton. She truly loved getting to know the people in her community as she helped as Paul's small fruit stand grew into a well-loved local business. Minnie will be remembered for her love of family, gardening, and baking.

A funeral procession began at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, Jan. 4, followed by the funeral liturgy at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial was in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home Tuesday, Jan. 3.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation, 93 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424 or at [spbcf.com](http://spbcf.com).

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

### Colchester

#### Susan B. Jacobs

Susan B. Jacobs, 64, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Dec. 29, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born Feb. 6, 1947, in New Jersey, she was a daughter of Richard Jacobs of Florida and the late Jean (Cunningham) Jacobs.

Susan worked in the banking industry as a collections supervisor for many years before her retirement. In years past, she had been an active member of the Colchester Lions Club.

In addition to her father, she is survived by her son, Jason Brenner and Mary Gordon of Lebanon; her grandson, Jacob; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Connecticut Children's Foundation at CCMC, 282 Washington St., Hartford 06106 to help families in need.

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

### East Hampton

#### Matthew Anthony D'Amico

Matthew Anthony D'Amico, 11, of East Hampton beloved son of Maurizio and Maria (Prisco) D'Amico passed away tragically in a car accident on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Born July 16, 2000, in Middletown, he had lived in East Hampton for the past six years.

Matthew had attended the Center School, Memorial School and was attending the East Hampton Middle School at the time of his death. Matthew was a very good student and was always striving for success.

Matthew loved sports and enjoyed playing baseball, paintball, dirt bike riding, snowboarding, Xbox with his cousins and gatherings with his family and friends. Matthew would play full speed in all his activities and lived life to the fullest extent each and every day. Matt was a joy to be around with his affectionate smile and grin, and he will be truly missed.

Besides his loving parents, Matthew is survived by his older brother, Ryan D'Amico of East Hampton; his paternal grandparents John and Sebastiana D'Amico; his maternal grandmother, Lina Prisco; cousins, John D'Amico, Lindsey Robinson, Lauren D'Amico, Melissa Bigelow, Jessica Malettesta, Jonathan D'Amico, Michael D'Amico, Christina D'Amico, Jenna D'Amico, Zachary D'Amico, Kaitlyn D'Amico, Bethany Dillon, Nicholas Prisco, Tony Prisco Jr., Raffinee, Nino Prisco and Fallon Prisco.

He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, Onofrio Prisco.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Friday, Dec. 30, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends and relatives called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Dec. 29.

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

### Portland

#### Andrew Lastrina

Andrew "Andy" Lastrina, 91, of Portland, passed away Saturday, Dec. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Giuseppe and Angela (Russo) Lastrina.

Born on January 24, 1920, he lived in Portland for most of his life and worked for Wesleyan University for many years until his retirement. He was a U.S. Army veteran having served during World War II, and he was a member of the Church of St. Mary in Portland.

He leaves his wife of 65 years, June (Scranton) Lastrina of Portland; sons, Joseph Lastrina of East Hampton, and Andy Lastrina of Portland; a daughter, Susan Lastrina of Middletown; a daughter-in-law, Kathy Walker of Florida; a brother, Joseph Lastrina of Portland; a sister, Jenny Wilk of Portland; two grandchildren, Jodie Rixon and husband Peter of East Hampton, and Donny Lastrina of Florida; three great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 28, with a Mass at the Church of St. Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday morning (Dec. 28) at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice 28 Crescent St Middletown, CT 06457.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit [portlandmemorialfh.net](http://portlandmemorialfh.net).

### Colchester

#### Teejay Wisniewski

Teejay Wisniewski, 46, of Colchester, died Wednesday, Dec. 21. Born in Norwich Jan. 4, 1965, he is the son of Peter and Nancy (Luft) Wisniewski of Preston.

A roofer by trade, he was presently employed at the MGM Grand at Foxwoods Resort Casino in the valet department. He was an avid bow hunter, and enjoyed the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing.

Surviving are his parents, his sister and brother-in-law, Jill and Randy Smith of Springfield, TN; his sisters, Dianna Keeling of Norwich and Denise Shellhouse and Cathleen Phillip, both of New York.

Services and interment will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements by Labenski Funeral Home.

### Amston

#### John Joseph Raymond

John Joseph Raymond, 60, of Amston, husband of Wendy (Gasiorek) Raymond, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 26, at home. Born May 24, 1951 in Rego Park, NY, he was a son of Frances (Houseman) Raymond of Danielson and the late Joseph Raymond, Jr.

John earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Fairfield University in 1973, where he excelled in a double major studying both sociology and history. Mr. Raymond worked in the financial services industry for many years and was also instrumental in establishing the first youth services program in the town of East Hampton.

John was an avid New York Yankees and New York Giants fan. He enjoyed coaching his sons for several years in Little League baseball and also enjoyed playing guitar with them.

In addition to his wife of 36 years and his mother, he is survived by two sons, Jeremy Rudolph Raymond and Jeffrey Joseph Raymond, both of Amston; three siblings, Robert Raymond and his wife, Judith of Greenfield, MA, Patricia Magao and her husband, Gary of Salem and Joseph Raymond of Chandler, AZ; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Services will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Joseph's Indian School, 1301 No. Main St., Chamberlain, SD 57325.

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

### Hebron

#### Rory Devane O'Sullivan

Rory Devane O'Sullivan, 35, of Hebron, passed away unexpectedly on the Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Jan. 1), at home. Born Aug. 4, 1976 in Watertown, NY, he was a son of John and Florence (LeMay) O'Sullivan of Hebron.

Rory was a 1994 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron and went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Safety from Keene State University in 2000. Throughout his school career, Rory was an avid rugby player on numerous teams. He went on to work as a self-employed building contractor in the area for many years.

Rory loved people with his big heart, wonderful sense of humor and abundant generosity and was able to make friends with anyone – which he did. He was also a Harley-Davidson enthusiast as well as a talented cook – a passion that he learned from and shared with his mother.

In addition to his loving parents, he is survived by his wife, Shannon Kosischke; his brother and sister-in-law, Liam and Tina of Tunkhannock, PA; his beloved niece, Fiona; his aunts and uncles, John and Rachel Ewaski of Wethersfield, F. Patrick and Laura O'Sullivan of Northfield and Maura and Dennis O'Connor of Manchester; his faithful canine companion, Oscar; and numerous cousins and extended family members and friends.

The Memorial Liturgy will be celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany (today, Jan. 6) at noon at his parish, the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Rte. 85, Hebron. The family will receive guests starting at 11 a.m. at the church.

Those in attendance are encouraged, at Rory's request, to wear either green or red to symbolize his Irish and French-Canadian heritage, of which he was so proud.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Hebron Interfaith Human Services, P.O. Box 634, Hebron 06248, Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 214, Willimantic 06226 or SCADD Lebanon Pines, 37 Camp Mooween Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249.

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

### East Hampton

#### Michelina Rotundo

Michelina (Fazio) Rotundo, 78, of East Hampton, beloved wife of 57 years to Antonio Rotundo, died Friday, Dec. 30, at Hartford Hospital. Born June 14, 1933, in Ferolito Antico, Calabria, Italy, she was the daughter of the late Antonio and Frances (Mancuso) Fazio.



Born in Italy, Michelina had lived in Melbourne, Australia, before she moved to Connecticut, living in Hartford and Wethersfield before moving to East Hampton in 1976. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her son, Frank Rotundo and his wife Meg of Fort Wayne, IN; two daughters, Rosa Rotundo of East Hampton and her companion Richard McGivney of California; Francis Rotundo and her companion Randall Long of East Hampton; a son-in-law, Lenny Scott Ragan of California; a brother, Tony Fazio of Florida; two sisters, Josephine Santaniello of New Hampshire, Maria Mancuso of Massachusetts; grandchildren, Anthony, Andrea, Juliet, Alexandra, Gregg, Kristine, Ryan, Emily, Madeline, Charlotte; great-grandchildren Albert, Evellina, Giana, Lorenzo, and Matteo.

She was predeceased by her brother, Joseph Fazio, and her granddaughter, Olivia.

The funeral procession began Tuesday, Jan. 3, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, followed by the funeral liturgy later that morning in St. Patrick Church. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends called at the funeral home Monday, Jan. 2.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-95 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

### Colchester

#### David H. Wright Sr.

David H. Wright Sr., 70, of Colchester, went home to Heaven for a long-awaited reunion with his beloved wife, Ursula (Desrosier) Wright, on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, at home, surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. Born Dec. 17, 1941 in Providence, RI, he was a son of the late Henry and Aili (Jacobson) Wright.



At age 17, he enlisted in the Army proudly serving prior to and during the Vietnam War. Following his service, Dave was an owner/operator of a tractor trailer and was proud to pass this passion on to his son, Warren. For nearly 30 years, he was an Iron Worker with Local 15 Hartford before his retirement.

Dave loved several types of music, including Elvis, Cher, James Brown and Def Leppard, and was a talented pool player. He was a member of the Colchester Farmers Club, where he will be missed along with friends at Twin Lakes in Amston.

He is survived by his two sons, David Jr. and Warren James, both of Salem; three grandchildren, Christian Nichols, Andrew Zuraw and Jason Wright; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call today, Jan. 6, starting at 2 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a 3 p.m. chapel service with full military honors. Burial will be private.

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

## Colchester

### Geraldine Davis

Mrs. Geraldine Christine White Davis, loving matriarch of the Davis family of Colchester, peacefully passed away Monday, Dec. 19. Born March 13, 1920, in Goshen, VA, she graduated from Dunbar High School in Fairmont, WV, and attended Virginia State College in St. Petersburg, VA.

She was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, the Reverend Dr. Lincoln J. Davis, Sr.; her son, Maestro De Davis; two grandsons, Toron Maestro Davis and Micheal Andre Davis; her sisters, Helen Sales-Phidd, Brenda Sales-Peterson, Louise White-Minor; and her brothers, Charles Wayne Sales and Cordosa William Sales.

She is survived by her sister, Corrine Nancy Sales-Black and brother Robert Sales; her sons, Clinton, Lincoln Jr., Earl, Mitch, Abraham, Herbert, Gerald (Nick), Makeba and Ahmad, and her six daughters, Alma Anitah, Addie, Amy, Althea, April and daughter at heart, Carol Anilowski-Cain; 34 grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis moved their family to Colchester in the '60s and became active participants in a variety of community events. Mrs. Davis was a staunch supporter of local sports programs and attended any event in which one of her many children participated.

The wake was held Tuesday, Dec. 27, and funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 28, at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Home, 94 Granby St., Bloomfield.

Visit [HenryLFuquaFuquaService.com](http://HenryLFuquaFuquaService.com).

## East Hampton

### Dorothy L. Scott

Dorothy L. Scott, 95, of Moodus, died Thursday, Dec. 22, at Cobalt Lodge. Born July 8, 1916 in Johannesburg, South Africa, she had lived in Moodus for more than 60 years. She was a member of the Moodus United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Gibb of Stafford, James W. Scott of Washington; daughters-in-law, Brenda Scott and Marie Scott; grandchildren, James Scott, Robert Scott, Sarah Burke, Daniel Scott, Jennifer Nerland, Blaine Scott, Matthew Scott, Emily Scott, Tracy Gibb, James Gibb; great-grandchildren, Tyler Gibb, Loni Nerland, Alexis Nerland, Kyran Nerland, Hayden Nerland, Miley Nerland, Torben Scott, Chayden Scott, Nathan Burke, William Scott, Ezra Scott, Joshua Scott and Jaina Scott.

She was predeceased by her two brothers, George and Leslie Lambros.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 29, in the Moodus United Methodist Church in 15 Plains Rd., Moodus. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

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

## Marlborough

### Marion Grace Bisi

Marion Grace (Chafee) Bisi, 90, of Glastonbury, died Christmas morning in Marlborough.

Born in Middletown in 1921, she married and moved to Glastonbury in 1952, where she lived out most her life and raised her two children. She spent her last 18 months living with her daughter in Marlborough. She worked at Bunce's Department Store and for the Glastonbury Bank and Trust, prior to serving as bookkeeper for her late husband's carpentry business.

She goes to join her beloved late husband of 54 years, Albert Bisi. She was also predeceased by three brothers, Jarius Chafee, Howard Chaffee and Steven (George) Chafee; and two sisters, Marjorie Harrington and Dorothy O'Brien. She leaves behind a son and daughter, Donald Bisi of Glastonbury and Patricia Bisi of Marlborough; and grandchildren Samantha and Alyssa Bisi of Colchester, along with many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were Wednesday, Dec. 28, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave. Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 29, at the Buckingham Congregational Church on Cricket Lane in Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Wallingford, CT 06492 or the Buckingham Congregational Church, 16 Cricket Ln., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

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

## Hebron

### Ruth C. Simon

Ruth C. (Thompson) Simon, 94, of Glastonbury, formerly of Hebron, beloved wife of the late John J. "Cy" Simon passed away Saturday, Dec. 31, at the Glastonbury Health Care Center. She was born Aug. 2, 1917, in Renovo, PA, daughter of the late Allen M. and Vera (Attleberger) Thompson.

She grew up and lived many years in the Albany, NY, area. She and Cy moved to South Glastonbury, where they lived until they retired to Mesa, AZ. They enjoyed many years traveling across the country visiting family and friends and numerous Elderhostel excursions.

She is survived by her daughter, Joan M. Conley of Hebron; her four grandchildren, Deborah Hamm and her husband, Forrest, of Blue Ridge, GA, John Conley of Gloversville, NY, James E. Conley II and his wife, Carol, of Voorheesville, NY, and Kevin Conley and his wife, Christine, of East Berne, NY; nine great-grandchildren, James E. Conley III and Ryan Conley, both of Voorheesville, NY, Meaghan, Amanda, Kevin and Timothy Conley of East Berne, NY, and Emerson, Garrison and Anderson Hamm of Blue Ridge, GA. She also leaves her sister, Mary Sparkes of Apache Junction, AZ, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Simon was predeceased by her son-in-law, James E. Conley; two brothers, John and Richard Thompson; and her sister, Ethel Macduff.

Ruth's family would like to thank the staff of Laurel Gardens and the Glastonbury Health Care Center for their wonderful care and compassion over the past few years.

A celebration of Ruth's life will be held at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron, at a date and time to be announced. Burial will be private. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Gilead Congregational Church or to the Russell Mercier Senior Center.

Holmes Funeral Home, Manchester, has care of the arrangements. To leave an online condolence, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Colchester

### Charles Bacon III

Charles Vincent Bacon III, 69, of River Road, Bozrah, died Wednesday, Dec. 21, at the Harrington Court Healthcare Center in Colchester. He was born in Tuxedo, NY, on Sept. 28, 1942, son of the late Charles V. and Helen (Groves) Bacon, Jr.

Charles served his country honorably in the United States Navy. He worked for many years as a health physics technician at the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Waterford. On April 23, 1994, he was united in marriage to Cecile A. Hoelck. Mrs. Bacon survives her husband. Charles was a member of the Pachuag Outdoor Club and a model airplane enthusiast.

In addition to his wife, Charles is survived by five children, Shayne (Lisa) Bacon of California, Chris (Christina) Bacon of Mystic, Todd Bacon of Norwich, Gina (Santiago) Britos of Norwich and Elizabeth Hansen of New London; one sister, Barbara Engelbreth of Hortonville, WI; one daughter-in-law, Cheryl Bacon of Westport; and 13 grandchildren.

He is predeceased by one son, Jeffrey Bacon.

Family and friends were invited to a visitation Thursday, Dec. 22, at the Cummings - Gagne Funeral Home in Norwich. A funeral service was held Friday, Dec. 23, at the funeral home and proceeded to Maplewood Cemetery in Norwich for burial with Military Honors.

For an online obituary and to share a condolence with the family, visit [cumplings-gagnefh.com](http://cumplings-gagnefh.com).

## Marlborough

### Herbert Francis Davy

Herbert Francis Davy, died Friday, Dec. 30, at Marlborough Health Care Center in Marlborough, after battling cancer. He was born April 9, 1939, in Goffstown, NH to Francis Herbert Davy and Louise Geraldine (Downing) Davy Bantle.

His family moved to East Hartford in 1943 where he resided for most of his life. He joined the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. After his discharge in 1962, he worked in the elevator industry until he retired in 1999 from the Baystate Elevator Company. He was recognized by his peers as a highly skilled and talented mechanic. He was a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91. He was also a member of the Scantic Valley Antique Engine Club.

From a very early age, Herb was fascinated with antique tractors, small engines, and vintage vehicles. Bowling with his league, and visiting antique machinery shows is what brought him the most pleasure.

He leaves behind a dear sister, D. Elaine (Davy) Hannon of Marlborough; his nieces and nephews, Patricia Hannon and her husband Don Odell, Margaret Hannon and her son Andrew Ketchum, Elizabeth Hannon and her sons Justin and Brian Biske, Kathleen Hannon and her husband Reed Risteen with their daughters Bailey and Riley, Colleen Hannon and her children Lauren, Catherine, and Ryan Redler, Thomas Hannon and his partner Susan Biske, James Hannon and his son Nicholas, Mary-Catherine (Hannon) Gauthier and her husband Steven with her son AJ Hannon-Gonzalez, Jennifer (Hannon) Gerr and her husband Peter with their children Elizabeth, Ethan, Andrew, and Benjamin, Jason Hannon and his wife Vicky with their daughter Sciarra, Lindsay (Hannon) Violette and her husband Brian with their daughter Aubrey, Daniel Hannon, and Russell Crandelmire.

Also mourning his passing are his aunts Gertrude Davy and Rose Downing, along with cousins John Davy and his wife Sandhy, Rose (Davy) Wilson and her husband Wayne, Rosemary Freeman and her husband Robert, and Susan and Beauford Creech, Sharon (Crandelmire) Tuccinardi, a former sister-in-law, and several dear friends had a special place in his life.

He was predeceased by a brother, Ernest Davy; a nephew, David Hannon; and a great-nephew, Jonathan Redler.

Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Monday, Jan. 2. A funeral service immediately followed, officiated by Pastor Robert Faulhaber Jr. Burial with military honors will take place in the spring in Evergreen Cemetery, Bennington, NH.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Herb's memory can be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT. 06067 or the American Diabetes Association, 2080 Silas Deane Highway, Second Floor, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To share a memory, visit [mulryanfh.com](http://mulryanfh.com).

## Colchester

### Theresa J. Pszyk

Theresa J. Pszyk, 83, of Taftville, died Sunday evening, Jan. 1, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born in Norwich on Feb. 19, 1928, the daughter of the late Joseph and Helena (Starciak) Cubanski. Theresa dedicated her life as a homemaker for her family. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Taftville.

She was married to John J. Pszyk Sr., who died June 10, 1994.

She is survived by two sons, John J. Pszyk Jr. of Norwich and Michael Pszyk of Taftville; one brother, Henry Cubanski of Lisbon and one sister, Helen Robitaille of Norwich; one grandchild, Jordan Wilhelm and her son-in-law Paul Wilhelm of Lebanon; and nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by one daughter, Judith Wilhelm.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 5, at Sacred Heart Church in Taftville, meeting directly at church. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, Norwich. There were no calling hours.

Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B. St., Taftville, in charge of arrangements.

## Hebron

### Jane Conway

Jane (Hamel Pernokas) Conway, the beloved wife of Dale Conway of Hebron, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, Dec. 31, after a courageous 10-year battle with cancer. Born Nov. 18, 1955, in Ft. Belvoir, VA, to the late Andrew and Henriette Hamel, Jane grew up in New Britain and later resided in Farmington where she worked for Doncaster Inc.

Jane spent the last weeks of her life at home surrounded by family and friends and received outstanding loving care and support from the VNA East hospice staff.

Jane was predeceased by her previous husband, Nicholas Pernokas, and her sister, Linda Sawicki.

She leaves behind John and Jill Pernokas of Wolfeboro, NH, Arthur and Carley Pernokas of Wolfeboro, NH, and her three stepsons whom she loved, Matt and his wife Alina, Chris and Kevin Conway.

Jane loved music and enjoyed attending live concerts. She loved to travel, whether it was to the north in New Hampshire or exploring an exotic island. Jane also loved being home and always had fun wherever she was, having a special talent of making the simplest times seem special and fun.

After moving to Hebron, Jane pursued one of her lifelong dreams by owning and breeding her dear Yorkies. Jane provided countless families with their loving dogs and always enjoyed keeping up to date with all of the antics of those offspring and attending meet-ups of Yorkie lovers throughout the country. This pastime expanded worldwide across continents from Canada to South Africa, where she established great and lasting friendships. Jane will be sadly missed by all of those who knew and loved her.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Congregational Church in South Glastonbury at 949 Main St., South Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Eastern Connecticut at 34 Ledgebrook Dr., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 or to the animal charity of your choice.

## Portland

### Pamela June Waterman

Pamela June "Mimi" (Florop) Waterman, 69, passed away Monday, Jan. 2, at home. She was born in Westerly June 1, 1942, to the late William R. and Pearl (Barlow) Florop.

Mimi spent her early years in Stonington and Portland. After her schooling at Upsala and URI, she was wed to her summer sweetheart, Thomas Waterman, on June 20, 1964. They moved to Canterbury in 1972. She was employed as a rural letter carrier for over 20 years and had raised dairy goats for over 30 years.

Mimi enjoyed raising her family in the country. Her favorite times were spent with her family, fishing, swimming in the pool, watching the grandchildren's sports activities and playing (winning) Scrabble. She also spent endless hours researching genealogy.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas E. Waterman; her two children and their spouses, Wendy A. Holowaty of Griswold and Scott T. Waterman of Plainfield; four grandchildren, Adam and Lacy Holowaty and Joseph and Paige Waterman, and a sister Barbara Doolittle.

Our family would like to extend our thanks to all of the staff and nurses of the DKH Hospice & Homemakers of Northeastern Connecticut and our visiting angels Heather and Krista.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Her family will gather privately for burial at Stonington Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to DKH Hospice & Homemakers of NECT, 320 Pomfret St., Putnam, CT 06260.

The Dinoto Funeral Home, 17 Pearl St., historic downtown Mystic, is assisting the family. To share a note of remembrance/condolence with her family, visit [dinotofuneral.com](http://dinotofuneral.com).