

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

Volume 37, Number 8

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

June 1, 2012



A lightning strike last Saturday afternoon caused a fire that ripped through the historic Bevin Bell factory on Bevin Road, destroying almost the entire facility and all of its equipment. The factory, which opened nearly 200 years ago, housed Bevin Bros. Manufacturing Company, the only remaining exclusive bell manufacturer in the United States. The company and its owner, Matt Bevin, are currently assessing the damage to see if materials can be salvaged in hopes of keeping the bell business going. *Photo by Don Martin.*

## Bell Factory Destroyed in Fire

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Bevin Bell factory, a historic landmark that earned East Hampton the nickname "Belltown, USA," was completely destroyed by a five-alarm fire that occurred over Memorial Day weekend. The tragic blaze has left many in the community stunned and the bell company, the last of its kind in the country, with an uncertain future.

"We've lost 180 years of history," said Bevin Bros. owner Matt Bevin this week.

According to a release from the East Hampton Police Department, the fire began late Saturday night at the factory on Bevin Road, located behind Center School in the Village Center. Over 300 firefighters from over 30 communities responded to the fire, which Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier said was "fully active

in the back of the building" when the first firefighters arrived. The firefighters would work through the night and into the morning to eventually stop the flames, using fire suppressant foam to almost completely contain the fire by early Sunday evening.

Due to concerns over propane tanks located inside the facility and on its grounds, Klotzbier said some 50 families were evacuated from the area shortly after firefighters arrived on the scene. Klotzbier, who also serves as the emergency coordinator for the town, said that the town decided to open the high school as an emergency shelter, which was used by roughly 25 residents.

Acting Interim Town Manager Jeff Jylkka said this week he was awoken by the police,

who informed him that a serious fire had occurred in the town. After assessing the scene at the factory and visiting the emergency shelter, Jylkka said he set off looking for food for the workers, who had been laboring at the blaze for several hours without rest. Despite being closed, Jylkka said employees of the local Dunkin' Donuts and McDonald's opened early, and a cafeteria worker cooked up breakfast sandwiches at East Hampton High School, all of which provided enough food to feed the responders.

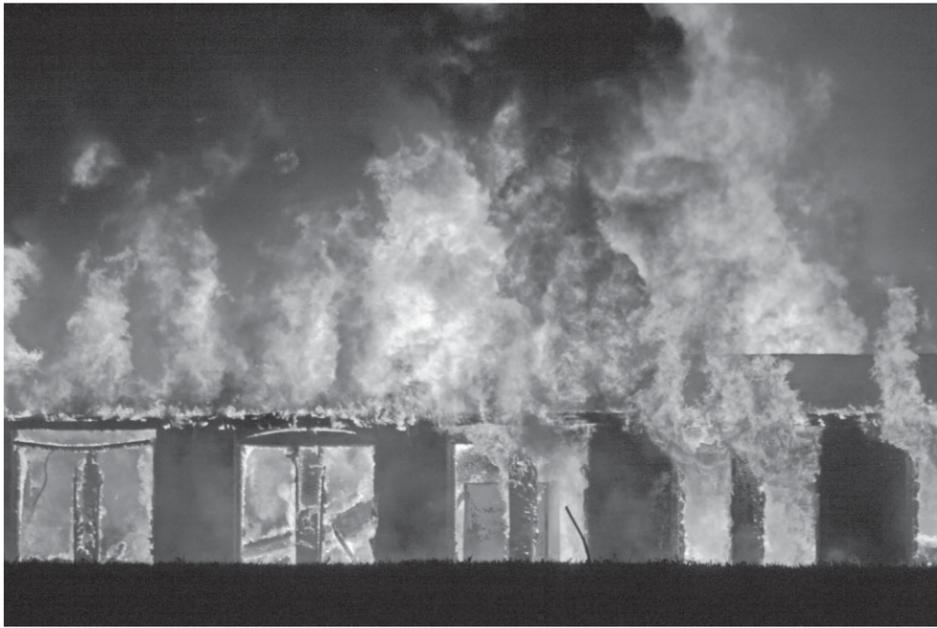
For the majority of the day on Sunday, after the fire was deemed controlled, representatives of the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well

as Thad King of the Chatham Health District, toured the site to find any potential risks. At that time, East Hampton Police urged residents to remain indoors and close their windows to avoid any possible smoke or chemical inhalation. Jylkka said that by 5 p.m., both the DEEP and EPA had determined that the air quality in the area was normal and the threat was lifted.

Chemicals in the air were a concern, but Jylkka said Bevin, who flew to the scene from his home in Louisville, KY, informed responders that minimal hazardous materials were in the facility and that no asbestos was known to be on site.

Sadly, another concern has been theft of the brass materials in the rubble. Sgt. Garritt Kelly

See Bell Fire Page 2



Over 300 firefighters from 30 departments were dispatched to help quell the blaze that tore through the Bevin Bell factory over Memorial Day weekend, a task that would take roughly seven hours. The fire caused catastrophic damage to the factory's main office, top right, which held numerous historic photos and files, and most of the machinery used to manufacture the bells located throughout the factory's two floors, bottom right. More photos of the fire and the aftermath are available at [glcitizen.com](http://glcitizen.com). Top left photo by Laurie Hall.

#### Bell Fire cont. from Front Page

of the East Hampton police said Wednesday that over "1,500 pounds of formed, trimmed hand bells" were stolen from the still-hot wreckage over the weekend. (Police have asked any residents with information on the theft to call the department at 860-267-9922.)

Late Sunday, the site was turned over to Klotzbier and the state fire marshal's office, who confirmed this week that the cause of the fire is officially "undetermined, with a high probability of a lightning strike." Klotzbier said Wednesday a strong weather system moved through the area on Saturday afternoon and that 292 lightning strikes were recorded in a five-mile area around the factory, which was unoccupied at the time.

"It probably started to smolder during the day, with the flames erupting and coming through the roof later at night," Klotzbier said. He added that several municipal buildings throughout the town were struck by lightning, but no damage was sustained.

For over 200 years, bell manufacturing has been at the center of East Hampton's economic scene, first sprouting up in 1808 with resident William Barton. Barton then moved to Cairo, NY, and taught one of his indentured servants, William Bevin, to help in the manufacturing of the bells. William Bevin would then move back to East Hampton and, along with his brothers Chauncey and Abner, would found the Bevin Bros. bell factory in 1832, and then eventually incorporate their company with another brother, Philo, as Bevin Bros. Manufacturing Company in 1868.

Despite competition from other bell companies in town, Bevin Bros. has stood the test of time, manufacturing bells of all colors, shapes, and sizes in their factory. Aside from making sleigh bells, hand bells, house bells, and cow bells, Bevin Bros. bells have been used by the Salvation Army, the New York Stock Exchange and during the presidential inauguration of Bill Clinton.

All that time, Bevin Bros. has been run by one family, now onto its sixth generation with Matt Bevin, a driven and well-respected businessman.

"The passion he has for his [employees], I've never seen anything like it," related Jylkka this week. "That's what drives him."

That passion is evident in his voice as he speaks about all of the history that the factory held, and the standing the company had in the community and across the country.

"I've been struck by how deeply it's affected thousands of lives," Bevin said Thursday. "It's amazing to hear all these people around the town and, actually, the country who have been connected to this business, and stories have just been washing in like waves. It's humbling to see that we've touched the hearts of many, many

people."

It's that spirit and passion for his business that has led most to believe that Bevin plans to rebuild the company – most likely in a modified form – in the future. Bevin and representatives from P.S.I., a gas cylinder manufacturer that shared the facility, said this week that they plan to stay in business.

With that in mind, Jylkka has offered up "the town as a resource" for Bevin Bros., particularly aiding in the search for possible storage space or a space to move the company, or possible grants. Jylkka said that this week, Bevin asked if there were any wood pallets available; within an hour, Jylkka said, Paul's and Sandy's had offered 25 pallets to Bevin.

"If we can help, we're going to help," Jylkka said. The help has stretched beyond the town, as well, with state Sen. Eileen Daily, Congressman Joe Courtney, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal offering up support to the company.

Grassroots campaigns have also popped up this week, including the website [keepthebellsinbelltown.com](http://keepthebellsinbelltown.com), where residents can donate to the business to help keep it in East Hampton. In a letter on the site, Bevin thanks everyone who has helped the company in the past and those who have reached out in the present, while also keeping hope alive that the business can be built once again.

"Now more than ever, we need your support," the letter states. "As we work to emerge from the ashes, we would be grateful for your patience, understanding and prayers." It continues, "If it can be done, we will do it. You have my word on that."

For now, though, the prospects of maintaining the business are in limbo. Bevin Bros. Manufacturing Company, which is the only company in the United States that exclusively manufactures bells, employs 19 people, while P.S.I. employs seven people, about half of which are looking at losing their jobs. A private meeting was held Wednesday between Bevin Bros. and P.S.I. and the state Department of Labor on how to proceed with filing for unemployment, Bevin said.

However, Bevin said Thursday that other local companies have reached out with job opportunities for the employees in hopes that nobody from the two companies will be out of work.

Both Bevin and Jylkka said a lot will hinge on whether the dyes in the factory that are used on the bells are still in good shape. "It's my understanding that the dyes are the brain, and if they have the brain, they can rebuild the body," Jylkka said. "If they're in good shape, they can do it."

Bevin said Thursday the dyes are the only materials in the factory that would have been able to withstand the heat of the fire, and that workers are currently sifting through the rubble



to find the dyes. "If we can get those and find the space and the machinery necessary, we hope to get back up and running as quickly as we possibly can," Bevin said.

But until that's known, the community has been left with a significant hole in its long history.

"This is a tremendous loss to the whole town of East Hampton," said Sandy Doran, president of the Chatham Historical Society. "The bells are something that all East Hampton residents are proud of, and it's given the town notoriety all around the world."

Doran said the historical society has a large collection of bells on hand that were loaned by the company years ago, and that the historical society wouldn't exist without Chauncey Bevin, who deeded the land for their building. (To see the bells, the Chatham Historical Society's museum on Bevin Boulevard will be open this Sunday, June 3, from 2-4 p.m.)

"It's history we'll never replace," said Bevin, recalling decades of photographs and files that he called "irreplaceable," which will never be seen again. That's been the hardest part, Bevin said, recalling walking on the same floorboards that his ancestors built, and seeing his five children walk on them as well, perhaps one day filling his shoes as the next owner of Bevin Bros.

And it's those memories and that passion for his business that have kept hope for Bevin Bros. alive. "It's our intention to come out of this," Bevin said. "We're determined to make every effort we can. There are far too many lives that have been involved in this company and have been affected by this to not go 100 percent behind this."

"You can either sit there and feel bad about it or you can get off your duff and do something; that's the American way," he continued. "We're not out."

# Marlborough Track Team Members Urged to be Organ Donors

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

At 58, Marlborough resident Paul Kaika is living the fourth year of his “second life.”

“Everyone’s heard the phrase ‘cats have nine lives.’ Well, I’m on my second life,” he told the RHAM boys track team before its meet last Thursday, May 17.

Kaika went to the hospital with a failing heart June 3, 2008, and was given a less than 10 percent chance of living more than a year without a transplant. After 128 days and one false alarm, he got a new one Oct. 7.

Though it took time for Kaika’s body to adjust to the new organ and regulate his heart rate, he now is active and back to normal again, “except I take a bag of pills every day,” he said.

Kaika, along with Donate Life Connecticut Chairwoman Allison Mahon, spoke to the team about organ donation, using their stories to urge the students to think about their decision, as many of them have reached, or will soon, the age to drive.

“We highlight high schools because this is when they’re making their decision and it’s not something they typically think about,” Mahon said. “It hits home when it’s more of a local connection.”

Kaika’s son and daughter, Ryan and Melissa, both went through the RHAM schools, and Mahon did as well. When Kaika reached out to Donate Life following his transplant, Mahon recognized the name.

“In 1997, she babysat our son and daughter,” Kaika said. “When I asked for someone from the Donate Life chapter to get in touch with me, she sends me an email saying ‘allow me to reintroduce myself.’”

When Mahon and Kaika met, they never could have guessed they would later meet as part of the “transplant community.”

“I don’t think either of us would have predicted when we saw each other in 1997 that he was going to need a heart and my brother would be gone and he would’ve been a donor,” Mahon

said. “People who meet and have this connection have this ridiculous appreciation for life that others don’t have.”

Mahon showed the team a 2001 photo of a RHAM High School high jumper – her brother, Bryan Hood.

In 2006, 23-year-old Hood, an Aetna Ambulance emergency medical technician in Hartford, was involved in a motorcycle accident. “One afternoon the State Police resident trooper showed up at our door and took his hat off,” Mahon said.

When Hood’s family arrived at the hospital, they found out Hood’s girlfriend, Amanda, was killed on impact during the crash and Hood had been declared brain dead.

As a first responder having seen many traumas, Hood was very much in support of organ donation, Mahon said. “Brian was a registered donor, and our family had already had that conversation so we knew,” she said.

Hood’s organs were used to save the lives of five people and his EMT co-workers transported his heart to the airport in his own ambulance. “Knowing that his ambulance that he spent so many hours working in and it was his actual ambulance and co-workers meant so much to us,” Mahon said. “It was their last moment with him.”

“His heart went to someone in Philadelphia, just like Paul, a father,” she said. “One of his kidneys went to a high school student, just like you guys, in Boston...She was able to go on and finish college.”

Kaika’s and Mahon’s stories caused the students to at least consider their decision of whether or not to become an organ donor and several students approached the two afterwards to thank them.

The speeches were something to consider for students Tom Furey and Joey Day, who both will test for their driver’s licenses in June.

Furey said he hadn’t thought about whether or not he would become an organ donor, but



**Heart transplant recipient Paul Kaika and Donate Life Connecticut Chairwoman Allison Mahon spoke to the RHAM boys track team May 17 about becoming organ donors and of Kaika’s participation in the Transplant Games this July.**

now intends to give it some thought. “I wasn’t too worried about it,” he said.

Day said he had pondered the subject a little, but didn’t know much about it. “I never saw the point in becoming an organ donor, but I guess I see the point now so I’m going to do it,” he said.

Kaika and Mahon wanted to shed some light on organ donation and inspire the students to at least give it consideration and discuss it with their families.

“Whether you’re on the registry or not, the transplant people still have to approach your family [to obtain background and lifestyle information] and if you haven’t consented, the family has to make the decision for you,” Mahon said. “Sometimes the decision is default to ‘no.’”

“You don’t want to put your family in that decision, dealing with a sudden tragic loss and now they have to make that decision,” she said.

Kaika will continue to contribute to the Do-

Donate Life cause by participating in the Transplant Games in Grand Rapids, MI, July 28 to 31. He joined the Transplant Team of Connecticut, Inc., “a group of more than 50 transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, caregivers, family, friends and professionals who are all connected to organ and tissue donation.” The group aims to spread awareness and give back to transplant-related organizations.

In what he described as the “Olympics for organ recipients,” and will compete in the 4x100 relay, discus, long jump and badminton.

Whether they received hearts, lungs, livers, kidneys or corneas, transplant recipients of all kinds are competing against each other. The competitors are separated by age groups.

Kaika is collecting donations for the transplant team and checks made out to Transplant Team of Connecticut, Inc. and mailed to 32 Eagle Rock Trail, Marlborough, CT 06447.

## Sen. Daily to Retire at Term’s End

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

Citing personal and health-related reasons, Democratic state Sen. Eileen M. Daily announced last month that she would be retiring from the General Assembly at the end of her term in November.



**Eileen Daily**

Daily, the former first selectwoman of Westbrook, has served the 33rd Senatorial District for almost 20 years, first taking office in 1993. The 33rd District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

“In the past year holding office has become more physically demanding for me and it would be difficult to initiate a re-election campaign,” Daily said in a statement on May 15. “I’ve been diagnosed with cancer, endured chemotherapy and associated treatment, and am presently recuperating from a broken ankle.”

Daily continued, “During the last weeks of this session, I was challenged to maintain the pace required at the Capitol. As I review my 20-year tenure and consider the future, I’ve settled on this plan with complete confidence that it’s time for another voice to speak for this

district.”

During her tenure, Daily has accomplished a considerable amount, including work on creating the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) that towns throughout the district and the state have used for large-scale public works projects. Within the district, Daily has also focused on environmental issues, including work on Salmon River, Eight Mile River, and Westbrook Harbor.

“Connecticut’s 33rd Senatorial District is home to some of the most beautiful natural treasures our state has to share and its voters have repeatedly given me the distinction and decidedly good fortune to advocate for this area all this time,” she stated.

Daily’s announcement took many by surprise, but the number of candidates jostling for the soon-to-be-vacant seat has been significant.

At the Democratic convention in May, Democrats tabbed Jim Crawford of Westbrook over contenders Mary Ellen Klinck of East Haddam and former state Rep. Dean Markham of East Hampton. On the other side of the ticket, Republicans selected Neil Nichols of Essex as its candidate, who subsequently stepped down to allow his opponent, Art Linares of Westbrook, to have the nomination.

A third option will also be available for voters, as Higganum resident Melissa Schlag received the Green Party nomination and will be running as an independent.

## Four Injured in Five-Car Crash in Marlborough

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

In a five-car crash on Route 2 Saturday, four were injured after a vehicle swerved to avoid another.

State Police said Thomas Benjamin, 34, of Jewett, NY, swerved his vehicle right while traveling westbound on Route 2 to avoid another car changing lanes in heavy vehicle congestion caused by a prior accident. Benjamin’s car struck the wire rope guide on the right shoulder and continued forward, striking four additional vehicles before coming to a rest on the southern shoulder, police said.

A 15-year-old passenger in one of the vehicles was transported by ambulance to Marlborough Medical Center, State Police said. The driver of that vehicle, Michael Horan, 65, of 46 Olney Rd., Wethersfield, was not injured, police said, nor was the other

passenger, Donna Horan, 61, of the same address.

In another vehicle, driver Stephanie Somerville, 21, of 14 Barbara Ave., East Hampton, and passenger Joshua Hurley, 23, of 7 Navajo Trail, East Hampton, were transported by ambulance to Marlborough Medical Center, State Police said.

A passenger in the third vehicle hit, Lori Rabb, 57, of 32 Goodwin Cir., Hartford, was also transported by ambulance to Marlborough Medical Center. The driver, Stephen Rabb, 63, of the same address, was not injured, State Police said.

Police said Benjamin was not injured in the accident.

A spokesperson for Marlborough Medical Center did not have any information on the patients’ conditions.

## No Name, But Council Picks New East Hampton Town Manager

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

It took longer than expected, but the town has finally settled on a candidate to serve as East Hampton’s first full-time town manager in over a year.

According to a press release from Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub, the council held an executive session at the Middle Haddam Public Library on Tuesday and unanimously agreed, 7-0, on a candidate. The release stated that Weintraub will now execute a contract agreement, and that the agreement will be subject to the candidate’s signature, a physical examination and “relevant screening.”

Those hoping for any information on the candidate, however, are out of luck. Weintraub said that the town must wait until the candidate current employer is properly notified, and an official announcement of the candidate is ex-

pected the week of June 11.

In recent weeks, the council voted to go into contract negotiations with another individual – referred to as “Candidate A” – but the council backed out from the candidate when the contract negotiations broke down. The council then moved on to the individual that it has now chosen as the new town manager.

East Hampton has been without an official town manager since September 2010, when Jeffery O’Keefe resigned amidst scrutiny regarding the termination of Police Chief Matthew Reimondo. Since, the town has had a string of interim town managers, filling the position with former public works director Robert Drewry, former Southington town manager John Weichsel, former probate judge Anne McKinney and, currently, Finance Director Jeff Jylkka.

# Marlborough School Board Briefed on New Technology Plan

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Education was brought up to speed on the key points of Marlborough Elementary School's new Technology Action Plan at its Thursday, May 24, meeting.

Marlborough Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf explained the plan, which is effective this upcoming school year and runs through 2015, was developed by Information Technology Coordinator Debbie Kaika and the Technology Planning Team.

A new plan is created every three years, Nierendorf said, and, unlike past years, where a great emphasis was placed on infrastructure and equipment, this new plan will focus more on using technology to support learning.

The vision statement for the plan aims to teach students to be digitally-literate. "I've heard other speakers nationally just talk about contemporary literacy, so it's no longer reading, writing and math," Nierendorf said. "We need to make sure our students leave well-versed in digital media as communication, learning and assessment tools."

Nierendorf said the school already is able to provide teachers and students with a broad range of technology, "but it's something that we cannot ignore as we go forward."

It will, however, take some time for all the teachers to learn to use the tools.

"We're looking for other ways to help our teachers learn practices and instruct it better in the classroom," he said, adding media specialist Laura Rosas, who is also a certified teacher, will likely get more involved.

Several goals were set with the implementation of the new technology plan, one being preparing students for a new state assessment, a Smart Balance assessment, beginning in 2015.

"Technology will play a key role and the translation of that from the state is it's not an option for us to be current with technology and practice to take these assessments," Nierendorf said.

Another goal is to connect teachers for professional development. "Discussions can happen nationally and internationally," he said.

Reading specialist Kristine Friend said using technology as a tool will be more integrated in the classroom when teachers "revamp" their curriculum. "Digital use and technology is threaded through the common core," she said.

The board voted to approve the Technology Action Plan, which was already signed by Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, teacher and resident Pam Farrington asked the board to continue to look to reinstate the world language program, which was cut in the 2012-13 budget.

"I had the opportunity to speak to two world language teachers at RHAM [Middle School] and asked them what they thought they were going to do. They said they have no idea," she said. "They said they were going to be fine this year, they'll be okay next year, but...after that don't know if they'll have to start a remedial class for our students or if they'll have to scale back the children from the other towns."

Board of Education member Robert Clarke said he is looking into forming a committee of volunteers for a summer world language program for children.

\* \* \*

The board voted to adjust the price of school lunches to \$2.50 for the 2012-13 school year. Sklarz explained this was the second part of a motion first made last year.

"The federal government has had an equity in school lunch pricing and it was obvious it's based on how much the reimbursement is for free and reduced lunch in the school; a balance between the two numbers," he said.

For the current school year, lunches were adjusted last year by 10 cents from \$2.25 to \$2.35. For the upcoming school year, the prices will increase by another 15 cents. "This will get us in compliance with mandates," Sklarz said, calling the action a "formality."

The board also "accepted with regret" the resignation of Marlborough Elementary School Assistant Principal Dena DeJulius, who is leaving to become principal of Captain Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry starting July 1. DeJulius said she is leaving with "mixed emotion."

Nierendorf informed the board the school is in the process of having a new program called My School Bucks implemented, where parents can go online and use credit cards to put money on their child's account. There is no cost for the district and there will be a low flat fee for

parents each time they put money on the account. Nierendorf said the program should be up and running by the fall.

The board commended Dawna Royce for being selected to represent the elementary school as the Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year. Nierendorf said Royce was one of four paraprofessionals nominated from Marlborough Elementary School.

Friend stressed the importance of paraprofessionals at the school. "Our paraprofessionals are extremely talented, extremely effective and take their jobs very seriously," she said.

\* \* \*

In executive session, board members discussed the evaluation of the superintendent. In a past meeting, the board voted to allow members to choose whether they wished to sign their name to their evaluation in order to make it anonymous optional. Board of Education Chairwoman Betty O'Brien said the annual evaluation determines whether the superintendent's contract will be renewed and determines a possible raise. As a result of the evaluation, O'Brien said, Sklarz's contract was renewed for another year and the board determined he will receive a 3 percent raise, bringing his salary from \$63,654 to \$65,563. "The board feels fortunate to have Dr. Sklarz as our part-time superintendent," O'Brien said. "His 40 years of educational experience has proved to be an asset to our school system."

# Hebron Selectmen Make \$100,000 in 'Painful' Cuts to Budget

by **Geeta Schrayter**

After lengthy discussion at a special Board of Selectmen meeting last Thursday, May 24, members decided where to cut \$100,000 from the proposed budget for 2012-13.

The reductions were not easy ones for the board to make, with one selectman saying "we're not doing justice to the community."

The cuts come after the budget was defeated at two referendums. On May 8, the originally proposed \$34.28 million budget for the 2012-13 year was defeated 986-536. The Board of Finance then cut \$400,000 from the proposed spending package and it sent back to referendum May 22, but it was again defeated – although not as soundly – by a 982-745 tally.

Following last week's budget defeat, Board of Finance members decided to cut an additional \$100,000, reducing the budget to \$33.78 million, a decrease of \$311,888, or .91 percent, from the current year.

At the May 24 selectmen's meeting, Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney presented the board with a list of potential reductions to areas such as Open Space, the library, senior transportation, the fire and police department and parks and recreation.

Board members made it clear at prior meetings that any further cuts meant core services in the town would be affected.

"We are getting into the painful cuts," Tierney said at the meeting.

At first, it wasn't certain the selectmen would come to an agreement as to which of those "painful cuts" should be followed through with.

Selectman Dan Larson said he didn't want to see the initiative making the fire marshal's position a full-time fire marshal/emergency management director position eliminated, while selectwoman Gayle Mulligan was against moving from two vans for senior transportation down to one.

Similarly, selectman Mark Stuart was against cutting the funding for a traffic control officer at Hebron Elementary School.

Following the May 8 budget defeat, \$150,000 for work on the school parking lot was eliminated from the Capital Improvement Program budget. Stuart explained the Board of Selectmen at the time made a compromise and said a traffic safety officer would be provided in the

morning and afternoon to guide traffic.

"It is very dangerous in the morning. It's dangerous in the afternoon – an accident waiting to happen," he said, adding "I feel very strongly that this board made a commitment to [provide] that and we need to leave it in there for safety reasons."

Along the same lines, Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt wasn't a proponent of eliminating one of the resident state troopers.

"I'll be pretty passionate about the fact that when you get into safety – I don't think we can afford our residents to be at one [trooper]," he said, adding it would mean less visibility and "that's just one safety area that I don't personally feel comfortable with."

Selectman Brian O'Connell agreed with Watt. But, he said, "We're mandated to look at our numbers, and the budget we're working with – it's not a good budget. We're at the point now where we're hurting everybody in the community and that's sad."

By the end of the night, the board prepared a list of reductions that amounted to the necessary \$100,000. The trooper, traffic officer, senior van and fire marshal were left alone – but not without a cost elsewhere.

The board decided to close the transfer station one day per week or reduce hours, a number that would equate to \$6,459 in savings. The day or hours are yet to be determined.

Members also decided to replace a retiring full-time employee at the library with a part-time position, amounting to a \$27,000 reduction. A Parks and Recreation Department position was reduced from 34 hours per week to 32 hours, resulting in a \$4,841 savings. Road Repair was also reduced by \$15,013.

Tierney explained certain "housekeeping items" were mandated, such as sweeping the roads and cleaning the catch basins, but the reduction to road repairs would still affect services.

"You'll see sand on the road," he said.

"And the grass will be higher," added Stuart, referring to the cut in the Parks and Recreation hours and how that would affect the time it takes to complete town mowing.

The selectmen took another \$9,000 from the money for the traffic control officer at Hebron

Elementary School, because members realized the previously allotted amount was for four hours per day, while only two are needed. Finally, \$27,000 was cut from Open Space and \$10,687 was removed from Capital Non-Recuring.

While they didn't want to make any of the cuts, the selectmen seemed to feel these were less painful than the list Tierney had prepared to get them to \$100,000 in reductions – the list that included eliminating the fire marshal and the second resident state trooper.

"I think the reality is," said Larson, "if any numbers are going to work, these numbers work... I agree that no one likes any of this, but these are realistic numbers."

"I'm very cognoscente of taxpayer's needs and personal pocketbooks," said Finance Director Elaine Griffin. "I get it. ... But my job is also to maintain the financial health of the town of Hebron, and I am concerned about the reserve fund – this is real frugal. It's going to take some close monitoring."

The selectmen voted 4-1 to approve the recommended cuts, with O'Connell against. O'Connell explained he was voting against "the concept," and before discussion on the budget cuts came to a close, he voiced his frustrations and concerns along with other board members.

"We are not doing justice to the community," he said, adding Griffin had "just alluded to that. Our job is to plan for the long-term and deal with the short-term... I'm voting against this out of principal".

"I really hope we can work together for the common good; there's a bigger picture here which is the financial health of the community," he continued, adding that the town would work with residents if there were issues with individual property taxes.

"That's one of those unsaid advantages we have as a small town," he said. "We will work together."

Stuart said the original budget the town put forth was "responsible" and, after the first rounds of cuts, "we really, I believe, went into territory that has begun to do some harm to the future planning of the town."

With the extra \$100,000 reduction, he said,

"now we're really in the danger zone."

"It's going to hurt the community," Stuart continued.

Stuart said he would vote 'no' on the selected cuts, "but this [\$100,000 cut] needs to pass." He added he was "very reluctantly" voting 'yes,' and reiterated that he hopes the budget passes at the third referendum.

"This budget is beyond tight," Larson said. But, he added, "We will make it work one way or another. Who knows what will happen at the end of next year? There may be draconian steps that need to be taken, but we will make this work."

Watt commended the selectmen for working together to figure out where the cuts would be made, and said everyone was "very thoughtful" and showed good leadership "in trying to get to that \$100,000 that will hopefully put us in position to get through this year," he said.

"We still have some work ahead of us," he added, referring to the importance of getting budget information out to the residents and encouraging them to vote. He also said he appreciated residents who come to the meetings and provide the board with input.

"As you know, emotions sometimes do go high," he said to the public, "But we're always willing to go up to FennAgains with you afterwards and have a beer as well."

And as for those residents who have not yet attended a meeting or provided input, they'll be given the opportunity to voice their views after the third referendum on June 5. After discussion on the budget cuts came to a close, the board decided to include a voluntary exit poll that will ask residents how they felt about the different portions of the budget. Additionally, voters will be asked how they become informed on the budget, what might help them better understand the numbers, and any other feedback they wish to provide.

The referendum for the \$33.78 million town budget, which includes the already-approved Capital Improvement Program budget of \$752,533 and \$13.72 million for Hebron's share of the \$25.06 million RHAM budget, will take place June 5. The polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School.



After the Memorial Day Parade, Marlborough honored four residents currently serving overseas in a Yellow Ribbon Ceremony. The yellow ribbons will be untied from the tree as the military members return home.



After marching in the parade, state rep. Chris Coutu told residents each Memorial Day he thinks of those he served with who didn't come back or didn't come back "whole." Additional photos from the parade can be found at [glcitizen.com](http://glcitizen.com)

## Veterans, Current Soldiers Honored on Memorial Day in Marlborough

by Katelyn Kelleher

Residents marched through the thick air and 90-degree heat Monday to honor veterans and, in a special ceremony, those currently serving in the military at Marlborough's Memorial Day Parade.

In the town's first Yellow Ribbon Ceremony, the families of four residents currently serving placed yellow ribbons on a tree at Town Hall, to be untied when they return home.

Paul and Kathleen Bernaiche tied a ribbon for their son, United States Navy Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Cody Bernaiche, stationed aboard the USS Pearl Harbor in the Gulf Region. Al Chesky tied a ribbon for his daughter, United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps Sgt. Amy Hall, serving in Afghanistan. Joan and Daniel O'Connell tied a ribbon for their son, United States Army 142nd Medical Unit Specialist Dan O'Connell, currently in Afghanistan. Finally, Laura and Karl Schachtner tied a ribbon for their son, United States 101st Airborne Division Capt. Alan Schachtner, serving in Afghanistan.

Gordon Isleib, a member of the Yellow Ribbon Committee along with Carl Carlson, Vi Schwarzmann and Zane and Barbara Roberts, said Marlborough got the idea for the ceremony from neighboring East Hampton, "to honor those in harm's way whose lives are being threatened for our freedom."

Isleib said in addition to honoring the country's veterans, the Yellow Ribbon Ceremony was a way to honor those currently "in harm's way."

"Unfortunately, they are known only to few precious friends and family. Today we will change that and make known to our whole community who they are," he said. "We will remember them and we will keep them in our prayers until they are home again."

The ribbons were attached to the tree "as a reminder that they are protecting us," Isleib said, and will be removed when they return home.

Kathleen Bernaiche said their son, currently serving in the Indian Ocean, keeping waters safe from pirates off the coast of Somalia, is expected back in San Diego in June. However, he won't be back in Connecticut to untie the ribbon. "We'll be able to see him in July," she said. "He's missing his sister's wedding. We haven't had a Christmas with him since 2008; he left the day before Thanksgiving in 2009."

She said he had planned to make the military his career, but "it's not the same Navy, he said, as my dad was in for 24 years," and is planning on joining the police force when he is out.

Paul Bernaiche said his son, who just made second class, might change his mind, though. "It's his decision whether or not he's going to be in the Navy any longer, but the first couple years were rough, even though he's at the top of his game," he said.

State Rep. Chris Coutu – who is currently running for state senate for the 19th District, which includes Marlborough – marched in the parade and spoke after of how he thinks of his fellow soldiers each Memorial Day, particularly his Eglin Air Force Base dormmate, Brent, who was later deployed to Saudi Arabia.

"Not once did we think there would ever be a problem in Saudi Arabia, but in 1996, that fall there was a massive bomb that blew up outside Khobar Towers and unfortunately Brent and 19 other members of Eglin Air Force base...didn't come home," he said. "So when I think of Memorial Day, I think of Brent. I think of many other soldiers over the past decade that we've lost".

"We have lost hundreds of thousands of sol-

diers in battle, but we have millions who have left a piece of their heart in another country," Coutu added. "Some of them, they didn't come back the same. So I think on Memorial Day we pay honor and tribute to those who didn't come back, but we also remember that many didn't come back whole."

State Rep. Pam Sawyer read the war poem "In Flanders Field" because of what a soldier told her at Marlborough's Memorial Day Parade last year.

"A soldier came up to me and said he had always come to the Memorial Day Parade here in Marlborough and I am that old that he had heard me read 'In Flanders Field' many years ago in his childhood and he took a copy of 'In Flanders Field' in his pocket into battle," she said.

First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said

Memorial Day serves as both a remembrance of those who served and a display of patriotism. Selectman Dick Shea said he was stunned by a surprising display of patriotism the night before the parade.

"Last night my wife, Carole, and I were coming from a wedding in Old Saybrook," he said. "We were driving on Route 156...just before 11. I'm pretty sure we were the only car for miles around. We came around a curve and just along the side of the road was a huge American flag. It had to be 30 feet across and 40 feet high and it was hung between two trees and was illuminated with a soft light. I'll tell you, it took my breath away out in the middle of nowhere."

"What does it say about this country when someone goes through that kind of effort to show their patriotism?" he asked. "I think it says everything you need to know."



Veterans wave American flags while riding aboard a truck in Marlborough's Memorial Day Parade.



One of several bands in the Memorial Day Parade serenades onlookers with patriotic songs while making its way to Town Hall.



Army Captain Jeffery Pugatch stands proudly with his family, including his parents Gregory and Susan, left, as he waits to remove his yellow ribbon from the tree. Pugatch served in both Iraq and Afghanistan beginning in 2009, finally returning home to East Hampton in April.



Friday's Yellow Ribbon ceremony was the first to show off the newly-landscaped traffic island in the Village Center, which was built with the help of several local companies. Around the new tree are bricks inscribed with the names of the six soldiers who have been welcomed home from military service since the Yellow Ribbon program started last year.

## Community Honors Veterans of Past and Present in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

On the weekend that some use to celebrate the official start of summer, many in the East Hampton community took the opportunity to remember those who have served their country in the past and to thank those who still serve our country today.

While the centerpiece of the weekend was, as it is in most years, the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, the celebration of East Hampton's soldiers began on Friday evening, with the welcoming home of U.S. Army Captain Jeffery Pugatch by the Welcome Home Veterans/Yellow Ribbon Committee.

Pugatch, the son of Gregory and Susan, graduated from East Hampton High School in 2004, then went on to attend Providence College, where he was a member of the school's ROTC. After graduating college, he was commissioned into the Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in May 2008. He became a member of the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division out of Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, AK, before being deployed to Iraq for five months in 2009. He then spent an entire year serving in Afghanistan before returning home in April of this year.

The event was the sixth welcoming ceremony to be organized by the committee, which was the brainchild of resident Ann McLaughlin, who serves as the chair. The idea was hatched in honor of her grandson, Army Sgt. Arron McLaughlin, who returned home two years ago from overseas. Thinking it would be nice to honor soldiers from East Hampton who returned home, Ann McLaughlin pitched the idea to the town and has watched the events take off.

"Every one I think is better," she said.

A light rain didn't deter thankful residents, as roughly 100 friends, family, and neighbors gathered in the Village Center at the newly-revamped Yellow Ribbon Tree in the center of town. The original tree was destroyed during last year's October snowstorm, and has since been replaced with a new tree and stone walkways, with materials donated by local companies like Paul's and Sandy's, B&D Earthscapes, and Grasshopper Lawncare.

The ceremony started with a walk from the lawn of East Hampton Congregational Church, led by members of the VFW Post 5095, the Ladies Auxiliary, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Pugatch marched alone, with his family following closely behind, waving to the cheering crowd. As has become custom, each

attendee was handed a small American flag to wave as Pugatch walked toward the tree.

After Ann McLaughlin and committee member Christopher Goff shared a few words, Arron McLaughlin took the opportunity to speak to his fellow comrade and share an embrace. He also had a surprise for Pugatch, pointing to a U.S. Army flag that would fly under the American flag in the center of town for the rest of the week.

"God bless you and God bless America!" Arron McLaughlin said to Pugatch, amidst cheers.

After being presented with a citation from the East Hampton Town Council by Chairwoman Sue Weintraub, Pugatch took to the microphone to try to put into words what the reception meant to him. He admitted, however, that doing so was a challenge.

"I don't have words to describe what this means to me," he said. "Seeing everyone here is amazing."

Pugatch said that he had seen pictures from previous Yellow Ribbon ceremonies and had been told his ribbon was on the tree, but didn't know so many people would come out to see him. He admitted that when servicemen and women are overseas, it means a great deal to know that those closest to them are behind them 100 percent.

"When we see things like this, it means a ridiculous amount, to know that you have your hometown supporting you," Pugatch said. "It means everything."

To prove just how appreciative he was of his community, Pugatch, seemingly joking, offered to hug each and every person who wanted one. And true to his word, at the end of the ceremony, with the East Hampton Fife and Drum Corps playing patriotic tunes, he waited as a line formed to embrace him and welcome him back.

After the ribbon was removed, kind words were shared and hugs were doled out, the eyes turned to the three remaining ribbons on the tree and two more, Ann McLaughlin said, who are awaiting deployment. "We won't stop until all of the ribbons are gone and they've returned home safely," she said.

Present soldiers were honored on Friday, but those who have come before them were honored on Monday, at the annual Memorial Day Parade. In stark contrast to last year's rainout, the weather on Monday morning was picture perfect, bringing out happy families clad in red,



Members of East Hampton's Anchor Lodge No. 112 proudly held an American flag as they marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday morning. With the sun shining, hundreds of residents came out for the parade, which was held indoors last year due to rain. Additional photos from the parade at [glcitizen.com](http://glcitizen.com)

white, and blue in honor of their country. American flags lined the roads, standing out against bright green trees and front lawns in full bloom.

After a gun salute by the VFW Post Color Guard and renditions of "Taps" performed by Matthew Chiu and "Echo" performed by Shannon Law, the parade kicked off with members of the Connecticut State Police leading the way.

Listening to those in the parade and the spectators on the sidewalks, it was clear what the theme of the day was: thanks. While marchers in parade - which included VFW members, the Ladies Auxiliary, Town Council, boy, girl, and cub scouts and the East Hampton Little League - thanked residents for coming out, the locals expressed their thanks loud and clear to those who passed, saving particularly strong cheers for Grand Marshal Larry Emmons, a Korean War-era veteran, and Parade Marshal Everett Wright, a World War II and Korean War veteran.

But the loudest cheers of all were reserved for the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, who spent a good portion of their weekend fighting the catastrophic blaze at the Bevin

Bell Factory. Many parade-goers stood and applauded, voicing their appreciation of the brave men and women of the department.

"Great job this weekend guys, you were awesome!" shouted one resident.

Like other years, the bands from both East Hampton High School and East Hampton Middle School serenaded those that gathered with patriotic songs. The high school band also performed the national anthem in the Village Center at the conclusion of the parade, where Blake Szkoda recited the Gettysburg Address and Molly Maturo read the poem "In Flanders' Field." Also, Ron Christopher of the VFW Post delivered the prayer for deceased veterans and Auxiliary Chaplain Laurie Allen gave the benediction to close out the ceremony.

Patriotism was in the air as the parade drew to a close and locals returned home to enjoy the rest of the long weekend, waving flags and humming songs. And while it's easy to say that, too often, we forget about the true meaning of Memorial Day, it would be difficult to say that East Hampton didn't capture that meaning this past weekend, as it paid respect to veterans of the past and the present.

# ‘It Really Has Been a Great Privilege’

by Geeta Schrayter

Thirty years after first being elected to the state House of Representatives, Edith Prague is in the home stretch of her time in state office.

Prague, 86, has served as state senator in the 19th District – which includes Andover and Hebron – since 1994. She announced last month she won’t be seeking re-election in the fall, and will give up her long-occupied senate seat to someone new come January.

The decision came amid health concerns from both her family and doctor, after Prague suffered a minor stroke last December. While Prague said this week her doctor called her recovery “remarkable,” she was warned she might not be so lucky the second time around.

“My doctor warned me about not getting myself into a stressful situation where I could be exhausted,” Prague said Wednesday. “If I could just sit here with my job without running a campaign it would be fine, but I have to campaign if I want to be re-elected.”

Prague mentioned during a recent radio show, supporters had called in and said “you don’t have to campaign, just tell us you’re running and we’ll vote for you!” And while Prague said having such support was “really wonderful,” the fact remains that a campaign would be necessary, and despite the fact she still loves her job, her health isn’t something she’s willing to risk to keep her seat.

“I’ve seen what strokes can do,” she said, “My husband died as a result of a stroke, my mother died of a stroke, I just lost my friend down the road from a stroke. So I’ve seen what strokes do to people.”

Prague also said she had two grandsons who were about to start college, and four years from now, she wants to be able to walk at their graduation.

“I don’t want to go to their graduations in a wheelchair, so I just don’t want to take the chance,” she said.

But Prague said just because she’ll be *former* Senator Edith Prague come Jan. 5 – when the new senator is sworn in – that doesn’t mean she’ll disappear.

“I’m not going to go away,” she said with certainty, adding “there are a couple of labor bills I’d like to see brought up again next session, and whoever chairs the committee, I’ll have a little talk with them.”

And it’s that kind of attitude that has served Prague well over the years. The amount of work she’s done is immeasurable, but as she sat in a conference room at the legislative office building in Hartford Wednesday, she looked off in the distance and recalled what she considered some of her greatest accomplishments.

At the top of the list were the drunk driving laws that are currently on the books – “I started putting those on when I was first elected to the House of Representatives” – and the very last piece of legislation that she asked be put on the consent calendar: the ignition interlock.

Prague explained Mothers Against Drunk Driving had been advocating for the mechanism, which goes on the starter of a car if a driver has been convicted of drunk driving on two occasions. The driver breathes into the mechanism, and if his or her blood alcohol level is over the limit of .08, the car won’t start.

Prague also included as some of her accomplishments helping with assisted living services, congregated housing for the elderly, working to get school-based health centers in place, getting paid sick days passed – and implementing a standard wage for the janitors and cleaners who clean state buildings.

Prague said there’s a janitor named Juan in the legislative office building who testified on behalf of the janitors getting a standard wage and benefits. Since the standard wage legislation passed, Prague explained Juan’s life has been significantly improved as the labor department sets his wages and he can have health benefits for both himself and his family.

“Every time he sees me, he gives me a hug,” Prague said.

Similarly, this past session Prague worked to pass a bill that would give childcare workers and personal care attendants the right to organize and join a union.

“And they were so happy with the legislation they waited for us outside the chamber to clap for us and thank us for giving them a chance to have a better life,” Prague recalled. “That’s the job of the legislature – to make life better for people in this state.”

She remembered that scene as one of the highlights of her career.

“Those are the things that make it all worthwhile,” she said.

Prior to being elected to the state House of Representatives in 1982, Prague worked as a medical social worker with Natchaug Valley Community Health Agency. Once a month they’d hold a health care clinic for children, and Prague shared that her boss would say “what this community needs is a health care clinic to take care of the poor and the uninsured.”

After Prague was first elected, the commissioner of the Department of Human Resources came before her committee at the time and said he had some funding to start new programs.

“I ran after him after the hearing and said ‘I have a program. We need a health clinic in Willimantic,’” she said.

As a result, \$75,000 in grant money was acquired to start a clinic.

“It was known as the Windham Area Community Health Center, and from that little health center we grew Generations [Family Health Center],” said Prague.

Generations now provides complete primary care and dental services to families at several locations in Northeast Connecticut, accepting most major insurance plans and utilizing a sliding fee scale to reduce charges to levels reasonable to a patient’s income level, the website explains.

“[Generations] is one of my proudest accomplishments,” said Prague.

There are 11 towns in the 19th District, but the two included in the *Rivereast* circulation area are Hebron and Andover, and Prague, a Columbia resident, said she’s fond of both towns.

“I really enjoyed Hebron,” she said, adding “I enjoy the people in Andover. I always went to the senior center for their functions. I visit every senior center in the district after the session is over and bring them a copy of all the legislature that’s passed and affected them.”

Also, Prague added, “I like the first selectman very much in Andover [Bob Burbank] – he’s a nice guy.”

Prague said she “felt very attached to Andover,” and Andover selectman Jay Linddy seemed to reciprocate those feelings.

“It’s a big loss for the town,” he said. “Although we never agreed on everything, whenever we asked for help she was there. ... I don’t know if who’s taking her place will be able to do five percent of her job. She was a fighter. She’s still a fighter and let me tell you something, she’s never lost a round for the seniors.”

Linddy continued on to say he hopes Prague enjoys her retirement but the decision is bitter-sweet.

“It’s a sad day, but, yet, it’s a happy day,” he said. “I hope she’s happy retiring.”

(Andover was actually due to lose Prague after the November elections anyway, as the 19th District has recently been reshaped and, following the elections this fall, will no longer include Andover.)

Hebron Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt echoed Linddy’s sentiments, calling Prague “a mainstay in the 19th District.”

“She’s going to leave a legacy behind,” he said. “I acknowledge the services she’s given to Connecticut and wish her the very best in her years of retirement.”

“You always knew where [Prague] stood. She did not beat around the bush,” added Hebron Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney.



Edith Prague

“If she was for something she’d let you know and if she was against it, she’d also let you know. ... [She was] very forthright.”

Prague “services the district she covered really well,” and whoever takes her place “has big shoes to fill,” he said.

State Rep. Pam Sawyer, a Republican, said her and Democrat Prague didn’t always see eye to eye on issues, but Prague had a long record of state service, an “exemplary record of constituent service” and her personality would be missed.

“Her colorful character will be missed. Probably one of the lines she’s most known for saying is ‘It’s outrageous,’” laughed Sawyer. “I hope when I’m her age I have her energy.”

On Prague’s side, she said frankly, she’s happy people have said they’ll miss her.

“When [people] tell me they’re going to miss me, I tell them ‘I hope so! I don’t want to go away and have nobody miss me!’” she said with a smile.

Now that there’ll be no more meetings that last into the early morning hours, Prague will be able to work on her golf game and gardening, two of her favorite hobbies. But it’s as apparent that she’ll miss being a senator as it is that she’s grateful for the opportunities the position provided her.

“I have been able to use my social work skills with power,” she said. “The power of this position is enormous. And I will always be thankful and feel privileged that I had the opportunity to do this. It really has been a great privilege.”

## Embattled Animal Control Officer Resigns in Colchester

by Katelyn Kelleher

In the middle of an investigation on allegations of misconduct, Animal Control Officer Don Favry has resigned, effective May 18.

Favry, who was placed on administrative leave March 7 pending an investigation into the alleged misconduct, resigned under an agreement that the town inform Resident Trooper Supervisor Sergeant Marc Petruzzi, Favry’s supervisor, that it “no longer wishes to pursue any criminal investigation into [his] alleged activities and that any investigation currently underway be terminated.”

Since being placed on leave, Assistant Animal Control Officer Bill Paul has been serving as Colchester and Marlborough’s ACO.

Favry gained notoriety in town when a February *Rivereast* article published complaints by Connecticut Animal House President Chris Lamb that her efforts to help Favry get dogs adopted by putting them on sites like [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) went ignored.

In a public forum held Feb. 23 to address animal control issues in town, many residents spoke about their concerns for the dogs at the pound and that they had not seen ads placed in

newspapers.

In an April 3 letter to First Selectman Gregg Schuster, Favry called the meeting a “feeding frenzy headed by Christine Lamb” and said he was not given a chance to tell his side.

The meeting was not about Favry, nor did the meeting’s facilitators, Schuster, Petruzzi, State Animal Control Officer Linda Wenner and State Animal Control Supervisor Raymond Connors, respond to comments about him. Schuster repeated to the crowd several times that they could not discuss a personnel issue. Favry’s letter stated he felt “this should never have gone public.”

“I do not euthanize adoptable dogs and have had a very good record of adoptions, I keep the pound clean, dogs are fed and watered,” the letter continued. “How many other ACOs work around the clock and have lasted as long as I have?”

Much of the concern residents voiced at the meeting was over ads placed for lost dogs. In a March 28 letter to Favry, Schuster addressed the issue. “From June 2011 through December 2011 the reports you have submitted appear to

be inaccurate inasmuch as you have claimed on a number of occasions to have placed advertisements in the local newspapers, as required by law, to report lost dogs, but we cannot substantiate that you, in fact, have ever taken out many of these ads,” the letter said.

Favry responded that he believed the reports were accurate at the time he turned them in. “What would I have gained to intentionally turn in an inaccurate report? This was a clerical human error,” he said, adding he would wait a few days before placing an ad in hopes that the owner would redeem the dog. He explained that dogs were redeemed before placing the ads and he neglected to cross out the date and they were accidentally put in the report.

“I am sure that there are other animal control officers that have also turned in reports with clerical errors as well,” the letter said.

In a reply to Favry, a letter from Schuster specified five dates between July and October 2011 in which Favry reported to have placed ads that could not be verified through expense reports and research with local newspapers. He also noted a 10-day range in December in which

Favry stated in a report that ads were placed for eight dogs. Schuster said he was able to verify one ad listing four dogs. Additionally, he was “unable to find any documentation of any ads placed for dogs in 2008, 2009, and 2010.”

*Rivereast* records showed the Town of Colchester placed an ad for a found dog that ran June 10, 2011 and the next ad prior to that was from 2007.

When the town will have a new ACO is not yet known, Schuster said, but as defined by state statute, the animal control officer is a town official and must be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Until someone is appointed, Paul will continue to act as the town’s ACO.

Schuster said he is looking into combining with other towns for animal control services. Currently, Colchester has an agreement with Marlborough, and is looking for neighboring towns to join. Schuster named East Haddam as one of the possible towns, which currently has an agreement with East Hampton for animal control services. “We haven’t had a chance to sit down with them yet,” he said.



**Memorial Day**  
**Andover celebrated Memorial Day with its annual parade and ceremony on Monday. Pictured, clockwise from top left, are Georgette Conrad and Mary Duval standing with 2011 Andover Top Dog Blitz; the RHAM High School band marching beneath the newly-placed covered bridge, as residents watch from above; Andover Seniors “Young at Heart” riding in the float honoring service members with patriotic banners and festive red, white and blue décor; and a resident plays “Taps” on trumpet.**

## Colchester Candidates Ready for New-Look 48th District

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The re-districting of the state House of Representatives caused major changes in the 48th Assembly District – and both candidates for the seat are ready to go out and meet the people.

In the re-districting, the 48th District, which before was Colchester and East Haddam, will lose East Haddam and the Westchester portion of Colchester but gain parts of Lebanon, Windham and Mansfield. The re-districting will take effect following this November’s election.

Democrat incumbent Linda Orange, a member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee, said the re-districting means meeting new people.



**Linda Orange**

“Over the past four to six months, I have been meeting people in the new part of the district with positive feedback,” she said.

Orange, who has held the seat in the House of Representatives since 1997 and serves as a deputy speaker, said the re-districting will allow her to address the concerns of residents new to the district.

Before she was elected to the legislature in 1996, Orange served on the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals, the Colchester Police Commission and is a member of the Colchester Democratic Women’s Club.

She said the re-districting is a small obstacle to overcome. “I think every day we wake up



**Stan Soby**

we face challenges, new challenges,” she said.

“Basically I’ve been introducing myself to” residents of the towns now included in the district, she said. “I’m excited and eagerly look forward to gaining the support of the new 48th district and taking their concerns and taking them to Hartford.”

Orange said residents in the new areas of the district will have to adjust to the change and losing their representative. “Mansfield is losing Kevin Ryan,” she said. “Some are upset they’ve lost being part of the 48th District and will have a new representative.”

But, she added, “With reassurance, people are fine.”

Orange said it is unfortunate, though, to have lost East Haddam in the re-districting.

Although if re-elected Orange would be a change in representatives for the new residents of the 48th District, she is familiar to many of them, adding she has a lot of friends in Lebanon in the areas that will become part of the district in the new election.

She also knows her opponent for the upcoming election well, Colchester resident Stan

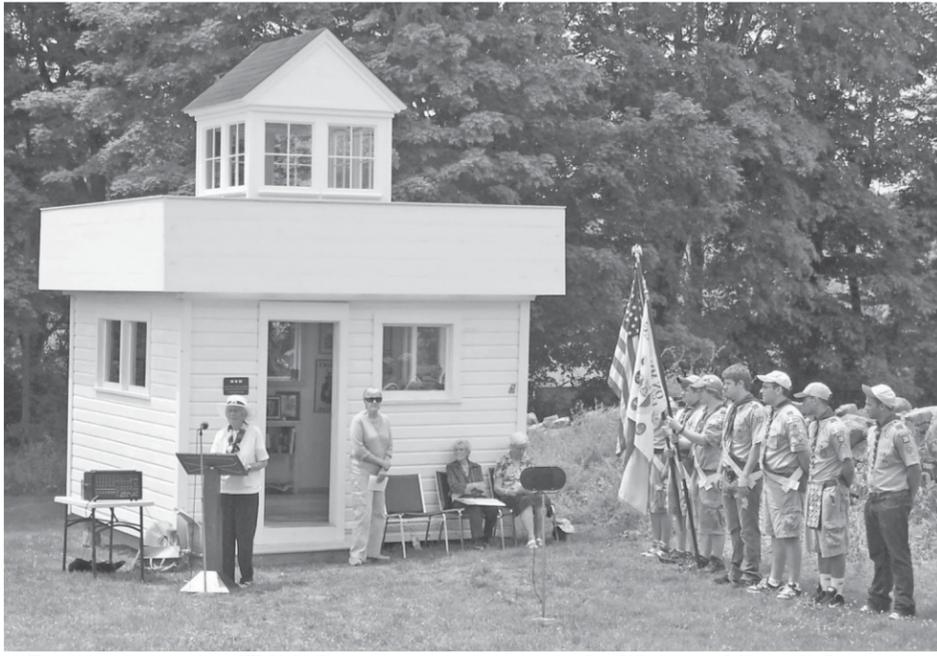
Soby. “I have known Stan for quite a few years. We actually share a birthday,” she joked.

Soby announced his candidacy for state representative for the 48th District at a Feb. 28 Republican Town Committee meeting and was unanimously nominated at the 48th District Republican Convention May 14.

Soby, a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen and a former first selectman, said he was confident the Republican Party could take over the position, despite it being held by Orange for close to 15 years.

Soby’s strategy was also to try to meet as many people as he could within the district to hear and address their concerns.

Soby couldn’t be reached for comment for this story. However, when he announced his candidacy for the position, Soby said he was going to look at how he can bring a better balance between the two parties in Hartford in order to operate as a “checks and balances” system, as one party currently is the majority in the executive branch and both houses of the legislature.



Retiring state Sen. Edith Prague was present at the Memorial Day dedication of Civilian Aircraft Observation Post Freeman 52 to present a citation from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. The post was used during World War II to monitor for enemy aircraft, and is the only known remaining post on the East Coast.



Blue skies and plenty of sunshine accompanied members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8776 as they marched in the Memorial Day Parade, proudly holding America's colors alongside a flag for their post, and one honoring prisoners of war and service members missing in action. *Additional parade photos at [glcitizen.com](http://glcitizen.com)*

## Town's Past Honored on Memorial Day in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

Blue skies and fluffy white clouds met residents as they took to the Hebron streets for this year's Memorial Day parade. Families lined the streets, chatting amicably with friends and neighbors while kids waited excitedly for the distant sound of drums to draw nearer and family dogs lolled about, basking in what felt like a midsummer sun.

The parade kicked off at 11 a.m. from RHAM High School where veterans, town officials, students and community members marched or rode up Route 66 to Route 85 and back again. Upon the parade's return, all activity came to a halt at the Town Green, where a memorial service honoring those who have served in the military took place.

A breeze blew through the air and rustled the American flags that were strewn about the center as Joe Fetta, commander with the Hebron American Legion, began to speak.

"We honor those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice so we may live in freedom," he said.

Fetta presented resident Matt Kelly with the First American Patriot Award and the American Legion Medal of Merit for his work organizing a Wreaths Across America event last December.

"Your actions brought awareness to the citizens of the price paid by our fallen heroes for our precious freedom that we have in the United States of America," Fetta said, before speaking about the meaning of Memorial Day.

"Today is Memorial Day," he said, "a day set aside to honor our fallen heroes. Every time our nation called, our little town of Hebron answered, and we paid dearly for our freedom."

Fetta then named the residents who lost their lives serving the country from the Civil War through Vietnam – 17 in total.

"We honor these men today and always. Keep them in your prayers," he said.

Prisoners of war and service members missing in action (POW MIA) were also acknowledged during the ceremony by Forrest Kocher, United States Navy veteran of Desert Storm.

In society, Kocher said, convicted criminals are punished for their crimes by surrendering their freedom "because of the great harm which they have caused our fellow citizens." Prisoners of war and those missing in action have also lost their freedom, he continued, "but under quite different circumstances."

"You see, they lost it on *behalf* of their fellow citizens and not because of some great harm they have caused them," he said, adding that "our society owes a tremendous debt" to these "men and women who have lost so much while asking for so little."

Kocher said the debt could be repaid "not through acts of lip service but rather through acts of service: through our solemn remembrances and undying commitment to their repatriation, no matter what the cost or length of time that lapses since their last time in combat action."

Veterans that returned this year from Afghanistan, as well as those that passed away last year, were also acknowledged by Roger Krasusky, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8776. They were "proudly saluted" and remembered "with respect and gratitude."

"It is important that we reflect on the sacrifice of every member of our armed services," Krasusky said, "from those who spend months or years away from their home to those who, in the words of Wallace Bruce, 'kept the faith and fought the fight: the glory theirs, the duty ours.'"

"No words or salutes could ever adequately express our gratitude," said Fetta. "It could be more starkly said 'they fought for us, they fell for us, they died for us.' Remember them today and every day. And when we honor them, let us not forget the loved ones left behind whose lives were changed forever."

The Ladies of the American Legion were then asked to place wreaths at the war monuments at the town center, while residents and parade members silently, respectfully looked on.

"These wreaths may fade and wither, but the spirit of which they are a symbol will endure until the end of time," said Fetta.

Afterwards, the respectful silence of those present was permeated by the twelve gun salute, and as the smoke from the barrels drifted up towards the sky, it was accompanied by the sound of "Taps."

Then, as the ceremony came to a close, the colors were restored by Honorary Grand Marshal Cpl. Richard Parker while the national anthem was played by the Hebron Elementary School band.

The parade then continued on their route and the crowd, many decked out in patriotic attire

of their own, smiled and cheered as numerous veterans, along with different boy and girl scout troops, local baseball teams and bands from RHAM as well as the elementary school filed passed while smiling, waving and honoring those who have served the country.

\*\*\*

As the parade came to an end, a different aspect of service to the United States was acknowledged, as the dedication of Civilian Aircraft Observation Post Freeman 52 – the last known post on the East Coast – took place shortly after.

Residents gathered beneath the shade of the giant oak tree at the town office building, sitting in lawn chairs or spreading out on the grass to watch as various state officials presented citations, and residents who volunteered at the post spoke on its history and purpose.

Resident Belle Robinson explained volunteers were recruited during World War II to man observation posts stationed up and down the coastal states. The purpose was to monitor the skies and report by telephone to Boston any planes that flew overhead in an attempt to prevent an enemy attack.

Volunteers, who were trained, fingerprinted and given tiny blue badges and an identification card, usually manned the post in pairs for two-hour shifts.

"When the rain was slewing down, when the wind was howling, when the snow was piling up, when it was 20 below zero, when it was 90 degrees like today," she said, "somebody was in this post watching for aircraft."

The post was used from Nov. 2, 1942, through Oct. 13, 1943. Afterwards, the building was moved from its original location to First Congregational Church where it remained until 2008, when it was moved to town property amid its restoration by residents, scouts from Boy Scout Troop 28 and members of the Hebron Historical Society.

State Sen. Edith Prague was present at the dedication to present a citation from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy.

"It's incredible history right here for us," she said. "It is an incredible accomplishment."

The citation recognized the historical significance of the post, and the efforts of the volunteers from Hebron and Columbia who "aided in the war effort by assisting in the detection of foreign planes."

"I applaud the achievements of the historic properties commission in preserving and recognizing the historical significance of this observation post, the last remaining civilian observation post on the East Coast," wrote Malloy.

Congressman Joe Courtney was also in attendance, and offered a congressional citation.

"I just want to say that at a time when there is so much negativity out there in the world today, to be at an event like this where it is all just complete volunteerism and contributions from people in the community that makes it happen – it's really so inspiring," Courtney said, adding it's symbolic of the fact that "as a nation, we are going to overcome the negativity and the challenges that we face today."

The congressional citation congratulated the historic properties commission "on this incredible accomplishment and achievement – an important part of our region and our nation's history."

A third citation, from the General Assembly, was presented at the dedication, by state Rep. Tim Ackert, whose Eighth General Assembly District encompasses Columbia, Coventry and Vernon.

As Ackert spoke, he thanked the veterans who have served the country, but also acknowledged another group of people who deserved gratitude: the individuals back home who support the troops, or, as the volunteers from Hebron and Columbia did, aided the war by "going to this post and protecting their neighbors. We truly thank you for your service," he said.

The citation commended those involved in the preservation and restoration of the post, "as a reminder of the significant contributions of our residents during World War II. The entire membership [of the General Assembly] extends its very best wishes on this memorable occasion and expresses the hope for continued success."

The observation post, just as it looked during World War II when around 200 area residents showed their patriotism by looking toward the skies at all hours of the day and night, now sits next to the town office building and is used as a museum, housing memorabilia and artifacts from the Second World War. The post serves as a reminder of, as resident Mary Hooker Porter stated while sharing memories of the time, "where we have been, and where we don't want to go again."

# Mock Crash Serves to Warn Young Drivers in Colchester

by Katelyn Kelleher

Students at Bacon Academy dressed up in their finest attire before school Thursday, May 24 – then they doused themselves in blood.

In a mock car crash, the bloodied and battered teenagers laid draped across or slumped in two “collided” cars in the Bacon Academy parking lot.

Students in Colchester’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC) enacted the mock crash for their classmates to actually see the consequences of distracted driving, in an effort they called “One Text or Call Could Wreck it All.”

Five YAC students, Kay McComiskey, Jordan Spalla, Courtney Wilson, Dan Brainard and Matt Caples, portrayed a group of teens on their way to the prom and another teen who had just received his learner’s permit.

Spalla, a sophomore, explained the story behind the crash was a passenger in one of the vehicles went to take a photo of the driver. The driver, not paying attention, crashed into the other vehicle.

“We weren’t wearing our seatbelts and we were not safe and we swerved the steering wheel and went into the other lane,” she said.

McComiskey, also a sophomore, portrayed the unfortunate passenger in that vehicle. In a gown and covered in blood, she laid face down on the hood of the car, her character having been thrown through the windshield.

State troopers, Colchester Police and the Colchester-Hayward Fire Department arrived on the scene and went to work “rescuing” the actors while the entire Bacon Academy student body watched.

The crews set to work stabilizing each of the victims before loading them into ambulances. The top of one of the vehicles was removed to extricate one of the teens, simulating the Jaws of Life.

One of the teens was placed on the pavement and covered with a white blanket. A “grieving father” mourned over the body before it was loaded into a hearse and taken away.

Finally, the distracted driver was arrested by police and the students at Bacon were ushered inside.

Although crews responded to the mock accident as if it were real, Resident Trooper Supervisor Marc Petruzzi speculated that a real accident just can’t be duplicated. “Can you really re-create the chaos of a fatal accident involving high schoolers? No you can’t.”

To further the impact on their peers, the YAC students chose to wear the blood all day.

The group started planning the mock accident, which is put on every four years so each class gets to see it once, in September, McComiskey said. “It takes a lot of planning to get the fire department and Lifestar here,” she said. “But when we got here this morning it didn’t really take that long to get all the blood and everything.”

Although the group had hoped a Lifestar helicopter would make an appearance at the scene, overcast skies prevented it from flying that day.

Jennifer Sloat from Colchester Youth and Social Services worked with the students organizing the event, who range from freshmen to seniors, and attested for all their hard work.

“They meet once a week and it’s all volunteering working on this scenario,” she said. “They made the scripts, came up with the costume and the idea to have the prom party and the permit driver.”

“It was all very frustrating for them because unfortunately everyone at one point has texted [while driving],” she said.

Sloat said typically the same group of responders volunteers for the mock accident. “We get a lot of help from the fire department,” she said.

Youth and Social Services Director Valerie Geato said School Resource Officer Tim Edwards was also instrumental in putting together the mock accident, which she believed students have been organizing since 1993.

After the crash, students attended an assembly program by !MPACT (Mourning Parents Act), led by Sherry Chapman. Chapman told the students if the program became too difficult for them they could leave. Many students did just that, leaving the gymnasium in tears to



**Youth Action Council member Kay McComiskey portrays a student thrown through a windshield in a mock car accident at Bacon Academy May 24.**

meet with school staff for guidance.

Among the speakers included David Graham of East Windsor, who was involved in a 2005 wreck that killed his girlfriend’s brother, and badly injured his brother and the 60-year-old driver of the car he hit. Graham, 22 at the time of the accident, explained he was showing off his new car, traveling more than 100 miles per hour when he crossed the line and hit the other driver. The next thing he remembered was waking up with a tree on his leg, his girlfriend’s 18-year-old brother crushed by the tree and his own brother also pinned.

Graham told the students he was not a risk-taker and could not believe he was driving that fast. “It just takes one mistake,” he told the students.

Because of his “one mistake” Graham was charged with manslaughter and assault. He told the students, in gruesome detail, about the time he spent in jail and warned them to do anything they could to “never end up there.”

Sophomores Casey Tsamis and Raeann Veronsi said the mock accident was eye-opening but the !MPACT speakers even more so.

“It terrified me. It was like a smack in the face, pretty much,” Veronesi said. “I saw people running out of there crying.”

Tsamis said she and her classmates got a lot out of the accident and assembly.

“It brings it to the reality of it because we’re never really in that situation, especially at our age because we’re sophomores so we’re not really at that driving age yet,” she said.



**To demonstrate to students the consequences of distracted driving, a student actor is loaded into a hearse after a mock car crash at Bacon Academy.**

## Second Budget Vote Set for Tuesday in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

After rejecting the original budget proposal last month, voters will head to the ballot boxes again Tuesday, June 5, to vote on a budget that has seen more than \$300,000 worth of reductions in recent weeks.

The budget total now sits at \$38.35 million, a \$581,471, or 1.54 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. The calculated mill rate stands at 25.97, an increase of .29 mills, up 1.13 percent from the current mill rate.

The original budget was resoundingly defeated in May by a 1,051-777 vote, with many voters citing a proposed town engineer position and a substantial increase in the Board of Education budget as their reasons for voting against the increase. Over the past month, the Board of Finance and the Town Council

have removed the engineer position and reduced the school budget further, among other reductions, to bring down the increase.

The budget proposed in May stood at \$38.69 million, a \$930,439, or 2.46 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. Since that vote was rejected, an additional \$227,500 was reduced from the Board of Education, \$70,000 was reduced from town operations, and \$27,500 was dropped from the capital budget. At a Town Council meeting last week, a transfer to the water fund was reduced from \$47,500 to \$23,532, bringing the budget down to its current figure.

Once again, the referendum will be held in East Hampton High School gymnasium, 15 N. Maple St., from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

## Oakdale Woman Charged Following Crash in Colchester

by Katelyn Kelleher

An Oakdale woman was charged with breach of peace and second-degree strangulation after a disturbance ensued following an accident Monday.

Kristen St. Claire, 33, of 509 Chesterfield Rd., Oakdale, was arrested on the charges, Colchester Police Officer Jonathan Goss said, after a motor vehicle crash caused a disturbance between the passenger of one vehicle and the driver of another. The accident oc-

curred around 4 p.m. on Route 85 by West Road, Goss said, then, “a passenger from one vehicle ran up to the driver from another vehicle and there was a disturbance.”

Goss said one of the drivers did not have insurance or valid registration.

St. Claire was released on \$1,000 bond. Her court date is set for June 14 at Norwich Superior Court.

# Old Amston Firehouse to be Demolished

by Geeta Schrayter

Old Fire Station No. 2 is destined to disappear, as the decision was made by residents of the Amston Lake District to reimburse the town of Hebron up to \$45,000 for the cost to demolish and remove the old building.

The decision was made at a special meeting held April 27, where residents voted 90-6 in favor. After the property is demolished, the Amston Lake District (ALD) will assume ownership of the land, which includes the .26 acre parcel where the fire station is located and a .3 acre parcel adjacent to the property that is currently a parking lot. The district will then pay the town the appropriate taxes for the land.

The station, which was built in 1947, served the Hebron Fire Department until 2005, when a new Fire Company No. 2 was built on Route 85, explained Amston Lake Historical Society President Larry Zimmerman in a recent release. The station, which is located near the lake, has been in disuse ever since.

"For some older residents, it will be sad to see the removal of a structure that has existed for 65 years, most of their lifetimes, and had been a center of many meetings, parties and various activities," he wrote.

On Wednesday, ALD Board of Directors President Dave O'Brien said members of the old fire company had "an emotional attachment to the building," but "the reality of the situation was that they had no money [to maintain the station] and the building had fallen into disrepair."

O'Brien further explained the town had no need for the building after the new station was finished, and had offered it to the district back in 2005. However, "residents were adamant that we not take the building," he said, due to the concern of possible contaminants and the fact there was no real need for it.

"The thing that was of interest to us was the land," he said. Just like Hebron wants open space, O'Brien said the district wants to ensure open space in their watershed as well.

Discussions then occurred between the town and the district as to what an agreeable scenario might be. O'Brien said the district wanted the building demolished, but it would be easier for the town to handle the demolition. It was made clear the district didn't want Hebron taxpayers "to assume any of the burden of this" and the town would be reimbursed for the demolition of the building, then the district would become taxpayers.

"We sat down with [Interim Town Manager] Andy Tierney, who is a wonder to work with" he said. "Without Andy, I don't think we would have moved forward."

"We sat down and kind of sketched out the numbers, what would be fair and reasonable," said O'Brien, and came up with the \$45,000 amount, which includes \$4,000 to test for asbestos, lead and other contaminants; \$10,000 for the abatement and removal of said contaminants; \$20,000 for the demolition of the building and \$6,000 for clean fill and landscaping.

On Wednesday, Tierney explained the town was taking the next steps in the process, and while the timeline they'd like to meet is the end of August, "I'm thinking it's going to be more like October" before everything is completed, he said.

"I had a meeting with the town's attorney," Tierney explained. "We want to make sure that we're doing everything right."

While the town owns the parcel of land the parking lot is on, the parcel with the fire station is owned by the Amston Lake Fire District. The district has to turn over their parcel to the town, at which point the town can demolish the building, then give both parcels to the



The old Fire Company No. 2, located in the Amston section of town, is set to be demolished. The building has been vacant since 2005.

ALD via quitclaim deed.

"We're researching both to make sure that's the way to do it," said Tierney, who also added he knew there was some attachment to the building, but "this was best for all parties involved."

Tierney reiterated that the Amston Lake Fire District didn't have the money to pay taxes or fix the building, and said "the town's stance was, now that we have a new two-something-million dollar firehouse, we can't keep putting [money] into the old building."

And as far as the ALD, Tierney added "this is going to enhance their property."

O'Brien explained that right now, what the land will be used for is undetermined.

"Initially what residents had indicated was they wanted it as open space," he said. "We want something to be a pervious surface so that when

you have rainwater, it soaks into the ground and it's friendly to the watershed and the environment initially.

"I know one of the things that we will do," O'Brien continued, "is we intend to put up some kind of plaque or memorial to [Old Volunteer Fire Company #2] that will go on that property just to recognize them for their years of service and contributions to us," he said.

O'Brien continued on to say the board of directors was "very pleased" with the outcome.

"I can't say enough about the town and Andy and the Board of Selectmen about how easy they were to work with," he said. "I think all of us down here want to express our thanks to the town and the Old Volunteer Fire Company No. 2. This is a decision I think in the long run will be beneficial to all parties involved."

## Andover Police News

5/22: A vehicle traveling north on Gilead Road went off the roadway to the left, striking two trees approximately 50 feet down a ravine on a private property, State Police said. The 17-year-old driver of the vehicle and 14-year-old passenger were both transported by ambulance to Marlborough Medical Center with minor injuries. The Department of Environmental Protection responded to the crash along with a heavy-duty wrecker, police added. The crash is still under investigation.

## Colchester Police News

5/24: Kyle Elliott, 24, of 464 South Main St., was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane, State Police said.

5/24: Bonnie Eifler, 41, of 75 Nelkin Rd., was charged with DUI, risk of injury to a child, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with registration/license suspended/refused/revoked, State Police said.

5/24: Dana Hobbs, 34, of 16 Mary Ln., was charged with fifth-degree larceny, State Police said.

5/26: Charles Silvan, 43, of 390 Broad St., Windsor, was charged with DUI and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, State Police said.

5/27: Thomas Blanchard, 21, of 16 Mill Ln., Salem, was charged with DUI and making a restricted turn, State Police said.

5/28: Robert Carlson, 35, of 176 Porter Rd., East Longmeadow, MA, was charged with DUI, evading arrest and failure to maintain a lane, State Police said.

5/29: Mel McCann, 69, of 61 Grier Rd., Vernon, was charged with DUI and failure to drive a reasonable distance apart, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

5/12: Steven Wierbicki, 18, of 34 Burr Hill Rd., Killingworth, was charged with possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol by a minor, Portland Police said.

## Marlborough Police News

5/26: A driver lost control of a vehicle traveling westbound on Route 2 and rolled over, State Police said. Driver Jordyn Page, 18, of 14 South Pine St., Niantic, and passenger Ashley Manning, 19, of 11 Woodland Dr., Niantic, were both transported to Marlborough Medical Center for minor injuries, police added.

5/28: Miguel Alsina, 29, of 15 Harmington St., Hartford, was charged with illegal possession of a motor vehicle number plate, improper use of marker/license/registration, speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a refused/suspended/revoked license, and failure to meet minimum insurance coverage requirements, State Police said.

5/28: A vehicle found at the exit 13 off ramp on Route 2 was found to be stolen out of Massachusetts, State Police said.

## Hebron Police News

5/22: Kristopher Kahle, 28, of 37 Davidson Rd., Colchester, was arrested on a warrant for two counts of harassment and two counts of disorderly conduct, State Police said.

5/28: A backpack found on Cannon Drive and will be released upon identification of its contents by calling Troop K at 860-537-7500.

## East Hampton Police News

5/19: Jeffrey Pratt, 18, of 27 Ola Ave., was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident, East Hampton Police said. Pratt was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police added.

5/21: Matheau P. Willette, 22, of 25 Victoria Dr., Colchester, was arrested for violating a protective order, police said.

5/21: Tiffany Norman, 25, of 227 West High St., was arrested for violating a protective order, third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

5/23/12 – Robert W. Demonte, Jr., 40, of 13 Oak Knoll Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence, failure to drive right and drinking while operating a motor vehicle, police said.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The Bevin Brothers Manufacturing Company may have not single-handedly been responsible for East Hampton getting the nickname "Belltown" – after all, more than 30 bell manufacturers have been located there over the years – but it certainly played a big part.

And so it was with sadness that I learned of the devastating fire at the company Saturday night. Most in the area have no doubt heard about what happened by now – and for those who haven't, reporter Joshua Anusewicz has a story documenting the terrible blaze on the cover of this week's *Rivereast* – so I won't get into a lot of details of the fire. I'll simply say what, by this point, everybody knows. This is a loss for the town. A big loss.

The Bevin family has been manufacturing bells in East Hampton since 1832. The business – the only bell manufacturer left in the United States – produces, markets and sells 1.2 million bells per year, according to a 2010 article at [americanprofile.com](http://americanprofile.com). Its bells have been in many famous places over the years; souvenir bells were created for presidential campaigns for Calvin Coolidge and Thomas Dewey; commemorative bells were made for Bill Clinton's first presidential inauguration; and a Bevin bell was even used at one time to open and close the day on the New York Stock Exchange.

And if you've ever approached a grocery store or shopping mall around the holidays, you've heard a Bevin bell – whether you know it or not. According to a 2011 NPR story on the company, Bevin Brothers makes all of the bells rung by the Salvation Army volunteers during the Christmas season.

Speaking of Christmas, one of my absolute favorite movies is *It's a Wonderful Life*, so I found it very interesting when I learned earlier this year – via a news submission from the Chatham Historical Society – that the big bell rung at both the beginning of the film and the closing is a Bevin bell. I can see that bell in my head, even hear the gong (followed by the opening strings of "Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight?"), as I'm typing this. I never knew that, all these years, I've been watching a little piece of East Hampton.

And that's what makes last Saturday's fire so devastating. It's a big piece of East Hampton history – a company that helped put the town on the map – that went up in flames last weekend. Much as it would be impossible to tell the history of Manchester – my hometown – without mentioning the Cheney brothers, I imagine it would be just as difficult to give the history of East Hampton without mentioning the Bevins.

Let's hope the Bevin Bros. can be a part of East Hampton's future too. Matt Bevin, the

sixth-generation owner of the company, told the *Hartford Courant* Sunday, "I don't know if it's remotely cost-effective to even conceive of the idea of being back, but if it's possible to make bells in Belltown, we're going to keep making bells in Belltown," Bevin said.

I hope Bevin can find a way to make it happen.

\*\*\*

In lighter news, the final ratings for the 2011-12 TV season are in – and it's interesting to see just how dominant football is these days.

According to the Nielsen Company, *Sunday Night Football* on NBC became the first sports series ever to finish a full, fall-spring season as the most-watched show on television.

There were several other football TV records set during the season as well, according to an [nfl.com](http://nfl.com) news release. Among them:

Super Bowl XLVI on NBC was the most-watched program in U.S. television history; the divisional playoff weekend was the most watched ever, with Giants-Packers on Fox ranking as the most-watched Divisional Playoff game in history;

the wild card playoff game between the Steelers and Broncos on CBS was the most-watched wild card game ever; and

Fox had its most-watched NFL season ever.

At a time when there are more channels to choose from than ever before, and the TV audience is, in theory anyway, more fragmented, why is it that the NFL's ratings keep climbing to new heights? I'm not exactly sure. Yes, this past season had the Tim Tebow storyline, but I don't think that accounted for *all* the record ratings (especially the Super Bowl, which didn't involve Tebow at all).

A friend of mine – who the other day commented that "football has swallowed America whole" after noting the lead story on that evening's *Sportscenter* was, as he put it, "footage of Peyton Manning wearing his new Broncos jersey and walking around a practice field" – has speculated the explosion of popularity in fantasy football might have something to do with it. And he may have a point; I know that I, for example, started paying closer attention to teams that weren't the Jets after I first started playing fantasy football a few years ago and thus had players on those teams. But even still, I'm not sure how great of an impact this has had on the ratings.

Whatever the reason, one thing is clear: football is more popular than ever. As a huge baseball aficionado, it pains me a little to say this, but football truly has become the national pastime.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

## More Obituaries on Following Page

## Obituaries

Colchester

Walter Patterson

Walter Patterson, 82, of Colchester Commons and formerly of Meriden, widower of the late Lillian (Smith) Patterson, passed away Wednesday, May 23, at Harrington Court GHC Center in Colchester.

Born July 1, 1929, in Meriden, he was the son of the late John and Elenora (Spencer) Patterson. Mr. Patterson worked for Mossberg in North Haven for many years before his retirement.

Walter and Lillian were married on Dec. 4, 1954 and shared 56 years of marriage before she predeceased him Feb. 20.

He served proudly with the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of the Adler-Boluck Post 5990 VFW in Colchester. He was a former member of Center Congregational Church in Meriden and had been active in numerous groups there before retiring to Colchester.

In his spare time, he enjoyed camping, antique clocks, history books and loved collecting toy trains with his son, Jim. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family as a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, James and Tammy of Salem; three grandchildren, Larry Hollis, Amanda Williams and Crystal Ghrist-Cote; great grandchildren, James and Alison Hollis and Wyatt Ghrist-Cote; his sister, Helen Marcantonio of Meriden; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Services will be observed Saturday, June 2, beginning at 1 p.m. with visitation, followed by the memorial at 2 p.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Committal with military honors will follow in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Ctr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

Colchester

George Pugatch

George Pugatch, 91, of Colchester, beloved husband of Helen (Piechta) Pugatch, passed away Tuesday morning, May 29, at Hartford Hospital. Born Oct. 30, 1920, in New York City, he was a son of the late Emil and Jennie (Shimik) Pugatch.

Pugatch served proudly with the U.S. Coast Guard in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Following his honorable discharge, he and Helen were married on Aug. 30, 1946 at St. Joseph Church in Willimantic. The couple lived in Hebron for 20 years before moving to their new home on the Lebanon – Colchester town line.

George had an immense love of Christmas, which influenced his decision to begin and own a Christmas tree farm, known as the Evergreen Acres Tree Farm and Nursery in Colchester. He was a member of the Connecticut Tree Growers Association and the Adler-Boluck Post 06990 Veterans of Foreign Wars in Colchester. George retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft after 25 years of service to operate his Christmas Tree Farm and Nursery full time. In his free time, he carved wildlife birds and decoys. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family as a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

In addition to his loving wife of 65 years, he will be sadly missed by his two children and their spouses, Joanne and Don Philips of Colchester, Gregory and Susan Pugatch of East Hampton; three grandchildren, Michael and Cheri Pugatch of Braintree, MA, and his great-grandchildren, Madison and Molly of Braintree, MA, Laurie and Ryan Hergrueter of Quincy, MA and Jeffrey Pugatch of East Hampton; a sister, Jennie Cuthbertson of Colchester; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Joseph and Emil Pugatch.

Friends called Thursday, May 31, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. today, June 1, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter, 279 New Britain Rd., Suite 5, Kensington, CT 06037.

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

Colchester

Katherine Orth

Katherine (Williams) Orth, 54, a beloved sister, daughter, mother and friend, passed away Friday, May 25, after a six-month battle with cancer.

Kathy enjoyed her grandchildren and many friends and family, macramé and collecting Emmett the Hobo Collectables. She was a 1975 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester.

She leaves her two children, Amanda Frencl and Alan Orth, both of Hobart, IN; two grandchildren and five siblings.

In 1962, she and her brother Guy Bruce Williams were welcomed in by the Arthur D. Standish family of Standish Road in Colchester and raised as their own. Surviving is her mother, Minnette (Nelkin) Standish, her children, Jean Brainard of Bethel, VT, and Robert C. Standish of Flat Rock, NC, and their families.

Graveside services will be observed at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 9, at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. There are no calling hours.

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

Marlborough

Johnny D. Adamson

Johnny D. Adamson, 57, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Margaret N. (Carlsen) Adamson, died Tuesday, May 22, at Hartford Hospital. He was born April 9, 1955, in Norfolk, VA, son of Margaret (Hughes) Adamson of Jupiter, FL, and the late Henry Adamson.

Johnny was a 1973 graduate of John I. Leonard High School. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from Florida Atlantic University. He had worked for Pratt & Whitney both in West Palm Beach, FL, and for the past 12 years in East Hartford. Mr. Adamson was a member of Trinity Covenant Church in Manchester, and he was active with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 39 in Marlborough.

In addition to his wife and mother he is survived by and was the proud and loving father of two sons, Eric C. Adamson and Scott I. Adamson both of Marlborough. Other survivors include his brother Danny Adamson and his wife Anne of Hobe Sound, FL; nephew Brian Adamson, his wife Dana and their children Hannah and Charlotte, all of Winter Springs, FL; two nieces, Taylor and Brittany Adamson, both of Hobe Sound, FL; two brothers-in-law, Arthur Carlsen and his wife, Josefa, and Walter Carlsen, all of San Leandro, CA.

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 4, at noon, at Trinity Covenant Church, 302 Hackmatack St., Manchester. Burial will be private in Marlboro Cemetery. Calling hours will be held Sunday, June 3, from 3-7 p.m., at the Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester.

Memorial donations may be made to Trinity Covenant Church Memorial Fund, 302 Hackmatack St., Manchester, CT 06040, or to Boy Scouts of America Troop 39, 35 S. Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447, or to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA, 02241-7005.

To sign the online register book, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

Portland

Karen Kurimay

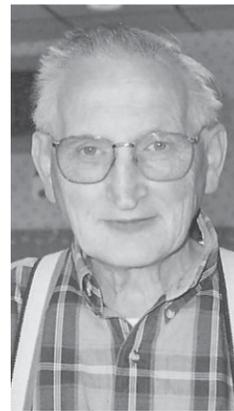
Karen (Emerson) Kurimay, 61, of Portland, widow of Charles Kurimay, died in Chicopee, MA, at the home of her brother Phillip Emerson, Friday, May 25. She was born in Hartford, daughter of the late Irving and Elaine (Anthony) Emerson and was a resident of Portland for several years. Karen worked for the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles for 38 years.

She is survived by a son, Mark S. Kurimay and his wife Patricia Ainzua of Wethersfield; a step-daughter, Veronica Pita of Wethersfield; two brothers, Phillip Emerson and his wife Maureen of Chicopee, MA, Carl Emerson and his wife Jaime of Ohio; a nephew, Blake Emerson his wife Jacelyn and their children, Javier, Cynthia and Blake Jr.

The funeral will be held Friday, June 1, at noon, at The Dillon-Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery. Friends called Thursday, May 31, at the funeral home.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The Red Hat Society, 431 S. Acasia Ave. Fullerton, CA 92831.

To share a memory with the family, visit [dillonbaxter.com](http://dillonbaxter.com).



## Colchester

### Claudette Soucy

Claudette Marie Lucille (Caron) Soucy, 73, of Middletown Road, Colchester, beloved housewife of Gaston “Gus” Soucy, passed away peacefully Friday, May 25, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, surrounded by her loving family.

Born May 2, 1939, in St. Isidore, P.Q., Canada, she was a daughter of the late Lionel and Cecile (Alie) Caron.

On Oct. 10, 1959, she and Gus were married at St. Matthias Church in Quebec.

Mrs. Soucy was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and great grandmother and will be greatly missed.

In addition to her loving husband, she is survived by eight children and their spouses, Diane and Tim Sweeney of Moodus, Louise and Todd Judy of Denton, TX, Bert and Claudette Soucy of Colchester, Liliane and Ron Brothers of Port St. Lucie, FL, Rock and Kimberly Soucy of East Haddam; Denise Soucy of Terryville, Leon Soucy and Chris Pite of Essex, England and Marianne Soucy of Pawtucket. She also leaves eight brothers and three sisters, and was predeceased by two brothers from Canada. She was the proud grandmother of 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and was predeceased by a great-grandchild.

Mrs. Soucy was an employee at Frank David Resort and S&S Worldwide. Her hobbies included knitting, crocheting, puzzles, cooking (out of necessity), camping with family, activities with the Colchester seniors, cheating at cards, dice games, traveling, sightseeing and collecting souvenirs.

Friends called Wednesday, May 30, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, May 31, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, or to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## Colchester

### Robert Bruce Keefe Sr.

Robert Bruce Keefe Sr., 86, of Lebanon and Colchester, passed away Thursday, May 17, at the William Backus Hospital, with his loving family by his side. He was born Aug. 24, 1925, in Hartford, son of Alphonso and Ethel Loomis Keefe.

Bruce worked many years as a well-driller, a mechanic at Clark Transportation Company in Colchester, and Kick Hill Farms in Lebanon. He also served as a constable for the Town of Hebron. Bruce assisted in the establishment of the Tangletree Horse Farm currently operated by his sons.

Bruce is survived by his partner of 27 years, Glenda Czrmyr; two sons, Robert B. and his wife Maggie Keefe and Gary A. Keefe and his partner Kristin Ahrens, all of Colchester; his daughter, Sharon and husband Doug Ashcom of Lebanon; one sister, Brenda J. Keefe of Norwich; two grandchildren, Jody Keefe Yasich and Paul M. Ashcom and several nieces and nephews.

Bruce was predeceased by two brothers, Quentin L. Keefe and Conway C. Keefe and two sisters, Queenie K. Engelhardt and Dolly M. Randall.

A celebration of life service was held Saturday, May 26, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial was private.

Those who wish may make donations to Davita Dialysis Center (Patient Emergency Fund), 113 Salem Tpke., Norwich, CT 06360.

## Portland

### Salvatore Joseph Mariano

Salvatore Joseph Mariano, 69, of Portland and Middletown, passed Friday, May 25, after a short illness.

He leaves his wife Barbara Reed Mariano; daughters, Marie Mariano of Cromwell, Tina and Ford Lange of East Hampton and son Joseph Mariano and Gustavo Zapata of Portland, his beloved grandchildren, Saige and Piper Lange and Jason and Aaron Urso of Plainville; his brothers, John Mariano of Enfield, William and JoAnn Mariano of Middletown, and Robert and Stacy Mariano of Old Saybrook; and his Uncle James and Aunt Rose of Middletown. He also leaves many beloved nieces and nephews.

There will be a memorial Mass Thursday, June 7, at 10 a.m., at Saint Mary’s Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. A reception immediately following Mass will be held at Elks Lodge, Middletown. Family burial will be private.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice at Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

## Portland

### Pauline Valvo

Pauline (Amodio) Valvo, 95, passed away peacefully Thursday, May 17 at Middlesex Health Care Center. She was the wife of the late Santo Valvo for 48 years.

Pauline was born in Naugatuck, on March 13, 1917. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Maria (Valvo) Amodio. Pauline lived in Hartford until she married. For the next 48 years she lived in Waterbury, Wolcott and St. Petersburg, FL. She then lived in the Portland area. Her greatest pride was her family. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Pauline is survived by her two daughters, Maria Demarest and her husband Stephen of Portland, and Paula Smith and her husband Warren of St. Petersburg, FL, formerly of Naugatuck. She is also survived by her three grandchildren, Liza Donaldson and her husband Charles, Heather Pach and her husband Mark, and Brian Murray and his wife Jill. She also had two step-grandchildren, Kenneth Demarest and his wife Carole and Kimberly Tourjee and her husband David; six great-grandchildren, Savannah and Skylar Donaldson, Nicholas and Samantha Pach and Natalie and Andrew Murray; two step great-grandchildren Kyle and Erik Demarest. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by all of her siblings and their spouses, Carmela Pennuto, Anna Verminski, Angelina Stevens, Frances Palazzolo, and Paul Amodio.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Middlesex Health Care Center for their years of loving care, especially LaShona Moore and Felicia Milewski.

Calling hours were Saturday, May 19, at D’Angelo’s Funeral Home in Middletown. The funeral Mass was also Saturday, May 19, at St. John’s Church in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the American Heart Association or the Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, 33 North Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492.

## Colchester

### David G. Hurlbut Jr.

David G. Hurlbut Jr., 92, of Colchester, formerly of Tamarac, FL, passed away Monday, May 28. Born in West Haven, son of the late David G. Hurlbut Sr. and Mary L. (Edwards) Hurlbut, he grew up in Milford, but spent most of his adult life in southern Florida.

A proud veteran, Dave attained the rank of major while serving in World War II and The Korean War. He served with the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, 531st Engineer Shore Regiment. He was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut. Dave will be best remembered for his sense of humor and could be found bowling, golfing, dancing at the gold coast or playing cards with “the old boys.”

He is survived by David G. Hurlbut III and wife Cheryl of East Haddam; and daughter Stacey Erickson and husband Dave of Colchester; grandchildren, David and Craig Hurlbut, and Keith Erickson; great-granddaughter Sofia Hurlbut; sisters Patricia Sellars of New Hampshire and Mary Joy Ringler of Virginia; also numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by sisters Rena Meyer and Merle Rothwell and a brother, J. Nelson Hurlbut.

Services and burial will be private. Memorial donations may be made in his name to his favorite charity, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital , 262 Danny Thomas Pl., Memphis, TN 38105.

For online tributes and condolences, visit [swanfh.com](http://swanfh.com).

## Portland

### Anthony Joseph Petruccelli

Anthony Joseph Petruccelli, son of the late Michael and Theresa (Lolli) Petruccelli passed away Monday, May 21.

Surviving are his wife, Mary of Portland, sisters, Philomena McKinstry of Portland, Theresa (James) Melo of Rocky Hill and Mary Fede of Enfield. He was predeceased by his brother, Frank and sister-in-law, Theresa Petruccelli and a niece, Margaret McKinstry Smithwick.

Funeral services were held Thursday, May 24, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Thursday before the service, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to either Wounded Warriors, 4899 Belfort Rd., Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256, or to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312.

## Portland

### Rowland H. Barrett

Rowland H. “Rollie” Barrett, 85, of Yarmouthport, MA, formerly of Portland, died peacefully, after a six-year battle with cancer, Thursday, May 24, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was the loving husband of Emilie (Moxon) Barrett for 55 years.

Born in Hartford, Rollie was the son of the late Rowland M. and Lily (Bachman) Barrett. A 1957 University of Hartford Art School graduate, Rollie studied fine arts and went on to become a graphic artist, working for various advertising agencies. He eventually owned his own graphic finishing business.

Throughout his life, his love of art grew, as he continued to enjoy painting, glass blowing and woodcarving. He also developed a beautiful art collection. In fact, you could always find a perfectly sharp pencil in Rollie’s pocket ready to sketch.

Mr. Barrett enlisted in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during World War II and served as an aviation radioman, flying an Avenger aircraft. He was stationed in Memphis, TN, and Jacksonville, FL. He was honorably discharged with the rank of seaman first class in 1946. Following his military service, Rollie continued his passion for flying and obtained his private pilot’s license and flew for many years.

Rollie was a lover of baseball and played in the NY Giants farm system during the mid-1940s as a catcher in Springfield, OH. He was inducted into the Portland Hall of Fame for his excellence in athletics throughout his lifetime.

Rollie had a deep love for Cape Cod. He built a cottage on Mary Road in North Eastham, MA, that his family occupied and rented. He spent 25 years living on Cape Cod with his wife, enjoying kayaking, bird watching, and all that the Cape has to offer. His spiritual faith led him to become an active member of the Brewster Baptist Church. He enjoyed traveling, venturing to Italy, Nova Scotia, and to Sanibel Island for Red Sox spring training.

Known for his creativity and creation of home-made gadgets, Rollie was a person that touched everyone he met. His innate ability to make friends out of strangers made him a unique individual you wouldn’t soon forget. He had a gift that truly brought out the best in others, making it an honor to have known him. His positive energy, attitude and amazing spirit could be immediately felt without words. His love for Beetle Cat sailing, golf and the Boston Red Sox will transcend the generations.

Until his last day, Rollie was ever thankful of the help and support from the Brewster (MA) Baptist Church, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod, Cape Cod Hospital and his dear friend, Hilda Haye.

Known as Rowland, Pops, Grandpa Barrett, Umpa, Ro, Popsicle, Rollie, Dad, Dumpa, Mr. Barrett, Raleigh, and the Miracle Man, he will be deeply missed but forever in our hearts... You Da Man!

In addition to his wife, Mr. Barrett is survived by two daughters, Cynthia Barrett, and Leslie A. Moore and her husband, Gerald; three sons, Jon Barrett and his wife, Betsey, Dr. Rowland P. Barrett and his wife, Nancy, and Dr. Nels E. Barrett and his wife, Julianna; 12 grandchildren, Alyssa, Lydia, Sarah, Ethan, Jesse, Ryan, Alex, Eric, Nathaniel, Morgan, Dorothy, and David; and several great grand-children; nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Robert and Donald Barrett.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, May 30, in the Brewster Baptist Church, 1848 Main St. (Route 6A), Brewster, MA, Interment will be private.

Visiting hours were held Tuesday, May 29, in the Hallett Funeral Home, 273 Station Ave., South Yarmouth, MA.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions may be made, in Rollie’s name, to the Barrett Family Research Fund, c/o Dana Farber Cancer Institute, attn: Patty Brent, 10 Brookline Place, West Brookline, MA 02445 or to VNA of Cape Cod, Hospice and Palliative Care, 434 Rt. 134, Suite D-3, South Dennis, MA 02660.

To sign an online guestbook, visit [hallettfuneralhome.com](http://hallettfuneralhome.com).

## East Hampton

### Stephen T. Moisuk Jr.

Stephen T. Moisuk Jr., 67, of East Hampton, passed away at Midstate Medical Center in Meriden Wednesday, May 23, after a relentless battle with lung cancer.

Steve is survived by his wife, Gloria (Hurlburt), son, Shawn Hawkes of Colchester, and daughter, Cheryl Hawkes of Maine; brother, Robert Moisuk and wife Nancy of Enfield; sister, MaryAnn Vickers and husband Doug of Florida; mothers-in-law Frances Rollish of Cromwell and Kay Hurlburt of Florida; brothers-in-law Edward Hurlburt of Arizona and wife Linda, Reggie Levassur of Colorado and Richard Hurlburt and wife Terri of Stonington, and children Michael and Jeffery Hurlburt of Cromwell; and sisters-in-law Carol Bill of Willimantic; Nancy Doyle and husband Ted of Groton; Denise Ebert and husband Art of Florida; MaryJane Martin and husband Tommy of Nevada; adopted sister Elena Carles of Portland; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Steve was predeceased by sister-in-law Barbara (Choie) Levassur.

Steve proudly served in the United States Navy from 1963-69. He worked at E.I.S in Middletown for 17-plus years until the factory closed down. He retired as a painter in 2010. Steve loved to fish with his best friend Jimmy. He also enjoyed horseshoes, darts, bowling, shooting pool and Friday night poker at the Portland Firehouse. He was a huge fan of the New York Yankees and Miami Dolphins, and supported his son on any team he played on. He also loved his wife’s sense of humor and good cooking.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, June 2, at 11 a.m., at Middletown Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown.

Steve’s family would like to give special thanks to Dr. Nadkarni and the oncology staff at MSMC.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to East Hampton Animal Control, 20 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.