

RIVEREAST

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East Hampton native and Portland High School graduate Erin Brady was recently named Miss Connecticut U.S.A. Brady improved on her 2012 debut performance, when she finished first runner-up.

Local Woman Wins 'Miss Connecticut' Crown

by Joshua Anusewicz

For those whose knowledge of beauty pageants extends as far as television shows like *Toddlers and Tiaras* and movies like *Miss Congeniality*, Erin Brady might seem like a bit of an outlier. She wasn't raised attending pageants across the country, she doesn't have a particular talent – although you could argue that walking in high heels takes some skill – and doesn't have an undying obsession with “world peace,” though she'd surely be happy to see it.

Nope, Brady is not your typical pageant contestant, having only started competing last year. But in that time, she has risen from a newcomer to a champion, winning the title of Miss Connecticut U.S.A. on Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Hartford Farmington Marriott Hotel.

“I was a bundle of nerves,” Brady, 25, said about the weekend-long competition. “But I knew the level of anxiety involved from last year, so I was more prepared this year.”

Last year marked Brady's first foray in pageants, after a co-worker, on a whim, recommended that she should enter the competition. With no idea what to expect, Brady purchased a swimsuit and a dress and entered the pageant.

Naturally, she finished first runner-up.

“I was surprised, but I was thrilled,” Brady said of her first pageant experience. “My hope was that the only way to go was up.”

Brady, who was born and raised in East Hampton but graduated from Portland High School in 2005, entered the competition again this year with a renewed confidence. Amongst a field of experienced pageant entrants and relative newcomers like herself, Brady once again breezed through the preliminary rounds and

placed in the top 15 on Sunday. With interviews out of the way, Brady again reached the top five after the evening gown and swimsuit portions of the pageant – there is no talent portion in the Miss U.S.A. competition, Brady explained – and was ultimately named the winner over Tiffany Teixeira of Bridgeport, who finished first runner-up.

On top of winning the overall title, Brady also won Miss Congeniality, which honors the best competitors as voted on by the other contestants. “I was shocked to win both,” said Brady, as it's uncommon for an entrant to win both titles. “It showed that the girls looked past the competition aspect and saw that I was just being myself.”

And perhaps being herself – a normal, everyday twenty-something – is what makes Brady the perfect candidate to represent Connecticut. On top of being a local girl from a small town, Brady is an honors graduate of Central Connecticut State University in finance. She currently lives in South Glastonbury and works for Prudential Financial in Hartford as a senior accountant. She is daughter of Francis Brady of East Hampton and Judith Krauth of Middletown, and the granddaughter of Kenneth and Theresa Brady, also of East Hampton.

Her normalcy will certainly change, however, when she travels to represent Connecticut in the Miss U.S.A. Pageant this June in Las Vegas, a competition that will be broadcast live on NBC. Prior to the competition, Brady will go on a media tour with the other 49 contestants that will include a stop on *The Today Show*, an appearance on *Live! With Kelly and Michael*, and a meeting with Donald Trump – all of which

See Miss Connecticut Page 2

East Hampton Top Cops to Retire?

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a special meeting on Thursday, Dec. 27, the Town Council unanimously voted to make a retirement offer to members of the East Hampton Police Department that have at least “20 years of service and are the rank of sergeant or above.” This includes Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and sergeants Garritt Kelly and Michael Green.

In a statement from Town Manager Michael Maniscalco following the meeting, the reason for the retirement offer is based on “minimal turnover in the past few years” within the department's staff and that by offering incentives to retire, “the town will potentially realize the benefits of cost efficiencies and new talent while recognizing the significant contributions made to the community by the staff.”

Maniscalco said on Monday that the idea to offer the retirement packages was “more or less” his idea, one he said was borne from discussions he had with officers in the department and the members of the Town Council. Maniscalco said he had spoken to council members individually prior to last Thursday's meeting about

the matter, but that the meeting was the first opportunity to discuss the proposal as a group.

On Monday, Maniscalco reiterated his rationale for offering the retirement packages, laying out the idea in three parts: the town could potentially realize a considerable cost savings from the officer's salaries; it would be an opportunity to bring in “new talent with fresh ideas”; and the staff members could be recognized for their “significant amount of time” serving the community.

Aside from the “why,” Maniscalco was understandably reluctant to offer up any more information on the retirement offers, including the terms of the offers and any initial response from the three officers. Maniscalco said that the officers have until today, Jan. 4 to inform the town of their decision on the offer.

Town Council Chairwoman Sue Weintraub was also tight-lipped about the offers to the officers on Monday, but did say that it was “good practice” to present these offers to the long-time public servants. She added that the process of drawing up the retirement offers was a “col-

laborative” effort between the council, town manager, Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, and legal counsel, and that the matter drew unanimous support from the council.

“You can't get a better majority than that,” Weintraub said of the council's vote.

The three senior officers at the department, Reimondo, Kelly, and Green have combined for over half a century of service to East Hampton and its police department. Despite years of leadership over the department, however, the three staff members might be best remembered for a number of controversies that have plagued the department over the past two years.

The issues began in the summer of 2010, when Reimondo, who has held the position of chief since 1998, was relieved of his duties when then-Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe announced the position of police chief would be no more. O'Keefe said Reimondo would be replaced by Green, who would occupy a newly-created lieutenant position.

The decision to remove Reimondo resulted in months of heated meetings, petitions, and

the eventual resignation of O'Keefe. Reimondo was ultimately reinstated after a townwide referendum, then filed a lawsuit against O'Keefe, Green, and members of the Town Council that were believed to be behind the decision to eliminate the police chief position. The lawsuit was ultimately settled and Reimondo was awarded \$275,000.

The problems for Reimondo continued after he was reinstated, though, when racially-insensitive emails surfaced that had been forwarded from the chief's computer. Reimondo received an official letter of reprimand from the town and was forced to attend sensitivity training following the incident.

Green and Kelly were not left out of the public eye, either, as both were suspended for separate incidents in 2011. Green was placed on paid administrative leave for close to a month after an investigation alleged that he was involved in “conduct unbecoming of an officer.”

Prior to that, Kelly was suspended after explicit emails surfaced that showed him appar-

See Top Cops Page 2

Miss Connecticut cont. from Front Page

Brady called “amazing” and a “once in a lifetime” experience.

“I’m just really excited,” Brady said. “Getting the opportunity to be with these girls representing all of the states across the country is incredible.”

In the meantime, Brady said that she would be using her title as an opportunity to get involved in various charitable programs across the state, including breast cancer walks and Habitat for Humanity projects. Brady added that, along with Miss Connecticut Teen, she has already discussed visiting those affected by the tragedy in Newtown to offer any help

that she can.

If Brady were to be named Miss U.S.A., it would be the first time in the pageant’s 60-year history that a contestant from Connecticut held the title. But don’t tell her that; she already points out that if she becomes Miss U.S.A., she would move along to the Miss Universe pageant.

While it might sound presumptuous to mention Miss Universe at this point, don’t forget that two years ago, Brady had never competed in a pageant. Now, she holds the title of 2013 Miss Connecticut U.S.A. So anything’s possible.

Top Cops cont. from Front Page

ently corresponding with an individual while working.

The past transgressions of the officers, however, have not been linked to the current retirement offers.

Kelly said Wednesday that he is “considering” the retirement package, which he called “an intriguing offer.” Kelly has been with the

department for 26 years and has been a sergeant since 1993.

“I have some [police] business that I’m working on now and that’s where my focus is,” Kelly added.

Green and Reimondo were not available for comment this week.

Hebron Students Uninjured in December Bus Crash

by **Melissa Roberto**

No students were injured when a school bus was rear-ended in the center of town last month, State Police said.

A bus transporting 32 Hebron Elementary School students was on its afternoon route to Gilead Hill School to pick up more students when it was rear-ended at the corner of Route 66 and Route 85 at approximately 3:25 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7. All 32 students and bus driver were not injured but the driver of the second vehicle was transported due to a minor injury.

The bus driver, 33-year-old Melissa Cavanaugh of 27 Laura Dr., Hebron, stopped for traffic when 32-year-old Christina Noell of 80 Wellswood Rd., Amston, struck the bus from behind.

Noell was transported to Marlborough Clinic by Hebron Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) for reporting minor head pain.

Ellie Cruz, who at the time was the Hebron superintendent of schools, said she received a call at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon about the incident and when she arrived to the scene, emergency vehicles and state police were already present.

In addition, officials from the bus company, First Student, as well as Hebron Elementary School Principal Amy Campbell and Gilead Hill School Principal Kathy Veronesi also reported to the scene.

Cruz explained that the first step taken was

to assess the students and Cavanaugh to make sure no one was hurt and the second step was to determine if the bus was safe to continue on its route. According to Cruz, after “much conferring” between First Student, State Police and Hebron EMTs, it was determined that there was no damage done to the bus and it was able to leave the scene and continue its scheduled route.

Secretaries of the two schools called parents and guardians to communicate that the students were safe and that they would be arriving home later than usual.

Cruz explained that during the “good half-hour” that school officials remained on the scene, students seemed to be in “pretty good spirits.” She said that although an accident may cause students anxiety, it was reassuring for the students to see familiar faces.

“It’s unfortunate these things happen because it causes people to worry but the good news is no one was hurt,” she said.

She also said the Hebron school staff members, First Student officials, State Police and Hebron EMTs all pulled together to ensure safety of those involved.

Letters were sent home to parents about the accident on Monday, Dec 10.

The two elementary schools are three miles apart on Route 85, and the route is one that is taken daily to transport students home from school.

Observations & Ruminations

by **Mike Thompson**

When I heard the news Monday morning, I was very much taken aback. The three senior police officers in East Hampton – including Chief Matt Reimondo – had all been offered buyouts by the town. New town manager Mike Maniscalco was looking to trim some budgetary fat, and the police department, it seemed, was a good place to start. There apparently hasn’t been as much turnover there over the years as you see in other municipalities’ police units, and thus its expenses have been running high.

Why was this such surprising news? Why did I deem it worthy of a cover story and also an item with which to lead off my inaugural column of 2013?

Because, frankly, I couldn’t help thinking, what would Jeff O’Keefe think?

O’Keefe, as many of you may recall, was East Hampton town manager in 2010 when he decided to lay off Reimondo. It was a move that proved to be extremely controversial. O’Keefe said the move was made purely for budgetary reasons. But others thought the decision was purely personal – it was, in a word, retaliation.

Not long before the layoff, three town employees brought complaints of sexual harassment by O’Keefe to the East Hampton Police Department. Reimondo, as the chief, forwarded the complaints to the town attorney and the Town Council. Then came the word Reimondo was getting laid off. O’Keefe’s claims that the decision was purely a financial one struck a lot of people as a little fishy – myself included, as I wrote a column at the time stating that “the timing of the whole thing really pokes holes in the ‘well, it’s for budgetary reasons’ claim.”

The situation then grew very heated, and very ugly. In the end, O’Keefe resigned – last I heard, he’s living in Arizona and working in education – and Reimondo got his job back, after the townspeople voted at referendum to reinstate his position.

So the decision that proved so unpopular it drove O’Keefe from town government – was it ultimately not as shady as it seemed? Was O’Keefe telling the truth all along, and it really was a financial decision? After all, the laying off of Reimondo was one of several budget cuts that would have resulted in, as O’Keefe and then-Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel called it at the time, the “rightsizing” of the police department. Police costs, according to a town-issued press release, had “spiraled out of control.”

We’ll likely never know for sure whether O’Keefe’s actions were really retaliatory or if they were purely motivated by finances and nobody thought to tell him that it simply wasn’t the right time to lay off the police chief, not mere weeks after he had you investigated for sexual harassment.

But considering that two years later, Reimondo is being offered a buyout – as of my writing of this column, it’s not known whether he’s taking the buyout or not – makes you think maybe money played a bigger role in this whole thing after all.

It should also be noted that the move has, so far, proven much less controversial than before. The Chatham Party-led Town Council has unanimously backed the buyout offer; two years ago, that same Chatham Party and its members were among the most outspoken against Reimondo’s removal.

So again, I can’t help but wonder, what

would Jeff O’Keefe think?

* * *

In the last issue of the *Rivereast*, there was a handful of letters about the Newtown shootings – a couple of which basically suggesting the massacre was punishment from God, for us not allowing prayer in public schools, or for us allowing “evil” to enter our lives. I’d seen such sentiment since the shootings occurred, and I didn’t agree with it, but, you know, because of free speech and all that, I published the letters. I knew there’d be two weeks before the next *Rivereast*, I knew everyone was likely consumed with the hustle-and-bustle of the holidays, but I figured there’d be a letter or two in rebuttal.

I got in this week and, well, there was not. I’ll admit, I was surprised. Like I said, I’ve seen comments like the ones expressed in those letters elsewhere on the web, and frankly I find them offensive. God is killing beautiful, innocent 6- and 7-year-olds because there’s not prayer in school? Or because abortion is legal in this country? This is the way God works? I find such thought offensive to the memories of those killed, the family members and friends still in a state of deep, deep grief, and, frankly, I find it offensive as a Christian. The God that I know wouldn’t do something like that.

And speaking of the shootings, debate continues about what to do to prevent another Newtown from happening again. The National Rifle Association had its bizarre press conference Dec. 21, where it had promised to “offer meaningful solutions.” What were they? No big shock, one of them was positioning armed guards at every school in the country. Not only would that be a huge waste of money – school shootings are, fortunately, still a pretty rare event; it’s not like there’s one every week – who’s to say it would even be effective? After all, there was an armed guard at Columbine High School in 1999. He even traded gunfire with one of the shooters. But the carnage continued. Plus, I don’t think you solve the problem of guns by throwing more guns at it.

The NRA also, bafflingly, attributed the Newtown shootings partly to “the nation’s refusal to create an active national database for the mentally ill.” This would be such a bad idea on so many levels; can you imagine the number of people who simply wouldn’t seek treatment for their mental illness for fear of winding up in some database?

Plus, the fact that the NRA – which routinely fights establishing databases of gun-owners – is the one proposing the database is rather laughable. So the names of the mentally ill should be plugged into a database but not the names of gun owners?

Tightening gun control, as I wrote in my last column, is what will offer the most help; I truly believe that. And since I started this section mentioning letters to the editor, I’ll end with by quoting one that appears in this week’s paper, from Andover resident Jay Kamins, which I very much agree with: “Background checks for all, closing gun show loopholes and banning consumer sales of military-grade weapons are not attacks on the Constitution. Owning a Bushmaster .223 will not equalize the threat of some imagined Orwellian police state.”

* * *

See you next week.

Meet the New RHAM School Board Members

by Geeta Schrayter

It's January, which, for boards of education, means it's budget time. And for two members of the RHAM Board of Education, this will be their first time looking at the school budget from the other side of the table – the side that calls the shots.

Regular attendees of the board's meetings will have noticed its make-up is a bit different from when the school year first began. Two moves out of town meant the loss of Marlborough's Jim Cherry and Hebron's Brenda Milhomme, while the resignation of Marlborough's Sandra Sudduth meant the board was down three.

Cherry's seat remains vacant, but Milhomme and Sudduth's spots have been filled with two new members, Kevin Williams and Judy Benson-Clarke, respectively.

Williams, whose term began Oct. 19, said members of the Hebron Republican Town Committee had indicated their support for his involvement when the position opened up. It was that support, he said, which "started the ball rolling." Williams began thinking about what his involvement would mean and why it was important. He explained he had a kind of "past, present and future view" of Region Eight, due to the fact he's a 1983 graduate and has children who have already graduated from RHAM, are presently in the school system, and will be in a few years.

Williams' oldest child graduated from RHAM in 2010. His second oldest is a senior, which allows him to see how well the school prepares students for post-graduate efforts, while the third is in the middle school which shows him what the middle school environment is like. His youngest is a fifth-grader, which Williams said means "I've got another six years of direct involvement with the RHAM system," adding that, for this reason, he has a "vested interest in the future" of the district.

Benson-Clarke, who started Sept. 5, also has children who are presently – and will be – students at RHAM. She has a daughter in seventh grade and another in fifth.

Benson-Clarke has a master's degree in edu-

cation, a sixth-year degree in educational administration, a doctorate in special needs and exceptionalities, and her superintendent's endorsement.

"I am deeply passionate about education and I want to make sure that our children receive an education that is second to none," she said. "I am interested in global trends and achievement. I am especially concerned about the global achievement gap."

Williams shared there were a couple of issues he wanted to focus on as he worked with the board. He said the biggest thing was education reform, which meant a lot of learning "in a brief period of time."

The budget is another issue Williams mentioned. He said he'd look at the numbers from the perspective of a taxpayer, as well as someone who has an interest in RHAM's improvement. He stated he wants to present the numbers in a way that helps taxpayers understand what expenses are required "from a compliance perspective" versus "negotiable expenses" and then make a decision based on those.

"Early and clear communication" on the financial needs of the district is needed as well, he furthered, "so the towns understand exactly what is being spent and why."

Williams said he wants to focus on enhancing the overall communication between the district and the towns, too.

"I think there definitely can be a tighter alignment and coordination between the elementary schools in the three towns and Region Eight," he said, explaining there could be improvements in the coordination of events and what sort of fundraising is going on so there are no scheduling conflicts or duplicate fundraisers.

For Benson-Clarke, it's important to focus on continuous improvement with limited resources.

"Challenges include making sure there is a



Kevin Williams

focus on continuous improvement and global benchmarking by using resources creatively," she said, "because the economy is still bad in Connecticut and resources are limited."

She added she was "very impressed" with the board, Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski and the teachers and their hard work.

"The superintendent is forward-thinking," she said. "[He] has exciting ideas such as making RHAM as attractive as magnet schools by increasing academic rigor and by focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, beginning in the seventh grade."

Likewise, Benson-Clarke called the support of the teachers and parents in the district impressive as well.

"I have also been very impressed with the teachers and the hard work that they do every day," she said. "And I know that the parents and the community are extremely supportive of children and education."

Benson-Clarke said she was looking forward to contributing and working with the current board members, while Williams added he was looking forward to serving the community.

Siminski said Benson-Clarke and Williams will have a steep learning curve due to the number of issues before them. "not the least of which is the whole issue of dealing with secu-

rity in the building [following last month's shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown] and the budget," he said Wednesday.

"So far so good," he added, but "there's a lot more ahead of them."

Along with some new members, the board officers have altered as well. At the Dec. 17 meeting members elected a new chairwoman, Laura Steiner, replacing Mike Turner, who stepped down from the board officer positions. Steiner defeated board treasurer Danny Holtsclaw by a vote of 7-1. Holtsclaw, however, was elected vice chair, a role that had been held by Cherry. He defeated board secretary Debra Dee by a vote of 6-2.

Dee's secretary position, meanwhile, was filled by Amy D'Amaddio, who won unanimously. Dee was then nominated along with Dieter Zimmer for treasurer; Zimmer won, 7-1.

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School Chorus Room.



Judy Benson-Clarke

New Hebron Public Works Director Hired

by Geeta Schrayter

Along with welcoming the New Year, Hebron residents are also saying "hello" to a new public works director.

The position, which had been vacant since Andy Tierney became interim town manager last January, was filled at the Dec. 20 Board of Selectmen meeting. By unanimous vote, the board decided to hire Kevin Kelly, a Windsor resident. Tierney said Kelly is expected to begin work by the first Monday in February. His salary is \$86,000.

Kelly comes to the position with 13 years experience as the director of operations with the Colchester Public Works Department. In that role, Kelly was responsible for many duties that mirror what will be expected of him in Hebron. His work included managing operations of the Colchester Highway Department, town grounds and transfer station. He supervised snow plowing operations, scheduled repairs to the town's water systems, and developed the department budgets.

Tierney said Kelly's knowledge and experience helped him stand out in a "real good field of candidates."

The town received "a lot of good applica-

tions," Tierney stated, and of those, interviews were set up for nine candidates. Kelly was selected as one of the top three to proceed to the second interview, after which he "came to the top."

The interviews were conducted by a panel of Kelly's peers including other public works directors and foreman Bill Standish (who had been assuming some of the duties of the Public Works director since Tierney's departure). On Wednesday, Standish furthered that Kelly had a lot of experience and "knows the job."

Standish said Kelly stood out from everybody else, even though it was a good applicant pool. He added he'd had the opportunity to work with Kelly, due to Colchester being the next town over, and "he's always shined in my eyes."

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt furthered his familiarity with the area helped him distinguish himself from the other applicants.

"Obviously being right next door in Colchester he knows the area and about mutual aid and has a lot of experience doing what Andy had been doing," Watt said. "So I think that his experience and knowing the town – I

think it's a perfect fit for him to kind of move right into the role."

Kelly said Thursday he had over 20 years experience in the construction field along with his 13 with the Public Works Department in Colchester. This, he said, "has given me first hand experience in maintaining roadway infrastructure as well as developing plans for improvements."

Since the announcement of Kelly's hire was made, Tierney said he'd received a lot of emails via an online discussion list for public works personnel saying that the town had made a good choice. Tierney's known Kelly for about 13 years, and was happy he applied for the position.

"I was happy to see that he applied and also happy to see that he's come out on top," he said. "It's a pretty good garage that he's going into," Tierney furthered. "I'm also going to be right here to help him with the position and learning curve from town to town but he's very knowledgeable of all the aspects as well."

As director, Kelly will oversee 13 people in the department. Tierney said there was some

concern about ensuring the other employees were taken care of as well, and Kelly was sure to do that.

"He's a fair boss," Tierney said.

"I think he's the type of guy where, if everybody does his job, they'll have no problems [with Kelly]," Standish added. "I think he'll fit in. We have an excellent crew so he's getting a good bunch of guys that don't mind going out and taking the extra step."

Kelly said that, as is the case with all municipalities, working with tight funding but figuring out how to provide the services the community needs may be challenging.

"We may have to look at new ways to approach problems to continue to be as efficient as possible," he stated.

But Kelly is up for the challenge, and said he's looking forward to working with the public and being productive.

"I think that customer service is important when working with the public and I am going to try my best to provide this," he said. "I am looking forward to a friendly atmosphere and a productive work environment."

Andover Selectmen OK Money for Times Farm Bridge Work

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0 Wednesday – members Julia Haverl and Cathy Desrosiers were not in attendance – to pay CME Associates, Inc. \$8,802.30 for engineering services related to work being done to the bridge on Times Farm Road.

But First Selectman Bob Burbank noted the town would be reimbursed 80 percent of that amount, or \$7,041.84, by the government through its Local Bridge Program. The program "provides for state grants and loans to municipalities for the removal, replacement, reconstruction and rehabilitation of local bridges," according to the state government website, ct.gov.

Repairs to the bridge have been long overdue, and recently deteriorated to the point where action was absolutely necessary. Last July, Burbank explained that during former First Selectman Ed Turn's administration, a subcommittee had been put in place to look at the possibility of replacing the bridge. At the time, the state had rated the bridge in "poor" condition and CME Associates, Inc. was hired to perform some of the required engineer work.

But in 2006, when Burbank took office, it was discovered there wasn't any money for the work and the project was placed on hold. The bridge was then inspected annually as required by the state and up until last year, the condition

remained the same.

After the 2012 inspection, however, the bridge had shown more degradation. It once again received a "poor" rating – but this time it was closer to the side of "critical." If the bridge reached that stage, it would be shut down until items of particular concern were fixed. Burbank said Thursday this would pose problematic since it provides access to the Channel 3 Kids Camp and homes on Old Coventry Road.

Additionally, if the bridge were to reach that point, the town would no longer be eligible for the Local Bridge Program. That would mean 100 percent of the repair cost – which Federal

Local Bridge Program Liaison Engineer Joseph Scalise said last July would likely amount to around \$750,000 – would have to be paid for by the town.

The board decided at the meeting in July to reinstate the engineering for the final design of the bridge. Burbank said Thursday CME Associates Inc. would continue to work on the engineering and then move onto the actual repair work. He said the repairs "would be looking at completion in early summer."

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Town Office Building, 17 School Road.

New East Hampton Boxing Classes Pack a Punch

by Joshua Anusewicz

It's been open for less than a year, but The Studio in East Hampton has already been a big hit amongst dancers and exercise enthusiasts. And this week, the all-purpose studio will begin offering a new class that certainly packs a punch.

The Studio, the local dance studio run by instructor Amber McAuliffe, has begun offering boxing classes, aimed toward the fitness aspect of the sport for people of all ages. "It's a great workout and one of the best stress-relievers out there," McAuliffe said.

The interest of adding boxing to The Studio's list of programs comes from McAuliffe's own interest in the sport; always wanting to give boxing a try, McAuliffe finally got her chance when she "retired" from teaching dance a few years ago. McAuliffe began taking classes at The Lion's Den gym in Middletown – where she would eventually work for a short time – and learned the benefits of boxing and the training involved, which included difficult tasks like dragging large tires and swinging sledgehammers.

"It was one of the hardest workouts I've ever done," said McAuliffe with a laugh. "It's a total body workout that's different from your everyday workout. It includes everything."

While at The Lion's Den, McAuliffe met Julio Aquino, a boxing trainer from Meriden. Aquino fought competitively for over 10 years, retiring from competition several years ago after earning four Golden Gloves titles. Aquino comes from a family of fighters, beginning with his father, Julian, a former boxer and current trainer, who passed the "sweet science" down to Julio and his brother, Danny. Danny Aquino, with Julian and Julio in his corner, is now an

internationally-ranked fighter.

After he stopped boxing competitively, Aquino began working strictly in training, working with individuals as experienced as his brother to young children just starting out in the sport. He's also worked with people on the fitness aspect of boxing, which will serve him well as the boxing trainer at The Studio.

"It's not for competition," said Aquino of The Studio's class. "It's bag work; no sparring or contact." Participants in the class will work on the heavy bags and speed bags, Aquino said, as well as shadowboxing and the various training exercises involved with boxing.

Not only will the boxing classes whip the participants into shape, McAuliffe said, but, like other combat sports like karate, it will teach "self-discipline and respect" and help build more confidence in young children.

"We're not teaching them how to fight," McAuliffe clarified. "It's about respect for themselves and for their trainer."

Boxing classes at The Studio began this Thursday and will be offered six days a week at different levels, patched in between the studio's ballet, hip hop, and Zumba offerings. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, adult/teen co-ed classes will take place from 5-6 a.m.; on Tuesday, age 9-12 co-ed will be from 5-5:45 p.m. and adult/teen female will take place from 7:15-8:15 p.m.; on Thursday, age 6-8 co-ed will be from 5:15-6 p.m. and adult/teen male will be from 7:45-8:45 p.m. On Saturday, adult/teen co-ed will be from 8-9 a.m., and age 6-8 and 9-12 co-ed will be from 9-9:45 a.m.

The Studio will be offering special pricing for the first month: \$45 for unlimited 45-minute classes per person and \$50 for unlimited hour-long classes per person. After the first month,



The Studio, a dance studio located at 1 Sinco Pl., has begun offering boxing classes for all ages and ability levels. Participants will be under the tutelage of Julio Aquino, a local boxing trainer that won four Golden Gloves titles during his time as a fighter.

each 45-minute class will be \$45, or add \$10 for unlimited classes, and each hour-long class will be \$50, or add \$15 for unlimited classes. Participants can also opt for one-on-one personal training sessions, which are \$40 per hour session.

Participants can wear any type of workout wear and any athletic sneakers, but they are

expected to bring their own hand wraps and bag gloves. Youths should bring 120-inch hand wraps and 12-ounce gloves, and adults should use 180-inch hand wraps and 14 ounce gloves.

For more information, visit thestudioct.com and click on "Boxing." The Studio is located at 1 Sinco Pl.

Area Towns See Population Increase

by Geeta Schrayter

The numbers are in, and the relatively little towns that make up *Rivereast*-land are growing.

According to a Dec. 4 report released by the Connecticut Office of Legislative Research, from 1990-2010 Connecticut's population increased from 3,287,116 to 3,574,097, or 8.7 percent.

The data, which was compiled from the United States Census Bureau and the Connecticut State Data Center, showed double-digit growth rates for all six of the *Rivereast* towns. East Hampton increased by 24.3 percent, moving from a population of 10,428 in 1990 to 12,959 in 2010. Marlborough went up 15.7 percent, growing from 5,535 to 6,404, while Portland grew 12.9 percent, up 1,090 people to 9,508.

But the highest growth rates came in Colchester, Hebron and Andover, which were among the 17 municipalities in the state that saw its population increase by 30 percent or more from 1990 to 2010.

Colchester climbed 46.3 percent, or 5,088 people, to a population of 16,068. Hebron increased 36.8 percent, from a population of 7,079 in 1990 to 9,686 in 2010, and in Andover the increase was an even 30 percent, which translates to 763 more people than the 2,540 in 1990.

Colchester First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the growth wasn't surprising considering the town.

"Colchester is a desirable place to live and has been for a long time," he said Wednesday, citing the geographical size of the town which meant there was space to build, easy access to the highway and a good school district, mak-

ing the town a popular place to raise families.

"I was born in Colchester and grew up when there were just a few thousand people, and the changes have been very remarkable over the last few decades," he added.

Schuster called growth "inevitable" and said an increased population had both pluses and minuses. Growth was good in the sense that additional people enhanced the community and made the town more vibrant, but it also calls for more services for students, more police protection and the use of more land. The key, Schuster said, is to have "controlled growth."

The town's zoning codes are meant to help with that control, Schuster explained, along with different ordinances and working with organizations such as the Colchester Land Trust and open space. Schuster said no one can "micromanage the growth." Rather, he said, "what you can do is try to make sure it occurs in a responsible manner."

Schuster said he wanted Colchester to remain a rural community, and considered the preservation of open space and active farms in town very important.

"I would hate to grow so big and have all kinds of strip malls and areas all built up – it doesn't match the character [of Colchester]," he said. He added a "proper mix" between business and residential areas was necessary.

Hebron Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt felt similarly. He attributed a lot of the growth to the rural aspects of town.

"It's very much got that country setting," he said, noting there were still running farms and a lot of community involvement which was

appealing to potential residents.

Town Manager Andy Tierney said Hebron has low crime, a good school system and is located not too far from Hartford.

For Watt, the growth meant being prepared for the present as well as the future. He explained the town had already prepared for some of the growth as it was occurring, by making sure the elementary schools and parks and recreation could accommodate the increase and that there was enough housing. And now, while the infrastructure in town is still good, Watt said the focus will be creating jobs that will bring some of the kids who are currently in school back after college.

In addition, Watt said it was important to find ways to ensure seniors in town can keep their homes, and focus on acquiring more open space to keep the "rural effect" of the town and help farmers stay afloat.

"I think we did a good job the last 10 years," Watt said, "and I think the next 10 we need to make sure the young people continue to make Hebron their home and accommodate the seniors."

Watt said the growth of the town came with a mix of positives and negatives. He said for some people, Hebron had already grown "too much for its history."

"But I also think it's positive because we've grown to a nice level: really, one that can support itself and still create that small community feeling," he stated, adding, "personally, I see a town that's going to grow a little more but not a lot more."

"We're happy that the population has in-

creased," said Tierney, "because it shows it's a good town and people still want to move in and live here."

But for Andover Vice First Selectman Jay Lindy, the growth in his town didn't come with a bright side.

"I look at things differently," he explained. "We don't have any business so the more we encourage growth the more burden we're putting on taxpayers because more residents in town means more in education dollars" if the newcomers arrive with kids.

Lindy said the town didn't have the economic growth to support an increased population.

"The only way we can help the people in town right now is finding a better source of tax dollars," he said, "and that's not going to happen because we don't have businesses in town."

Lindy said it was important to make sure the elderly population can remain in Andover. If they sell their homes, Lindy explained it opens up the opportunity for more families with children to move to town, which translates into more funds for education.

"It's tough," Lindy stated. "I would like to see the town stay where it is, but have more business ... but that's not going to happen."

Still, whether the growth is seen as negative, positive or a combination of both, it's happened – and is happening. If the U.S. Census Bureau is any indication, the numbers seem likely to only increase further. The bureau projected a U.S. population of 315,091,138 on New Year's Day – an increase of 6,343,630, or 2.05 percent, since the most recent Census Day in 2010.

Colchester Selectmen Discuss Energy Conservation Project

by Melissa Roberto

At its meeting on Dec. 20, the Board of Selectmen recommended the town adopt a lease-purchase financing plan for the proposed energy conservation project.

The project includes energy-efficient improvements in several Board of Education and town buildings: Bacon Academy, Jack Jackter Intermediate School, Colchester Elementary School, Cragin Library, both fire companies and Town Hall, among other town buildings, while also saving money the town spends on energy.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said the lease-purchase to finance the program includes a principal amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 over a period of up to 12 years, with the first payment to be made during the 2013-14 fiscal year – a financing plan that was recommended by the bond counsel, Schuster said. Prior to the selectmen meeting, members of the boards of finance, education and selectmen came to a consensus to move forward with a lease-purchase financing plan in a Dec. 12 tri-board meeting.

This project dates back to the summer of 2009, when Colchester received a stimulus grant of \$69,867 and the selectmen agreed to spend the grant funds to have an energy audit performed on the buildings. A request of approval was written and CELTIC Energy of Glastonbury was chosen to assist in selecting an energy services company.

Honeywell was hired in December 2011 and completed the investment grade audit in September of this year and made recommendations that would reduce the amount of energy town buildings would use, as well as reducing the cost of that energy.

Schuster said there would be no additional costs to the town, and Honeywell has guaranteed the town a certain level of energy savings and if those savings do not reach expectations, Honeywell has guaranteed to reimburse the town the difference.

Three public information sessions about the proposed Energy Conservation project are scheduled to be held at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, on Jan. 7, Jan. 10 and Jan. 14.

The project will ultimately need to go to a town meeting for approval.

Also at the meeting, the selectmen discussed a proposal made to the board suggesting two position changes in the Parks and Recreation department. Recreation Manager Cheryl Hancin originally proposed the idea to the selectmen on Dec. 5 in a memo. The proposal requests two changes: changing the Recreation Department's administrative assistant position from full-time to part-time and adding hours to the current recreation coordinator which would change that position to a full-time recreation supervisor.

Since the maintenance of the parks is now handled by the Public Works department, this lessens the amount of work needed for an administrative assistant position, Schuster said.

Currently, the recreation department has one full-time recreation supervisor and if these changes go into effect, there would be a total of two. Schuster explained the addition of a full-time recreation supervisor would "bring in more programs and revenue."

The board discussed how the position changes would affect the program fund. Schuster said due to a decision made four or five years ago by the Board of Finance – a time when there was a surplus in the recreation department's fund – the program fund covers two full-time salaries as well as direct costs of the programs. Since, the surplus has disappeared, placing a "burden" on the department to increase revenue, Hancin told the selectmen.

Schuster said the program fund is currently made up of a subsidy provided by the town and the rest of the money comes directly from sponsors and participants of the programs. "Having a program fund is very common but what's not common is [a program fund] covering these full time positions," said Schuster.

Schuster said there are two ways to improve the program fund: to work on ways to increase the revenue or to take the salaries out of the program fund.

A majority of the selectmen said they wish to see more numbers on a revenue estimate before making a decision on the position changes – a request that was also made by the Board of Finance in a meeting the night prior, said mem-

ber Rob Esteve.

Also at the meeting, Thomas Tyler, chairman of the committee overseeing the proposed William J. Johnston Middle School/Community Center/Senior Center building project, updated the selectmen on the project's most recent developments.

The project would renovate and expand WJJMS, and include the Community Center and Senior Center all in one building. The existing WJJMS would house the sixth grade in the western wing, while a three-story addition would include both seventh- and eighth-grades on the second and third floor. The existing building would also include a community center and senior center. Construction of the project includes the removal of the 1954 eighth-grade wing, while new parking lots for WJJMS and the senior center would be added.

Tyler told the board that the committee has received a majority of positive comments from the public with no "major" changes to the design during the presentations held in town, which was why the committee instructed the Tecton architect to finalize the schematic design report and the schematic budget estimate in a Dec. 13 meeting. The committee expects to review the estimate in the next Building Committee meeting on Jan. 10.

Tyler told the board that the committee has received an "overwhelming" number of comments from residents about the addition of a pool, but did not act upon it because the decision to include a pool in the schematic design would be a decision made by the selectmen. A majority of the selectmen agreed they would need to see the cost estimate before a pool is discussed.

In addition to the pool request, Tyler also asked the selectmen for assistance on three topics concerning the project: the order of briefing town boards and the public on the cost estimate, as well as a referendum date and the allocation of space for the proposed community center.

Schuster thanked Tyler for "all the hard work" the committee has done on this project, but he also expressed concerns about the "entirety of the project."

Schuster said he is having difficulty processing the building project while the town has "turned down initiatives to repair and maintain current infrastructure specifically fire trucks and roads."

At press time Thursday, Schuster advocated focusing on the school for now, and perhaps, depending on the cost estimate for the total project, going with a "phased approach" to incorporating the senior and community centers.

Tyler said the cost estimate is based upon a schematic design rather than "a highly-detailed design that's ready to go out to bid." Tyler stressed that the cost estimate the committee will receive later this month will not be "identical" to what it would be if the project is completely designed.

The project was to be discussed more at last night's selectmen meeting, which occurred after press time.

In addition, the selectmen also approved the purchase of the Taxpayer Inquiry Web Hosting Services Agreement with Quality Data Services, Inc. The service allows all property owners in Colchester to view their property taxes online rather than making a trip to the tax office.

According to the Quality Data Services, Inc. website, the service only displays Freedom of Information (FOI) tax information for real estate, personal property motor vehicle and utility accounts. The service backs up the tax collector database nightly and displays taxpayer information on the web via a link provided for each town.

Lastly, the selectmen appointed four residents to boards and commissions: Paul Catalano was reappointed to the Economic Development Commission for a five-year term to expire 12/1/2017, Lynne Stephenson was reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term to expire 11/1/2015, Laurie Robinson was reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five-year term to expire 12/1/2017 and Stephen Kane was appointed to the Ethics Commission for a three-year term to expire 11/1/2015. The selectmen also accepted the resignation of Police Commissioner Steven Petty, leaving a member vacancy in the Police Commission.

School Board Reviews Safety Procedures at MES

by Melissa Roberto

Since the horror that erupted at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown just three weeks ago, school districts in Connecticut and across the country have begun looking at their safety procedures – and Marlborough is no different.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz reviewed the safety procedures at Marlborough Elementary School with the Board of Education at its Dec. 20 meeting. Despite the "excellent" safety plan Sklarz said the school currently has, he said administrators will continue to look into future improvements to make sure the school is as safe as possible for students.

"If we know that there is something we can do to make our school safer and secure, it will not be put on hold because of money," Sklarz said.

MES, which is a kindergarten-through-grade six school, currently has a buzz-in system at the school's entrance with cameras providing office staff a visual of visitors. Visitors are asked to provide their names and the reason for their visit before they are let into the building.

"It's good, but we can improve on it," Sklarz said of the exterior cameras. He said the current cameras are getting old and will need to be upgraded to provide a better visual. The school has already received one estimate on a newer camera system and Sklarz confirmed the school will continue to receive estimates before upgrading the system.

Another area the board wishes to improve on is the exterior glass doors at the school's entrance. "Sandy Hook had glass windows too," said Sklarz. In order to improve the doors, Sklarz said the next step is to speak with experts and to figure out how to take care of it "immediately."

MES administrators also acted promptly as the news broke out of Newtown on Dec. 14. Sklarz said he was pleased that an alert was sent to parents within an hour of the Sandy Hook shooting. One week prior to Dec. 14, MES conducted a lockdown drill, which meant safety procedures were fresh in the minds of administrators and staff, said Sklarz.

Also at the Dec. 20 meeting, the board reviewed written comments by the parents from an open forum that was held on Dec. 19. The forum was held by the school's administrators to explain MES safety protocols and to give parents an opportunity to ask questions.

"We did get a lot of positive feedback as far as how teachers and administrators handled the situation," Sklarz said.

He added that the "touching" comments were evidence that parents felt comfortable bringing their students back to MES after the Newtown shootings.

The board also discussed a projected decline in enrollment for Marlborough Elementary School over the next five years. The estimation was provided by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), which Sklarz said is usually "right on the money" in terms of predictions.

Sklarz said the enrollment decline is similar to what Hebron is experiencing, and that over the next five years there will be fewer classes

as the enrollment numbers drop. NESDEC provided an estimate of no more than 80 students in the kindergarten class for the 2013-14 school year. Sklarz said over a period of time the school will have less than 80 students in each of the grades.

Lastly, the board awarded a one-year bus contract to Nichols Bus Company for the 2013-14 school year. Nichols has been Marlborough's bus company for about twenty years, Sklarz confirmed. Nichols was chosen based on the comparison of prices, age and condition of vehicles, knowledge of Marlborough streets, and past performance.

Sklarz said the contract was awarded for just one year because it was a way to be on the same rotation as Andover and Hebron, which will allow all three towns to go out to bid for a bus company as one entity for the 2014-15 school year – an option that Sklarz said will provide a better rate for all of the schools.

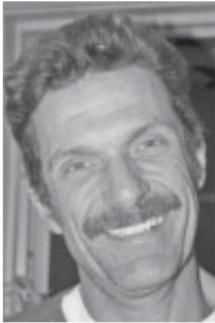
The next Board of Education meeting is set for Jan. 24, 7 p.m. at the MES library.

Obituaries

Portland

Clarence E. Gould Jr.

Clarence E. "JR" Gould Jr., 48, of Portland, left to be with the angels, fly with the birds and dwell among the stars he loved Wednesday, Dec. 19. He was the most remarkable son, brother, father, uncle and stepdad. JR was so very proud of his son, Alex (Corry), godson Michael (Kim), nephew Christian (Jay) and stepsons Dan and Tim (Kathie).



JR has left a legacy of kind, responsible and talented young men to carry on his life mission to be the best you can be every day. JR's talents were beyond compare. He could fix anything and was the world's finest transmission rebuilder and ceramic tile installer.

JR loved camping at Hammonasset, John Wayne movies, fishing, cooking, Bruce Springsteen and making friends from all walks of life with the classic line "Hi. I'm JR. How do you like me so far?"

He leaves many friends and family in Connecticut and New York including his son, Alex; parents Bud and Jessie; brothers, Jeff and Jay (Wendy); and sisters Jackie (Rich) Keithan, Judy (David) Onorati, Jill (Butch) Negrelli and Kim (Scott) Leonard; nieces, Jessica, Brittany, Rebecca, Caitlin, Mattie and Erika; and nephews Jonathan, Christopher, Derrick, Michael and Christian; best friends Guy Balsome and Joe Catalano; and stepsons, Dan and Tim Caplan and their mom, Kathie Larke.

A special thank you to the liver and transplant team at Yale New Haven Hospital especially Dr. Boyer and Dr. Assis and the nursing staff of 9W and MICU9.

Calling hours were held at St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, on Saturday, Dec. 22, with a memorial service immediately following, led by Rev. John Ashe. Please bring a memory or story to share.

Donations in JR's memory may be made to the American Liver Foundation 127 Washington Ave Suite 9 North Haven, CT 06473 to further research and treatment of autoimmune liver disease.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

You're our MacGyver, JR, and we loved every single "Glory Day" we shared with you!

Hebron

Marie (Smith) Billard

Marie (Smith) Billard, 90, of Hebron, beloved widow of Albert B. Billard, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 23, at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, surrounded by her family.



Daughter of the late Edward A. and Annie (Palmer) Smith, she was born Aug. 2, 1922, and grew up on the Smith family farm. She attended the University of Connecticut and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1944.

She married Albert B. Billard on June 6, 1943, and they were married for 61 years until his passing in 2004. They raised their four sons in Hebron, Holland and Germany, returning to Hebron where Marie was active in the former Hebron Congregational Church, Hebron Women's Club. She was also co-founder of the Hebron Daylight Quilters. After Albert's retirement in 1977, they traveled extensively around the world to Europe, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. She was an avid quilter, making many quilts for family and friends, many displayed at the Hebron Maple Festival.

She is survived by her four sons and their spouses, Roger and Paula, Tom and Jennifer, Peter and Nancy, David and friend and companion, Lynn Black; 10 grandchildren and five great grandsons. She is also survived by her friend and companion, Dwight Martin.

The family would especially like to thank Jane Ohene Agyekum, her personal care assistant this past year from 24/7 Harmony Home Care Services.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her brothers, Bradford and Edwin Smith.

Calling hours were Friday, Dec. 28, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 29, at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., (Route 85), Hebron, with the Rev. Michael Thornton, officiating. Burial will be private in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, 44 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

East Hampton

Donald P. Ingraham Sr.

Donald P. Ingraham Sr., 76, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 24, with his fiancée Deborah Foell by his side.

Donald was born Dec. 20, 1936, son of the late Elmer and Emily Kate (McKinney) Ingraham. Donald was a lifelong resident of East Hampton, attended East Hampton Schools and retired from Standard Knapp after 28 years as a lathe operator and set up man. He was a member of the IAM.

Donald was a 55-year member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department Company 1, where he held the offices of lieutenant, captain and deputy chief and for many years was captain of the fire police. He was a member of the Middlesex County Fire Police Association and the Middlesex County Fire Chiefs Association. He was a life member of the East Hampton Fireman's Recreation Association. While serving as a captain, he was placed in charge of overseeing the East Hampton Ambulance Association when they were under the East Hampton Fire Department. He would later serve on the board of directors for many years.

He was very devoted to his town and community. Donald was voted Citizen of the Year in 2009 by the East Hampton Village Lions and the following year, 2010 was voted Volunteer of the Year by the East Hampton VFW. He was a member of the St. Joseph Society of Colchester.

Donald was an avid golfer and bowler, winning many trophies in both. He loved to play setback and played for many years in the firehouse setback league. He loved camping in his RV with traveling up north as his favorite. He also enjoyed trips to Florida in February. He was a fan of country music, NASCAR, UConn football and the men's and women's basketball teams, the New England Patriots and Boston Celtics.

Donald is survived by his fiancée Deborah Foell and his best friend Bowie of home. He is also survived by his daughter Elaine Ingraham and her partner Anthony Perri of East Hampton; his son Donald Ingraham Jr. and his wife Heidi of East Hampton; four grandsons Nicholas, Dorian and Logan Tanasi, all of Granby, and Jacob Ingraham of East Hampton; his mother-in-law, Dorothy Flood of Flagler Beach, Fla., three sisters Claire Swenson of Norwich, Nancy Andrews of Uncasville and Carol Herzig (Warren) of Durham; and several nieces, nephews, an uncle and many cousins. He also leaves his extended family and his many friends.

He was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth (Flood) Ingraham.

The family would like to thank the many doctors, nurses and staff at Middlesex Hospital and DAVITA who cared for Donald for the eight and a half years.

He never gave up and lived every day to the fullest. He will be greatly missed by everyone he touched.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 29, at Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton. Burial followed in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home Friday, Dec. 28.

Memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Volunteer Fire Dept. 5 Barton Hill Rd. East Hampton, CT 06424, the East Hampton Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 or to Weiss Hospice Center of Middlesex Hospital, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Thomas P. O'Donnell Jr.

Thomas P. O'Donnell Jr. (Tommy), 49, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, Dec. 24, at Hartford Hospital. Two bluebirds came and took him to heaven to celebrate the birth of Christ.

He leaves to mourn him his father, Thomas P. O'Donnell Sr. (Pat) and his mother Venly C. O'Donnell. He also leaves his brothers Christopher J. O'Donnell, Ph.D. (C.J.) of Cape Cod, Mass., and Timothy M. O'Donnell (Timmy) of Tolland, and many good friends and loving relatives.

There are no calling hours and burial is private at Rose Hill Cemetery, Rocky Hill, at the convenience of his family.

Memorial donations in Tom's name may be made to The Heart Association.

Amston

Lisa Maynard

Lisa (Hudson) Maynard, 41, of Amston, beloved and devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend, passed away Sunday, Dec. 23, at Hartford Hospital, after a courageous battle with breast cancer.

Born Jan. 11, 1971 in Lawrence, Mass., she was the daughter of Thomas and Linda (Tozier) Hudson of Merrimack, Mass.

Lisa had worked as an engineer for the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation. She had an avid love of the outdoors, especially vacationing in Ocean City, Md. Her greatest joy was found in her family.

In addition to her parents, she leaves her loving husband of 10 years, Everett Maynard; two children, Jenna Dickinson and Ryan Maynard; her brother, Michael Hudson of Merrimack, Mass.; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A celebration of her life was held Thursday, Dec. 27, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial was private.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in her memory be made to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital, P.O. Box 5037, Hartford 06101-9960.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Joy E. Edgar

Joy E. Edgar, 77 of Portland, wife of the late John B. Edgar, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was the daughter of the late Fred and Helen (Haraden) Roberts.

Born on February 11, 1935 in Palm Beach, Fla., she has been a Portland resident for over 50 years. She was a member of the Grandview Farms Barn Committee and the Jobs Pond Girls Beach Club.

She leaves her sons and daughters-in-law, John B. and Lee Ann Edgar of Colchester and Scott R. and Shelley Edgar of Lake Forest, Calif.; a daughter, Joanne Lambert Edgar and her spouse, Michelle Edgar Lambert of Andover, N.H.; a sister, Judy A. Roberts of Bar Harbor, Maine; four grandchildren, John, Michael, Jack and Brady; several nieces and nephews; and her cat, Molly.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 2, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday morning before the service, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the CT. Humane Society, 711 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 or to Catales, Inc. P.O. Box 901, Middletown, CT 06457.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

East Hampton

Richard V. Kauset

Richard V. Kauset, 69 of East Hampton, husband of Elizabeth (Mele) Kauset, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Middlesex Hospital. He was the son of the late Victor J. and Dorothy (Schleicher) Kauset.



Born Jan. 14, 1943, in Hartford, he grew up in Portland and attended Portland High School. He worked as a mechanic at Millane Nursery in Cromwell before retiring in 2005. Richard had a passion for the outdoors enjoying hunting, fishing, boating and was an avid New England Patriots football fan.

Besides his wife, he leaves his daughters, Cherrie Knapp of Middletown, and Michelle Kauset of Florida, a sister, Pat Cartelli of Cromwell, his nephew, Justin Cartelli and many grandchildren. He will be missed by his best friend, John Breakfield and faithful dog, Bob.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 2, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday before the service, at the funeral home.

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

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Colchester

Helen Pugatch

Helen (Piechta) Pugatch, 89, of Colchester, widow of the late George Pugatch, passed away Saturday, Dec. 29, at Hartford Hospital. Born Sept. 20, 1923, in Willimantic, she was a daughter of the late Leon and Mary Piechta.



On Aug. 30, 1946, she and George were married at St. Joseph Church in Willimantic. The couple lived in Hebron for twenty years before moving to their new home on the Lebanon - Colchester town line. Together they shared 65 years of marriage before he predeceased her on May 29, 2012.

Along with her husband, she owned a Christmas tree farm, known as the Evergreen Acres Tree Farm and Nursery in Colchester. A kind-hearted, gentle woman, she enjoyed her many friends and neighbors and was ever devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

She will be sadly missed by her two children and their spouses, Joanne and Don Philips of Colchester and Gregory and Susan Pugatch of East Hampton; three grandchildren, Michael and Cheri Pugatch of Needham, Mass. (and her great-granddaughters, Madison and Molly of Needham, Mass.), Laurie and Ryan Hergueter of Cohasset, Mass., and Jeffrey Pugatch of East Hampton; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by two siblings, Emily Starr and John Piechta.

Friends called Tuesday, Jan. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 2, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St, I-91 Tech Ctr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Marlborough

Alan Walter Kompanik

Alan Walter "A.K." Kompanik, 69, of Marlborough, formerly of Manchester, husband of Johnet Kompanik passed away Sunday, Dec. 30, surrounded by family at Marlborough Healthcare Center. Alan was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and will be missed dearly.



Born Sept. 2, 1943, in Manchester, Alan was the son of the late Walter and Ida (Hargraves) Kompanik. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving his country in the US Army. Prior to his retirement in 2000, Alan was employed as a Computer Programmer in the Information Systems department with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for over 37 years. He was a member of the Manchester Coon & Fox Club for over 50 years, enjoying hunting, fishing and helping out with the annual fish fry and game dinners.

Upon retirement Alan became an expert in small/mid-size engines and many neighbors called upon him to fix their lawnmowers, snowblowers, machine tools and just about anything else.

Alan is survived by his wife of 40 years, Johnet; two sons, Ryan A. Kompanik and his wife, Heather, of Huntersville, North Carolina and Kevin J. Kompanik and his wife, Laura, of Hebron; three grandchildren, Caroline Kompanik of Huntersville and Mason and Taylor Kompanik of Hebron. He also leaves his sister, Carol Taft, of Southington, niece Melanie Taft of North Carolina and life-long friend Karl Then of Columbia. Alan also leaves his brother-in-law John Coffey and his wife Patty, and nephew John, of California. Calling hours will be held on Saturday January 5, 2013, from 2-4 p.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 4 p.m., at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main Street, Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Manchester Coon & Fox Club, c/o Mike Peretto, 788 Lydall St., Manchester, CT 06042.

To leave an online condolence, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

Agnes Leotta West

Agnes Leotta (Johnson) West, 78 of Portland, wife of Lawrence E. West for 44 years passed away Monday, Dec. 31, at Middlesex Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Sampson and Gwendolyn (Jones) Johnson.

Born Dec. 21, 1934, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived in Philadelphia, Pa., from 1965 to 1980 before moving to Portland for the last 32 years. She worked as a psychiatric aide for Whiting and Connecticut Valley Hospital for 35 years until her retirement.

Besides her husband, she leaves a brother, Benson Taylor of Elmira, N.Y., an aunt, Muriel Skeete, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by a son, Vincent Ormsby and by a brother, Albert Johnson.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, at 10 a.m. at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call on Saturday from 9 a.m. until the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 2075 Silas Deane Hwy., Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

Amston

Irene F. Luurtsema

Irene F. (Hooten) Luurtsema, 82, of Colchester, formerly of Amston, beloved wife of the late Peter Luurtsema Jr., passed away Friday, Dec. 28, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Irene was born on Aug. 29, 1930, in Grand Rapids, Mich., daughter of the late Ernest and Nora (Loftus) Hooten.

Irene is survived by her three children, Diane Reding and her husband, Richard, of Athens, Ala., Sally Desso of Norwich, and Peter Luurtsema of Colchester; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; her sister, Mary Selby of Georgia; and her two brothers, Ernest Hooten of Michigan and Jim Hooten of New York. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her daughter, Linda Desso, her son, Michael Luurtsema, and a great-grandson, Ben Rau.

Irene's family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at Harrington Court for their kind and compassionate care.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 3, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Burial followed in East Cemetery, Manchester. There were no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3045.

To leave an online condolence, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

East Hampton

Peter Simonson

Peter Simonson, 67, of Piney Flats, Tenn., and formerly of East Hampton, died Saturday, Dec. 29, in Tennessee after a long illness. Born April 26, 1945, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Arnold and Vera (Peterson) Simonson.

Peter had grown up in East Hampton and lived there until he moved to Piney Flats, Tenn., in 2006. He proudly served his country for two tours of duty as a Navy Seabee in the Vietnam War. He had worked for Aetna Insurance for 33 years until his retirement.

Peter was an avid racer for over 30 years, having built and raced his own stock cars at local NASCAR tracks. He once told his boss that the only reason he worked was to pay for his race cars. In 2006 he moved to Piney Flats, where he enjoyed the warm weather and the beautiful mountains.

A funeral service will be held today, Jan. 4, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Beth Anderson officiating. Burial will be in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

William Sprague Merritt

William Sprague Merritt of Lebanon died Saturday, Dec. 29, at home. He was born Aug. 13, 1925, the son of George and Sarah (Bailey) Merritt of Andover.

He was a U. S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific aboard the repair ship USS Ulysses. Upon his return to civilian life, he entered the construction field as a heavy equipment operator. He was employed by the DeSiato Bulldozing Service for over 50 years.

Mr. Merritt is survived by his wife, Cora (Cogswell) Merritt, three daughters, Cheryl Moeck of Griswold, Dayle Lewis of Jewett City and Lorna Robinson of Dayville, eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

He was a life member of Eastern Star Lodge 44, Willimantic and a member of I.U.O.E 478.

Memorial services will be at the convenience of the family. Donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

The Potter Funeral Home, Willimantic, assisted with arrangements. Visit potterfuneralhome.com for online memorial guest book.

Colchester

Barbara Philbrick Pennington

Barbara Philbrick Pennington, 96, passed away Thursday, Dec. 20, at her home in Colchester. She was the daughter of the late Max and Pearl (McIntosh) Philbrick, born Dec. 29, 1915 in New York City.

She is survived by her children, David G. Pennington of Derby Line, Vt., Susan P. Yeager (Walter) of Sweet Valley, Pa., Deborah P. Oborski (Steven) of Marlborough, Rebecca P. West of East Hartford and Jonathan P. Pennington (Geneva) of Schuylerville, N.Y. She also leaves her 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, as well as her brother Herbert M. Philbrick of Rocky Hill, her sister Hortense Kelly of Eastham, Mass., and her sister-in-law Charlotte Daigneault and brother-in-law Wilbur Pennington (Franny), and many nieces and nephews.

Barbara was predeceased by her sister Evelyn Philbrick and her grandson Andrew D. West.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Colchester Federated Church at 3 p.m., to celebrate the memory and life of Barbara.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit pietrasfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Mildred M. Westman

Mildred M. Westman, 91, of Rocky Hill and formerly of Newington and East Hampton, passed away peacefully on Christmas Eve surrounded by her family. Born Feb. 21, 1921, in Hartford, Mildred was the daughter of the late Raymond and Charlotte (Russell) Wheeler and the beloved wife of the late Russell Westman who passed away in 1994.

Mildred grew up in Newington, and graduated from Newington High School. She and her late husband Russell raised their children in Newington and spent 48 years on Spruce Street. Prior to her retirement, Mildred worked as a bookkeeper for Purcell Associates in Glastonbury. Her greatest joy was spending time with her children and grandchildren, especially the summers she spent at the family cottage on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton.

A beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister and aunt, Mildred is survived by her children, Charles Westman and his wife, Irma of East Hampton, Carol Angen and her husband, Donald, of Lyman, S.C., Patricia Carpenter and her husband, Ray of Glastonbury, her daughter, Jeannie Middleton, whom she lived happily with in her final years in Rocky Hill, her grandchildren, Sheila, Neil, Nicole, Jeffrey, Jill, Jennifer, and Eric, and her great-grandchildren, Elijah, Andrew, Peter and Jonathan.

Mildred's brother, Sonny Wheeler, and her sisters, Eileen Zielke, Beatrice Phillips, and Alice Hall predeceased her.

Funeral and committal services will be held privately.

Those who wish may make memorial donations in Mildred's memory to the American Parkinson's Disease Association, CT Chapter, 27 Allendale Drive, North Haven, CT 06473.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit duksa.net.

East Hampton

Philip L. True

Philip L. "Bud" True, formerly of Saxtons River, Vt., Caswell, Maine, and East Hampton, passed away Thursday evening, Nov. 29, at a Townshend, Vt., healthcare facility, following a brief illness. He was born Dec. 13, 1920, in Caswell, Maine, the son of Elwin S. and Sarah J. (Montgomery) True.

He had been employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, East Hartford Division, for 35 years and also worked as a police officer with the East Hampton Police Department and simultaneously served with the Middlesex County, Connecticut Sheriff's Department.

In addition to his parents, Mr. True was predeceased by one granddaughter, Tracey A. True; three brothers, Frederick, Harold and Stewart True; five sisters, Melissa Dyson, Mildred Jacobson, Mabel Chesky, Nettie Thornton and Gladys Gould.

He is survived by three sons, P. Dean True and his wife Kathryn of Brooklyn, Bruce S. True and his wife Jackie of East Hampton, David A. True of Petaluma, Calif.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Philip's wishes, there will be no services. Internment will take place at the Ad-vent Cemetery, Limestone, Maine.

Those who wish may contribute in memory of Mr. True to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma, OK 73123-1718.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Giberson-Dorsey Funeral Home, 144 Main Street, Fort Fairfield, Maine.

Hebron

Charles O. Senkbeil

Charles O. Senkbeil, 86, currently of Windham, passed away Sunday, Dec. 16. Born in Manchester, the son of the late Charles Otto and Grace (Hill) Senkbeil, he lived in Manchester, Hebron and Columbia.

An MP in the US Army, Charlie was a veteran of World War II. He was an electrician by trade and a member of IBEW Local 35. An avid hunter, farmer, and outdoorsman, Charlie enjoyed dancing, playing cards, and was a member of the local Grange.

He is survived by his wife, Judith (McMartin) Senkbeil as well as his children Robert Senkbeil and his wife Katherine of Columbia, David Senkbeil of Texas, Gary Senkbeil and his wife Pauline of Manchester, and Audrey Buckwell and her husband Bud of Columbia, S.C.; his grandchildren, Jennifer Marvin and her husband Gary of San Antonio, Texas, and Amy Sartori and her husband Luigi of Columbia; and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by Judy's children, Martin Wright of Windham and Carol (Wright) Cyr and her husband James of Clinton, and grandchildren Dylan Cyr and Jason Cyr of Clinton.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Antoinette (Schiavetti) Senkbeil, and his sister Evelyn (Senkbeil) Boos.

A private burial will be at East Cemetery, East Center Street, Manchester, with a memorial service to be held at a later date. There will be no calling hours.

Portland

Robert George Clayton

Robert George Clayton, 89, of Middletown, beloved husband of Antoinette (Mastergeorge) Clayton for 67 years, passed away Friday, Dec. 28, at home. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late William and Alice (Bancroft) Clayton and was raised by his aunt, the late Eleanor Clark.

Robert lived in Middletown and Portland all his life, worked for Standard-Knapp in Portland for over 35 years, was a veteran of World War II serving in the U. S. Coast Guard and an honorary life member of Veterans of Vietnam War in Middletown. He was also a member of Italian American Civic Order and of Middletown R & R Club.

Along with his wife, he is survived by two sons, Thomas R. Clayton and his wife, Nancy of Middletown and Robert F. Clayton and his wife, Katherine of Middletown; two grandchildren, Michael W. Clayton and Alice E. Straight and her husband, Brian and two great-grandchildren.

Besides his parents and aunt, he was predeceased by his brother, William T. Clayton, his son, Michael W. Clayton and his grandson, Christopher J. Clayton.

A memorial service was held Monday, Dec. 31, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in the State Veterans Cemetery. Friends called Sunday, Dec. 30, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Robert's memory to the charity of their choice.

Messages of condolences may be sent to the family at doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

William Raymond Peterson

William "Bill" Raymond Peterson, 57, of Rhode Island and formerly of Portland, died unexpectedly Thursday, Dec. 27, at his home in Rhode Island. Born in Portland, he was the son of Ernest and Phyllis (Smith) Peterson of Portland.

Bill lived in Portland most of his life and was a member of Zion Lutheran Church. He was the former owner of Peterson Oil in Portland and Bill's Sport Shop in Middletown. Bill was an active member of Portland Soccer Club, past president of Portland Exchange Club, board member of ICPA, member of NEPA, was an avid golfer and enjoyed skiing.

Along with his parents, he is survived by his son, Raymond Peterson and his wife, Jennifer of Portland; his daughter, Lauren Kerr and her husband, Shawn of Walpole, Mass.; two sisters, Ann Gilmour of Lambertville, N.J., and Martha Swanson and her husband, Jay of Portland; a grandchild, Mya; and many colleagues and friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 3, at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 Williams St., Portland, with the Rev. James R. Reemts officiating. Burial followed in Swedish Cemetery. Friends called Wednesday evening, Jan. 2, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown and may send messages of condolence to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Portland

Ruth Triblets

Ruth Triblets, formerly of Portland and Middletown, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 18, in Hernando, Fla., at the age of 93. She was the daughter of Harry and Dora Dick of Middletown, widow of Edward Triblets of Portland.

Ruth was one of six sisters and a brother and the last surviving member of the greatest generation of our family.

She is survived by her son, Richard Goodman; daughter-in-law, Julianna Goodman; her grandchildren, Doria Walsh and Jeffrey Goodman; great-grandchildren Rowan and Finn Walsh and Phoebe Goodman; and many cherished nieces and nephews who loved her joyous, positive and loving approach to life.

Both Ruth and her husband contributed to their community by donating their time to Little League, baseball, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the deaf population. Ruth was also well-known and liked by the boating community in Groton.

She lived a long and fruitful life and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Colchester

Grace Mendall

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, Grace Mendall, Saturday, Dec. 29, at the age of 97.

She will be deeply missed by her loving children, Lewis and Lorraine Mendall of Columbia, Richard Mendall of Portland, predeceased by daughter Joan Warner (2002) of Tolland. Most adored grandmother of Christine and Jeff Fournier of East Windsor, Kathy Mendall of Bethpage, N.Y., Jeff and Denise Warner of Coventry, Sherrie and Greg Sojka of Ellington, Eric and Sandy Warner of Tolland. Cherished great-grandmother of Heather, James, Eric Jr., and Jennifer. Dear sister to predeceased George and Mary Tomlinson, James and Peg Tomlinson, Margaret and Bill Salmon, Anne and Bob Bennett, Harry and Alice Tomlinson. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Grace worked and retired from The Travelers after 25 years of service and was a life-time member of The Travelers Girls Club. While residing in East Hartford for several years Grace was a member of the First Congregational Church where she was a secretary to the Woman's Fellowship and volunteered on several committees. She was an avid gardener, loved being outdoors and a cherished cat owner.

Her family wishes to extend many thanks to the wonderful staff at Apple Rehabilitation Center in Colchester for all the loving care.

Services will be held at the discretion of the family and a spring memorial service will be held in Southington.

Marlborough

Gertrude M. DiTaranto

Gertrude Marie DiTaranto (nee Melillo), beloved wife of Belisario Nino DiTaranto for 55 beautiful years, departed this life peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 19, in Stamford Hospital surrounded by her loving family who will miss her beyond words. She was born in Stamford to the late Joseph and Louise (LaBianca) Melillo, originally of Italy, on March 26, 1916.



A lifelong resident of Stamford and graduate of Stamford High School and secretarial school, Gertrude was a true lover of music. She enjoyed opera, dancing with her husband and singing in school musical productions (*Cinderella*, *HMS Pinafore*) and various choirs; notably the Greenwich Choral Society when it was directed by the late Mr. Furgiuele. Gertrude was especially proud of one memorable performance with this choir in Carnegie Hall. Her Catholic faith was extremely important to her and she felt very privileged to have received communion from St. (Padre) Pio of Italy, to whom she had a special devotion.

Gertrude was an especially devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother. She retired from secretarial work at such companies as Conde Nast Publications and Dorr-Oliver, Inc. when her daughter was born to dedicate all her energy to being the most wonderful mother, homemaker and cook and treasured every moment with her grandchildren of whom she was very proud.

Gertrude enjoyed many trips to Italy where she met and married her beloved Nino (born in Gravina di Puglia, Italy) as well as many other memorable excursions with him in the States. She made friends easily with her warm and nurturing nature and was known for her generosity, gracious hospitality, and very spirited personality. Her faith in God and zest for life helped her beat NHL cancer in her mid-eighties and survive the numerous health challenges of late.

In addition to her incredibly devoted husband, Gertrude is survived by her beloved sister, Victoria Lacerenza of Stamford, her beloved daughter and son-in-law Marianne and Ed Matunas of Marlborough, and her two adored grandchildren, Adrienne and Greg Matunas, also of Marlborough, who were the light of her life. Also surviving are beloved nieces Rosemarie Vacca, Janet Racanello (Joseph), Elaine Kanelias (George) of Stamford, and beloved nephews Joseph Lacerenza (Francesca) of New Canaan and Donald Lacerenza (MaryJane) of Stamford and several grandnieces and grandnephews, as well as her sister-in-law, Donatella Laddaga and many cherished nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews on the DiTaranto side of the family in Italy, cousins, and many close friends, especially the Boccuzzis of Stamford, who were like sisters to her.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her oldest sibling, Michael, who died in infancy, her beloved older sisters Venerina Vacca and Clelia Melillo (who died as a young child), her brothers-in-law, Joseph Lacerenza, Sr. and Tripoli Vacca, her cousins, Venerina and Frank Melillo, Frank's son Dominick Melillo, and her precious son, who died before birth.

Relatives and friends called Wednesday, Dec. 26, at the Lacerenza Funeral Home, Stamford. A Mass of Christian Burial at St. Leo's Church, Stamford, where Gertrude was a parishioner for 52 years, and entombment in St. John's Cemetery, Darien, followed on Thursday, Dec. 27.

Heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Fang Wang and all the nurses and staff of Stamford Hospital who loved and took such good care of Gertrude during her last long hospitalization, as well as Dr. Neil Cohen of The Bennett Cancer Center, whose outstanding care made 12 more joy-filled years with Gertrude possible.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Gertrude's name may be made to The Carl and Dorothy Bennett Cancer Center at Stamford Hospital, 30 Shelburne Road, Stamford, CT 06904, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To leave a condolence, visit lacerenzafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Jerome R. Wildfeuer

Jerome "Jerry" R. Wildfeuer, 83, of East Hampton, died peacefully Monday, Dec. 31, at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He was the beloved husband Judith (Matthews) Wildfeuer.

Jerry was a director of manufacturing for several local companies throughout his lifetime. He was a proud member of the Jewish War Veterans and served his country proudly in both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Besides his loving wife he will be sadly missed by his three daughters; Pamela Wildfeuer of Miami, Fla., Donna Alvarez of Miami and Jody Alligood of Waterford, CT. He was the loving grandfather of Amanda Alvarez, Monica Baber and Robert Van Gompel.

The funeral service will be held today, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m., at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home, 121 Main St., Westerly, R.I. Calling hours are respectfully omitted. Burial will be in River Bend Cemetery, Beach Street, Westerly, R.I.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, 1811 R. Street, NE, Washington, DC, 2009 or Leukemia and Lymphoma, Connecticut Chapter, 372 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.

East Hampton

Gregory S. Boryslawskyj

Gregory S. Boryslawskyj, 56, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Cassandra (DiNicola) Boryslawskyj, died unexpectedly Tuesday, Jan. 1, at Marlborough Medical Center. Born April 27, 1956, in New York City he was the son of the late Stefan and Hermani Boryslawskyj.

Gregory graduated from Central Connecticut State University and had worked at Pratt & Whitney as a mechanical engineer.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son Troy Stefan Boryslawskyj of East Hampton, his sister and brother-in-law Minodora and Antonio Vila of New York City, his mother-in-law Eva Martin of Clinton and other extended family.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 5, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery.

The Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.