

RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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**Rudolph, With Your Nose So Bright...** Alivia Peterson was excited to meet Rudolph when he visited the East Hampton Nursery School over the holidays.

## Portland Gears Up For Radio Station

by Elizabeth Bowling

Who ever said video killed the radio star? The Portland High School radio club, in partnership with Middlesex Community College's broadcasting program and the Town of Portland, is working to bring an FM frequency to town.

So far, Middlesex Community College (MxCC) has taken the reigns and applied for an educational license with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in November and on Dec. 16, the FCC published a list of applicants that were not accepted. That list did not include MxCC. Thus, the FCC unofficially permitted MxCC (in partnership with Portland) to move forward with its radio station at the FM frequency 107.5.

Rich Lenoce, the director of the Center for New Media at MxCC, explained, "The FCC doesn't necessarily issue a list of people that have been accepted."

Though Lenoce has only been at MxCC 20 years, he said, "It's been 30 years we've been waiting for a license window to open up and an opportunity like this to open up."

Regarding the timeline on being issued (or not being issued) a construction permit to build an antenna tower and transmitter within Portland's town lines, Lenoce said, "You don't know with the federal government."

But, he added, construction permits should be issued later this month, and MxCC is expecting to be issued one.

The antenna tower would be located at the

Portland Town Garage off Route 17, about a quarter-mile from the four corners. Also in the garage, next to the antenna, would be a transmitter and connection to the studio in Middletown. There would also be a connection between PHS and MxCC, Lenoce said.

The next step in this radio station installment is for an engineer to put together a proposal, he said. After reviewing a proposal, MxCC will need funding to actually begin construction.

"Now we have to find the funds to actually construct the antenna and the transmitter [and buy equipment]," Lenoce said.

The exact cost of the project will depend on the height of the antenna tower and the quality of equipment. Lenoce added he doesn't know where funding for the project will come from, but he noted the possibility of funding through donations, grants, and state and federal funding sources.

However, the studio for the actual radio is already in the works on the MxCC campus, in the Center for New Media building.

Lenoce explained that the college already has a studio, but the construction of a new facility will be completed by the beginning of September – just in time for a new academic year.

Regarding the PHS multimedia program, Lenoce said, "They have a really great program over there and we're really excited to be working with them."

He noted the possibility of "articulating a  
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## Details Released on East Hampton Murder Investigation

by Elizabeth Bowling

Court documents were released Monday from Middlesex Superior Court in connection with the arrest of a former East Hampton man in the 1998 murder of a 60-year-old woman.

The arrest warrant affidavit, which was applied for by Inspector Michael Sheldon of the State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice and the Cold Case/Shooting Task Force Bureau at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, was released following the arraignment of Gerald "Brian" Tuttle, 51, formerly of East Hampton but most recently from Surfside Beach, S.C.

It describes a nearly 16-year investigation conducted by the now-retired Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police Department.

Tuttle was charged last month with murder in connection with the 1998 death of Gertrude Ochankowski. Her death was immediately classified as a homicide, but went unsolved for more than a decade. However, as the affidavit explains, new developments in forensic technology connected Tuttle's DNA to physical evidence found during the investigation.

According to the affidavit, on Jan. 12, 1998, Ochankowski's body was discovered in a stream near Tartia Road. Court documents stated that upon the discovery, Ochankowski appeared "completely lifeless and naked from

the waist down. On-scene investigation revealed what appeared to be drag marks in the soil leading from the vicinity of a tire mark on the east side of Tartia Road to the side of the stream where the body was found, indicating that the body was transported to the scene in a vehicle and that the scene was a secondary scene/dump site."

The documents furthered, "A sweatshirt had apparently been pulled over her head and was tangled about her head and lower arms. Grey duct tape was found around both of her wrists."

The affidavit stated that police found wood chips in Ochankowski's sweatshirt and strands of hair stuck to pieces of duct tape at the dump site.

Kelly's investigation included backtracking to Jan. 11, 1998 – the day prior to the discovery of Ochankowski's body – when Ochankowski's vehicle had been reported parked and running with her dog and pocketbook inside in front of a Laundromat at 82 Main St., East Hampton.

Witnesses reported seeing her car parked there with its motor idling as early as 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, 1998. Ochankowski's laundry was identified inside the Laundromat Jan. 12, 1998, prompting a missing person's investigation, court documents reported.

East Hampton Police first interviewed Tuttle the day after the discovery of the victim's body. In his interview, Tuttle told police he was the superintendent of an apartment building at 82 Main St., where he was also a resident in apartment No. 205.

The owner of the building at 82 Main St., Frank Carreiro, affirmed that Tuttle was the live-in superintendent of the building for the prior six months, according to the affidavit. The position granted Tuttle keys and access to every room in the building, Carreiro said.

In his interview, Carreiro stated that Tuttle had "taken a 'keen interest' in the building and was constantly taking people on complete tours of the building."

According to the affidavit, Carreiro described Tuttle as an "emotionally-insecure person always looking for approval in his work and finding it difficult to accept criticism." During his six months of employment, Tuttle quit his job seven times, Carreiro said, each time returning to him and asking for it back.

Tuttle told police during his Jan. 13, 1998 interview that on the day of the murder he was working all morning and afternoon with a carpenter named Chris Percle, the affidavit states.

Percle was later interviewed, and said he and his brother Kenneth Percle worked at 82 Main

St. that day. Both brothers, interviewed separately, said they were the only two people working in the building that day and denied even seeing Tuttle at work that day.

Tuttle told police he went to Main Street Pizza Restaurant – located directly across the street from the Laundromat – at around 8:30 p.m. and stayed until about 9:15 p.m. on Jan. 11, 1998, and had a few beers. He provided no means to confirm his whereabouts after 9:15 p.m.

Police interviewed John Manolakis, the owner of Main Street Pizza Restaurant, as well as his sister, Anthoula Manolakis, who both worked the night of Jan. 11, 1998.

According to the affidavit, John Manolakis confirmed that Tuttle stopped by the restaurant that night and "appeared depressed."

Anthoula Manolakis said Tuttle had two beers over the course of his 30-minute stay, but looked like he "had a few beers prior to entering the restaurant, because his eyes were red and glazed." She recalled that Tuttle asked her if he would go out with her sometime, to which she responded, "maybe."

Some discrepancies arose, according to court documents, between Tuttle's initial police interview and police interviews with other par-

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**Investigation cont. from Front Page**

ties. For example, Tuttle told police he did not know Ochankowski. However, two separate witnesses recalled conversations between Tuttle and Ochankowski in the Laundromat.

Ochankowski's friend, Leigh Kinze, provided a statement to police saying that she observed two conversations between Tuttle and Ochankowski in the month prior to Ochankowski's death. Kinze recalled one conversation that she took part in at the Laundromat, in which Ochankowski said she was interested in finding a new apartment and Tuttle told her when the apartments at 82 Main St. would be ready for occupancy.

When police interviewed Jeanette Adams, an attendant at the Laundromat, she, too, attested that she witnessed Tuttle and Ochankowski converse two or three times over the prior six months, as stated in the affidavit. She said Ochankowski was a regular customer at the Laundromat.

When asked about Ochankowski's idling car, Tuttle said he didn't know about it until a third party brought it to his attention around 7 a.m. on Jan. 12, 1998, the affidavit said.

But, also according to the affidavit, Adams said in her police interview that when she got to work at 9 a.m. the morning of the 12th, she took note of the suspicious idling car parked outside. When she saw Tuttle an hour later, she asked him if anyone had called the police about the car. He told her "they took care of it." When Adams spoke with Tuttle again at 5 p.m. that same day, she told him to notify the police of the car. Tuttle claimed to have used the phone in Adams' office and told her that the matter was being taken care of and that the car had actually been running all night, though he did not tell her how he knew that.

Alas, according to court documents, "There is no record of Tuttle ever calling the police about the car."

Adams also said in her interview that she thought it was "unusual" that Tuttle came into the Laundromat several times Jan. 12, 1998.

\* \* \*

Tuttle admitted in his first interview that he was "highly depressed" due to the then-recent breakup with his girlfriend, Denise Brookman, with whom he had a daughter, who was 4 at the time. He also admitted to a "long history of drug and alcohol abuse."

Brookman was listed as residing in East Hartford, the affidavit said. She and Tuttle had actually lived together, with their daughter, until Jan. 6, 1998, when Brookman had "forbidden" Tuttle to return home because she suspected he was involved in some sort of substance abuse, the affidavit stated.

Carreiro said Tuttle lived in apartment 205 at 82 Main St. "on-and-off when he would fight with his girlfriend." He said Tuttle, Brookman and their daughter were supposed to all officially move in to apartment 205 on Jan. 11, but given the recent break-up, Tuttle moved in by himself "on or about" Jan. 7.

Also during his initial interview, Tuttle told police he did not have any vehicles at his disposal at the time, court documents stated.

However, several witnesses from the Heidelberg Inn, a local bar, said otherwise. The witnesses each said they saw Tuttle at the Heidelberg Inn on the afternoon of Jan. 11, 1998, and he was driving a blue car.

Two residents of 82 Main St., as well as Carreiro, affirmed that Tuttle had been operating a blue Volvo in the days surrounding the murder and had been parking it at the 82 Main St. parking lot.

Brookman was listed as the registered owner. Brookman told police Tuttle had taken her Volvo without her consent following their Jan. 6 breakup. On Jan. 15, 1998, Brookman gave police consent to seize the Volvo and analyze it for evidence.

By the time of the seizure, the Volvo had been moved to Tuttle's brother's house at 99 Midwood Farm Rd., which the affidavit referred to as "a remote section of East Hampton." Tuttle had allegedly asked his cousin to move the Volvo to the Midwood Farm Road residence in the days following Ochankowski's murder. Tuttle's cousin said he considered Tuttle's history of sexual assault and brought the Volvo to the EHPD, requesting that investigators inspect the car. (According to the *Hartford Courant*, Tuttle was arrested by state police in 1989 for sexually assaulting an elderly woman in East Haddam. The *Courant* said Tuttle grabbed the woman, whom he did not know, outside a Laundromat and sexually assaulted her. He then let her go.)

The affidavit stated that investigators opted to wait until they had consent from Brookman before conducting a search. Tuttle's cousin then

brought the Volvo to Tuttle's brother's house where it remained until its seizure.

Several items were found in the Volvo and taken as evidence. They included: black-colored upholstery from the front driver's and passenger's seats with an unknown substance, which police suspected to be fecal matter. The unknown substance from the driver's seat was submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Safety Forensic Science Laboratory in Meriden for forensic testing and analysis.

The DNA report stated that the substance tested positive for the presence of human feces. The feces were "microscopically similar" to the fecal matter obtained from an anal swab obtained from the victim at autopsy, indicating that the fecal matter found inside the Volvo originated from the victim.

The examination of the Volvo also found trace fibers on the victim's sweatshirt were "microscopically similar" to fibers found in debris inside the Volvo, as well as wood chips that were also found in Ochankowski's sweatshirt, the affidavit said. The chips were also found on duct tape from the dump site – as well as another apartment at 82 Main St., apartment No. 307.

According to the affidavit, Kenneth Percle was doing carpentry work in Apt. 307 when he found a gold earring on Jan. 18. He submitted it to police, who searched the apartment further and found a contact lens suspected to be Ochankowski's, as well as a piece of duct tape, and a stained baseboard heater cover.

The evidence was found in the bedroom of Apt. 307 – the room farthest removed from the occupied apartments on the second floor.

Based on the circumstantial evidence, the court documents stated, "The upstairs bedroom of apartment No. 307, of the third floor apartment of 82 Main St., was believed to be the primary scene of the assault which resulted in the victim's death. The room identified as the primary scene in this case was in such a remote section of the building that it is probable that the assailant had prior knowledge of its whereabouts and access routes."

The documents furthered, "No evidence was found that suggests any struggle or assault took place anywhere in 82 Main St. other than the primary scene. Therefore, it is likely that the victim was somehow lured or enticed to voluntarily go to the upstairs bedroom of apartment No. 307."

According to the affidavit, Tuttle had a fresh scratch on his forehead and upper nose, as well as several wounds and small marks on his arms, on his Jan. 13, 1998, interview. He told police, "I don't know how it happened. I must have done it at work today."

\* \* \*

Tuttle was "re-interviewed" March 7, 1998, the affidavit said, and "maintained his denial of involvement in the victim's death." He also denied having ever known Ochankowski. He did, however, admit to lying in January about his lack of use of a vehicle – he admitted to using the Volvo and said he had previously lied about it because his license was suspended and he did not want to be arrested for driving with a suspended license. His license was in fact suspended.

Throughout his entire interview on March 7, 1998, the affidavit said. Tuttle was allowed to smoke cigarettes, despite the fact that the EHPD was a "no-smoking" facility. Four of Tuttle's cigarette butts were secured as evidence for later analysis.

On June 3, 2003, both Ochankowski's and Tuttle's DNA profiles were obtained; Ochankowski's was obtained via a sample of known blood and Tuttle's was obtained via the cigarette butts collected following his March interview.

On May 13, 2008, Kelly was assigned to the Chief State's Attorney Office Cold Case Unit and resubmitted evidence to the forensic laboratory "based on advancements in forensic technology," the affidavit stated. The results of those examinations were returned to the EHPD in 2010 and 2012 and showed a mixture of the victim's and Tuttle's DNA on the duct tape found at the dump site.

Additional DNA mixtures of the victim's and Tuttle's DNA were found in the stains in the Volvo in question.

According to the affidavit, the stain on the driver's seat tested positive in 2008 for acid phosphatase, an enzyme found in semen, fecal matter and some other bodily fluids. The stain also tested positive for human seminal fluid protein, which is only found in human semen.

Court documents stated Tuttle's DNA profile was consistent with the DNA found in the sample from the driver's seat stain.

A sample of the passenger's seat stain un-

derwent a chemical screening test in 2008 and blood was detected. The sample also tested positive for acid phosphatase but negative for human seminal fluid protein. Tuttle's DNA profile was eliminated as a contributor to the fecal-type stain, the affidavit stated.

Based on vaginal and anal swabs taken from the victim at autopsy, results showed "weak positive results" for acid phosphatase and nega-

tive results for human seminal fluid protein.

\* \* \*

The arrest warrant was signed on Dec. 5, and police arrested Tuttle in South Carolina on Dec. 10. According to the state judicial website, Tuttle has been charged with murder and he has yet to enter a plea. The case is pending.

**Radio Station cont. from Front Page**

radio class" that would allow PHS students to take a high school class and earn college credit for it – that college credit would be issued by MxCC and could be used anywhere.

Lenoce said, "It opens up a lot of opportunities for the students of PHS to [have] a hands-on career experience."

There's currently no specific date in mind for when the new station will begin broadcasting, but Krista Karch hopes it will be "very soon." Karch has been the multimedia and technology teacher at PHS for about eight years and club advisor for the school's radio club since it first started about four years ago. Like Lenoce, she said the new station would be a win for her students.

"We're really happy to have the opportunity," Karch said. "I think it's great for Portland. I think it's great for the Portland students. Any opportunities we can give them to experience authentic events and happenings, I think that's what teaching is all about."

She explained how the radio club, which is technically an extracurricular activity, has operated for the first four years of its existence.

"We did broadcasting through the Internet," she said, because the school didn't have its own radio frequency. "We never had our own FM radio."

(The station shut down just before Christmas break, Karch said, and will start up again once the new transmission tower is built.)

She said, "Every hour of the day we had different shows going on."

By "every hour," Karch clarified that she meant "each period of the school day." But the club also did shows outside of school hours. For example, students would broadcast Highlander basketball games, she said. At one point, the club even offered shows 24/7.

According to Karch, students could run the shows during study hall, lunch, or other similar free periods. But "they couldn't miss class for it," she affirmed.

"I know it's a great program," Karch said about the high school radio show. "It provides the kids with hands-on learning and lots of experience that they're then going off to college and using."

Karch boasted that four PHS students have "gone on to have their own radio shows in college."

Karch called having a radio frequency "the next step for us."

She also stressed some benefits to having a frequency; for example, it would make the PHS radio show "more professional" and give students' grandparents a chance to listen if they're not comfortable with the Internet.

Karch said having a radio frequency would not only impact the radio show, but also it would impact her curriculum because "we'll have a

lot of opportunities there. So we'll tailor the curriculum to incorporate them." She furthered, "As new opportunities arise, I'm always tweaking the curriculum."

Karch said she likes the broadcast program at MxCC. In the past she's even introduced some of her high school students to Lenoce and recommended them for the program. She said it gives her students a chance to see "what a great program it is [at MxCC]."

"I'm just really impressed with what they've done with my specific students," she said. "It'll be nice to continue to collaborate with them."

Karch called Lenoce "the visionary," as he approached her with the FM frequency opportunity more than a year ago.

The new FM frequency will have the potential to be a 24/7 broadcast, but is only required to broadcast 36 hours per week, Lenoce affirmed.

He predicted his college students would use their airtime to broadcast music, talk radio, campus lectures, and other campus events, such as graduation.

MxCC students would share their airtime with PHS students, as well as with the Town of Portland, as the station will be part of the "emergency alert system," which is both national and local, Lenoce explained.

He said the town could use an emergency system to inform residents of storm damage, floods and/or road closures, for example.

He called the opportunity for an emergency alert system "very helpful to a town like Portland."

Dave Kuzminski, the town's technology coordinator, agreed.

He said, "It's going to be an avenue in the case of an emergency situation."

Kuzminski also affirmed that the town wouldn't be fiscally responsible for any construction, as MxCC will prepare grant money. Essentially, the town's only responsibility in partnership with MxCC is to provide a location for the antenna tower and transmitter, he said.

He furthered that according to FCC regulations, the town garage "happens to fit within that geographical area that they can have the transmitter." He added, "We're basically providing them with the site and collaborating in the partnership."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield expressed optimism about the partnership.

She said, "I'm really thrilled because it's a nice combination of education – high school, college and educating the public. It's a win-win for everyone."

She concluded, "It's certainly good news for Portland and Portland High School. It gives us an opportunity to speak to residents by radio."

# New Year, New Finance Director for Hebron School System

by Geeta Schrayter

The New Year arrived with a new employee for the Hebron Public School district: Bridgeport resident Richard Huot, who officially took over yesterday as the director of finance and operations.

Huot replaces Dave Linehan, who had been acting as the interim finance director for the district since April. The previous finance director for the school system, William Mazzara, had been placed on paid leave in January, amid a scandal involving alleged misuse of funds by former schools superintendent Eleanor Cruz. Mazzara's services had been contracted out to the Hebron school board two days a week by the Region Eight (RHAM) school district; the Hebron board voted in March to terminate the agreement for his services. Mazzara ultimately resigned in May.

Huot will be working in the district for an average of three days a week instead of two, an increase Schools Superintendent Jeff Newton said in a budget summary last month would "provide additional financial control and oversight to our school district."

Huot signed a one-year contract through June 30 and will be paid \$550 for each business day he works.

He comes to Hebron after working with the finances and operations for a number of towns throughout the state – most much larger than Hebron. He was finance director for Darien Public Schools from 2007-13, working for a school system with an \$80 million budget. (Hebron, by comparison, sports a \$12 million

budget this current school year.) Prior to that, he worked as the director of business with Bridgeport Public Schools from 2004-07, where he was responsible for a budget nearing the \$200 million mark, and was with Manchester Public Schools as the business manager from 1999-2004. He has also worked in the Wethersfield Public School system, for East Hartford Public Schools and Watertown Public Schools.

This week, Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter commented on Huot's experience.

"He comes with experience from many districts much larger than Hebron," she said. "He knows what he needs to do as business manager."

Newton agreed. While he said one of Huot's initial challenges will be getting used to how the district operates, he added, "the great thing is in his past experiences he handled very large budgets."

"I think he understands all the components of our budget, even though it's only \$12 million," Newton stated, and explained Huot has already spent a lot of time in the district, working with Linehan to get caught up to speed, even though he only officially started yesterday.

Newton said this proactive approach would be helpful considering the budget for the 2014-15 school year is currently being worked on.

"He's become very familiar with the [budget] document and he hadn't even started working," said Newton.

With Linehan's help, both Newton and Leichter said they felt the district was in good shape. Newton said things were "in the right order" and the district was working "very hard" to make sure they were being as transparent as possible and the necessary policies and procedures were in place.

"I think we have more of a budget process in place because of Dave Linehan's work," Leichter furthered.

She added Huot "fully understands there are going to be more eyes on us in general – as they already have been" due to the scandal with Cruz and Mazzara, under whose watch a district credit card was opened with a \$50,000 limit; Cruz allegedly racked up around \$15,000 in questionable expenses; and a study of the districts business operations that took place after an insurance error was discovered last year,

found there were a number of weaknesses in the schools' business office operations.

But now, Leichter asserted "we totally revamped the business department: there are new people in place and new processes in place."

"I think there are going to be more eyes on him [Huot] but I think he's fully aware and he's equal to the task," she said.

"He's going to pick up where Linehan left off," Newton furthered, by making sure the right business practices and protocols are in place and the district is "as transparent as possible."

Newton said he hopes Huot will "share his expertise" with the district and "keep our business operations working in the best possible order – which I'm certain he'll do."

"He seems to be a good fit for our district," Leichter concluded. "We're really quite pleased that he's with us."

## HES Named a 'School of Distinction'

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron Elementary School has been recognized as a "School of Distinction" according to the 2012-13 School Performance Report recently released by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

The School Performance Report provides information on "key accountability indicators" such as test scores for every school and graduation rates for high schools, according to a guide for parents from the CSDE. Included in the report is a School Performance Index (SPI) which ranges from 0 to 100 and is the average of all performances on state tests for all of the tested subjects. At HES, that meant students' performance on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), which is administered to students in grades three through eight. Additionally, a District Performance Index (DPI) is included, which is the corresponding average for all students in the district.

The state goal is for schools to have an SPI of 88 or above and in Hebron that goal was met: the HES SPI for 2012-13 is 91.2. The school was also above the target in each of the tested subjects. In math, the SPI was 92.2; in reading, 90.5; writing came in at 91.9 and science re-

ceived an SPI of 93.6.

(In Hebron, the DPI is the same as the SPI because only one school – Hebron Elementary School – participates in state tests. Gilead Hill School doesn't participate since it's a pre-kindergarten-through-second-grade school.)

Based on the above indicators, each school is placed into one of six categories: "excelling," "progressing," "transitioning," "review," "focus" or "turnaround," with "excelling" being the highest classification.

Along with being recognized as a School of Distinction for having one of the highest overall performances in the state, HES was also classified as "excelling" (schools classified as "excelling," "progressing" or "transitioning" may be named a School of Distinction). Earning that classification means in part that the school has an average SPI of 88 or above and more than 25 percent of students scored "advanced" in a majority of the tested subjects. Test participation also needs to be at 95 percent or above: at Hebron Elementary School, there was 100 percent participation.

In a letter Schools Superintendent Jeff New-

ton sent out regarding the report, he shared Hebron Public Schools is one of 123 schools across the state in the "excelling" range and one of 52 schools across the state with the highest overall performance.

"The work being done in the classrooms and your support at home is clearly producing high achievement across our district," he wrote. "We are extremely proud of this accomplishment, and will continue to work in making further improvements that will benefit our students both academically and socially."

This week, Newton said that while the report shows the district is doing well, "there's always room for improvement." With the changes in education that are occurring such as a switch from tests like the CMTs to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, "there's going to be a learning curve for everyone."

"We're going to have to work hard to adapt," he said, adding, "Hopefully we'll continue to move in the right direction and make sure our kids are always on top."

Regarding the present scores, Newton said being recognized as a School of Distinction was

"quite an accomplishment" – and one he attributed to the staff.

"I attribute [the distinction] to the hard work of teachers and all the staff and the administrative team and our director of curriculum [Vonda Tencza]," he said. Tencza "aligns all of our professional development and works hard at making sure teachers have the skills and tools to implement in class. That makes all the difference."

Board of Education Chairwoman Maryanne Leichter felt similarly.

The distinction is due to "the hard work of the teachers and the administrative staff and also we have a really excellent curriculum director," she stated.

Tencza, Leichter said, "works hard with staff to give them the professional development they need to reach their goals."

And the teachers, she furthered, "are key." "Nothing happens unless the teacher does it," Leichter said.

And with terms like "excelling" and "School of Distinction" being used to describe HES, it's clear they're doing quite a bit.

# Vacant Selectman Position Filled in Marlborough

by **Melissa Roberto**

A replacement for selectman Michael Gut has been found – although that may not be the end of the story.

Gut, a Democrat, resigned from the Board of Selectmen in November, upon moving out of town. The remaining members of the board, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and Dick Shea, both Republicans, unanimously voted Dec. 19 to appoint resident Denis Soucy to fill the position. Soucy was sworn in the following day, Friday, Dec. 20, Gaudinski said.

That same day, according to the town clerk's office, paperwork to petition the town to hold a special election for the new selectman was picked up. According to state statute, if the petition is signed by 209 registered voters, the election would be held. The statute states the petition must be filed at the Town Clerk's office within 15 days of Soucy's appointment, which is today, Friday, Jan. 3. As of the *Rivereast's* press time Thursday, Town Clerk Nancy Dickson confirmed a petition had yet to be filed.

Dickson furthered if the petition was received, she would contact the secretary of state's office, which would give the proper timeline for an election. The Democratic Town Committee (DTC) would hold a caucus to endorse a candidate to run against Soucy. If this process was to be carried out, Dickson confirmed Soucy would remain a selectman up to the election.

Soucy was one of three citizens who expressed interest in the role, Gaudinski announced in the Dec. 19 meeting. This may have come as a surprise to the public who, at the Dec. 3 Board of Selectmen meeting, learned that the DTC recommended Democrat Torin Lee-Lewis. At the time, Lee-Lewis was the only candidate who had expressed interest. The candidate has lived in town for three years and owns Oneida Holistic Health Center. The selectmen interviewed Lee-Lewis on Dec. 3 but did not take action on filling the vacancy that night.

It was at the Dec. 19 meeting that Gaudinski read aloud a letter from Soucy and the third individual interested in the position, local attorney Eric Young. Both Lee-Lewis and Soucy attended the meeting; Young was not in attendance and therefore was not interviewed.

At the meeting, Soucy introduced himself as a resident of Marlborough since 1981. He said

he had raised two children in town and started a small construction business years ago which he still runs today. Soucy is also a former veteran member of the Planning Commission, he said, having sat on the commission for 31 years. Soucy chose not to run for re-election this past November. He had acted as the commission's chairman since 1985.

Soucy spoke of his past and current knowledge with town happenings, stating he had become familiar with several due to his legacy on the commission. He highlighted his familiarity with the Town Center plan, the business district plan, as well as the water system currently in progress of potentially making its way to the town center, road maintenance and Phase I and Phase II of the town's sewer project. In regards to the water system, Soucy told the selectmen he feels the town is "in dire need of that."

Shea asked Soucy what he sees as the key issues of the town, to which Soucy responded the need for a greater commercial base.

"Our commercial base is pretty anemic right now," he said. "I think it's important for us to build on that. I think that's a primary goal for us."

Gaudinski asked Soucy what he feels the responsibilities of a selectman are. He said they included "oversee[ing] how the town handles itself," adding that making sure the bills are paid and overseeing boards and commissions are a part of that.

Soucy again stressed the importance of getting "a little bit better commercial base," as well as preserving the town's current character that attracted citizens to Marlborough in the first place.

"I think it's important we keep our growth centralized so it's not interfering with our neighborhood population," he explained, "and also try to keep traffic to the point where it's not a problem of our town center. I think the growth is important but I also think it's important to keep our way of life similar to what it is today."

Before Soucy's appointment was made, Gaudinski and Shea both commented on the forthcoming of all three candidates. Shea said he wished he could have had the opportunity to interview Young. He also stated his appreciation for the "luxury" of having a pool of three candidates to choose from – something Shea

stressed is often hard to come across when it comes to looking for volunteers.

Shea said he did not personally know Lee-Lewis, but highlighted qualities she felt would serve her well as a selectman.

"She's certainly an articulate and bright individual," said Shea, "and she has the best interest of the town by virtue of the fact that she's opened a business here."

Shea then explained his decision to support Soucy.

"While I wouldn't feel like we were stepping into any kind of difficulty with any one of the three candidates, the one that I know from watching him actually perform is Denis," said Shea. "For that reason I would incline to support him for the position and hope that the other two candidates would keep their eyes open and jump in when another opening comes up because we need all the help we can get."

Gaudinski echoed those sentiments. She said she was looking for someone who has "current experience and has worked with the town."

Gaudinski continued, "Denis would bring knowledge of the Planning and Zoning land use regulations, which would be very helpful."

The selectwoman sincerely thanked Lee-Lewis for expressing interest, adding she was in "good consideration for the benefit of the town." Gaudinski also said she hoped "the Democratic Town Committee would support a seasoned candidate of 30-plus years of service to the town."

Officers of the DTC reacted this week to the appointment. Chairwoman Lauren Cragg and Vice Co-Chairman Joe La Bella both issued personal statements to the *Rivereast*. Each officer stressed they were speaking as individuals and not on behalf of the DTC.

"The Democrats should decide who should replace the Democrat that they selected, by whatever process," Cragg stated. "On principle, Republicans should not be selecting a Democratic selectman."

La Bella said he was personally surprised the board opted not to appoint the DTC's recommended candidate.

"I was expecting the selectmen to appoint Torin [Lee-Lewis] that night [Dec. 19]," La Bella said. "In the 20 years that I have been involved in Marlborough this is the first time that the selectmen have rejected a party's recommended

candidate for an office. It's a large departure from the tradition in Marlborough."

This week, Gaudinski confirmed the selectmen properly followed the legal requirements for appointing a selectman. According to state statute 9-222 the remaining Board of Selectmen had 30 days from the date of Gut's vacancy (Nov. 26) to appoint a candidate. In this case, the selectmen had a deadline of Dec. 26. By law and town charter the appointed selectman would need to be of the same party as the vacating selectman, in this case, a registered Democrat. Gaudinski confirmed the appointed Democrat could be any registered Democrat in town, not specifically a Democrat endorsed by the DTC. The state statute includes provisions and a timeline of what would have occurred if the selectmen did not fill the seat in 30 days.

Gaudinski also said this is not the first time in Marlborough the Board of Selectmen has appointed a selectman who wasn't a party's recommended candidate. In 1992, Republican selectman Alan Shusterman resigned. Democratic First Selectman Howard Dean and fellow selectwoman Vi Schwarzmann appointed citizen Tom Hayes to the role instead of the Republican Town Committee's recommendation of Ken Burtis. Gaudinski added similar appointments have also occurred on various boards and commissions.

Regardless of a petition circulating around town this week, Soucy said this week he's looking forward to his new role as a selectman.

"Marlborough is on the verge of some very important governmental changes and some large development projects," he said, "and I'm excited to be a part of this effort."

He continued, "The expansion of the sewer system, the implementation of a new water system, the future development of the business park, new commercial development in and around the town center, and the future charter review are to name just a few of the upcoming items that the board will be addressing."

He concluded he's "eager" to get started. To Gaudinski, the board "was acting in good faith in selecting an experienced individual for the benefit of the town."

\* \* \*

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

## East Hampton Police News

12/10: Kyle Rutkauski, 20, of 127 Pearl St., Enfield, turned himself in pursuant to an active arrest warrant for second-degree sexual assault, East Hampton Police said.

12/22: Shaun M. Michaud, 35, of 111 Hamilton St., Meriden, was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

12/23: Ramon Luis Velazquez, 27, of 35 Highland Ave., Waterbury, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

## Portland Police News

12/20: Richard Tassmer, 60, of 153 Middle Haddam Rd., was charged with driving under the influence, Portland Police said.

12/20: Randall Snow, 57, of 87 Clark Hill Rd., was charged with driving under the influence, police said.

## Hebron Police News

12/24: State Police said James Lacroix, 46, of 421 Old Colchester Rd., Amston, was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.

12/26: State Police said Amanda Mayne, 40, of 35 Brighton Rd., was charged with DUI and improper turn.

## Marlborough Police News

12/18: State Police said Patrick Meskers, 26, of 210 North Main St., was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with no insurance and misuse of plates.

12/19: State Police said Matthew R. Duval, 42, of 27 Dudley St., Manchester, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in the proper lane.

12/22: State Police said William Cairnduff, 24, of 185 Jones Hollow Rd., was charged with OUI and restricted use of left-hand lane on a divided limited access highway.

12/24: State Police said George Caye, 42, of 79 Gill St., Colchester, was charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and first-degree strangulation. Police said Richard M. Zacher, 44, of 450 Papermill Rd., Marlborough, was also charged with interfering with an officer, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

## Andover Police News

12/21: State Police said Robert E. Whitcomb, 64, of 108 Gilead Rd., was charged with DWI and speeding.

## Colchester Man Arrested on Drug, Firearms Charges

by **Melissa Roberto**

A Colchester man was arrested this week on a slew of drug and firearm charges, after police initially stopped him for having a cracked windshield.

According to a press release issued by the Colchester Police Department, Colchester Police officers pulled over Jonathan Rutchick, 26, of 87 Old Hebron Rd., at the intersection of West Ridge Road and Westchester Road (Route 149) at approximately 10:15 p.m. Dec. 30. Upon contact with the operator, officers detected the odor of marijuana, the release states.

An investigation revealed that Rutchick was in possession of 1.262 ounces of marijuana, a Palmetto Lafayette .41 Caliber Black Powder

handgun with 20 rounds of ammunition, as well as one glass-smoking device, hypodermic syringes, and 1.3 ounces of suspected heroin packaged for sale, the release states. It furthers Rutchick was also in possession of \$10,155 in cash.

Rutchick was then charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics, sale of over one ounce of heroin, possession of over a half ounce of marijuana, sale of marijuana and possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle.

Police said Rutchick was held on a \$25,000 bond and transported to Corrigan Correctional Facility. He was due in Norwich Superior Court Tuesday, Dec. 31.

## Colchester Police News

12/16: State Police said Charles Taylor, 24, of 22 Virginia Dr., North Windham, was charged with failure to respond to an infraction.

12/18: State Police said Johnpaul M. Fournier, 24, of 24 James St., Apt. A, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

12/18: Colchester Police said Jacqueline Ann Jordon, 41, of 40 Harrington Ct., was charged with two counts of sixth-degree larceny following a shoplifting incident that occurred at Stop & Shop in Colchester.

12/19: State Police said Daniel P. Cavanaugh, 50, of 20 Debi Circle, was charged with DUI.

12/19: State Police said Taylor Berman, 20, of 45 Debi Circle, was charged with driving under the influence by a person under the age of 21 and failure to drive right.

12/19: State Police said Michael L. Carroll, 32, of 23 Forest Way, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

12/20: State Police said Mark Dickson, 30, of 133 Music Vale Rd., Salem, was charged with breach of peace, following too close, failure to use lights and improper use of high beams.

12/20: Colchester Police said a 16-year-old juvenile was reported to have been on a school bus in possession of marijuana baked goods and trying to sell the items to other juvenile students. Police said a subsequent investigation led the juvenile to be charged with illegal sale of a controlled substance and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana.

12/20: State Police said Thomas Williams, 50, of 85 North Main St., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and traveling unreasonably fast.

12/22: Colchester Police responded to a two-car motor vehicle accident at approximately 8:55 p.m. on Amston Road. As a result of the accident, the operator of one vehicle, David Burr, 55, of 32 London Rd., Hebron, and three passengers of the second involved vehicle, Kimberly Vancedarfield, 33, Samantha Vancedarfield, 8, and Zachary Vancedarfield, 3, all of 550 Darling St., Apt. 4B, Southington, were transported to the Marlborough Clinic for non-life threatening injuries. Police said James Vancedarfield was subsequently found to be operating under the influence. Police said he was charged with DUI, failure to grant the right of way at an intersection, risk of injury to a child and insurance coverage fails to meet minimum requirements.

12/24: State Police said Samantha Wildowsky, 18, of 359 Norwich Ave., was charged with DWI and no turn signal.

12/24: Colchester Police said Tanya Gagnon, 32, of 7 Meadow Dr., Apt. 3, was charged with traveling at an unreasonable speed, DUI, failure to yield right of way and risk of injury to a

child.

12/25: State Police said a two-vehicle accident occurred at the intersection of routes 16 and 149 at approximately 4:16 p.m. Police said there was one minor injury on scene involving Kathryn Vistainer, 68, of 46 North Moodus Rd., Moodus, who was transported to the hospital by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for a hand injury.

12/26: State Police said Shayne Mcneil, 21, of 1384 Trumbull Highway, Lebanon, was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct and strangulation.

12/26: Colchester Police said Laura L. Fontaine, 44, of 12 Balaban Rd., Apt. 704, was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, speeding, disobeying the signal of an officer and DUI.

12/26: State Police said Kerstin Barbara Wesson, 37, of 19 South Main St., Marlborough, was charged with two counts of second-degree failure to appear.

12/27: Colchester Police said a two-vehicle accident occurred at approximately 7:43 a.m. at the intersection of Broadway Street and Park Avenue. Police said one of the operators, Arlene M. Snyder, 69, of 234 Reidy Hill Rd., Amston, was transported to Marlborough Clinic by the Colchester Hayward Fire Department for complaint of chest pain.

12/27: State Police said Kevin B. Langway, 41, of 98 Mill Ln., Salem, was charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault, interfering with an emergency call, unlawful restraint, third-degree criminal mischief, and strangulation.

12/27: State Police said Sherry Pensak, 54, of 41 Reidy Hill Rd., Amston, was charged with failure to respond.

12/27: State Police said Diana Pugliese, 32, of 147 Wheeling Rd., Andover, was charged with third-degree assault.

12/28: State Police said Kerk Walker, 61, of 263 East Haddam Tpke., East Haddam, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

12/28: State Police said Ryan Anderson, 26, of 14 Brooke Hill Rd., East Haddam, was charged with sixth-degree larceny.

12/28: State Police said Jeremy Coelho, 26, of 385 Cabin Rd., was charged with ATM fraud and sixth-degree larceny.

12/28: State Police said Kimberly Benevides, 44, of 298 Route 66, Columbia, was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with a police officer.

12/30: State Police said Jolene Emmerson, 39, of 12 Boulder Rd., was charged with second-degree criminal trespassing and operating a motor vehicle without the owner's permission.

### From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Welcome to my first column of 2014. I hope you all had a very nice holiday. My Christmas was quite enjoyable – just very pleasant and relaxing. My brother flew in from California, and we just had a nice, quiet family Christmas. There were a lot of laughs, a lot of presents and, of course, a lot of food. My mom makes an outstanding fudge – has ever since I was a kid. The recipe hasn't changed one whit over the years, nor has it needed to. To say all of us Thompsons ate well would be an understatement.

Speaking of Christmas, I enjoy Christmas music. As I've written here in the past, on the day after Thanksgiving, I turn my car radio dial to one of the two stations in the area (Lite 100.5 or 94.7) that always convert their playlists to 24-7 Christmas music for the month or so between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's cheery and fun to drive around to.

Every year, though, I've had a problem in that, as soon as the calendar page turns to Dec. 26, Christmas music is gone from that station. It just seems very abrupt. Okay, I get it, Christmas is technically over – except it really isn't. Christmas trees and decorations are still up. Christmas cookies and candy is still plentiful. Friends and relatives from far away are likely still visiting. Heck, Hallmark Channel is still airing Christmas movies 'round-the-clock. So can't the radio keep the merry going for a few more days?

But this year, I have satellite radio in my car. And I made the pleasant discovery the day after Christmas that the two holiday stations on satellite evidently feel the same way I do: there's no need to go back to same-old, same-old quite yet. Both of them kept the holiday music going right through New Year's Eve, when they went back to their standard formats.

I really enjoyed it – until, well, I didn't. For some Christmas songs, I've learned this past week, play better after Christmas than others. What the satellite stations should do is perhaps eliminate from the rotation songs that emphasize things are starting, or certain people are on the way. That means you can ditch "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," or "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas."

A song that's really grown on me in recent years is "We Need a Little Christmas." It perfectly captures the rejuvenating effect Christmas can have on someone's spirit – and also how it's a terrific end-of-the-year holiday, coming as it does after 12 long months when perhaps some of us have grown a little leaner, grown a little colder. But even it probably plays better in the days leading up to Christmas than it does in the days immediately following.

So what works? Well, "The Christmas Song" (a.k.a., "Chestnuts Roasting On an Open Fire"), for starters. You can still go "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" in between Christmas and New Year's. And of course all the songs that really have no specific lyrics dealing with Christmas anyway, from "Winter Wonderland" and "Baby It's Cold Outside" to instrumentals like "The

Nutcracker Suite" and "Linus and Lucy" from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

Religious songs, too, can still work during that period. Really, only a couple – Advent songs, most obviously, but also "Silent Night" – would feel out of place on, say, Dec. 27 or 28. But plenty still apply – and indeed, are still heard in churches during that week between Christmas and New Year's. (Satellite, I learned this year, sprinkles a little more religious Christmas music into their holiday stations than commercial radio does; not shocking, but still a pleasant surprise.)

So, if I were programming satellite radio, that'd be my suggested change. It's a minor one, and, let's face it, Christmas music is such fun it's not like I minded hearing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" on the way home from work on Monday – even if he indeed has already come and gone. But, if satellite is going to keep the holiday music going while the other stations have gone back to playing slow Pink ballads (and obviously I'm glad they are), those are just some tweaks I'd make.

\* \* \*

Among the things I bought for my dad this Christmas was a DVD of his favorite movie of 2013, *The Lone Ranger*. Yes, that *Lone Ranger* – the one with Johnny Depp that came out over the summer, flopped at the box office, and was savaged by critics – many of whom continued to savage it last month, naming it among the worst films of the year.

My dad loved it, and since I hadn't seen it, he was genuinely curious as to what my reaction would be to it. So, Christmas night, my family gathered around the TV set, popped in *The Lone Ranger*, and gave it a watch. And I have to say – I don't get why the critics were so harsh. It was a fun movie.

It was a little over-the-top, and definitely played for laughs, but, come on, it was a comedy western starring Johnny Depp; did anybody really expect anything else? If so, why would they?

In doing some reading about the film, I learned it was plagued by production problems for several years, and wound up with a huge price tag of \$250 million, and I couldn't help but wonder if that fueled critics' rage a little bit. Film critics sometimes love to pounce on movies behest with production problems and budget overruns; it's a little sick, sort of like sharks smelling blood, but sometimes they do it.

Hopefully that wasn't the case, and the critics hated the film with an open mind – although, again, I ask, why did they? My brother put it best: The film wasn't poetry, but he honestly couldn't see how anyone watching that movie could be disappointed by what they saw. And I agree. It wasn't, for example, *True Grit*. But it didn't set out to be *True Grit*.

It's a shame the critics butchered it so, and it's a shame it did so poorly a sequel is extremely unlikely. (You could tell the film was meant to set up a possible series – and I'd have been intrigued to see the other films in the series.) The movie deserved better.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Richard F. Nelson

Richard Francis Nelson, 82, of Middletown, husband of Carole (Temple) Nelson for 54 years, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Sunday, Dec. 22. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late Wallace and Esther (Samuelson) Nelson.

Dick graduated Portland High School Class of 1948 and served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from July 7, 1952, through July 1, 1954, earning the rank of Corporal. He worked for Daniels Dairy Farm and *The Middletown Press* and was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 6121 in Portland and the Portland Volunteer Fire Department Company 2.

Dick will always be remembered for his quick smiles, corny sense of humor and his willingness to always help others.

Along with his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Lori (Nelson) Wallace and her husband, David, grandson, Eric, and great-granddaughter, Eva; his son, Paul Nelson and his wife, Brandie; granddaughter, Mellissa Fussell and great granddaughters, Miranda and Lillian; granddaughter, Colleen Jacobson and her companion, Curtis Howard, and great-grandsons, Corbin and Austin; his son, James Nelson and his wife, Francine; grandson, Preston; daughter, Christine (Nelson) Wilkos and grandchildren, Courtney and Kyle; and his brother, Terrence Nelson.

Besides his parents he was predeceased by his granddaughter, AIC Jennifer Rittman France and two brothers, Wallace and William Nelson.

Funeral services were held Friday evening, Dec. 27, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends and family called Friday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, friends and family may make donations in Dick's memory to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, 33 East Main St., Portland, CT 06480 or Middlesex Hospital Hospice Home Care, 770 Saybrook Road, Building B, Middletown, CT 06457.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## Marlborough

### Harold Woodbridge Hurlbutt

Harold Woodbridge Hurlbutt, 96, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Frances (Reynolds) Hurlbutt, passed away Friday, Dec. 27, at Hartford Hospital. Born March 31, 1917, in Montville, he was a son of the late Rufus and Iva (Bartlett) Hurlbutt.

Mr. Hurlbutt served proudly with the Army Corps of Engineers for many years before his military retirement in December of 1965. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from UConn and worked as a civil engineer for the State of Connecticut Highway Department for nearly 33 years before his retirement in June of 1980.

He was an avid stamp collector and member of the American Philatelic Society, lover of art and avid traveler following his retirement.

In addition to his loving wife of 58 years, he is survived by three children, Brian of Petaluma, Calif., and Niall and Nicolette, both of Manchester; a sister, Ruth Gardner of Gales Ferry; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by a sister, Eugenia Smith. Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Food Bank of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447.

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

## Marlborough

### Frederick John Koelsch

Frederick John Koelsch, 76, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Flora Francine Koelsch, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 26, at Marlborough Health Care Center. He was born April 1, 1937, in East Hartford to the late Otto and Jeanette (Beaudoin) Koelsch.

After graduating from East Hartford High in 1955 he proudly joined the US Army. Fred resided in Marlborough for 42 years. He was a loving father devoted to his family. He was employed by CL&P retiring after 30 years of service. He was a member of the HELCO men's club. In his retirement, he enjoyed working at Marlborough Wine & Spirits.

In addition to his wife Flora Francine of 54 years, he is survived by his two sons, Justin and his wife Laura of Willimantic, Jason and his wife Deidra of Columbia; his grandchildren Rachel, Nathan, Veronica and Terrance Koelsch.

Calling hours were held Monday, Dec. 30, at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury. Burial will be private.

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

## Portland

### Susan Elaine Hill

Susan Elaine Hill, 60, of Durham, N.C., formerly of Portland, Connecticut passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 10. She was the daughter of Ada and Earl Hill of Portland.

She is remembered by her sister Joanne and her husband Thomas Morariu and their children Laura and Megan of East Hampton; her brother, Charlie Hill and his wife Janice Gedlund and their children Davis and Meredith of Shoreline, Wash.; her brother, Thomas Hill and his wife Cindi Hill and their children Nathan and Carissa of Franklinton, N.C.; and her brother David Hill and his wife Liz Aschenbrenner of Redondo Beach, Calif.

She will also be greatly missed by her partner Sheri Bachmeier and her son Tyler; Susan's foster son Aaron Shultz and his family; as well as many devoted friends.

Susan had a degree in business management from the University of Phoenix and worked at Parata Systems in Durham, N.C., before retiring.

A gathering of family and friends will be held in the fellowship hall of the First Congregational Church of Portland Saturday, Jan. 4, at noon.

Donations may be made in Susan's memory to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Association ([Arthritis.org](http://Arthritis.org)) and/or the First Congregational Church of Portland, Connecticut (554 Main St, Portland, CT 06480).

## Portland

### Olive S. Larson

Olive S. Larson, 100, of Meriden formerly of Middletown and Portland, wife of the late Ernest H. Larson, passed away Saturday, Dec. 28, at Apple Rehab-Coccoma. She was the daughter of the late John T. and Georgiana (Lord) Scovill.

Born July 19, 1913, in Middletown, she lived in Middletown for 50 years, then lived in Portland for 20 years before moving to Meriden in 1996. She worked for the City of Middletown Public Works Dept. for several years prior to working for the Connecticut Valley Hospital medical records department, retiring in 1969.

She leaves her son, Charles A. Bacon Sr. and his wife Barbara of Middletown; a stepson, James E. Larson and his wife Barbara of Portland; a daughter, Norma Adametz of Meriden; a brother, J. Lawrence Scovill of Cromwell; sisters, Doris E. Clark of East Hampton and Bernice S. Pettersen of Winterhaven, Fla.; eight grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by four brothers, John, Ronald, Frederick and C. Talcott Scovill.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

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

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

## East Hampton

### Leon Jerome Kneeland

Leon Jerome Kneeland, 79, of East Hampton, beloved husband of the late Rosalie Kneeland, died Monday, Dec. 30, at his home. Born Oct. 9, 1934, in Princeton, Maine, he was the son of the late Harold and Hazel (Day) Kneeland. He had been employed as an operating engineer for the Local 478 prior to his retirement.

He is survived by his son, K. Scott Kneeland and his wife Maria of Cromwell; two daughters, Karen Kneeland of East Hampton, Kimberly Daniolos and her husband Peter of South Windsor; a brother, Marvin Dean Kneeland of Maine; and four beloved grandchildren, Jennifer Kneeland, Marissa Daniolos, Gwendolyn Kneeland and Nickolos Daniolos.

He was predeceased by his brother, Kilby Kneeland, and two sisters, Amelia Moore and Erlis Kneeland.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in the family plot in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

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

## Marlborough

### Theresa M. Koblinski

Theresa M. (Gerbes) Koblinski, 81, of Marlborough and Marco Island, Fla., wife of the late Charles J. Koblinski, died Saturday, Dec. 28, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 29, 1932, in Paterson, N.J., daughter of the late Frederick and Helen (Fisher) Gerbes, she had lived in Glastonbury for many years before moving to Marlborough in 1999.

She was a graduate of St. John's High School in Paterson, NJ, as well as the Sherwood School of Secretarial Training in New York City. She worked for many years at Gideon Welles School in Glastonbury before moving into a position at Aetna as a financial trader until her retirement in 1989.

Terry was a member of the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury where she enjoyed participating in the prayer shawl ministry and weekly prayer group. She was a former member of Woodledge Club and Glastonbury Hills Country Club, where she played golf and tennis and enjoyed many happy summers with family and friends.

An avid *Scrabble* player, she recently added *Words with Friends* to her game-playing repertoire. A Sunday didn't go by without completion of the *New York Times* crossword puzzle and she was always up for a competitive game of Bridge or Mah Jongg. Calls home were not welcome between the hours of 7 and 8 p.m. as her viewing of *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune* would not be interrupted.

Terry is survived by her three children, their spouses, and grandchildren: Kathleen and Charles Lawes and their children Sam, Emma and Abby of Glastonbury; Thomas Docherty of Friendswood, Texas; William Andrew and Donna Docherty and their children Connor, London and Brooke of Fairfax Station, Va.; and her stepson and his family Charles J., Jr. and Carolina Koblinski and their children Kyle and Alex of Pickerington, Ohio. All will miss her dearly.

A memorial service was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 2, at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 2183 Main St., Glastonbury. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

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

## Colchester

### Danny L. Presnell Sr.

Danny Louis Presnell Sr., formerly of Colchester, loving husband of Beverly Sienna Presnell, passed away Friday, Nov. 29, after a brief illness.

Danny was born in Yancy County, N.C., to the late Claude Presnell and Myrtle Laws Presnell. He moved to Connecticut after graduating high school in 1961 when he met Beverly. Together they raised three children, worked hard and made many wonderful memories. Danny enjoyed bowling, working on cars and making his famous biscuits and gravy for his family.

Material things did not matter to Danny. He had a generous spirit and would gladly give his last dollar to someone in need. Danny felt the most important things in life were the people around him and the time he spent with them.

Danny moved to LeHigh Acres, Fla., in 2007. He loved being outside and spending time with his best friend, a Labrador retriever named Mr. Ed. Mr. Ed had wandered into his life as a stray and quickly became a loving companion.

Besides his wife, Danny leaves behind his children, Michele Tirone, Danny II, and Darcy Roper and her husband Robert; also, his grandchildren, Ryan North, James Tirone, Sienna and Jonathan Roper, Danny James and Anthony Presnell and Alessandria Presnell-Bowers. Also surviving are three brothers, Harold Dean Presnell and his wife Willa, Larry Presnell and his wife Tammy and Morris Presnell and his wife Kim; his sister, Linda Morris; and several nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sisters, Shirley Bumgarner and Melba Webb.

He also leaves behind his brother-in-law and good friend, James Sienna, his wife Patti and their children Kerry, Sarah and Salvatore Sienna, along with their grandchildren Jasmine and Michael, and numerous friends he met along his life's journey.

Memorial services were held in Florida and in North Carolina in December. A memorial service will be held for family and friends in Connecticut on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Church in Portland.

The family would like to thank everyone at HOPE Hospice for taking such wonderful care of him. Donations can be made in Danny's memory to Development Office, HOPE Hospice, 9470 Health Park Circle, Fort Myers, Florida 33908 or at [hopehospice.org](http://hopehospice.org).

## Andover

### William L. McCollum Jr.

William L. "Wild Bill" McCollum Jr., 57, of Coventry, formerly of Andover, beloved husband of Mary Ellen (McNeely) McCollum, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Dec. 18, at home.

Bill was born March 16, 1956 in Manchester, son of Carolyn (Kittle) McCollum of Manchester and the late William L. McCollum Sr. and had resided in Manchester and Andover before moving to Coventry in 1998. He was currently employed for 35 years as a machinist for Hamilton Sundstrand in Windsor Locks and was also employed at TSI Harley of Ellington.

William "Wild Bill" McCollum Jr. was loved. He was loved by many friends and family. He was loved by his wife and children. He was a good son, husband, and father. He was a grandfather who absolutely loved his three grandchildren. They adored their "Grampy." Wild Bill would rather "push a Chevy than drive a Ford." He loved to let it rip on his Harley "Black Betty."

Bill was always very giving. He did not know how to say no. He was a man with a huge heart and loved his family with every piece of it. William L. McCollum Jr. was loved and will be forever missed.

In addition to his wife Mary Ellen and mother Carolyn, he leaves a son, Richard McCollum and his wife Nicole of Niantic; a daughter, Angela Desmond and her husband John of Bristol; three grandchildren, Joseph Berlin, Caitlin Jones and Cameron A. McCollum; a sister, Carolyn Lanagan and her husband John of Andover; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 23, at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, with burial following in East Cemetery, Manchester. Visiting hours were Sunday, Dec. 22, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave a message for his family, visit [holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com).

## Cobalt

### Charles Newcomb Iselin Sr.

Charles Newcomb Iselin Sr., of Killingworth, formerly of Clinton and Westbrook, passed away peacefully Thursday, Dec. 19, at Cobalt Health Care. He was born Jan. 7, 1942, in Port Jefferson, N.Y., the son of Warburton Iselin and Ida Newcomb.

Mr. Iselin was employed for many years as a sales manager at General Electric. In that capacity he traveled the state extensively, lifting spirits and spreading laughter along the way as he was so well known for. Charlie enjoyed the outdoors and often brought his family to the beaches of Rhode Island for fun days in the sun.

The Harley Davidson was perhaps Charlie's favorite toy. He enjoyed riding the "Hog" as much as watching his "Hogs," the Washington Redskins. A former high school football player, Charlie became an avid fan of the team while living in nearby Arlington, Va., where he began his growing family.

His love of gardening was evident in the bounteous vegetable garden cultivated at the Clinton home and the flourishing flowers surrounding the Westbrook home. He was a member of the Westbrook Elks lodge, and all knew him as a kind gentleman quick to tell a story, garner a laugh, and warm all spirits nearby.

Charles is survived by his wife Agnes "Nan" Iselin; his children with Shirley Fontaine Iselin including Charles Iselin Jr. of Chester with wife Becky and children Samuel and Sadie, Kristine Iselin Bradley of El Cajon, Calif., with husband Brandon and children Lauren and Jenny, William Iselin of Middletown; Nan's children including Janine Burt of Clinton with husband Kirby and children Kayla and Kyle, John Laughlin of Monroe with wife Dawn and children Lauren, Douglas, Nathaniel and Emily, James Laughlin of Westminster, Colo., with wife Christie; his sister Elizabeth Noel of Wilton with husband Curtis and children Curtis and Bradley.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Dec. 28, in St. Lawrence Church, 7 Hemlock Dr., Killingworth.

Memorial donations can be sent to the Parkinson's research foundation of your choice or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research New York, N.Y.

To sign the online guest book visit [swanfth.com](http://swanfth.com).

## Colchester

### Donald E. Evans

Donald E. Evans, 54, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Dec. 26, at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Funeral services are private, and there are no calling hours.

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

## Colchester

### Donald A. Spafford

Donald A. Spafford, 95, of Middletown and formerly of Colchester, passed away at Harrington Court in Colchester Friday, Dec. 20. He was the beloved husband of the late Dorothy May (Haynes) Spafford. Born in Holyoke, Mass., he was the son of William A. Spafford and Carrie (Kjoller) Spafford.

Donald was a World War II veteran, serving in the US Army. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Throughout his life, he remained active in many veteran organizations including being a former commander of VFW Post 6990 in Colchester. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans Post 10 in Norwich, the American Legion Post 54 in Colchester and the Antique Veterans of Colchester.

He retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft after 37 years. He was a member of the Senior Bowling League at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Donald was also a member of the First Congregational Church in Lebanon, past member of the Commission on Aging and past president of AARP.

He leaves behind a son, David E. Spafford of East Hartford; a daughter, Donna M. Brown of Roy, WA; a sister, Alice Gillette of Decatur, GA; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Besides his wife, he was predeceased by a son, William A. Spafford, and three brothers, Calvin, Roy and William Spafford.

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

## East Hampton

### Bruce W. Clark

Bruce W. Clark, 58, died peacefully Saturday, Dec. 21, at a Caribou, Maine, health facility. He was born Oct. 10, 1955, in Middletown, a son of Roger and Jean (Blatchley) Clark. He graduated from East Hampton High School and from the University of Connecticut.

During his high school and college careers, he was very proficient in sports, receiving many awards and trophies. One of his highest achievements was holding the New England Championship title for the collegiate mile run.

Bruce is survived by a daughter, Amber Clark of North Branford; a baby granddaughter, Lilly Ann; his mother, Jean Clark of Portage, Maine; three sisters, Linda Magnano of Portland, Barbara Finlay of Caribou, Maine, and Laura Jean Taylor of North Carolina; two brothers, James A. Clark of Garfield, Maine, and Martin D. Clark of Ashland; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his father, Roger Clark.

Funeral services are private and at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements are a service of Lajoie Funeral Home-Ashland, 114 Exchange St., Ashland, ME.

To share condolences online, visit [Lajoie FuneralHome.com](http://LajoieFuneralHome.com).

## East Hampton

### Raymond W. Higgins Jr.

Raymond W. Higgins Jr., 78, of East Hampton, husband of Elizabeth (Loss) Higgins of 48 years, passed away Thursday, Dec. 26, with his loving family by his side. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Dec. 28, 1934, to the late Raymond W. Higgins Sr. and Edna (Rohe) Higgins.

Ray's hobby of building and flying model airplanes as a teenager shaped his future. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 1959. Ray worked at Pratt & Whitney retiring after a 39 year career. Let us rejoice in a life well lived, in a man who loved his family and friends, and in a spirit that is now at peace.

Along with his loving wife, Betty, he is survived by his son, John Higgins and partner, Susan White of East Haddam; his daughter, Jennifer and her husband, Damian, and two grandsons, Garrett and Alex Belardi of South Windsor; and his brother, Edward J. Higgins and wife, Sylvia of Sarasota, Fla.; their son, E. James Higgins and his wife, Heather, and their three sons, E.J., Harry and Teddy of Neenah, Wis.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to their friends, including Hap and Ed Scovel and Ann and Ed Moskey for their many visits and kindness as well as doctors Robert Levy and Michael Stehney for their exceptional care.

Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 30, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial followed in Calvary Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called Sunday, Dec. 29.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Ray's name may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457 or Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, 536 Saybrook Road, Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## East Hampton

### Charles Ernest Yenknner

Charles Ernest Yenknner, 89, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Saturday, Dec. 21, son of the late Maude (Drechsler) and Ernest Yenknner. He was born April 11, 1924, in Meriden, where he grew up and attended Meriden High School, Class of 1942.

After completing two years at UConn, Charlie proudly served his country as a Captain in the US Army Air Corp in Italy during World War II, navigating B24 Liberator Bombers with the 15th Air Force 451st Bomb Group. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry in action over the Ploesti oil fields. Upon his return from the war Charlie completed his degree at UConn, becoming a mechanical engineer and joined the work force at Pratt & Whitney, where he worked for over 30 years.

He married his high school sweetheart Trudy Tonge and started a family in Meriden, eventually moving to Glastonbury in 1960 to reduce the commute to Pratt before Interstate 91 existed.

He enjoyed life at Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton where he built the lake house and spent summers with his family and lake friends. His love of the water became contagious for his entire family. Fishing, boating and water-skiing were frequent past times every weekend and hot summer days. He and Trudy traveled extensively, visiting Europe, spending time in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean which became his favorite vacation spot.

In addition to his wife, Trudy, he is survived by his children, Charles Yenknner, Jr. and his wife Tina of Glastonbury, Robert Yenknner and his wife Ginny of Higganum and Carol Rodgers and her husband Terry of Buda, Texas; grandchildren Charles III, Thomas and Elizabeth Yenknner, Eric, Chuck, Cat and Pattie Swanson and several nieces and nephews.

The Yenknner Family wants to thank the entire staff at The Villages at Kensington in Meriden, where he lived his last few years. They provided patience and loving care, frequently going above and beyond to enhance his quality of life as his health declined.

His funeral service was held Sunday, Dec. 29, in the Beecher & Bennett – Flatow Funeral Home, 48 Cook Ave., Meriden. There were no calling hours and burial will be private. Military honors took place at the funeral home following his service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 279 New Britain Rd., Suite 5, Kensington, CT 06037.

To send a condolence to his family, see [beecherandbennett.com](http://beecherandbennett.com).

## Hebron

### Gregory F. Kozyra

Gregory F. Kozyra, 66, of Hebron, husband of Susan Kozyra, died suddenly Tuesday, Dec. 24, at home. He was born Jan. 21, 1947, to the late Ellen (Pollica) and Peter Kozyra of Newington.

Greg was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. His family was his entire life. He was selfless and was always there to lend a hand to anyone in need. He always insisted on caring for others before himself. He retired from Roofers Local 9 and became a snowbird spending winters in Florida with his wife Sue where he enjoyed golfing with his many Florida friends. Greg was a gentle soul and was immediately liked by everyone he met.

He served in the Vietnam War in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Bravo Company 4th Battalion 31st Infantry and was combat wounded and ultimately through his bravery, he was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a member of the Hebron American Legion Post 95 and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Kozyra of Hebron, his daughter Amy and her husband Mark Nese of South Windsor, Gina and her husband Jason Chaviaras of Lebanon, and his son, Michael Kozyra of Hebron and his girlfriend Farrah Hussey of Hampton, as well as his pride and joy, his eight grandchildren whom he adored. He is also survived by his father Peter J. Kozyra, brother, Peter M. Kozyra of Newington and sister, Janice Johnston of Australia.

Greg will be dearly missed. Relatives and friends called Sunday, Dec. 29, at the Newington Memorial Funeral Home, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington. A Mass of Christian Burial with full military honors was held Monday, Dec. 30, at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. He will be laid to rest in West Meadow Cemetery at a later date.

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

## Marlborough

### Anthony E. La Bella

Anthony E. La Bella of Marlborough, formerly of both Portland and Middletown, beloved husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 27, at Middlesex Hospital after a short illness. He was the husband of the late Mary (Lynch) La Bella.

Tony (or "Nin") was born July 31, 1925, the son of the late Sebastian and Carmelina (Amenta) La Bella. He was raised on Ferry Street with his five siblings and was a graduate of the old Middletown High School. In high school, he was a stand-out on both the football and baseball teams and has the distinction of having thrown a touchdown pass or scored a touchdown in every high school game in which he played over four years.

After graduating high school, he answered his country's call and volunteered to serve in the Navy, where he was assigned to the CBs (Construction Battalion). He served in the South Pacific through the end of World War II.

After returning from the war, he attended the University of Connecticut, and after almost becoming a biologist, he found one of the great passions of his life and became an educator. Tony spent all but the first year of his 37-year career in the Middletown school system. He was first a teacher and later a principal at many of the elementary schools in the city including: Hubbard, Bielefield, Snow, MacDonough and Farm Hill.

While teaching in Middletown, he met the one love of his life, Mary Lynch. They were married and lived happily for over 40 years in Portland, where he and Mary raised their son, Joe, and where they extended the embrace of their family to include their beloved niece, Karen Short.

Tony touched thousands of lives as an elementary school principal in Middletown. He was known for his hands-on approach and as often as possible would spend recess on the playground with the kids; he never failed to answer a call for help, whether day or night, weekday or weekend.

In 1987, Tony retired in order to begin a 23-year adventure in retirement. While "retired" he returned to education as principal of St. Sebastian School in Middletown and as temporary principal at Bielefield, Edna C. Stevens School in Cromwell and in East Haddam and Chester. In retirement he also worked as a football coach and school van driver, and the house in Portland was renowned in the town for Tony and Mary's flower gardens.

He and Mary loved travel and they visited numerous places throughout the United States and Europe. They also enjoyed attending Elder Hostel and regular trips to Florida in the cold weather. Regardless of the location, they were always happiest in each other's company and were often seen walking together on the streets of Portland and Middletown.

In 1998, they were blessed with twin grandsons who were the light of their later years. As often as possible, they would spend time with their beloved James and Michael, with joys as simple as taking them to the Cypress and to see the ducks or as far away as Busch Gardens in Tampa. His greatest challenge was trying to keep Mary from buying "just one more thing" for the boys.

In 2002, he lost Mary, his best friend; much of the color drained from his life, and he began a life of quiet dignity. He enjoyed spending time with friends from the old days, from his beloved Ferry Street, and even from rival Green Street. In 2008, he moved to Marlborough with his son and daughter-in-law, where he would spend the next five and half years surrounded by the love of his family.

In the past three years he faced the challenge of dementia and then of a brain injury from a fall. His world became more narrow and his chief joys were trips to Senior Care in East Hartford and nightly family dinners. Literally through his last day his eyes danced with adventure, and as he found speaking difficult he made jokes through facial expressions.

He is survived by his son Joseph and Irene La Bella and their children James and Michael of Marlborough, as well as his brother and sister-in-law Louis and Fran La Bella of Lavonia, Mich., and sister-in-law Janet Lynch. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his brother, Joseph La Bella; his sister, Josephine ("Pini") Lombardi and her husband John; his sister, Rosemarie ("Babe") Lord and her husband Richard, his sister, Patty Short; and his brother-in-law, Joseph Lynch.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, at 10:15 a.m., from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by an 11 a.m. funeral liturgy in St. Mary Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Burial with military honors will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at Biega Funeral Home today, Jan. 3, from 5-8 p.m.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association, 2075 Silas Deane Hwy, Ste 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Marlborough

### Martha Pinavich

Martha "Marty" (Barabash) Pinavich, 97, of Vernon, passed away peacefully Saturday, Dec. 28. After 97 years of giving, "Marty," "Mom," "Mummy," "Gram," "Nonnie" sleeps in heavenly peace with her late husband, Edward J. Pinavich (1916-1998) and her daughter Edwina "Ronnie" Moore (1945-1976).

She was born in New Haven on Christmas Eve, 1916. She was the daughter of Stephen and Frances (Yaroush) Barabash. Although Marty lived in Hartford as a child, most of her life was spent in Manchester before moving to Vernon in 1969. She was an award-winning artist; she enjoyed playing the piano (by ear), creating flower arrangements, working with stained glass, drawing, ballroom dancing, wonderful hours spent in her yard gardening, and building. Her artistic passions included portraits and oil and watercolor painting.

Marty's obsession to save all "wronged" animals was a lifelong commitment. She was well known for her daily winter feedings of the seagulls in the Stop & Shop Plaza in Vernon. She was a loving and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother who worried endlessly for us all and our pets!

She is survived by her much-loved children, Ronald Hunt and his wife Jean of Belfast, Maine; Sandra Roethel and her husband Robert of Coventry, and Marta Hunt-Dailey and her husband Dennis of Manchester. She leaves seven grandchildren, Pamela (Moore) Doyle, her husband Dave, and their three boys; James Moore, his wife, Myrna, and their two children; Tracey (Moore) Pryor, her husband, Roger, and her four children; Candy (Kelly) Bliss, her husband, Greg, and their seven children; Burma Shaw and her son; Rhonda Escavich; and Tanya Escavich and her husband, Brandon Moore.

Martha carried the loss of her beloved daughter, Edwina, till the end.

We thank Marlborough Health Care Center and Hospice for their loving care and for helping us through Marty's final chapter.

Family gathered at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Rd., Vernon, Tuesday, Dec. 31, followed by a Mass later that morning at St. Joseph Church, 33 West St., Rockville. Burial followed in St. Bernard Cemetery in Rockville.

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the pet rescue organization of your choice that serves in your community.

For online condolences and guest book, visit [carmonfuneralhome.com](http://carmonfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Gennaro Minickene

Gennaro Minickene of Portland and Venice, Fla., passed away peacefully with his children by his side Monday, Dec. 16. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1934, he was the oldest of six children, living in Amityville, N.Y. He was an avid billiards player who enjoyed trips to Rhode Island, Las Vegas and the beaches of Venice, Fla.

He was predeceased by his father and mother Basil and Sadie Minickene (Amityville, N.Y.), brother James and sister Maryann Walsh, and his ex-wife Sylvia Minickene of Middletown.

He is survived by his daughter Laureen and son-in-law Mark and grandson Brandon Coppolelli; son John and daughter-in-law Melissa and granddaughters Faith and Eve Minickene; son Basil and daughter-in-law Alessandra and granddaughters Samantha and Nola Minickene; and girlfriend Genny.

There will be a private ceremony and burial for immediate family.

## Colchester

### Jacqueline Julian

Jacqueline "Jackie" Julian, 67, beloved wife of Richard Julian of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Dec. 26, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. She was born June 16, 1946, in Hartford, a daughter of the late Francis and Ruby Lassen O'Connell.

Besides her husband Richard, she leaves two sons, Richard Julian Jr. and Steven and his wife Sandra Julian; one daughter, Lisa and her husband Jeffrey Slade; five grandchildren, Shauna, Emily, Carina, Nathan and Tanner.

Visitation will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, from 2-3 p.m., at the Belmont Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a 3 p.m. service.

Interment will be private.

*East Hampton*

## Jane Taylor

Jane Taylor, 77, of East Hampton and formerly Colchester, passed away early Tuesday morning, Dec. 31, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, with her family by her side. Born April 7, 1936, in Essex, she was a daughter of the late James and Myrtle (Trowbridge) Everitt.

Jane retired in 1999 after 25 years, working as a certified nurse aid at the former Colchester Convalescent Home. She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her family as a devoted mother and grandmother.

Survivors include five children, Charles Taylor and Linda Renfro of Colchester, Robert and Phyllis Taylor of Bozrah, William Taylor and Pauline White of East Hampton, Beth and Robert Moran of Colchester, Chris and Amanda Taylor of East Hampton; a brother, James Everitt of Westbrook; a sister, Virginia Allen of Old Saybrook; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Robert Trowbridge, two sisters, Delores Lane and Betty Baxter.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, Jan. 5, from 1-2:30 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow at 2:30 p.m., at the funeral home. Burial will be held privately.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Cancer Center, 540 Saybrook Rd., Suite 280, Middletown 06457.

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