



RIVEREAST

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Shoddy stairs, like the ones shown above which are only a year old, are just one of a number of capital repairs needed at the RHAM middle and high schools – something local and state officials came to realize as they took a tour of the buildings Wednesday evening.

## ‘Plethora of Problems’ at RHAM Schools

by Geeta Schrayter

Local and state officials came to realize Wednesday that the RHAM middle and high schools are no longer new – and in fact are in need of a number of repairs.

Officials from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough along with state Sen. Cathy Osten, state Rep. Gayle Mulligan and members of the RHAM Board of Education made their way around the campus Wednesday evening and saw firsthand what some of those repair needs were.

As they toured the buildings, which opened in 2003, with the Board Facilities Subcommittee, they saw significant issues with concrete on the property, such as cracking, crumbling and grass growing between sections – the same held true for brick areas at the schools, where grass could be found creeping up between each.

Extensive overgrowth was also pointed out in areas, along with the presence of poison ivy. Subcommittee member Joe O’Connor said the overgrowth and poison ivy were hard to get rid of due to laws regulating pesticide use at schools.

In addition, wood benches were found to be fading and missing pieces, caulking around the school’s foundation was shown to be lifting and “all of it will eventually have to be redone,” O’Connor stated.

Roof drains were pointed out that had birds making their home in them, while ground drains were shown that were covered up.

There were also areas of missing curbing, as well as patches made in the parking lot. A set of stairs was pointed out that had sunk about an inch and a half since their construction, and another set was shown that had been constructed only the year prior for a price tag of \$20,000.

“But obviously,” subcommittee member Rich Jacobson said of the stairs, “the construction was not up to snuff.”

The stairs aren’t level and have visible – uneven – patch jobs.

“They’re just a year old and they’re already in this shape? Someone needs to come back and fix it free of charge!” said Hebron selectman Dan Larson.

The windows at the schools were also pointed out; all of them need to be replaced, the subcommittee said, due to the fact the majority were found to be leaking. The school district has already hired a law firm to investigate the issue and is hoping to receive money for their replacement.

Some of the rooms at the schools also have issues with mold and humidity, and it was pointed out that the furniture in the Media Center is all original. Other issues include a portion of the parking lot said to become “a lake,” and the track at the school, which is cracked and has issues with water seeping underneath.

The track needs to be resurfaced, Jacobson said. This is a priority “because if we don’t address it, it costs more.”

Also in the way of sports, the gym floor at the middle school was examined.

Middle School Principal Mike Seroussi explained there used to be an air conditioner leak that caused the floor to swell.

“It got to be about a foot taller, and we would put heavy books on top and use dehumidifiers, and eventually it would go down,” he said.

Channels were cut beneath the floor to help release some of the pressure, and O’Connor noted along with significant creaking, the floor had no flexibility, preventing the basketball players from getting “bounce” in their jumps.

Fields at the schools are also an issue. A recent maintenance agreement between the district and Hebron Parks and Recreation has already led to a number of improvements, but more work is needed.

For instance, Hebron Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco said the football field had issues, due to the fact it was built flat as op-

See RHAM Schools Page 2

## Pair of Portland Police Officers Retire

by John Tyczkowski

Wednesday afternoon, Officers First Class David Bond and Eric Grant retired from the Portland Police Department, after 21 years and 20 years, eight months of service, respectively.

They were honored in a ceremony held in the Buck Foreman Community room, next to the police department, with nearly 40 in attendance, including First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Lieutenant Ron Milardo, numerous officers from the Portland and Middletown police departments, several town employees, friends and the retiring officers’ families.

Bond and Grant stood at the front of the community room behind a table adorned with “POLICE LINE – DO NOT CROSS” tape, along with cards from the department, retirement balloons and paper crowns labeled “Dave” and “Eric,” also featuring their badge numbers.

There was also a ‘congratulations’ cake featuring four Portland Police patches positioned around its perimeter.

Bransfield, who also serves as Portland’s civilian chief of police, presented the two officers with certificates, courtesy of Executive Secretary to the First Selectwoman Michelle Ceppaglia.

“It’s a bittersweet day. We all really work so closely in town, all departments. And the police are always there to help out everyone in town,” Bransfield said. “And having 11 officers, plus one part-time, we’re very closely-knit here in Portland.”

“And each person brings a very special contribution to our department, and a very special contribution to our town,” she said.

Bransfield also read aloud the words on the

certificates.

“Presented by the town and Board of Selectmen, in recognition of your years of loyal and very dedicated service to the people of the town of Portland,” she said. “We congratulate you on your retirement and best wishes in your new career.”

“Remember, you’re not going home to sit on the couch,” Bransfield quipped to chuckles from those in attendance.

Both officers also made short speeches.

“It’s been a great ride, and I’ve worked with some great people here, and it’s been a great experience,” Bond said.

Grant thanked the department, and closed with mentioning a prayer he would recite each day as he went on shift.

“Bless me with the patience to deal with the

people we come in contact with. Bless me with the ability to help those in need,” he said. “And bless and protect me and all the officers from accident and injury today.”

Lieutenant Ron Milardo said both officers have been “phenomenal.”

“We’re going to miss them; we’re going to be losing a lot of experience, but all the best to them,” he said. “We hate to see them go, but they have to move on with their next careers.”

Bond is not a native of Portland, but the department was his first assignment in 1994, and he had stayed there ever since.

“It’s been a great career, but it’s time to move on and spend some more time with the family,” he said. “They’re a real good group of guys here.”

See Officers Retire Page 2

**RHAM Schools cont. from Front Page**  
posed to with a slight pitch. In response, over the next few years he said the center of the field would slowly be raised six to seven inches. Other work was also necessary to improve drainage issues.

The list of capital repair needs at the schools only continued from there, as those present made their way around the schools during a tour that lasted over an hour.

Discussing ways to address some of these needs, Osten said she'd be willing to work on receiving state funds for any of the projects and getting the state "to do as much as possible."

She added nothing could change what happened – work could only be done to fix things moving forward.

"Let's find out the whole scope of the capital projects. Give me a list in the order you'd like to see them done" she stated, and furthered "time is of the essence."

Once she receives a complete list, Osten said she'd work on putting some of the projects in for the next grant cycle.

Following the tour, discussion continued regarding how best to proceed.

"Obviously the most appealing [route] is grants," said Marlborough selectman Dick Shea.

Osten shared there were "many, many grants" available – the district just needed to find them. She added there were also pre-planning grants, which could help the district work on a long-

term capital plan – something that had never been crafted – and other planning needs.

"We need to get expertise in here," said Marlborough First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski.

Hebron Board of Finance member Malcolm Leichter added, "It's all got to be based on a plan."

Leichter also suggested breaking out the CIP budget in the future, in the same way Hebron does. He noted the CIP budget in Hebron "passes every time," and said "I think we've got to start thinking outside the box."

Meanwhile, Marlborough Board of Finance member Cliff Dennis shared one of the difficulties would be declining enrollment, which leads taxpayers to believe the budget should automatically decrease.

Jacobson agreed, saying, "We have a crisis coming very soon because the population is going down, but capital needs are up."

"We need to strategize," said O'Connor. "We need to figure out how to fund these issues – not all at once, but there's a plethora of problems."

On Thursday, Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney called the tour "an eye opener" for those present.

"I think it was a good first step to getting the towns to realize [RHAM] isn't a new school anymore," he stated. "We have to start budgeting appropriately to take care of some of these facility needs."



**Joe O'Connor, a member of the RHAM Board of Education and the board's Facilities Subcommittee, points out some of the cracked, crumbling concrete at the schools to board members Manny Catarino, Carole Shea and David Gostanian, and Marlborough selectman Dick Shea.**



**Officers First Class David Bond and Eric Grant, surrounded by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Lieutenant Ron Milardo, officers from the Portland Police Department, records secretary Roseanne Lombardi and Portland Animal Control Officer Karen Perruccio gathered Wednesday afternoon for Bond's and Grant's retirement ceremony.**

**Officers Retire cont. from Front Page**

Bond is moving to a senior financial intelligence analyst position at Webster Bank.

"It involves investigating suspicious currency transactions, dealing with subpoenas from police departments, employee theft, those kinds of things," he said. "It'll definitely be interesting, and it'll be nice to have some normalcy."

Over the past 21 years on the department, Bond had developed numerous skills including DUI enforcement, police cycling, interview and interrogation techniques, stakeout and surveillance techniques, at-scene traffic crash investigation and passive alert narcotics detection with his canine partner Lighting, and fire investigation.

Grant, whose family moved to Portland when he was in middle school, will be moving across town for his next job, to Valley View Elementary School, where he'll be the new physical education teacher.

"I actually applied to work at Brownstone, and interviewed there, but then Matt [Fox] moved from Valley View to Brownstone," he said. "So they called me up and said 'The good news is you're the number one candidate, but

the bad news is the position at Brownstone is no longer open; would you like to go to Valley View?" and I said, 'Of course; I want to be a teacher!'"

Grant had been going to school part-time at Central Connecticut State University to earn his degree and teaching certification, while working at the department.

He lives in town with his wife and two daughters, one of whom will be starting kindergarten this year.

Some of his skills acquired over 20 years and eight months on the job included DUI enforcement, FBI specialized school instructor development, firearms training with rifles and short guns and also served as the department's firearms instructor for years.

Milardo said the first new officer has been selected and hired. Officer Paul Liseo, who lives in town and who retired from Middletown Police, will be joining the Portland Police Department this weekend.

Another retirement is anticipated from the police in November, Milardo said, and the department is working to put a plan in place to fill that position as well.

*From the Editor's Desk*

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

The Emmy nominations came out last week – an annual occurrence that always intrigues me. While the Oscars have more prestige, the Emmys have always been more my bag. For starters, I tend to have actually seen some of the Emmy-nominated shows and performers; lately, if I've seen one or two of the Oscar-nominated films, I'm lucky.

This year, I have my favorites in the drama and comedy series categories (*Mad Men* and *Parks and Recreation*, respectively; the two each had fantastic final seasons this year), and I once again noticed the lack of broadcast-network nominees. For instance, in the drama category there wasn't a single show from one of the broadcast networks; they all came from cable or Netflix.

I'm not saying this is necessarily a bad thing; the explosion of original scripted series on cable and Netflix is good – for viewers as well as creators. But as scripted shows on those outlets continue to multiply, I wonder sometime if there will one day come a time when cable and Internet shows are nominated in one category, and broadcast shows in another. I'm not saying it would be a good idea, but I have seen a little bit of clamoring for this, and it's not hard to see why. The playing fields aren't exactly level.

Broadcast shows are subject to FCC standards (sometimes it feels like that's about the only thing the FCC still regulates), whereas cable shows are not. Also, cable series typically have short seasons of 13 episodes. Most broadcast shows, on the other hand, have seasons of 22 episodes. Sometimes even the best shows can have difficulty sustaining their brilliance over that number of episodes. (Note I said "sometimes." The very best shows, in my opinion, have been able to do this.)

Probably the biggest difference, though, is that cable shows – even those on basic cable – aren't nearly as dependent on advertising as broadcast shows are. Cable series can, and have, enjoy long runs despite having ratings that would get them canceled in mere weeks by many broadcast networks. So a cable show can take its time, experiment with episodes, try to find its way – and not have to do so under the gun, trying to appeal to a variety of different people at once.

So why would separating cable from broadcast be a bad thing? Because you can certainly make a case that, if you start to split up categories, you'd have to keep on splitting them up. Basic cable – which is still advertiser-based, though to a far lesser extent than broadcast – plays by a different set of rules than premium cable, which is subscriber-based. So how long before, say, AMC would want to be listed in a separate category than HBO? And then, how long before HBO would want a separate category from Netflix (which doesn't even have Nielsen ratings, or apparently any kind of ratings system)?

I think it's best to just leave things the way

they are now. I haven't seen all the shows that were nominated last week, but from what I've heard and read about them, they're all pretty deserving. And that's not surprising. There's an awful lot of excellent television around these days. There's more scripted television on TV than ever before – even TV Land has gotten into the act – and competition can help spur creativity.

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Speaking of the Emmys, though, I saw an interesting article last week about how all these award statues got their names. I mean, it's not like "Emmy" is an acronym for the awards organization or anything (the awards are given out by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences). Ditto for the Oscars (handed out by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences). So where did the statues get their names?

According to Oxford Dictionaries, while the origin of the term "Oscar" isn't known for sure, it perhaps comes from the name of Oscar Pierce, an American wheat and fruit farmer. Why him? Margaret Herrick, librarian (and later executive director) of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, noted in 1931 that the Academy Award statuette – which had begun being awarded two years earlier – reminded her of her "Uncle Oscar," the name by which she called her cousin Oscar Pierce. The name stuck.

The Tony awards – handed out for the best in Broadway – also refer to a person, but not a man, despite the name. The annual awards are named in honor of Antoinette "Tony" Perry, an actress, manager and producer. In fact, the full name of the award is the "Antoinette Perry Award for Excellence in Theatre." Yes, I would say "Tony" is decidedly less of a mouthful.

But don't assume the Emmys are named in honor of someone named Emma, or Emily. Far from it. Flatscreen TVs have been so prevalent for so long that it may seem difficult to recall a time when the key ingredient in a television was the picture tube. According to Oxford, Emmy is said to be an alteration of "Immy," itself a shortening of the term "image orthicon." Image orthicon was a type of television camera tube popular in cathode ray television sets of the mid-20th century.

The Grammy – the award given by the American National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences for excellence in the recording industry – also has its origins in technology. It was initially called the Gramophone Award, after a gramophone record – a.k.a. a vinyl record. The awards were first handed out in 1959, after the Emmys had already been established, so it's not surprising the recording arts academy shortened "Gramophone" to "Grammy."

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See you next week.

# AHM Drug Task Force Gets New Name

by Geeta Schrayter

What's in a name? According to AHM Youth and Family Services, a lot. And, as a result, the bureau is changing the name of the Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Task Force to the Coalition for a Healthy Empowered Community, or CHEC.

The Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Task Force has been around since 1986 and throughout the years, the group has worked to minimize the impact of drug and alcohol use and abuse in the community. But along with that, the group also focuses on overall wellness. And, in an effort to reflect that and have a coalition community members feel comfortable with, AHM Youth and Family Services moved to change the name.

"The idea of the name change came about after many parents in the communities expressed ideas on ways to expand membership and support for AHM's efforts to help keep children and teens drug free," it's explained in a July 15 release on the change.

AHM Executive Director Joel Rosenberg added, "In the old days, parents were very comfortable having a drug task force where they could openly talk about drugs, alcohol and prevention efforts. And today we're finding people are much more comfortable talking about wellness."

Project coordinator Haley Shoop furthered, "The name change I think is a direction a lot of coalitions are going in to be more encompassing; it's still really about reducing substance abuse and that's what we want to see through

the course of the next five years through different programs that we do."

Those programs include community focus groups, an anonymous tip line to report underage drinking parties, a party patrol initiative led by volunteers and members of law enforcement to help identify and stop said parties, annual drug take back events, and educational forums.

Some of the educational forums that have already taken place include a forum on internet safety, one on marijuana, and a presentation by former New England Patriot Chris Sullivan on the effects drug and alcohol addiction has had on his life.

"He talks about his struggles with addiction and symptoms like isolation," Shoop stated.

"And how one thing led to another," Rosenberg continued. "How there were mental health issues he'd been dealing with all his life, and drugs and alcohol got mixed into the equation and turned his life upside down."

Moving forward, Rosenberg said there are plans to get parents and students together in a focus group setting so parents can pose questions and listen to students' responses. In addition, he said, "We also hope to expand membership of the coalition to get more business leaders involved, more community leaders, more parents and students. It's a pretty big group already but it's okay if it gets bigger. That's not a bad thing."

Funding for the programs put on through the coalition come from a federal grant AHM re-

ceived last year. The youth services bureau was one of 197 nationwide recipients of the five-year grant, for \$125,000 each year, which is meant to support the prevention of youth substance abuse.

The release added that "throughout the second year of this grant the coalition will be present at an ever increasing number of community events such as school open houses, farmers markets, town wide celebrations, and youth sporting events. The idea is to help reach a new generation of families living in the regional community to share important wellness resources on parenting and health related topics."

"Throughout the year there's going to be a whole lot of information coming out from AHM through this coalition" Rosenberg shared, including education materials and resources on the AHM website. "It's about education; it's about keeping people well-informed."

He continued, "We want people to be well-equipped with answers. And if they're ever faced with having a family member that is going through issues with addiction, we want to make sure that the resources are readily available to them and that they know ahead of time, before they ever find themselves in the situation where they don't know where to turn to for help; we want people to know that there is a place to turn to."

In addition, Rosenberg said the coalition's purpose is "keeping people safe."

Shoop elaborated, saying, "We don't want

to scare people. We're coming at it with the approach that we care and are trying to keep kids safe."

Rosenberg added, "For years, I think a lot of people thought when they heard 'drug task force' that it's punitive, and that's not at all what we're about."

He continued, "Especially people that might be newer to the communities, when they hear 'AHM' or they hear that this group has changed their name ... it's going to probably sound wrong but I want to make sure it comes across that we are not doing this to be nice. We're doing this because these are real-life situations [with underage drinking and drug use and resulting tragedies] that are going on in these communities and we really and truly want to make sure that parents especially, are the most well equipped in terms of having resources available to them."

Rosenberg said he wanted people to know "that right here in these communities they do have access to resources."

The name change, he concluded, "is hopefully to make people feel more comfortable with who we are and what services and information we're trying to provide."

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For access to resources, for more information on CHEC or ways to get involved, go to [ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org). The next CHEC meeting takes place Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. at AHM Youth and Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive.

# Blight Task Force Coming Back to Life in Colchester

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Board of Selectmen is bringing the Blight Ordinance Task Force back to life, after it was stalled for over a year.

The task force had its one and only meeting in January 2014; future meetings were to take place once a month, but the force was put on hold while state lawmakers worked on a state-wide ordinance.

That ordinance never came to be, however, and so the task force is back in business.

First Selectman Stan Soby said the selectmen are working on creating a new charge for the task force – and also looking for new members. Since that January 2014 meeting, four of the task force's five members have departed, with only Ron Silberman remaining.

"They got started and then the state was supposed to be working on a state model for blight ordinances," Soby said. "People were looking for the model from the state. That never came to be during the [legislative] session."

Soby explained that when the state had announced it was working on a model ordinance, the Board of Selectmen at the time met and decided to suspend the task force until the model was created.

The Blight Ordinance Task Force was originally created after residents petitioned for such an ordinance in August 2013. Per town charter, the selectmen are responsible for interviewing candidates and establishing a charge for the task force to follow.

"Well now we have to go back through and revise the task force and get that going," Soby said. "We've re-advertised [for members.] Through the length of time [the task force has been on hiatus] people have gone to do other things. We appreciate that they signed up originally."

"As soon as we have members, we'll get them started," Soby said. "We discussed the charge and I sent out a draft to the board members to comment on. Hopefully at our next meeting we will have that nailed down."

Soby said the task force will remain at five members. In the past, Soby said, the town has seen five to be a good number for commissions, and allows them to get work done efficiently.

At their July 16 meeting, members of the Board of Selectmen agreed the task force needs a general charge to look at blight issues in town.

"We're looking broader" than simply telling residents to not have 12 inches of grass on their lawns for more than two weeks, selectwoman Denise Mizla quipped.

Selectwoman Rosemary Coyle said the task force should have a basic mission and philosophy and it should keep in mind what is enforceable.

Soby suggested a few general topics for the task force to look at, including producing an ordinance that is simple and easy to understand, enforceable with current staff, and that focuses on health and safety rather than lifestyle. Soby

also stressed there should be a process for dealing with neighbor complaints.

Some of the staff available for enforcement, Soby said, are the zoning officer, building official, fire marshal, Chatham Health District, and social services.

At the selectmen's Aug. 20 meeting, the board hopes to finalize the charge for the task force and move forward.

The task force will meet the fourth Thursday of every month, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. To volunteer for the task force, interested residents can apply by filling out a board/commission application on the town website ([colchesterct.gov](http://colchesterct.gov)) or in the first selectman's office, and submitting it to Tricia Dean, executive assistant to the first selectman, 127 Norwich Ave.

Anyone with questions can contact Soby at 860-537-7220 or at [townhall@colchesterct.gov](mailto:townhall@colchesterct.gov).

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Also discussed at the selectmen's July 16 meeting was the Norton Paper Mill project and how that is progressing. The Norton Paper Mill project would consist of the town purchasing the property for \$1, demolishing the mill structure, the Nature Conservancy removing the dam and the property being renamed Norton Park. Environmental tests are currently being done on the property to see if the purchase can proceed.

Soby presented the selectmen with a con-

tract to hire Adam Turner as a consultant for the project. Turner is departing as the town planner July 30, and is moving to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

"We're looking at contracting him after he leaves as a consultant to coordinate some pieces," Soby said of Turner. "There are lots of parts to this and individual groups and embassies involved."

Soby explained between the work and demolition of the mill structure to the removal of the dam and work on the bridge, there are lots of moving parts. One of the steps for instance is the town completing their part of removing the mill so the Nature Conservancy's contractors can use the area to stage for the demolition of the dam. Most of the coordination, Soby said, is in the beginning of the project.

"We're looking for continuity on a project he's very familiar with and need assistance on," Soby said. "Because of his specific knowledge, bringing someone else in would be a starting over point."

The contract to hire Turner as a consultant is still under work by the selectmen with some of the language being edited. The property is also still undergoing environmental tests and has not been purchased by the town as of July 16.

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

# Colchester Resident to Host Blood Drive

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Eleven years ago, more than 100 pints of donated blood saved her uncle's life – and resident and recent Bacon Academy grad Marissa Gannon has decided it's time to give back.

On Aug. 4, Gannon will host a blood drive at Bacon Academy to help the American Red Cross – the organization she credits with helping her uncle stay alive.

"One of the major reasons why I have grown so passionate and inspired about this cause is because of my uncle – who is very special to me beyond words – who would not be alive if it were not for the humanitarianism of others," Gannon said.

Gannon's uncle, Steven Honyotski, 60, of Dorchester, Mass., was in a car crash in 2004 in Dedham, Mass. Gannon explained that after the accident, he went into trauma surgery and had a total of 14 operations.

"A year later, he experienced massive internal bleeding and died twice on the operating table," Gannon said. "Thankfully, he was brought back to life because of the generous blood donations of complete strangers. Over-

all, he received over 100 pints of blood over the course of his recovery."

"I know I am alive today because of the blood donations of many generous people," Honyotski said. "Without this precious gift of life, I would not be here. Marissa was well aware and helpful through all the surgeries, rehabs and extensive recovery time as I healed through this ordeal."

Since the accident, Honyotski said some of his friends have hosted 11 blood drives in his honor, gathering over 1,500 pints of blood.

"I have grown in gratitude as I thank each donor," he said, "aware that I am also thanking them for those who gave to me and for the lives their gift will save."

Some of Honyotski's friends also began the 56 Club, meeting and donating every 56 days – the minimum amount of time donors must wait in between blood donations, as per American Red Cross regulations. Many of these men had never given blood before, Honyotski said.

"I have also taken on teaching younger people about the importance of giving blood

and giving on a regular basis," Honyotski said.

During the summer, Gannon said, the American Red Cross desperately needs more blood. High school and college students are responsible for approximately a fifth of the Red Cross' blood supply during the academic year. In the summertime, however, only 20 percent of those students continue to donate blood.

"Many individuals have to reschedule surgeries due to the lack of blood supply," Gannon said, "and that thought is just absolutely terrifying."

According to Gannon, one pint of blood has the potential to save three lives.

"I really believe that this is a cause that touches everyone in one way or another and that my uncle's story and how it has impacted my entire family really illustrates that," Gannon said. "I think sometimes when we donate – because we don't see the direct impact it has on people – it is easy to not fully understand what a powerful thing it is that we are doing."

"I hope that when people read about my

uncle's story, they will be able to really see this impact, and feel inspired and encouraged to donate, because they too can provide complete strangers with a fighting chance at life."

Honyotski said he couldn't be more proud of Gannon's drive.

"I am very delighted, proud and inspired by Marissa running a blood drive," Honyotski said. "I can only hope that this is a start of a long tradition and an ongoing passion for Marissa."

The blood drive will run from 9 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Anyone who is interested in donating can call 1-800-REDCROSS, log onto [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or download the blood donor app on their smartphone to schedule an appointment. There are 45 slots and all slots are for blood donations only, and not for double reds or platelets. Gannon said there will also be a barbecue and other good to thank all of the donors, volunteer and staff.

To be eligible to give blood, participants must be in general good health, over 110 pounds and at least 17 years old.

# Colchester Republicans Nominate 12 for November

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Colchester Republicans caucused Tuesday night at Town Hall, nominating several returning faces for the November ballot.

“It was typical and uneventful, in the sense that the RTC had [already] laid out recommendations,” Brenden Healy, chairman of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, said of the caucus.

First Selectman Stan Soby, who took over for departing first selectman Gregg Schuster in May 2014, will not be seeking a full term. Healy said that, due to Soby’s other full-time job, he opted not to seek the seat. He will, however, run for another term as a regular member of the Board of Selectmen, a role he had been serving when tapped to take over for Schuster last year.

Running instead for first selectman is current Board of Finance member Art Shilosky. Shilosky is currently serving a six-year term on the finance board, running through November 2017, and Healy explained if he is not elected first selectman, he will remain on the

Board of Finance.

Shilosky said he was asked to run for first selectman, and decided to go for it, reasoning it may be the final stop for him in terms of municipal service.

“I’ve been doing this for 35 years,” Shilosky said. He has been serving for the last four years on the finance board and also previously served on the Board of Tax Review and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

“My main goal is to continue the unity that we’ve had that Stan started between the boards to keep the town going in the right direction,” Shilosky said. “I think the town is in a very good position; financially in great shape, just passed the [William J. Johnston Middle School project], and starting to work on the senior center.”

Shilosky said this unity began with Soby – and he wants to continue his style of governing.

“Unity is the most important thing,” Shilosky

said. “Unify the boards and the people in town and you can keep it going. I know that we are going to do that.”

The Republicans also nominated current selectwoman Denise Mizla for re-election. John Reeve, who was appointed only a few months ago after former selectman Bill Curran resigned, will not be running for re-election to the five-member, Republican-controlled board.

For the Board of Finance, the RTC nominated current chair Rob Tarlov to run for re-election along with Andreas Bisbikos, a current member of the Economic Development Commission. Bisbikos was in the running for the selectmen board when Curran resigned, though ultimately Reeve was chosen.

For the Board of Education, current member Brad Bernier was nominated for re-election along with a new face, Renie Besaw.

“Brad’s been doing this for many years and is a great member,” Healy said. “Renie would be new, but has several children in the school

system.”

Currently, the Republicans do not have another open seat on the school board other than Bernier; however, Healy said the RTC is hoping to gain another seat by putting up Besaw.

Others nominated include Steven Schuster for treasurer, Tricia Dean as town clerk, Ron Niemczyk for tax collector and Karen Godbout and Healy for Board of Assessment Appeals. (Healy noted he is a placeholder for the BAA seat, and the GOP is still looking for someone to run.)

“There’s no major changes,” Healy said of the Republican slate. “We have a great group of people with a lot of experience. A lot of them have already been serving the town in different capacities and some are new.”

Elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the three polling places for each district. Locations for each district are posted on the town’s website at [colchesterct.gov](http://colchesterct.gov) under the Registrar of Voters page.

## Hebron Selectmen Discuss Regionalizing Schools

by Geeta Schrayter

There are already regional middle and high schools for Andover, Hebron and Marlborough residents – and last week, the Board of Selectmen discussed the possibility of regionalizing the three towns’ elementary schools as well.

Board of Selectman Chairman Jeff Watt said the initial discussion was in response to a request from Amy D’Amaddio, a member of the RHAM Board of Education, the school board that oversees the middle and high school. Watt said she had asked if the selectmen would consider being part of the discussion on the possible full regionalization, or potentially researching other options for the administration in the region.

“I think everybody felt that the best thing to do was to try to make ourselves available for the RHAM board,” Watt explained. “They’re putting a committee together to have that discussion . . . so we felt we would make ourselves available when they form that committee.”

Watt added, “I think it’s a good conversation for them to have.”

He added, “My feeling is if they decide they may want to do it, they may want to think of doing baby steps; what I mean is they may want to look at the fact of the middle school: should it include seventh and eighth grade or sixth, seventh and eighth grade?”

He furthered, “If they want to have the dis-

ussion I think it’s a good thing to have, just to see if everyone is on the same page from all three towns.”

Town Manager Andrew Tierney added this week the discussion was the “very, very first steps of something that we know is coming down the line – that there’s going to be declining enrollment, so I think it’s appropriate and prudent that they start taking a look at that.”

That way, he added, “we’re not just sitting around wondering what to do” when the declining enrollment makes a significant impact. “This is something that has to be looked at in a prudent way.”

He concluded, “I think it’s being proactive and it’s very brand new, and I think they’re just seeing who wants to be on the committee and starting to form that and I think it’s going to move forward at a positive pace.”

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Also at last week’s meeting, the selectmen approved two supplemental appropriations and a number of 2014-15 year end inter- and intra-departmental transfers.

The first supplemental appropriation transfers \$22,151.48 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to resolve a miscellaneous matching Grant Fund Balance deficit.

Finance Director Elaine Griffin explained this deficit was from “where we applied for

grants for various different projects but we didn’t have the matching funds allocated because most are 75 percent reimbursed by the state and 25 percent we have to find the funds for.”

She added in past years, knowing where the funds for that 25 percent would come wasn’t required of the department heads but now that’s what takes place.

“This was from a few years back, so now, whenever a grant is applied for, they do request the 25 percent or say where it will come from before the selectmen award the grant [the department heads] have to provide where it will be coming from, either through the operating budget or a request from CIP.”

The second supplemental appropriation transfers another \$62,387.79 from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to fund the Committed Retiree Payout General Fund that will be considered by the Board of Finance at a future meeting.

In a memo on the appropriation, it’s explained there are currently six employees in town who are eligible to retire.

When they do so, “Personnel Policies and Union Contracts depict 50 percent payout of unused sick leave balances with a maximum of 100 days. If all six employees were to retire simultaneously, this transfer would permit the necessary total payout amount.

Both supplemental appropriations, along with \$64,534.18 in intradepartmental transfers and \$229,196.91 in interdepartmental transfers, were approved unanimously.

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In addition last week, the board voted to schedule a special town meeting for the purchase of some land acquisition to help with the Hebron Parking and Safety Improvements Project in the center of town.

The land in question, a .53-acre parcel on Church Street owned by Robert and Paula Toomey, will be purchased with funds from a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant the town was awarded in 2013.

Under the scope of the project, safe pedestrian crossing will be constructed at the intersection of routes 66 and 316, along with a walkway to AHM Youth and Family Services, parking on Pendleton Drive and additional parking behind the library.

The price of the land is \$50,000.

The special town meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Hebron Town Office Building.

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The next regular Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting will follow the special town meeting in the same location, 15 Gilead St.

## Traversa to Run for Marlborough First Selectwoman

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

The Marlborough Democrats caucused this week and came away with a ticket that features, at the top, resident Amy Traversa running for first selectwoman.

Traversa unsuccessfully ran for Board of Selectmen in 2011, but has nonetheless been a familiar name around town in recent years, speaking out at town meetings on a variety of subjects, such as the town sewer project.

“I’ve taken a very vocal position in this town and I was asked if I would consider running and I said ‘yes,’” Traversa said. “We need a strategy.”

Traversa said one of the main things she would like to see in Marlborough is a cohesive plan.

“We can’t be spending hard-earned state dollars in STEAP [Small Town Economic Assistance Program] grants on sidewalks then cut into those sidewalks for water pipes,” Traversa said.

Another main goal of Traversa’s is seating a charter revision committee.

“I can’t for the life of me understand why that hasn’t been done,” Traversa said. “It’s been so long since the charter was reviewed and revised that we need to. The town is different today than in the 1980s.”

Traversa has a background in finance and has previously served as an alternate on the Board of Finance. This background, Traversa said, makes her an ideal candidate to understand a lot of the issues that “aren’t as easily grasped by other candidates.”

The current first selectwoman is Republican Cathi Gaudinski. She could not be reached at press time to confirm if she is running again; the town Republicans are due to caucus next week.

Also running for the Board of Selectmen on the Democrats’ ticket is current Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout. Currently, the board has a 2-1 Republican majority, and the lone Democrat selectman, Denis Soucy, is not seeking re-election. Candidates are elected to a four-year term.

Traversa said she is excited to be running alongside Godbout.

“I think the world of Evelyn,” Traversa said. “She has such a strong background. It would be a truly dynamic team.”

Godbout said this week, “I’ve been on the Board of Finance for at least 10 years and right now I think I could do the most good on the Board of Selectmen. I think I know the town and what we need to do.”

Like Traversa, Godbout said a five-year plan, especially for capital items and charter revision, are two of her top goals.

“Charter revision is the most important thing we can accomplish especially in regards to voting,” Godbout said. “I would like to see a town vote [on the budget] as opposed to a town meeting so everyone gets a chance to vote.”

Currently, the annual town budget is voted on at town meeting rather than at referendum.

For the Board of Finance, the Democrats nominated Erik Young, who currently serves on the board, and Joe La Bella. They also nominated Norman Swanson as an alternate. The board currently has a Republican majority at 4-2. Of the three alternates for the finance board, two are Republican and the current Democrat seat is vacant.

La Bella is a former finance board member for 10 years and a former selectman of five years.

For the Board of Education, two current members, Betty O’Brien and Judith Kaplan, were nominated for re-election. They are returning members running again for their seat. The education board has a Democrat majority at 5-4.

For the RHAM Board of Education, two new

faces were nominated – Barbara Armfield and Leslie Gonzalez.

Michael O’Neil is current town treasurer and is running for another four-year term.

For the Board of Assessment Appeals, the board has a Republican majority 2-1 with Charles Hickey running for another term. He is the only member of the board up for election.

For the Planning Commission, there are currently three Republicans on the board and two Republican alternates. Unaffiliated Brendon Montstream is not up for re-election and there are currently two vacancies – one full member and one alternate member. The Democrats nominated Ann Kilby to run for a full position on the commission. Kilby previously ran for an alternate position in 2011.

For the Zoning Commission, there is a Republican majority 3-2 with 2-1 for the alternates. Richard Banbury currently sits on the board and is running for re-election. There is also a vacant Democrat alternate position.

For the Zoning Board of Appeals, there is a 3-2 Democrat majority with a 2-1 majority for the alternate positions. Matthew Wilson is currently an alternate and running for a full member position.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.

# Marlborough Residents Cheer on Town Triathletes

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Two families in the Denler Drive neighborhood know where they'll be every other Thursday: hanging out at the end of their driveways, cheering on local triathletes.

The DeCorleto and Paragone families have been supporting the Lake Terramuggus Triathlon Series for years now, creating a tradition.

"We started hanging out every other Thursday, bringing food out, grilling and cheering on the runners," Karen DeCorleto said. "We want more people to do it. There's not a lot going on in Marlborough and it's a fun way to bring the community together."

The triathlon series is in its 16th year, race director Bill Honeck said, and combines swimming, bicycling and running through the town. It was originally started by Billy Driggs of 2 Hopewell in Glastonbury as something fun for a small group of friends, and grew to where it is today.

"The race prides itself in being a training series where athletes can perfect their game," Honeck said. "We emphasize sportsmanship, improvement, following the rules and becoming a better athlete."

Honeck said this year especially the race has seen a large youth movement.

"Our numbers indicate that the sport is in good hands, with a large group of young racers coming into the ranks," Honeck said.

And for newcomers to the neighborhood, the sight of all those bikers and runners may be a surprise.

"I moved [here] in June 2013," Adam Paragone, DeCorleto's neighbor, said. "I didn't realize the triathlon runs by the house. I wondered what the heck was going on."

Paragone said he soon met a few neighbors and joined the Thursday night hang out at the end of the driveways, having food and drink

and cheering on the runners.

"We don't know all the runners, but they know who we are," Paragone said. "They make comments, 'Where's my food?'"

Paragone said the families tell the runners to come back after the race and eat with them – and some have.

"It's just a good experience," Paragone said. "One of us will bring over a hibachi grill and finger food. We just hang out talking, enjoy a glass of wine, watch the runners and cheer them on."

Paragone said all the families have kids and busy schedules, but on Thursday nights all of them know what they'll be doing.

"Some of our neighbors on our street stop by every once and a while to spend the evening, but it would be nice to see other people doing the same thing," Paragone said. "One of the police officers in town trails with the last runner and stops by. He's sad we're one of two neighborhoods that set up and hang out for the race."

The runners the families support, Paragone said, come from everywhere and range in ability from beginners to those in heavy training. Paragone said he's even recognized runners before from Glastonbury High School, where he graduated in 2001.

"One of the first nights we moved in, I recognized him instantly," Paragone said. "It's a mix of athletes and this is a small triathlon to stay in shape. Others are working toward this goal of running in the triathlon."

Paragone said he's happy to support the runners.

"It's one of the only things that makes Marlborough unique," Paragone said. "Someone should support it."

"The runners are always very excited and thankful that we're cheering," DeCorleto said.

"We don't have to leave the house and it's just a good time. We want to get more people on



The Denler Drive neighborhood has been hanging out at the end of their driveways and cheering on the triathlon for years now. The cheerleaders include (front) Andrea Gustafson, Jack Gustafson, Carl Gustafson, Nixon Gustafson, Lucy DeCorleto, (back) Lisa Paragone, Jackson Paragone, Adam Paragone and Andrew DeCorleto.

the route involved."

Honeck thanked the town, former first selectman Bill Black, current first selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski, the Parks and Recreation Department, Resident State Trooper Jeff Dunshee and police officers Randy Ransom and

Jay Kehoe for their work making the triathlon possible.

The next triathlon will be held Thursday, July 30, beginning at 6:15 p.m., at Blish Park. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 860-295-6203.

## Belltown Budget Passes on Fourth Try

by John Tyczkowski

The fourth time was the charm for the East Hampton town budget, as voters Wednesday passed the proposed \$41.05 million spending package by a 1,085 to 868 tally.

In a special Board of Finance meeting held right after the announcement of the result, the board set the mill rate for the current fiscal year as 27.78. That translates into a tax increase of 2.36 percent over taxes under the current mill rate of 27.14.

For reference, a mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under that mill rate a house assessed at \$200,000 will have \$5,556 in taxes paid on it for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. That equates to a tax increase of \$128, or a monthly increase of \$10.67.

The total municipal budget, \$41,047,510, represents a 1.89 percent increase over the 2014-15 fiscal year budget.

Making up the bulk of the spending plan is the Board of Education budget which stands at \$28.78 million, and represents an increase of \$511,688, or 1.81 percent, over last year's budget amount. The general government budget is \$9.98 million, a \$209,388 increase, or 2.14 percent, over the current year.

Wednesday's turnout of 1,953 total voters was the lowest of the four budget referendums this year. But, the spending plan passed – and that, for town officials, was the main thing.

"It took a long time, but it's done," Board of Finance Chairman Ted Turner said Wednesday night, after the votes came in. "I'm very happy."

Specifically, Turner said he was glad to see the town would be able to get on with business as usual now.

"Now that the budget has been passed, we can continue to provide the services that we need to for the town," he said. "And hopefully the Board of Education can continue its great service to its students as well."

Councilor Patience Anderson said she was also glad to see the budget passed after "a very difficult process." She also said it was "very curious" that the budget which passed was extremely similar to a budget which fellow councilor Ted Hintz Jr. had proposed in April, before the first referendum.

"Maybe we had something the first time," she said.

Hintz said the difference was \$14,000 be-

tween the actual passed reduction of \$330,000 and one of his earlier budget proposals.

"And we've spent \$12,000 to hold these referendums," he said.

"I'm happy that it passed," Hintz said. "Unfortunately, it took numerous times for a budget that we originally presented and were berated for presenting, by one of our council members, at one of the council meetings."

Town Council Chairwoman Barbara Moore said she still felt the council's first two budget proposals – of \$41.71 million and \$41.42 million, respectively – "had been true to the town and its best interests."

"I do feel we were doing what was best for the town," she said. "Our thought was to move the town forward; we didn't put out a budget just to make people pay high taxes."

Moore added that the 2016-17 budget will have to be flat, as bonding for the high school renovation project will begin to come due.

"We promised that, and that's what will have to happen," she said.

With the size of the just-passed budget, Moore said, "there won't be a lot of movement

forward" in terms of what the town can accomplish during the current fiscal year, "but there will be some."

Moore said she wanted to thank the town employees for their help and support during the budget process.

"They've been great to work with," she said.

Council vice chair Kevin Reich said he wished the voter turnout had been a bit more on par with the first three referendums, but was glad the numbers were still higher than those of surrounding communities.

Despite what he said was a lack of feedback from voters on why they voted 'no,' he said he reaffirmed his commitment to the town's choice.

"The people have shared their opinions via the voting booth, and we're going to do the best we can with what we have," Reich said. "There might be a little less that gets done this year, but my goal is to make sure whatever funds we now have available, we try to make positive moves forward."

"There are needs in the community, and my goal as a member of the Town Council is to assist in fulfilling those needs," he concluded.

# Portland Town Park Steering Committee Discussed

by John Tyczkowski

The Board of Selectmen last Wednesday, July 15, discussed the next steps to be taken with the development of the Goodrich Property on Route 17.

Portland Town Park, which had been presented to the general public in April and to the Board of Selectmen in June, would carry an approximate price tag of about \$5 million.

The proposed facility would include two baseball fields, two soccer fields, a splash pad, a barn the community could rent out for various functions, a bocce ball court, a recreational trail, a playground, greenspace for passive recreation and a parking lot.

With the planning process complete, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said, the next move should be to create a steering committee.

Route 17 Reaction Complex Committee Chair Ralph Zampano suggested the idea in a letter, which Bransfield read at the meeting.

Zampano and the committee suggested the three goals of the steering committee be an educational effort to reach out to the town about the park's design, details and purpose at town events such as the fall fair and others; an effort to research and identify grant opportunities to fund the park's construction; and an effort to work with the town to create a final funding plan, including the cost per taxpayer in town.

The end goal would be to put Portland Town Park on the ballot for a November 2016 referendum, the letter said.

"I told Ralph I thought this was a good plan; people still have plenty of questions in town," Bransfield said. "One time I was at the grocery store, and someone asked me where the park was; once I explained to him, he knew where instantly."

"Outreach to the residents is important," she

added. "For example, perhaps we could put a sign up on the property where the park would be."

Selectmen took no formal action on the steering committee proposal, but were in agreement that it should be pursued at a future meeting.

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Bransfield also discussed the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, which is due to be updated by March 2016.

The plan, which guides the town's economic development and infrastructure development, is a requirement by the state of Connecticut for eligibility for several grants.

The plans must be updated every decade.

Priorities include updating and maintaining town buildings, parks, recreational facilities, roads and utilities, to help Portland "be the type of community it has indicated it wants to be,"

she said.

A number of items addressed in the plan include issues the town has already been working on, such as repairing roads, sidewalks and sewer lines, moving development of the Elmcrest Campus along, working on Portland Town Park, developing sections of the Air Line Trail in town and upgrading municipal buildings to be more energy efficient.

"We need to make sure we spend time carefully reviewing where we are heading in relation to where we want to be as a town," Bransfield said. "There are a lot of parts to this plan, but spending the time on it will ultimately benefit Portland."

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The next Board of Selectmen meeting will take place Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 7:30 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library.

## Drugs, Exotic Pets Found in Portland Home

by John Tyczkowski

A drug bust at a local home last week turned up marijuana, LSD and MDMA – and also some exotic animals.

Joseph Kirwan, 54, of 18 Airline Ave., was arrested last Friday, July 17, and charged with production/preparation of a controlled substance without a license, sale of certain illegal drugs, sale of a controlled substance, two counts of possession of a controlled substance within 1,500 feet of a school, licensed daycare center or public housing project, operating a drug factory and possession of a hallucinogen or more than four ounces of marijuana, Middletown Police said.

Sergeant Jorge Yepes, of the Middletown Police's Narcotic Street Crime Unit, said Kirwan had been under investigation for selling marijuana for several years, and said police applied for a search warrant after receiving help from an informant.

Upon searching the house, Middletown and Portland police, who participated in the search, discovered marijuana in bags, as well as marijuana plants in a closet and honey butane oil, "a stronger version of marijuana," Yepes said.

In addition, police discovered a sheet of LSD and a bag of MDMA, otherwise known as Molly.

The drugs in total could bring about \$15,000 on the street, Yepes said.

Besides the drugs, police also made an unexpected discovery.

"[Kirwan] actually had these exotic dragons that are illegal in the state of Connecticut that he had his own cages for and everything," he said. "He also had a huge snake, and all these rats he kept in the freezer and huge roaches from Dubai to feed the snake and the dragons."

"It was definitely an interesting place, and an interesting search warrant," he said.

Upon finding the animals, police notified the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. DEEP communications

director Dennis Schain said an Environmental Conservation Police officer responded, and found the "dragons" were actually Asian water monitors. Schain said Kirwan possessed a male over six feet in length, a female about five feet in length and a baby about one foot in length.

The water monitors were transferred to Rainforest Reptiles in Beverly, Mass. where they can be properly cared for, Schain said.

That same site also took custody of the over-six-foot-long python police found at Kirwan's home. It isn't illegal to possess such a snake in Connecticut, Schain said, but since there would be no one around to care of it, DEEP seized it as well.

"This does come up from time to time," Schain said of the exotic animal seizure. "The responsibility is on us to make sure no one has animals that are a threat to public safety."

Schain also said DEEP has no plans to bring charges against Kirwan for possessing the Asian water monitors, which are considered Class Two Wild Animals under DEEP guidelines.

Kirwan is being held on \$250,000 bond, according to court records, and is due to enter a plea at his next court appearance on July 27.

The possession of a hallucinogen/ more than four ounces of marijuana charge is a Class D felony that carries a penalty of a prison sentence of one to five years. The other six charges against Kirwan are unclassified felonies, which carry penalties of maximum prison times ranging from three to 25 years, and maximum fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000.

Yepes said Kirwan had previous arrests for possession and for possession with intent to sell.

"It was a good arrest, and good to get him off the street," Yepes said. "It's a big score for both towns."

"And it's good to be able to work on cases together and have departments cooperate so smoothly," he said of the joint operation.



The home at 29 Pierce Ln. sustained heavy fire and smoke damage on its second floor after a fire last Friday, July 17.

## One Firefighter Injured After Colchester Structure Fire

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

One firefighter was injured and the second floor of a home on Pierce Lane was destroyed after a fire last Friday.

Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department Deputy Chief Don Lee said a woman and dog were home at 29 Pierce Ln., but got out safely. The woman had been in another part of the home and found the fire.

One firefighter was transported to Marlborough Clinic, however, after he hit his head on a narrow, steep staircase, Lee said. That firefighter was released and is okay.

The fire began around 5:30 p.m. on July 17. When firefighters arrived on scene, Lee said, the upstairs was full of fire and smoke. Mutual aid responded from Salem, Hebron, Gardner Lake, Bozrah, East Hampton and Marlborough. It took until 6:15 p.m. to get the fire under control and the last unit left at 7:45 p.m.

The blaze began in "a second-floor bathroom

or closet," Colchester Fire Marshal Sean Shoemaker said. However, he said, the fire's cause will remain undetermined, as there are not enough facts to pinpoint what started it.

Not being able to determine a cause "happens sometimes, unfortunately." He added he was assisted in his investigation by the state fire marshal's office as well.

One of the difficult parts of the fire, Lee said, was that the house was built in the late 1800s, and the framing did not include "firestops," or physical barriers designed to prevent the spread of flames. This means the fire can travel very quickly vertically and horizontally, Lee said.

"The guys did a great job of getting in and getting it under control and stopping the spread," Lee said.

Overall, though, the home sustained significant fire damage and heavy smoke damage throughout the second floor.

# YPCCA to Perform 'West Side Story' in East Hampton

by John Tyczkowski

For the first time in its 33-year history, the Young People's Center for Creative Arts' summer play will take place outside of East Hampton.

YPCCA will perform *West Side Story* this year, a 1957 Bernstein and Sondheim Broadway musical retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and set in then-contemporary Manhattan's Upper West Side. The play deals with the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Later adapted into a 1961 Oscar-winning film, the musical boasts such classic songs as "I Feel Pretty," "Tonight" and "Maria."

Typically, the YPCCA plays are performed at East Hampton High School. However, this summer the building is off-limits, due to the ongoing renovation project.

So, the theater troupe will put on the play at Cuginchaug Regional High School in Durham.

Kendra Dickinson, YPCCA junior director, said, however, the venue change actually makes their production much closer to the Broadway tradition.

"It's actually more authentic to the Broadway productions in that respect; those actors never rehearse where they're going to perform," Dickinson said. "The same is true of the Goodspeed [Opera House] and the Ivoryton [Play House]."

Rehearsals kicked off Monday, July 6, and the 69 middle and high school students involved have been putting in work Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at East Hampton Middle School.

For a better approximation of performing at Cuginchaug, the actors haven't been rehearsing on the EHMS stage. Rather, they perform on the cafeteria floor, inside an area taped off to mark the size of Cuginchaug's stage.

There is also a team of 10 adult staff members, working on everything from choreography to set design, who offer the students support.

"Despite the additional complications involved in logistics with trucking out to Durham, it's going to be a great show," she said. "We've

got a lot of collective years of experience here working together."

Dickinson said securing Cuginchaug as the new venue was something that "took the better part of the school year," and involved a crucial connection.

Cuginchaug is part of the Region 13 school district, and the daughter of Sue Viccaro, former superintendent of the district, participated in YPCCA productions for several years. When Viccaro, who now works in Springfield, Mass., learned YPCCA needed a new venue, she was happy to help, Dickinson said.

"We were definitely afraid at first that we wouldn't have a venue for this summer, and while it took some work, we're grateful to be able to go to Cuginchaug," Dickinson said. "It really was all about connections."

Eric Lyons, who will start his senior year at EHHS in the fall, plays Chino, a Shark, in *West Side Story*. A veteran of YPCCA productions, Lyons said he was pleased with how his fellow actors had been coming together despite the venue change challenge.

"I think it's impressive that a group of young actors can act so professional and stuff in such a short time," he said.

In addition, incoming senior Graham Stillman, who also plays a Shark, said the boys were required to adopt a workout regimen to more closely resemble their tough gang personas, and had to adopt other physical changes, such as shaving facial hair and getting fake tans.

"I was not expecting that at all when I signed up," he said.

Those who portray the Sharks and other Puerto Rican characters also were required to learn Puerto Rican-accented English, explained Carli Villa, a counselor-in-training who graduated EHHS last month, and who plays Maria.

Incoming senior Kim Labby, who plays Anita, said she enjoyed that though all the actors are middle- and high-schoolers, they're constantly held to higher standards.

"I knew this was a dance-heavy musical, but I thought maybe they'd lighten it for us," she said. "But no, not at all; they went full-throttle,



Lily and Mason Cordeiro, Graham Stillman and Kim Labby (pictured from left) model a tableau of the Jets and Sharks conflict from *West Side Story*, the musical which the Young People's Center for Creative Arts will perform this year.

and you've got to run with wolves or get left behind."

But at the same time, Labby said, the teachers will position different actors according to their ability around the stage, and won't embarrass anyone.

"They'll make sure you're not front-and-center if dancing isn't your strongest thing," she said.

And all of those campers said they would love to return to YPCCA as staff members after.

"We're a big family here, and we want to see everyone succeed, and we want to give back," Sam Larai, a five-year YPCCA participant and new EHHS grad who plays Diesel, a

Jet.

First-timer and eighth grader Nick White, who plays Anxious, a Shark, agreed about the group's special nature.

"After coming here for even just one show, you're hooked," he said. "And you're going to want to come back the next year, and the next."

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Showtimes are Thursday July 30, Friday, July 31 and Saturday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Aug. 2. All shows are at Cuginchaug Regional High School in Durham.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at [ypcca.org](http://ypcca.org).

## Andover Man Sentenced in Assault, Arson Case

by Geeta Schrayter

An Andover man learned this week he'll spend four years in jail in connection with an arson and assault case from 2013.

On March 11, 2013, the home of James Baver, 19, caught fire. His mother, Wendy Baver, was home at the time and transported to the hospital for injuries sustained in the fire, which state police later determined was intentionally set.

Police said Wendy Baver had been assaulted during a domestic incident by her son,

who was 16 at the time, before he set fire to his bedroom and fled the state.

He was apprehended in Virginia the following day.

Baver was charged with first-degree assault — a felony offense — and pled guilty last October.

He was sentenced Monday to seven years in jail, with the execution to be suspended after four years, followed by another four years of probation.

## Marlborough Police News

7/18: State Police said Ryan Ragalis, 22, of 78 Ten Acre Rd., New Britain, was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries after his car went off Route 2 and down an embankment near exit 13 at around 10:15 p.m.

## Portland Police News

7/18: Daniel Carrasco, 38, of 97 Platt Ave., West Haven, was charged with third-degree burglary, possession of burglary tools and second-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

7/5: Todd L. Goulet, 46, of 19 Shody Mill Rd., Andover was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, possession of a narcotic, failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle under suspension, East Hampton Police said.

7/11: Stacy Hall, 18, of 460 Church St., Amston, was issued a summons for simple trespass and interfering with an officer, police said.

7/13: Sara Marie Fazekas, 19, of 16

Hawthorne Dr., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right, illegal possession of alcohol by a minor and misrepresentation of age to procure liquor, police said.

7/17: Paul T. Kissinger, 56, of 855 Bank St., New London, turned himself in pursuant to an outstanding warrant for his arrest and was charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

## Portland Burger King Burglary Thwarted

by John Tyczkowski

A West Haven man has been arrested for attempting to break into the Burger King at the corner of Main and Marlborough streets.

Daniel F. Carrasco-Rodriguez, 36, of 97 Platt Ave., West Haven, was charged with third-degree burglary, possession of burglary tools and second-degree criminal mischief, for causing damage to the inner door.

Officer Dan Knapp of the Portland Police Department was on patrol doing property checks last Saturday, July 18, when he noticed a figure in the foyer of the Burger King, shortly after 3 a.m.

"I saw a person dressed all in black tampering with the entrance doors," he said. "I investigated, and when I drove into the parking lot, he tried to hide from me."

Knapp said Carrasco-Rodriguez "curled up into a ball" behind the foyer wall in the corner, but that since Knapp had changed his angle relative to Carrasco-Rodriguez, he could now see him.

"He was wearing a black ski mask, and

had surgical gloves on," Knapp said. "I also noticed a prybar, and I said, 'Ok, this is definitely a burglary in progress.'"

Knapp then confronted Carrasco-Rodriguez, and ordered him to spread out prone, which Carrasco-Rodriguez complied with.

Then, Knapp called Middletown for backup, who sent three officers for assistance.

"We detained the individual without incident, and it ended up working out pretty good for us," he said. "And it was actually a first for me: the first time I had ever interrupted a commercial burglary in progress."

Carrasco-Rodriguez is being held in custody on \$5,000 bond with a court appearance to enter a plea on July 30.

The burglary charge is a Class D felony with carrying a sentence of one to five years in prison, while the other two charges are Class A misdemeanors, carrying a penalty of prison time of up to one year.

## Colchester Police News

7/14: Colchester Police said Nicholas Viccaro, 36, of 87 Bulkeley Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with second-degree assault, disorderly conduct and first-degree criminal mischief.

7/15: State Police said Casey Bobowicz, 18, of 347 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order.

7/15: State Police said James Marino Jr., 48, of 41 Smith St., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with illegal open burning.

7/17: State Police said Kevin Ferreira, 21, of 163 Dara Dr., was arrested and charged with

DUI, having no front plate, drinking while driving, possession of pills not in original container, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of narcotics.

7/17: State Police said Ricardo Alvarez, 30, of 5 Norman Rd., Norwich, was arrested and charged with interfering with an officer, misuse of plates, operating under suspension, evading responsibility, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to drive right.

7/18: State Police said Francesca Colonna, 27, of 118 Deer Run Rd., was arrested and charged with possession of heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Priscilla Luoma

Priscilla Louise Hull Luoma of East Hampton, 49, passed away Monday, July 13, at Yale-NH Hospital after a lengthy illness, surrounded by her family. Priscilla was born in Meriden Nov. 18, 1965. She graduated from Platt High School and subsequently worked as a dispatcher for the Meriden Police Department.



Priscilla then completed a Bachelor of Art degree at the University of Bridgeport, and taught English at James Hillhouse High School, New Haven. While at Hillhouse she completed a Master of Arts at Southern Connecticut State University, and then took a position as assistant principal at Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Priscilla was greatly loved by all who knew her. One of her students said, "She was fierce and forgiving in the same breath." She was an articulate, insightful, and quick-witted person. A favorite quote was "Sometimes to be a better person you have to do more." She will be sorely missed.

Priscilla is survived by her husband Troy and children Jonathan (Hunter), Mitchell, Robert and Valerie; by her mother, Lorraine Hull; sister, Karen Shaw and husband, Perry, and their two children, Christopher and Phoebe, sister, Gayle Gann and husband, Kevin, and their four children Jonathan, Christina, Sadie, and Katie, sister, Valerie Hull; brother C.J., and his son, Jonathan, and brother, Stephen Hull.

She was predeceased by her father, Fred S. Hull, and brother, Fred M. Hull.

Friends and family called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, July 20. Burial was private at the convenience of the family.

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

## Colchester

### Bobbie R. Harwood

Bobbie R. "Rebel" Harwood, 81, of Colchester, husband of the late Shirley Barkyoumb Harwood, died Friday, July 17, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born Jan. 29, 1934, in Mount Pleasant, N.C., he was the son of the late Martha Harwood and Homer Crayton.

Bobbie had lived in Colchester since 1973. Bobbie had worked in construction, building homes for a living.

He is survived by his children, John Harwood and wife Debbie of Colchester, Daniel Harwood of Colchester, Margaret Culbert and husband Gary of Florida; eight grandchildren, Becky and Ashley Culbert, Sean and Amber Harwood, Jesse and Crystal Harwood, Raymond and Kayla Harwood; and a great-grandson, Chandler J. Massey.

He was predeceased by two sons, Bobbie and Randy Harwood, and stepson, David Gryzbowski.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, July 22, with a memorial service that evening.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492, or 800-562-3952.

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

## Colchester

### Mollie Flom

Mollie (Alpert) Flom, 92, lifelong resident of Colchester, widow of the late David Flom, passed away Tuesday, July 21. Born at home Jan. 25, 1923, she was the daughter of the late Abraham and Ida (Chadashevitz) Alpert.

She was a 1941 graduate of Bacon Academy. Early on, she worked at the family business, Alpert's Market, but her greatest devotion in life was for her family. Over the years, she enjoyed traveling and spending time in the sun.

She leaves her daughter, Lynn Jascenia and her husband, Douglas; grandson, Dylan Jascenia; her son, Elliott Flom; two granddaughters, Dara and Jordan Flom; and many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was predeceased by her four siblings, Faye Zupnik, Amie Brown, Hyman Alpert and Morris Alpert.

May her memory be for a blessing.

Graveside services were observed Thursday, July 23, directly at Congregation Ahavath Achim Cemetery, Taintor Hill Road, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to VITAS Hospice, 628 Hebron Ave., Bldg. 2, Ste. 300, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or to the Alzheimer's Assn., Connecticut Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd., Ste. 4B, Southington, CT 06489.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

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

## Courant

### Amston

### William Stewart MacDonald

William Stewart "Mac" MacDonald, 70, of Amston, loving husband of 45 years to Susan (Plaza) MacDonald passed away Friday, July 17, surrounded by his wife and children. Mac was born April 24, 1945, in Hartford, son of the late William A. and Frances (Atkinson) MacDonald. He was raised in Manchester, attended local schools and was a graduate of Manchester High School, Class of 1963.

Mac served his country during the Vietnam War in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in the port of Nana in Okinawa, Japan, and he oversaw and coordinated the supply and repair of the military ships that came into port. After the war he received his associate's degree from the Ward School in Hartford and earned his bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University in 1983.

Mac was employed for over 47 years with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, retiring in 2013 as Senior Project Engineer. He was responsible for the manufacturing of the fuel controls for many of the commercial airplanes that are in use today. Mac was a motorcycle enthusiast and traveled all over New England and parts of Canada along with his wife Susan on their yearly vacations. He was a former coach for the Hebron Youth Baseball & Softball Association.

In addition to his wife Susan, he is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Lindsay MacDonald and their children, Kenna and Travis of Hebron; his daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Derek Pasterick and their children, Anna and Will of Tolland; and his brother-in-law, Richard Plaza and his wife Bobbie of Colchester.

Calling hours were Monday, July 20, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 21, at the funeral home, followed by burial in East Cemetery, Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hospital for Special Care Foundation, 2150 Corbin Ave., New Britain, CT 06053.

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

## Courant

### Colchester

### Rene Pelletier

Mr. Rene Pelletier of Hunting Ridge Lane, Norwich, passed away Sunday, July 12, at Harrington Court in Colchester. He was born in Waterville, Maine, Oct. 10, 1918, the son of Adolph and Cezorie (Leblanc) Pelletier.

Moving to Norwich in the 1930s, Rene attended Sacred Heart School and spent a year at Norwich Free Academy before finding work in a textile mill. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1936. Rene was aboard a cargo ship in Kodiak, Alaska, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in December 1941, an act that catapulted America into World War II. In 1942, he was sent to the USS Terror, a minelayer that sortied for Operation Torch, the British-American invasion of French North Africa in 1942.

During other parts of his service, Rene taught a seamanship course at the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Norfolk, Va., and then was stationed on several minesweepers before injuring his left eye. That sent him to a hospital in Panama, which began the second phase of his service that saw him serve as dockmaster at the Canal Zone submarine base and hitched aboard the cargo ship USS Mercury, the carrier USS Mindoro, the USS PC-1262 submarine chaser, the Essex-class USS Randolph aircraft carrier and the USS Ranger.

Rene also took a navigation course during training, which enabled him to become the only non-commissioned officer at that time to navigate a ship. He took the Ranger, a Forrestal-class aircraft carrier, out to sea. Rene was honorably discharged in 1958 as a Chief Warrant Officer W-4. After his naval service ended, he remained involved with ships. Rene spent 20 years as a ship designer at the Newport News Drydock Co. in Virginia, before transferring to a similar post on the west coast.

He married his wife, the former Loretta Peltier of Occum, in 1945, between hitches. Rene spent a year in Alaska before moving back to Norwich 12 years ago.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his grandson, Ryan Pelletier of Palmer, Alaska; two granddaughters, Joanne Pelletier of Norwich and Rosanna Pelletier of Palmer, Alaska; a nephew, Dennis Caplet; two nieces, Linda Mainville and her husband Dennis, and Kathy Burley and her husband David, who served as Rene's project partner.

Rene was predeceased by his two sons, Rene and Robert Pelletier.

The funeral service will take place at a later date.

## Courant

### Andover

### Susan Lebejko

Susan Lebejko, 89, formerly of Norwich, passed away peacefully Saturday, July 18, at Midstate Medical Center in Meriden. She was born in Andover Jan. 15, 1926, to the late Stefan and Zuzana (Michalik) Kukucka.

After graduating high school, Susan met and married her beloved husband, Michael, in 1949 at Sacred Heart Church in Norwichtown. He predeceased her in 2012.

Susan was a giving person, always putting other's needs before her own. She exemplified this working as a nurse's aide at the former Uncas on the Thames Hospital, Norwichtown Convalescent Home, farming and gardening but most importantly, as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her son, Thomas Lebejko; daughters, Kathleen Furtak and husband Leon, Anne Lesko and husband John, and Mary Lebejko-Roughan and husband Tom; grandchildren, Michael, Daniel, Amanda and Morgan; great-grandchildren, Grace, Brady and Emily; along with many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also predeceased by her son, Michael Lebejko Jr.; four brothers, Stefan, John, Andrew and Charles; and one sister, Anna.

The family wishes to extend its gratitude to the staff of Masonic Health Care Center & Pond Ridge North, Ashlar Village for the exceptional care and compassion shown not only to Susan but her entire family.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, July 25, at 10:30 a.m., at Labenski Funeral Home, 107 Boswell Ave., Norwich, with burial immediately following at Maplewood Cemetery in Norwich. There will be a calling hour from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Donations in Susan's memory may be made to either the American Heart Association or the Connecticut Humane Society.

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

## Courant

### East Hampton

### Warren Eaton Smith

Warren Eaton Smith, 85, of Sherwood, Ore., formerly of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Tuesday, July 14, in Newberg, Ore. Born Jan. 9, 1930, in Middletown, and an East Hampton native, he was the son of the late Eaton E. Smith and the late Gladys K. (Leonard) Smith.

He was predeceased in 2011 by his beloved wife of 61 years, Margaret E. (Odegard) Smith.

He was a graduate of East Hampton High School, Class of 1948. He was a good athlete, lettering in soccer, basketball and baseball, his favorite sport. He served in the United States Air Force, 1948-52 during the Korean War, and was honorably discharged with the rank of staff sergeant. He was a member of the American Legion, Post 56, Sherwood, Ore.

He was a chartered life underwriter (CLU) and spent his 40-year life insurance career in executive positions with several life insurance companies in Oregon. He served as mayor of Sherwood, Ore., in the early 1970s. Warren filled his life with a great passion for Tennessee Walkers, Brittany Spaniels and hunting. His prized Brittanys won many field trials and flushed lots of birds over Warren's years of bird-hunting. He and his wife were avid dancers and he loved jazz music.

Warren was predeceased by his brother Herbert. He is survived by his brother, Leonard C. G. (Geoff) Smith and his wife Erika of Naples, Fla., and St. James, N.C.; brother-in-law Ralph Odegard and wife Margaret of Happy Valley, Ore.; and two nieces and three nephews.

The family wishes to express their thanks and gratitude to Doss and Judy Walker and Kelvin Staven for their devoted friendship to Warren over many years.

The family also wishes to thank the loving staff at Chehalem Health and Rehab, Newberg, Ore., for their care for Warren over the past year.

A memorial service will be held Monday, July 27, at 1 p.m., at Canby Funeral Chapel, 160 South Grant St., Canby, Ore.

In lieu of flowers, you may choose to give a donation to your favorite charity in memory of Warren.

## Courant

### John Yanovich Burial Service

John "Jack" Yanovich, 72, of Rotonda West, Fla., formerly of East Hampton, died Saturday, Jan. 17, surrounded by his loving family.

A military burial of his ashes will be held at the Military Cemetery on Bow Lane, Middletown, Saturday, July 25, at noon. I and my family welcome anyone wishing to attend. Please join the family for a luncheon immediately after at Campagna Restaurant at 151 Marlborough St., Portland.

## Courant

### Colchester

### Yolanda Theresa DeRosier

Yolanda Theresa (Ritacco) DeRosier, 87, of Cortland Place, Uncasville, died Wednesday, July 15, in Harrington Court, Colchester. Born in Norwich in 1928, she was the daughter of the late John and Christina Ritacco.

Yolanda worked as an industrial seamstress for Jaypro. She was a devout Catholic and was a communicant of St. John Church in Uncasville. She was a member of the Montville Grange and the Montville Historical Society. She enjoyed cooking and crocheting.

Yolanda is survived by her son, John L. DeRosier Jr. and his wife, Kathleen, of Edgewater, Fla.; her daughters, Gail A. Klinefelter of Clearwater, Fla., Theresa J. Ames and her husband, Harry, of Palm Coast, Fla., and Helen L. Willey and her husband, Donald, of Uncasville; her brother, Frank Ritacco of Norwich; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her brothers, Ralph Ritacco, Sam Ritacco and John Ritacco; her sisters, Louise Nickerson, Mary Langlois, Rose Tulka and Helen Szalkowski; and her former husband, John L. DeRosier.

Relatives and friends attended a Mass of Christian Burial for Yolanda Tuesday, July 21, in St. Patrick Cathedral, 213 Broadway, Norwich, followed by burial in St. Joseph Cemetery, Norwich.

Memorial donations may be made to Vitas Hospice, 628 Hebron Ave., Suite 300, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Cummings-Gagne Funeral Home of Norwich, is entrusted with her arrangements. For a memorial guestbook, visit [cummings-gagnefh.com](http://cummings-gagnefh.com).

## Courant

### Portland

### Gail Sandra Miller

Gail Sandra (Lewis) Miller, 76, of Middletown, formerly of Portland, wife of the late Martin Miller, with a marriage of 40 years passed away Thursday, July 16. Born in Meriden, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Mabel (Van Dussen) Lewis.

Gail lived most of her life in Killingworth and moved to Portland in 2005, where she was a member of the First Congregational Church.

Gail studied at the Paier College of Art. She lived and worked in NYC as a model and designer in the fashion industry where she met her husband, Martin. Gail was an avid artist, interior designer and owner of the Yellow Daffodil in Centerbrook. Gail also played the violin and was a member of the Middletown Yacht Club.

Gail is survived by her son, Mark Miller of Darien; her daughter, Jodi Lisitano of East Haddam; her daughter-in-law, Mary Jo Miller; and four grandchildren, Maegen Lisitano, Cody Lisitano, Bennett Miller and Reese Miller.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, July 22, in the Swedish Cemetery, Williams Street, Portland. Family and friends called Tuesday evening, July 21, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gail's memory may be made to American Cancer Society, 825 Brook Street, I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3045.

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

## Courant

### Portland

### Zara Sweet Thomson

Zara Sweet Thomson, 80, passed away Saturday, July 18, at Chandler Hall Hospice in Newtown, Pa. Born in Westerly, R.I., Mrs. Thomson resided most of her life in the Portland area, moving to Florida in 1994. She had been a resident of Langhorne, Pa., for the past five years.

She was a nurse practitioner who was extremely passionate about her nursing career, working well into her 70s. She loved reading, traveling the world and spending time at Hawk's Nest Beach in Old Lyme.

Mrs. Thomson was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. A.W. Thomson Jr., who was a well-known OB/GYN at Middlesex Memorial Hospital.

She is survived by her children, James Thomson (Pamela), Karen Kruger, Paul Kruger (Nora), Mark Thomson (Dawn), and David Thomson. Also surviving, her previous husband, John Kruger; 10 grandchildren; and one stepbrother, Fred Norton (Jeanne).

Relatives and friends are invited to attend her memorial service today, July 24, at 10 a.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity that promotes women's health.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wade Funeral Home, Bristol Borough, Pa. For online condolences, visit [wadefh.com](http://wadefh.com).

## Obituaries continued

### East Hampton

#### Cynthia Rich

Cynthia (Cindy) Ann Cottrell Rich, 65, entered into eternal rest Tuesday, July 21, after a long illness. She was born June 30, 1950, in New London, to Carolyn Perry Cottrell and George Samuel Cottrell.

Cindy lived in Stonington Borough until 1958, when her family moved to Old Saybrook. She resided in East Hampton since 1974.

Cindy leaves her beloved husband Mike of 45 years and the light of her life, son Jeffrey and his girlfriend Sarah Lam. She also leaves her sister and best friend, Jeanne of Palm Harbor, Fla.; brothers Richard of Niantic, Michael of Westbrook and William of St. Mary's, Ga.; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cindy graduated from Old Saybrook High School in 1968 and attended Middlesex Community College. Cindy was employed by the Middletown Board of Education as a reading paraprofessional for 16 years. She was also employed by Post Reporting in Hamden as a verbatim transcriptionist for the Connecticut State Legislature.

Cindy was an expert seamstress who designed many equestrian show costumes, adult and children's clothing and enjoyed home decorating. She enjoyed painting and drawing with much of her work in animal portraiture. She put her art skills to work with an extensive ceramics collection making sure all the holidays were skillfully decorated.

Cindy was an avid reader of many literary genres, and as a young child would often hide under the covers at night with a flashlight reading until the early morning hours. Cindy loved her orchid collection and always had a bouquet of fresh flowers by her night stand.

A special thank you to the staff at Middlesex Hospital, especially Heather and her co-workers in the CCU, Hospice and the fifth floor nursing staff for the care they gave Cindy and the compassion they showed to family members. Another very special thank you to Cindy's home health care aide Bozena, who helped with her care during the period of her illness.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The Swan Funeral Home in Old Saybrook, CT is in charge of funeral arrangements, which will be private and at the convenience of the family. Online condolences may be made at [swanfuneralhomeoldsaybrook.com](http://swanfuneralhomeoldsaybrook.com).



### Courant Colchester

#### Ivan Sachs

Ivan "Ivy" Sachs, 87, of Branford, devoted husband of 60 years of Rita (Benowitz) Sachs, peacefully passed away at Yale-New Haven Hospital Wednesday, July 22. Born in Bronx, N.Y., he was a son of the late Joseph and Esther (Clarke) Sachs.

He was the beloved father of Mark Sachs (Ilene), Ellen Pellegrino, Linda Buckman (Ken), Howard Sachs (Linda), Gregory Sachs (Lisa), Robert Sachs (Betsy) and Louis Sachs; the dear brother of the late Arthur, Herbert and Marvin Sachs; cherished grandfather of Eric and Sheree Sachs, John Pellegrino (Dana), Lauren, Evan and Rachel Buckman, Sarah, Leah and Matthew Sachs, Cory, Mayah, Sam and Alexandra Sachs, Alyssa, Emily, Serena, Melanie, Dylan and Reanna Sachs; and treasured great-grandfather of Zach, Ava, Maci, Lola and Farrah Pellegrino.

Ivan and his family were dairy farmers in Colchester and Jewett City. The family moved to Branford when Ivan was 17 years old where they bought and operated Sagal-Lou Farms. After graduating Branford High School as a track and football star, Ivan, along with his brothers, moved onto construction and land development. They were instrumental in the construction of hundreds of thousands of square feet of industrial, commercial, retail, and residential building in Connecticut.

In 1973, Ivan and his wife, Rita, founded Cherry Hill Construction, a large site development company in the Connecticut region, where Ivan was owner and president until his death. His employees became his extended family, to whom he instilled the values of honesty, hard work, and dedication.

Ivan is an inspiration to his family, who he was devoted to throughout his life. He had a deep appreciation for the little things, from food to family, to a good ball game. His generosity extended far and wide, and he is loved by many. Ivan's home and heart were always open, and his presence will be dearly missed.

Funeral services at Cong. Beth El Keser Israel, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, will be this morning at 10 a.m., with interment services to follow at the Beth El Memorial Park, 55 Warner St., Hamden.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Cong. Beth El Keser Israel, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515, Chabad of the Shoreline, 800 Village Walk, Guilford, CT 06437, Ezra Academy, 75 Rimmon Rd., Woodbridge, CT 06525 or Southern New England Hebrew Academy, 261 Derby Ave., Orange, CT 06477.

A traditional period of mourning will be observed at 102 Cherry Hill Rd., Branford.

Funeral arrangements are in care of Robert E. Shure Funeral Home, New Haven.