

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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The driveway to the Colchester Town Hall was scattered with signs Tuesday, with some supporting the budgets and some against. Ultimately the town budget passed while the school budget was defeated.

## Town Budget Passes, School Budget Fails

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Although the \$14.39 million Colchester town operations budget passed by a mere 65 votes Tuesday, the \$39.90 million Board of Education budget is going back to the drawing board after being defeated by 138 votes.

With 2,678 ballots cast, 25.7 percent of the total 10,383 voters in town came out May 10 – a record for first referendums in town.

Voters said ‘yes’ to the town operations budget by a vote of 1,370-1,305. The spending package amounts to \$14,389,712 for a \$636,411 increase, or 0.46 percent, over current year spending and includes \$1,842,266 in debt.

“It’s a happy thing for the town that we got our budget passed and we can keep our town going forward,” First Selectman Art Shilosky said Wednesday. “I was a little nervous in the beginning, but it took off in a favorable way.”

However Shilosky said he was concerned about the failure of the school budget.

During the Board of Education meeting Tuesday night, the mood immediately turned somber as news came in of the budget’s 1,408-1,270 defeat.

“It’s a difficult time to get budgets passed for sure,” school board Chairman Ron Goldstein said Wednesday.

The \$39,895,363 proposed school budget was a \$99,993 increase, or 0.24 percent, over current year spending.

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov said this week the voters had spoken.

“It’s hard to know what everyone is thinking,” Tarlov said. “We respond to what we hear and try to present a budget based on that.”

He added he “wasn’t shocked” the school budget failed.

“I thought with the higher turnout though that it would still be close,” he said.

Tarlov shared he was in favor of the \$100,000 increase being in the school budget as it gave taxpayers that wanted that increase the chance to vote on it.

“I felt they deserved the opportunity to vote on a budget with some of the items restored,” he said.

The school budget was originally proposed by Superintendent of Schools Jeff Mathieu in January as a 0.61 percent increase or \$40.04 million. However, in February the school board adopted a \$39.80 million budget with a zero percent increase. The proposal, which was exactly \$730 less than the budget approved for

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## Town Council Slashes East Hampton Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

An unlikely alliance on the East Hampton Town Council was not enough to save the finance board’s proposed \$43.43 million budget from almost a million dollars in cuts Tuesday night.

Republican Ted Hintz joined Democratic Councilors Kevin Reich and James “Pete” Brown in asking the rest of the council to hold off on a budget decision until they see what happens with the state budget when lawmakers convene for a special session at the end of the week.

The failure of the legislature to pass a budget during its regular session, combined with the threat of significant cuts to municipal aid that’s been looming since Gov. Dannel P. Malloy presented a revised budget proposal in April, have contributed to uncertainty among officials in towns and cities throughout the state.

Lawmakers adjourned last week without voting on the budget.

The governor’s revised proposal would reduce funding to the East Hampton school district by \$302,000 and slash funding to the town by \$317,000 – but it also has to be approved by the General Assembly. Various alternative proposals and a budget deal between the majority Democrats and the governor have been reported since then, but firm details remained elusive as of press time Thursday.

Instead of waiting, the four remaining Republicans on the council chose instead to plan for the worst by adjusting the budget based in large part on the governor’s April numbers.

The council’s budget proposal, approved by a vote of 4-3, cuts \$873,096 from the finance board’s spending plan. It comes in at \$42.56 million.

The mill rate will rise to 29.55 if the budget passes. That’s an increase of 1.77 mills over the current year, which is the same increase proposed by the finance board.

A mill is \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under the proposed mill rate, a taxpayer with a house assessed at \$200,000 would owe \$5,910 in property taxes on the home. That’s \$354 more than such a homeowner pays now, though the recently completed town-wide revaluation has changed the assessed value of homes since last year.

The tax increase is driven by the \$51 million high school renovation project coming due this year. The debt alone accounts for 1.44 mills of the 1.77 mill increase, according to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco.

A drop in the Grand List due to the revaluation accounts for 0.41 mills of the mill rate increase.

The council’s budget proposal means \$312,500 less for the education side of the budget and \$125,000 less for the town operations side.

It also cuts \$320,500 from the capital reserve account, which is a place to save up for long-term, big-ticket expenses such as upgrades to the senior center and library; the purchase of police, fire and public works vehicles; and repair and maintenance of various municipal

buildings as well as the roads and sidewalks.

According to Maniscalco, the council’s plans are likely to result in staffing reductions or shortened work schedules in multiple town departments. He said he is asking department heads to suggest how to implement the cuts.

The largest cuts to town operations are being made to the Parks and Recreation Department, senior center, library and fire marshal’s office.

The program coordinator for the recreation department, which comes with a salary of \$50,996, will be funded by program fees and other income – known as special revenue – generated by the department instead of by the town.

“If [the Parks and Recreation Department doesn’t] make enough special revenue this year, they won’t have that position,” Maniscalco said.

The senior center had been allocated \$124,000 in the finance board’s proposal; the council cut that amount by \$17,000. The library stands to lose \$15,000 of its \$455,000 proposed budget.

The fire marshal’s office was slated to be cut \$15,000, which Maniscalco said would likely result in a reduction in work hours.

Brown, Hintz and Reich were clear they didn’t approve of the budget proposed at the meeting, but did not try to negotiate any changes.

Hintz decried the cuts to the capital reserve fund as a short-sighted way of saving money, then threw up his hands against the united front presented by the rest of the Republicans.

“It looks like it’s a done deal so I don’t even know if it’s worth trying to discuss it,” he said.

But while Hintz was united with the Democrats in his opposition to the majority’s proposal, that didn’t mean they agreed on the reasons why.

Reich has advocated for more cuts to the capital reserve fund, especially in the area of roads and sidewalks. He adamantly objected to cuts to education and town operations that he said would drastically affect the town’s ability to serve its residents.

But Engel, while acknowledging it’s “not a budget anybody’s going to like,” said cuts have to be made and they need to be made now. She indicated time is of the essence because there’s a good chance the budget proposal, with its unusually steep tax increase, will fail at referendum – even though the vast majority of that increase comes from high school renovation debt the town has no choice but to pay.

“If we push our referendum date off any longer than we already have and the budget goes down, we don’t have time for a second referendum before we have to send out our tax bills, which then puts us in the position of having to send out a tax bill for supplemental money that none of you voted on. To me that’s taxation without representation and I won’t do it,” Engel said.

Republican Councilor Mark Philhower said all the neighboring towns have moved forward with their budgets even though they don’t know

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### Referendum Results cont. from Front Page

2015-16, called for cutting teachers along with several other reductions.

Since that budget was presented to the finance board, community members came out and spoke to the finance board, requesting money be put back in. In response, the finance board voted to add the \$100,000 and in March, the school board voted to add the teaching positions back into the budget.

But with the budget's defeat this week, it's unknown whether that \$100,000 to keep the teaching positions will remain.

Also casting a shadow over the situation are the unknowns from the state.

Shilosky said Wednesday although he didn't have any definite numbers, the school was set to lose approximately \$349,000 in transportation revenue and Education Cost Sharing funds from the state (ECS funds are funds provided by the state to offset the cost of education).

"Until I have a check or money in the bank, I'm not counting on anything," Shilosky said

of the state revenue. He confirmed the town did not figure in the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account funds at all, but it's possible the town could receive as much as \$330,000 in MRSA money.

If both budgets had passed Tuesday, the combined \$54.29 million spending package would have meant a 31.05 mill rate, up from the current year's 30.76. This would have translated to a 0.95 percent tax increase.

In response to the school budget's defeat, the finance board was set to discuss a potential reduction to the proposal Thursday night after press time.

The finance board, he said, "will try and work out a number and we'll see what we can do to get [the school budget] passed," Shilosky said.

Tarlov, meanwhile, said the Board of Education will have "a lot of work in the coming week to wrestle with what [the finance board] comes up with."

### Budget Cuts cont. from Front Page

how much funding they will be getting from the state.

"So why do we want to be different? Do we in East Hampton know more than everybody else around us who put their budgets forward and went ahead under the same assumptions we did?" he asked.

For Reich, a key issue is that the proposal – which he said was drafted weeks ago – should have been brought forth sooner so that people could have voiced their opinions before the proposed budget was sent to town meeting and then referendum.

"It's dropped in our lap and now we're going to have a vote. A vote that cuts \$600,000 out of a budget when we don't even know what the cut [to state funding] really will be," he said.

At an April 12 council meeting, Engel indicated she had a list of cuts she was ready to read out loud. But she didn't present the cuts then or at the next two meetings.

"They had this list over four weeks ago," Reich said after the meeting. "It had nothing to do with Gov. Malloy's cut."

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The council also voted to add referendum questions to the ballot to determine the reasoning behind any "no" votes.

Voters will find two additional questions on the ballot: "Was the budget too high? Yes or no" and "Was the budget too low? Yes or no."

A town meeting will be held at 7 p.m. May 16 at the Town Hall. The budget proposal will go to referendum on May 24.

## Observations & Ruminations

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Sunshine... is that you? After a week of rain and overcast skies, the appearance of patches of blue between endless gray, and periods of sunshine Sunday afternoon had me jumping for joy. Or at least, that's what I would have done if I hadn't been sitting in a car on the way to a Mother's Day picnic/family reunion.

Even so, when those first rays broke through, my husband, my mother and I looked around amazed. "Is this what Heaven looks like?" I joked, and thought of Charles Dickens, who wrote in *Oliver Twist*, "The sun – the bright sun, that brings back not light alone, but new life, and hope, and freshness to man – burst upon the crowded city in clear and radiant glory. Through costly-coloured glass and paper-mended window, through cathedral dome and rotten crevice, it shed its equal ray."

I don't dislike rain. I know it's a necessity, I enjoy puddle jumping every now and then, and I don't take it for granted considering there are parts of the world – heck, parts of the country! – currently experiencing drought. But I can't deny I was happy to see those rays Sunday, and have been soaking them up all week. I can't possibly be the only one to notice how, following those days of rain, the sun made spring positively burst to life; don't forget to stop and smell those flowers (literally as well as figuratively)!

And, along with making the flora blossom and bringing that new life, hope and freshness Dicken mentions, sunshine comes with a number of other benefits.

These include clearing up skin conditions like psoriasis, eczema and acne; improving sleep patterns by regulating your circadian rhythms; and promoting weight loss. The latter can occur thanks to an increase in serotonin which not only puts you in a good mood (yay!) but can help regulate your appetite. And of course, being outdoors usually results in more physical activity – think afternoon walks and impromptu games of Frisbee.

Sunshine also equals Vitamin D, which research has shown reduces the risk of certain cancers. Although people are cautioned because of the potential for skin cancer from too much sun exposure, according to a scientific paper published in Environmental Health Perspectives *too little* sun could result in other cancers. Living at higher latitudes, the paper asserts, increases the risk of Hodgkin lymphoma as well as breast, ovarian, colon, pancreatic, prostate and other cancers, compared to those living at lower latitudes.

Vitamin D also reduces the risk of Alzheimer's disease, helps to prevent Type 2 diabetes, improves eye and bone health, and boosts the immune system.

In other words, go get your shine on – safely of course, with the appropriate SPF.

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Now back to that picnic I was headed to last Sunday. Those in attendance were all descendants of my great-grandparents' children. That is, my grandfather and his five brothers. It's a smaller version of the reunion held at the end of the summer each year that brings together relatives from all over the country. In that instance, those in attendance are descendants of my great-great-grandfather who had seven children of his own. So

the branches spread pretty wide, and the relationships include a lot of cousins. Second cousin once removed, third cousin twice removed... so basically I refer to everyone as a cousin of some sort unless otherwise informed.

But I absolutely love these events. I love history and heritage. My mother has a copy of our family tree that goes back to England and includes a prince, some earls and a couple of dukes – there's even ties to King Alfred the Great! I have memories of the yearly reunion from when I was a child that included all kinds of kids' games like sack races and penny hunts in piles of sawdust.

Now though, the reunions include mostly older relatives and at each one, at least once, someone will say "the younger generations just don't have an interest anymore," and that makes me sad. I love looking at the collection of photos on display each year and hearing stories from the older attendees of life in the early 1900s. To me, it's nothing *but* interesting, so I've taken more of a lead the last few years in the hopes I'll be able to make some additions and changes to the event that might make it more appealing to the younger generations. After all, as author Michael Crichton has said, "If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."

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Yesterday, May 12, was National Limerick Day, which celebrates the birthday of English author and poet Edward Lear, who was known mostly for his limericks. Limericks are five-lined poems that came to life in the streets and taverns of 14th century Britain. In 1845, Lear released a collection of them in *A Book of Nonsense*, but he wasn't the only one to write these witty little poems. "Hickory Dickory Dock" is considered a limerick, and Shakespeare tried his hand at them in a few of his plays. Although they're referred to by some as the lowest form of poetry, I'm a fan of them because they remind me of my late great aunt, who was known for reciting things like the nonsense verse, "I see," said the blind man, as he picked up his hammer and saw." Two of my favorite limericks go like this:

A wonderful bird is the pelican,  
His bill can hold more than his beli-can.  
He can take in his beak,  
Food enough for a week,  
But I'm damned if I see how the heli-can.  
– Dixon Lanier Merritt

There was a young lady named Bright,  
Who traveled much faster than light.  
She set out one day,  
In a relative way,  
And came back the previous night.  
– A. H. Reginald Buller

And in honor of the day, for the first time in print, my own limerick as ode to the entire team here at the *Rivereast* that makes your paper possible:

To bring you the paper you're reading,  
There's staff that does more than you're seeing.  
I may write all the week,  
But they edit, paste and tweak,  
To ensure that it's quality you're reading.

# \$12.23 Million Budget Heads to Referendum in Andover

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The proposed Andover town budget of \$12.23 million is headed to referendum next week, following its approval at the annual town meeting last Thursday.

The spending package, which clocks in at \$12,225,137 for an increase of 12.86 percent, was approved at town meeting May 5 by a vote of 41-4 and heads to referendum next Tuesday, May 17.

Although the budget comes with a large increase, the mill rate is expected to stay the same at 30.72 mills through the use of recent surpluses and a portion of the town's general fund balance, which currently stands at around \$2.5 million, to cover the difference.

Included in the proposal is \$4,320,821 for the Andover Elementary School budget, an amount that's flat with current year spending; \$4,160,150 for Andover's portion of the RHAM schools budget, for an increase of 2.9 percent; and \$2,226,941 for the operating budget, which excludes capital expenditures and \$400,000 earmarked for rehabilitation of the bridge on Times Farm Road. Another \$803,945 is also included for capital expenditures – an increase of \$535,800 over current year spending.

Some of the capital investments included in the proposal are: \$308,000 for the replacement of portions of the Andover Elementary School roof; \$100,000 for emergency road improve-

ments and a road condition survey; \$50,000 for fire department apparatus bay ventilation; \$33,145 for an annual lease payment on a dump truck for the public works department; \$25,000 to restore the library windows; \$20,000 for repairs to the current 12-person bus used by the senior center or the acquisition of a new bus if a matching grant is received; and \$5,800 for upgrades to the Hop River State Park Pedestrian Bridge.

The overall budget also includes \$300,000 earmarked as seed money for the aforementioned public works building project and a new community center.

Offsets that will be used to ensure the mill rate remains the same include \$502,000 from the unassigned general fund; \$164,080 from the assigned general fund; a \$240,000 Open Space offset; a \$240,000 working capital offset; and spending \$107,000 in recent operating surpluses.

In addition to the above, the proposal also includes a one percent salary increase for officials; contracted increases for union employees, which includes public works, the assessor, assistant assessor and tax collector; and variable increases for non-union administrative employees.

Also included is a seven percent increase in benefits, up to \$337,500 from \$315,385; and

an 18 percent decrease in insurance, down to \$105,000 from \$128,000.

Increases in a number of other areas can also be found in the proposal including an 11 percent increase, or \$2,128 in the elections budget to raise poll worker wages; a \$4,000 increase in the registrar's budget for state-mandated training; a 98 percent, or \$7,315 increase in the administrative assistant's budget based on the anticipated salary; a \$35,000 increase in the public works department budget to hire a part-time public works/facilities manager; a \$12,000 increase to the Planning and Zoning Commission budget to hire a contract-based town planner; and a four percent, or \$4,602 increase to the Fire Commission budget to reflect increased maintenance costs.

Decreases, meanwhile, include a 19 percent or \$8,965 decrease in the treasurer's budget, based on anticipated salaries; a nine percent or \$9,400 decrease in the snow removal budget to reflect a five-year average; and a seven percent or \$11,278 decrease to the transfer station budget to reflect recent spending.

Speaking to last week's town meeting, Board of Finance Chairman Dan Warren said, "There were a lot of questions. I think this budget is a little bit more nuanced than those in the past. I would say there were all very legitimate ques-

tions but I think between the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen we answered them to the satisfaction of the town meeting attendees, which I think was illustrated by the overwhelming passing of it by 41-4."

Warren added, "I hope it passes. I think it's the first step in the right direction towards incorporating some efficiency with the general town government, and the first step in addressing some of our infrastructure needs."

Schools Superintendent Sally Doyen also spoke to the proposal this week, saying, "We're hopeful that the budget will pass. We have no increase for next year, and we worked hard to keep the budget manageable and acceptable, as well as provide the services and the opportunities that we need to for the kids."

Meanwhile, First Selectman Bob Burbank added, "It's nice to see that we were able to absorb the increase in the RHAM budget and the lack of monies coming from the state from our fund balance. And again, we will have another year that we will not have to raise the taxes of the town."

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Voting on the 2016-17 budget proposal takes place next Tuesday, May 17 from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the town hall community room, 17 School Rd.

## Three Injured in Route 2 Rollover in Marlborough

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Three people were transported to Hartford Hospital with suspected serious injuries Sunday after a one-car crash on Route 2.

According to state police, the crash occurred near exit 15 around 8:13 p.m. May 8. Police said Rashon West, 39, of 639 Garden St., Hartford was traveling westbound in his 2015 Toyota Corolla when the car went off the road and into a grassy median where it collided with a tree and rolled over.

West was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar. The two passengers, Londell

Davenport, 39, of 101 Walnut St., East Hartford; and Philomena Palestini, 33, of 12 Gray Pine Commons, Avon, were transported via ambulance. As of Wednesday, Davenport and Palestini remained in the hospital, but West had been released.

Police said the collision remains under investigation. Any witnesses to the collision or the car's operation prior to the collision are asked to contact Trooper Kaila Michonski at 860-465-5400.

## East Hampton Police News

4/29: Christopher Scaplen, 31, of 4 Starr Pl., East Hampton was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order.

5/2: Sarah Selavka, 23, of 22 Harlan Pl., East Hampton was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a minor, disorderly conduct, second-degree reckless endangerment, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than 1/2 ounce of marijuana.

## Colchester Police News

5/3: State Police said William Stankiewicz, 47, of 144 Lake Hayward Rd., was arrested and charged with DUI, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, and operating under suspension.

5/4: Colchester Police said Michael Hill, 32, of 216 McCall Rd., Lebanon, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny.

5/4: State Police said Jeri McMakin, 33, of 17 Spencer Dr., Middletown, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

5/8: State Police said Manuel Santos, 37, of 187 May St., Naugatuck, was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane, narcotics kept only in original container, and possession of narcotics.

# Portland Voters Pass \$32.49 Million Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

Voters in Portland passed a \$32.49 million 2016-17 budget Monday despite the state's failure to get its own budget approved before lawmakers adjourned their regular session last week.

About 8.9 percent of registered voters turned out for Monday's referendum, where they approved the budget 301-194.

The Board of Selectmen cut the town budget by \$200,000 late last month when tentative numbers coming out of Hartford indicated Portland was likely to receive less state funding than officials thought they'd be getting when the education and general government spending plans were first presented earlier in the year.

But while uncertainty remains at the state capitol, where lawmakers still have not reconvened to pass a budget, there was relief in Portland when the polls closed.

After a 6 a.m.-8 p.m. workday, Republican Registrar Pauline Neumann had enough energy to do an extended jig in celebration of the fact that it was all over.

About the same number of voters came out this year as last year. Prior to that, Portland's

voter turnout for budget referendums has ranged from lows of 7.68 percent in 2014 and 8.26 percent in 2013 to highs of 12.1 and 12.4 percent in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

The \$32.49 combined budget proposal represents a 1.15 percent increase over the current year's budget. The Board of Education budget comes in at \$19.87 million, an increase of 0.87 percent over the current year's spending package, while the town operations proposal amounts to \$12.62 million, an increase of 1.60 percent.

Selectmen will most likely meet May 18 to set the tax rate for the upcoming budget year, according to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield. Budget numbers indicate the current mill rate of 32.34 will rise by 0.32 mills – or 0.98 percent – for a total mill rate of 32.66 mills.

A mill is \$1 tax per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Under the proposed mill rate, taxes paid on a home assessed at \$200,000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year would be \$6,532 – an increase of \$64 over the current year.

The town operations budget proposal cur-

rently includes funding for a 12th police officer to start in January and a new, entry-level position for the highway department.

Meanwhile, the school budget enhances technology and special education offerings with the addition of two information technology positions, two certified library media specialists and an additional preschool classroom. The cost for additional staffing was mitigated by grants from state and federal sources and the elimination of several positions, mostly through attrition.

Bransfield said the budget was a cooperative effort of the selectmen, the school board and all the departments that make up the town hall and schools.

"I think they did a very good job in putting a prudent budget together and we will do our best, as we always do, and look forward to serving the town in the best way we can," she said.

She credited the school district for enhancing services while keeping the budget increase at less than 1 percent over the current year.

"They're preparing our students to enter higher education and the workforce and to have all the tools necessary to become effective and

productive," she said. "I'm really impressed with the work that they're doing."

Bransfield has said the town will now be looking to longer-term expenditures in the form of a referendum question on the November election ballot to use bonding to finance a Route 17 recreational complex.

She said the latest estimate would put the bond question at \$5 million for the complex. Officials are still evaluating the estimates for other capital needs such as roads and sidewalks.

Bransfield, who is also first vice president of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, stressed the importance of working with the state to help streamline processes to allow for healthier budgets at both the state and town levels. She brought up unfunded state mandates, which are an ever-increasing number of laws towns must follow at their own expense, as an area that needs to be addressed.

According to CCM, half of all municipal expenditures in Connecticut go toward state mandated services or benefits.

"I think as partners with the state, we're going to fix this," she said.

# Marlborough Parks and Recreation Director Going Full-Time

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Beginning July 1, Marlborough will have its first full-time parks and recreation director, but the individual filling the position won't be unknown.

The position, which has always been part-time, is currently held by Ray Bull – and it's Ray Bull who'll remain in the role when it becomes full-time next month.

Bull was hired last August after former director Mandy Rocznik left to become the program coordinator at the Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron. But keeping a director, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa said, has been tough with the position part-time, which she explained as a benefit to making the change. Another benefit, she explained, would be more time for programming and therefore, more programs being offered and more program fees coming in to the town.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," Traversa said. "The recreation department can be a profit center and hold its own."

As the part-time director, Bull received \$31,200. Funding for the position is split between the town operations budget and the department's program fund, which contains fees individuals pay to participate in parks and rec programming. According to the recently approved 2016-17 budget, \$35,943 has been included for Bull's position, for an increase of \$4,743. His salary will actually amount to more than that, but Traversa said this week she "didn't wish to disclose" the amount to come from the department's program fund.

Bull said this week he was "very grateful" for the confidence Traversa and the Park and

Recreation Commission had in him, for wanting him to stay in the position, and for making it full-time. (To make ends meet, Bull has had to work a full-time night shift job on the side.)

"This gives us room to grow as a department," Bull said of the change. As the only employee, Bull said he "wears every hat" including, along with being the director, acting as program coordinator and budget manager; going to meetings, organizing civic groups and networking with local businesses.

In the busy summer months, Bull worked 36 hours a week. But from October to April, he worked just 10-15 hours a week, leaving almost no time to schedule programs for the winter.

"I was answering emails and phone calls rather than planning," Bull said.

He added moving forward, he'd like to organize more programs for adults along with more cultural trips and events on the town green and at Blish Park.

"For a lot of adults, living in a rural community is somewhat isolating and lonely especially once a spouse passes," Traversa said. "Putting together trips and activities that are interesting to them is a key component and it's been requested."

Other things Bull said he'd like to develop are trips to the Bushnell in Hartford, the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, and Niagara Falls along with more arts, music, and dance programs.

"I want people to come to the department to look for opportunities; an outlet from everyday life," he said.

Bull has already made a lot of changes to the department since taking over last August. Along with providing additional programming, Bull added a variety of trips including baseball games and a trip to the Belmont Stakes in Elmont, N.Y. in June. And, he explained, those trips won't be canceled if there's minimal participation because the town does not have to host their own bus. Bull explained the company he works with simply sells the open seats to other towns, meaning the trips will always be held.

"I have heard some positive feedback on the programs and people are noticing [we have] more programs," Bull said. "Overall what we are doing has been received well."

Bull has made changes to the summer day camp that's held in town. Instead of being at Marlborough Elementary School three days a week and Blish Park two days a week, the camp will be held at Blish Park the entire time, weather permitting.

"The director and assistant director are new," Bull said of the summer day camp, which is also known as Netto Camp. "It's a good time for change."

The camp will also offer after-camp care for the first time.

"We are competing with the specialty camps such as sports and arts," he said. "I'm hoping the overall numbers will increase as the summer progresses."

Bull concluded by saying he was looking forward to July 1 when he can officially spend more time at his office in Town Hall. He added



**Ray Bull is the current part-time director of the Parks and Recreation Department but as of July 1, he will become the town's first full-time director.**

anyone can contact him at any time with ideas for things they'd like to see hosted by the department.

Bull can be contacted at 860-295-6203 or at [parksandrec@marlboroughct.net](mailto:parksandrec@marlboroughct.net). The department is also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/marlboroughctrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/marlboroughctrecreation).

## Marlborough Budget Passes on First Try

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

First Selectwoman Amy Traversa can breathe easier this week after her inaugural budget passed on its first vote Monday.

With a slightly smaller turnout than last year with 3.5 percent of the total 4,133 registered voters coming out, the \$23.74 million spending plan passed 113-34 at the annual town meeting.

While Traversa said Tuesday she was "pleased" the budget passed, she said the process getting to the vote was "not my favorite part of the job."

"I think it meets all of the needs; not the wants, but the needs," she said. "It's a really good step."

A 2.93 percent increase – or \$675,082 – over 2015-16 spending, the approved budget features \$8.55 million for Marlborough's portion of the RHAM schools budget; \$7.22 million for the local school board; \$4.76 million for town operations; \$100,000 for contingency; \$862,326 for capital; and \$2.24 million for debt service.

Voters approved the spending package with capital included in one question, while voting to return \$1,879 from the termination of a closed

backhoe project in another. The second question passed 140-6.

After the vote Monday, the Board of Finance unanimously approved to set the mill rate at 34.15 – an increase of 1.26 mills from the current rate. This translates to a 3.84 percent tax increase.

Although the state has yet to approve a budget, town charter dictates the mill rate has to be set within six days of the budget passing at town meeting.

The mill rate is used to determine a resident's real estate and personal property taxes (the state recently passed Public Act 15-244, which prohibits municipalities from using a mill rate greater than 32 mills to tax motor vehicles) and, under the adopted mill rate, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 will pay \$8,537 in real estate tax.

\* \* \*

The state budget has had plenty of uncertainty in recent weeks. On April 7, the local finance board voted to add \$80,000 to the contingency line to make up for an expected loss of revenue from the Education Cost Sharing

(ECS) and the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA) from the state; ECS revenues are state dollars provided to towns to help offset some of the costs of education while MRSA is a share of the sales tax revenues meant to keep towns from relying solely on property taxes, while also making up for the motor vehicle mill rate cap.

However, on April 12, Gov. Dannel Malloy released his proposed budget which included reductions in MRSA and ECS money. With those reductions, Marlborough would have been set to lose \$157,000 in MRSA money and \$133,000 in ECS money.

Then last week, Democratic lawmakers and Malloy struck a deal on a new state budget proposal that would restore most of the education cost sharing funding and some of the municipal revenue sharing funds reduced in Malloy's April 12 proposal.

While the legislature has not yet voted on the budget, details on the spending package were released, and, under the new proposal, Marlborough would lose \$29,000 in ECS fund-

ing and \$57,000 in MRSA money instead, according to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. The town would also lose \$16,000 in student transportation money and \$1,500 in the Pequot-Mohegan Grant which would equal a loss of approximately \$104,000 in revenue from the state.

Traversa said she was "comfortable" with the amount put aside in contingency, and that if that contingency comes up short then "we will make the adjustments that are necessary."

"Next year is going to be even more difficult and there is absolutely no way to avoid that," Traversa said of the state budget. "We need to deal with it the best we can and provide the services in the way the town requires."

Traversa thanked the different boards and commissions along with town hall staff for helping her get through her first budget.

"Without their assistance and support we could not have pulled this all together," she said. "It's an incredible amount of work to be able to balance the needs of all of Marlborough's citizens."

# Tierney Presents Options for Hebron Budget Reductions

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Hebron town budget of \$36.18 million may have passed last week, but there's still some work to be done, as both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education need to determine where to take the cuts made by the Board of Finance last month.

When Governor Dannel P. Malloy released a revised version of his budget proposal April 12, it contained reductions to Education Cost Sharing monies to the towns in the amount of \$267,010 for Hebron (added to a February reduction of \$30,001). In response, the Board of Finance voted to reduce the town budget by \$75,000 and the Board of Education budget by \$38,500 at a special meeting April 15.

(However since that time, another version of the state budget proposal has been released. In it, the ECS reduction changed to \$62,515; but a \$30,739 reduction is now included for funds from the state for education-related transporta-

tion, for a total reduction in educational aid of \$93,254 from 2015-16.)

At last week's Board of Selectmen's meeting, Town Manager Andrew Tierney presented three different scenarios as to where the cuts from the finance board could come from.

The first, Tierney explained, would take \$25,000 from the Open Space and Land Acquisition account, another \$24,000 from the contribution to debt management, and removes a new position proposed for a part-time employee at the senior center for a reduction of \$26,590, for a total reduction of \$75,590.

Tierney added regarding the senior center position, "The reason we were considering that position at the senior center is we applied for a grant to give us more hours to someone that's there, or to bring someone else in. We have a part-time person there now, so another possibility is to possibly just increase her hours. We

have other alternatives we could look at."

The second scenario Tierney presented also removes money from open space as well as debt management, with another \$23,000 coming from monies included for a pavement management system, and the remainder coming from funds included for exterior improvements to the town office building.

Finally, the third scenario Tierney shared removes the aforementioned amounts from open space and debt management, as well as \$15,500 included for a new mower for the Parks and Recreation Department, and \$10,000 for building security cameras.

"Those were all new initiatives" Tierney shared as to his reasoning for selecting the items that he did. "We pretty much came in with a continuation budget, so the lines were pretty flat. If we were doing an across the board reduction [to come up with that \$75,000], we

could run a lot of the accounts over and would have to do a supplemental appropriation at the end of the year. We're trying to stay away from that – that's not a good way to do budgeting."

He added at this point, "I'm not sure what the selectmen are going to do, but I'm going to meet with them and we will decide at the next meeting probably, depending on what the state does."

Meanwhile, Schools Superintendent Tim Van Tassel said last week the Board of Education was slated to discuss possible areas to make the \$38,500 reduction at their meeting scheduled for Thursday evening after press time.

"I don't anticipate that there's going to be any significant program changes," he said.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Office building, 15 Gilead St.

## Local Business Owner Seeks State Rep Seat

by Geeta S. Sandberg

For Marlborough resident Robin Green, it's the experience she has as a business owner, and her concern for the impact of the state's fiscal climate that's led her to seek the nomination for the state Representative seat serving the 55<sup>th</sup> district.

The district represents Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Bolton, and is currently filled by Republican Gayle Mulligan. Mulligan, who will be concluding her first term in office in November, shared in April she won't seek reelection because she's moving out of the district with her family.

Green, who is also a Republican, said in a May 10 release, "I am deeply concerned with the dire financial situation this state is in, and have heard from so many in our area about how exasperated and frustrated they are. What kind of expertise can help at the state capitol? Someone who knows how to read a budget, manage finances, and spend no more than we take in. I have that experience."

For the last 15 years, Green has owned – and grown – her own business, Discovery Zone Learning Center, for children from infancy through five-years-old.

According to the website [discoveryzone.info](http://discoveryzone.info), Discovery Zone provides a "creative, multicultural atmosphere [that] facilitates learning for children at all developmental levels."

Green explained this week, "I opened my business during the recession and I now have three locations" in Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia that service approximately 275 area families and employs around 50 people "working together as a team for the final objective, which is the children."

The release asserts Green was able to grow her business even in the down economy "with careful planning, good management skills and hard work. Her unwavering values for providing high quality early childhood care and education have led to her success."

And it's time "for someone who is highly experienced, who understands small towns and money management, to go to Hartford to help turn the tide for Connecticut."

Green received a bachelor's degree in human services from Springfield College and, prior to Discovery Zone, she worked with a non-profit for 18 years as well as the Capitol Region Education Council.

In those roles, she explained she also learned skills that would be beneficial as state Rep. including "a lot of management skills, working as a team, and working together to try to solve a problem."

Green has lived in Marlborough for 10 years with her husband and two children, who currently attend RHAM High School.

Locally, Green is a member of the Marlborough Arts Center and Museum, Friends of the Richmond Library, the Marlborough Business Association as well as the Marlborough Republican Town Committee. She has also helped with RHAM Project Graduation, and is a member of Friends of CT State Parks and the CT Childcare Association.

"I feel now is the time to give back to my community," Green said this week. "I have the time and I have the experience."

To Green, the top issue is the state's fiscal climate "and how that affects everyone here in Connecticut; it affects my neighbors, it affects my family, my friends, the people you work

with – it affects everybody."

She added, "I hear the day-to-day struggles that people have to go through to make ends meet and I think when you look at the bigger picture, I qualify [for the position] based on the fact that I do hear what people are saying. I listened to families for years talk about the challenging economy, the challenging world that we live in, and I've seen families and friends make changes they don't necessarily want to make, moving out of Connecticut to find jobs to meet their day-to-day obligations."

And it's the voices of those individuals Green said she wants to make sure are heard.

"I plan on being out in the communities and listening to the voices of the people in my four towns; listening to their concerns. And I want to bring that to Hartford and I want to represent them," she said.

And, helping her along that route has been Pam Sawyer, who held the seat for 22 years prior to Mulligan.

"When I thought long and hard about [seeking the nomination] I met with Pam, talked about what it would look like for me to run, and what kind of commitment it would be, and it was nice to get her input. ...Pam has been very supportive; she's very informative."

Speaking about Green this week, Sawyer said "Hartford needs someone like Robin Green who has the financial background to dig into where we can make the changes to help turn the state around."

\* \* \*

Next up for Green is the 55th district convention scheduled for Monday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Hebron town office building, 15 Gilead St.



Robin Green

"I love our state and want to see it flourish again, returning to a time of prosperity," Green concluded in her release. "It is unacceptable to see families continue to struggle, retirees and businesses leaving our state in record numbers. Being involved with families in the towns in the 55th, I have witnessed the failing state economy, and the difficulties with the poor performance of state government to turn it around. ...the poor management of the state's finances exaggerates the tragedy even more. I couldn't wait any longer. It is time to step up and run."

# Possible Playground Demo Elicits Emotional Response in East Hampton

by Elizabeth Regan

The sprawling, wooden playground at Seamster Park in East Hampton that has entertained children for decades has been deemed a safety risk by the town's insurance company.

A report by Trident Insurance Company said the structure did not meet existing safety standards even when it was built over 20 years ago. It also indicated improper maintenance of the wood has contributed to the playground's decline.

Jeremy Hall, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said the most cost effective option would be to tear down the playground, located near Memorial School, in order to build a more modern and accessible playscape in its place.

His department and its volunteer advisory board is working to raise \$160,000 for the project.

Hall presented the insurance report to the Town Council on Tuesday evening, where he made his recommendation for the demolition and replacement of the structure.

He laid out a tentative funding plan that includes \$32,000 in fundraising events such as a Hop-a-thon, Bingo Night and auction, as well as \$64,000 each in in-kind donations and grant funding.

The council did not take any action on the issue.

A tentative timeline would start demolition a year from now with construction on the new playground beginning immediately after, Hall said. The project would be finished in June 2017.

A majority of the comments about the playground on a recent post on the department's Facebook page called for restoration, not demo-

lition. For some families, the unique play place has spanned generations.

"My kids grew up on it as did I," one person wrote.

Many of the comments indicated people would be more inclined to donate money and time to the project if they could save the original structure.

Another poster called the current playground a "castle-like fantasyland."

"Not knowing what the repairs would cost, I'm certainly not in a position to advise, except that I do encourage the town to have someone work up a cost analysis to make the necessary repairs that would give it new life in hopes that it can reasonably be saved," she wrote. "If not, well at least we can say we carefully looked into it before we said goodbye."

But Hall, in a phone interview, said the reaction many people are having is an emotional one.

He pointed to the practical concerns of safety and cost as the drivers for change.

"It has been neglected. For many years there hasn't been anything done with it. Therefore, the repair work that would need to be done, even if possible, would be extreme," he said.

The pressure treated wood, which the report said leaches toxic materials into the soil and exposes children to chemicals, is a main concern. Remediation would involve sanding and sealing by a contractor qualified to work with toxic elements.

But Hall said a contractor told him sanding and sealing wouldn't be possible; instead, the wood would have to be replaced with expensive, composite decking popularly known as Trex.

"That could exceed the cost of doing a total



**Some upset has been expressed recently over the Seamster Park playground near Memorial School, which is facing demolition next spring due to safety concerns.**

replacement, and then some," Hall said.

The report included photos of many parts of the structure that don't conform with modern safety standards and must be removed. They include the slides, slide pole, climbing rope and numerous other play elements.

Multiple areas of the playground were shown to have dangerous gaps between the wooden slats. The gaps were characterized in the report as an "entrapment hazard that carries the risk of death."

Hall said the department and advisory board still don't have "a concrete idea" of what the new playground will look like.

"We're looking for resident feedback. We're looking for different approaches than the regular, cookie-cutter playground," he said.

He invited anyone with ideas or questions to contact his office at 860-267-7300.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. on June 7 at the conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Andrew Jay Blue

Andrew Jay Blue, beloved husband and a friend to all, went to spend eternity with God May 1.

Andrew was born in Middletown on Nov. 5, 1945, to Oscar and Mildred Blue of East Hampton. He graduated from East Hampton High School in 1963. Andy served in the National Guard of Connecticut from 1965-1971. He was a member of Masonic Anchor Lodge 112, in East Hampton, and a member of Teamsters locals 559 and 671 for 30 years. Andy was employed with Union Carbide of Danbury and Bailey's Express, Inc. of Middletown before retiring in January 2006. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Stafford Springs where he enjoyed singing with the men's choir.

Andy was full of life, always had a smile and a story to tell. He enjoyed traveling and golfing with his friends. He loved fishing, his trips to Maine, eating lobster and showing his old cars. He spent his winters in Punta Gorda, Fla. where he enjoyed golfing and bowling with his many friends.

He loved being with his family. He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten.

Andrew leaves behind his beloved wife Shirley of 35 years; his dog, Gracie; four stepchildren, Kevin (Pat) Bryant of Liverpool, N.Y., Ronald Bryant of Baldwinville, N.Y., Robin (Dan) Fey of Phoenix, N.Y. and Michael (Randi) Bryant of Baldwinville, N.Y.; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Andrew was preceded in death by his brother Fred Blue.

There will be no calling hours. Funeral service will be tomorrow, Saturday, May 14 at 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 8 Church St. in Stafford Springs. The Reverend Roy Richardson, pastor, will be officiating. Interment will be at a later date in Haddam Neck Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff at St. Luke's Nursing Service in Oswego, N.Y. and Manchester Hospital in Manchester for all the care and kindness they gave Andrew.

In Lieu of flowers, please send donations in Andrew's memory to the First United Methodist Church, 8 Church St., Stafford Springs, CT, 06076.

## Andover

### Kenneth Mosher

Kenneth Franklyn Mosher, 53, of Andover, a son, brother and friend, passed away Thursday May 5, after a long battle with cancer.

Ken was born in Waterville, Maine on Feb 26, 1963. He attended schools in Groton, Preston, and Ledyard, Conn., graduating from Ledyard High School in 1981 as a proud member of the National Honor Society.

Ken graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering.

Ken worked during the early days of modern computers, consulting at General Dynamics, working at Pfizer, Aetna Insurance, The Garlinghouse Co, and then working for the State of Connecticut for the Department of Health and Information Technology.

Ken was active and occasionally controversial in local and state politics, running for first selectman, and secretary of state, and was elected to the RHAM board of Education in 2003. He was very active in the Connecticut Libertarian Party.

Ken was also a nearly irreplaceable member of the CT Cactus and Succulent Society, serving as past president, vice president, treasurer, and membership chairman, and was a frequent speaker and regional expert on these plants.

His company Drago Cactoid imported and sold cacti succulents from around the world, and the more strange and unusual the cutting or bulb the better.

Ken is survived by his mother, Nancy Heart of Venice, Fla.; his father, Franklin Mosher, of Gales Ferry; his brother Michael; sister Lisa; and cat, Dagger.

Friends are invited to a Celebration of Life this Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m. at the Chiropractic Family Health Center, 669 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor.



## Colchester

### Celia Elizabeth Conrad

Celia Elizabeth (Brock) Conrad, 88, of Colchester, beloved wife of Carl C. Conrad, MD, passed away peacefully April 11 at Harrington Court HealthCare Center in Colchester, following a protracted illness.

She was born Sept. 20, 1927 in Rochester, N.H., the daughter of the late Leon Linwood and Grace (Hanson) Brock. On Sept. 9, 1951, she married the love of her life, Carl Casper Conrad, who survives her, for a union of nearly 65 years.

Celia graduated from Spaulding High School in Rochester, N.H. in 1945 and from the University of New Hampshire in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Following her graduation, she worked in Boston at a fabric research laboratory developing and producing military fabrics. During this time, she married Carl, who, at the time, was in medical school as well as completing his internship in the Boston area.

Celia and Carl moved to Colchester in 1956 where Carl established his medical practice. Soon after coming to Colchester, their two sons were born; as a family, they became involved in many Colchester activities.

During this time, Mrs. Conrad attended Southern Connecticut State University where she received her Master of Science degree in library science on May 22, 1976. Following her graduation, she was the librarian for the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) in Hartford for more than 10 years. In Colchester, she became active in the Cragin Memorial Library, serving on its Board of Trustees and spending time as the treasurer. She was a member of the Colchester Republican Town Committee. She was appointed and served as a Justice of the Peace, from 2009 to 2013. Until her retirement, she was a real estate agent for Century 21 Associates.

During her retirement, she pursued her love of books and writing with her interest in the plight of the Nez Perce Indian Tribe and the role of Chief Joseph in the flight of the tribe to find a peaceful sanctuary. With her research, she was writing a book, which is nearly completed. She was a member of the Colchester Federated Church and also attended the Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, where a close family friend was its minister.

In addition to her loving husband, she is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Dean Hanson and Carrie Bourdeau Conrad of East Hampton, and Richard Winfield and Lisa Conrad of Armonk, N.Y.; a granddaughter, Grace Elizabeth Conrad of Armonk, N.Y.; a sister, Priscilla Mary (Brock) Dooley Baker and her husband Harrol William Baker, of Bolton; nieces and nephews, Philip Goodwin Dooley, Susan Elizabeth Dooley, Jonathan Michael Dooley, Kathleen Dooley Kinneer, and Christine Elaine Dooley Rigden; and many extended family members and friends.

A Memorial Service celebrating her life will be held Friday, June 10 at 2 p.m. at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford. A reception at the church will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Celia's memory may be made to the Cragin Memorial Library Board of Trustees, 8 Linwood Ave., Colchester, CT 06415-1104 or the Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360-6133.

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

## Colchester

### Eric Januszewski

Eric P. Januszewski, 48, of Colchester, died May 2 at Middlesex Hospital following a brief illness. He was born in Hartford on January 22, 1968 to the late Allen and Maryjane (Clark) Januszewski.

Eric is survived by his three daughters, Erica Perry, Jessica Januszewski and Casey Januszewski; his granddaughters, Laighia and Aria; siblings, Jim Januszewski, and Kim Molcan; as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visitation with the family will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated tomorrow, May 14, at St. Andrew's Church in Colchester. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

The Belmont Funeral Home has been entrusted with Eric's care.



## Portland

### Lewis Kreger

Lewis Steven Kreger, age 80, died peacefully in his sleep at home May 5, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Dec. 10, 1935 in Princess Anne County, Va., the youngest of five with four older sisters. After a stint in the Air Force he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. John's College in Annapolis, Md. He and his wife Roberta Kreger (nee Michaud) lived in Portland for more than forty years. After his retirement from a career at IBM he co-founded a small networking company just as the internet was taking off.

Lewis grew up a waterman, sharing his passion for boating, fishing, and crabbing and all the beauties of nature with family and friends. His interest in genealogy led him to research American revolutionary history, especially of the U.S.-Canada border region. He had a love for good food and was an accomplished, creative cook.

Lewis was a brilliant and generous man with a large extended family. In addition to his beloved wife Roberta he is also survived by six children: Kevin, Matthew, Regina Kreger and Marguerite Callaway, all of Maryland, Cathy Kreger-Berlinghoff of Huntington, N.Y., and Michelle Berlinghoff of Portland; as well as four grandchildren: Maggie and Zachary Callaway and Henry and Priscilla Kreger; and a sister, Marian K Meekins, of Virginia Beach, Va.

Per Lewis's wishes, services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in his memory can do so to American Lung Association of the Northeast, Inc. located in East Hartford, Connecticut: [lung.org/about-us/local-associations/connecticut.html](http://lung.org/about-us/local-associations/connecticut.html).

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



## Hebron

### Helen Hovey

Helen Frances (Holmes) Hovey, 92, of Dennis, Mass. and formally Hebron, died May 8 surrounded by her family. Born June 13, 1923 to Harry and Helen Holmes, she grew up in Rockland, Mass. She met the love of her life, Thomas Hovey, and was engaged to him before he left to serve in World War II. They were married in April of 1946 and remained together for 59 years until his death in 2005.

Helen and Tom moved from Massachusetts to Manchester, Conn. and then settled in Hebron in 1959. While in Hebron she became very involved with local civic organizations including the Anderson-Shea VFW post in Manchester where she served as president of the women's auxiliary. During her time in the auxiliary she was especially dedicated to the care of veterans. She was also involved with the founding of the Hebron Harvest Fair and worked at the Manchester Sand and Gravel Company.

In 1985 she retired to Cape Cod and lived in Dennis for the next 28 years. In retirement Helen loved gardening, trips to the beach and traveling to many different destinations around the globe. She was also an active member of Our Lady of the Cape Church in Brewster and, along with Tom, the Cape Cod China-Burma-India veterans' organization. Helen most enjoyed the time she spent with her children and grandchildren, hosting large gatherings during the summer and on holidays.

She is survived by her children, Thomas and his wife Claudia of Chicago, Ill., Elaine and her husband Jim of Branchburg, N.J., Paul and his wife Christine of Hebron, Steven and his wife Susan of West Hartford, Terry and her husband Brett of Manchester and David of Hebron. She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Besides Tom and her parents, Helen was predeceased by her brother Harry and her grandson Thomas M. Hovey.

Her family would like to express their gratitude for the extraordinary love of her caregiver Pat Frimpong during her last years when she resided with her daughter Terry in Connecticut.

A visitation was held at Doane Beal and Ames Funeral Home in South Dennis, Mass. today, May 13 from 9-10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of at Cape Catholic Church in Brewster, Mass. at 11 a.m., with interment immediately following at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, Mass.



## East Hampton

### Terence Kohn

Terence Oliver Kohn passed away May 8 amongst family and friends. Terry, born May 17, 1950, was a graduate of Jupiter High School and the University of Florida.

He was a dedicated member of the East Hampton Little League in which he formerly served as the league's president. Terry worked at Computer Sciences Corporation and at Pratt & Whitney prior to that.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Debra Kohn and father Joel Kohn.

He is survived by his mother Vivian Kohn; his mother-in-law Joan Pratt; father-in-law Kenneth Pratt and Kenneth's wife Wendy Labreche-Pratt; his three sons, Terence M. Kohn and his wife Siri and their daughters Caitlin and Lillian, Brian Kohn, and Justin Kohn; and his three brothers Ryan Kohn and wife Terri-Beth, Shannon Kohn and wife Stacy, and David Kohn. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Terry was a kind, selfless man who loved his family, cars, working outside around the house, and University of Florida sports. Growing up he had a successful career running track and loved surfing. Terry enjoyed any opportunity to be with his family, including playing with his granddaughters and watching his sons participate in sports. He was a caring man with a gentle laugh who was always willing to help others. His family and friends will dearly miss him.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Susan G. Komen Connecticut ([komenct.org/page/show/donate/donate-now](http://komenct.org/page/show/donate/donate-now)) or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network ([pancan.org/about-us](http://pancan.org/about-us)).

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



## Obituaries continued

*East Hampton*

### Aubrey Seppa

Aubrey Madison Seppa, 18, died suddenly Saturday, May 7. Born July 22, 1997, Aubrey was raised in East Hampton and graduated from the Connecticut River Academy in East Hartford, where she also took classes at Goodwin College.



Throughout her life Aubrey was surrounded and supported by people who loved her: her beloved parents Terrence and Amy (Backus) Seppa; her brother Alex; grandparents Ronald and Cynthia Seppa and Kent Backus and his wife Karen; great-grandmother Helmi Seppa; aunts and uncles Tim and Caren Backus, Jennifer and Louis Bottari, Rick Seppa and Ashleigh Powell, Shannon Carter and Jeff Balon, and Nasser Mohand; and cousins Cody and Ciara Backus, Jarrod Mohand, and Massimo, Sofia, and Giorgio Bottari.

Aubrey was predeceased by her grandmother, Karen Backus, and her aunt, Melissa Backus.

A determined overachiever, she was completing her sophomore year at Central Connecticut State University as a first-year student. Aubrey was employed at Har-Conn Metal Finishing Specialists in West Hartford where her co-workers will miss her bright smile. She loved spending time at the beach in Rhode Island and Florida with her family and friends.

Aubrey had a young, passionate heart, a wise, old soul, and a razor sharp wit. Her place in the family dynamic ran the gamut from daughter and sister, to parent and peer, to jester and friend. Her heart was open, accepting, and non-judgmental, and it was her nature to support anyone who needed a friend; many were impressed by her bravery and maturity at her young age. Her love of writing motivated her to begin a blog that she hoped would inspire others to be their best selves. A devoted lover of animals, she counted among her best friends her furry siblings Layla and Ernie. Aubrey loved helping others and has given the gift of life to countless others through organ and tissue donation.

To share her desire to learn and help others, the Aubrey M. Seppa Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to help support those students of the Connecticut River Academy who possess the same drive to succeed in post-graduate studies that Aubrey did. Donations can be made to HFPG, Inc., with the fund name "Aubrey M. Seppa Scholarship Fund" in the memo line, and mailed to 10 Columbus Blvd, 8th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. Aubrey will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to have known her.

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral service to be held this Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 159 East Main St., Meriden. Everyone is asked to meet directly at the church. Burial will be in Walnut Grove Cemetery. Family and friends may call at the John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home, 88 East Main St., Meriden tomorrow, May 14 from 2-5 p.m.

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