

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**That's a Big Guitar...** Portland musician Tony Rome – who bills himself as “rock and roll’s best-kept secret” – is shown here in front of a giant guitar in Shelburne Falls, Mass. The rocker will take the stage with his band Friday, May 11, at 9 p.m., at the White Dog Café, 162 Main St., Portland, in a show to benefit the town’s food bank.

## Beloved Hebron Coach Was ‘Pioneer’

by Sloan Brewster

Clyde Washburne, a beloved softball coach and longtime Hebron resident, was remembered this week for his major contributions to the women’s softball program at Eastern Connecticut State University.

“He’s a pioneer at Eastern,” Diane Pepin, the university’s softball coach, said. “He really transformed this program into a national caliber team.”

According to his obituary, Washburne, who grew up in Willimantic and, in 1948, graduated from Windham High, died on April 2. He was 87.

Washburne’s wife, Cynthia, described him as larger than life.

“He was such a large person, a big person – open, friendly, kind,” she said this week. “It’s actually kind of hard to encapsulate because he was just so different, so not your average person, and he was so giving, so interested in other people.”

She added that people often tell her that her husband had a way of connecting with them and making them feel special.

“In the life we shared together, Clyde taught me the importance of being curious, helping others – and that seeking knowledge and understanding is a lifelong adventure. Personal growth and development should continue throughout your life,” she said, her voice cracking. “Clyde’s passing is a natural part of life’s flow. If we refuse to go with that flow of life, we suffer. I am eternally grateful for the time we shared.”

Washburne played baseball and basketball in high school, served in the Coast Guard until 1954, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut in 1957 and a master’s degree in 1964.

In 1957, Washburne began his coaching career at RHAM High School, and 10 years later, started his 23-year head coaching career at

ECSU.

Bob Molta, sports information director at ECSU, said he has known Washburne since 1977 and was an Eastern student when Washburne was a fulltime coach.

“I followed his career,” Molta said. “He really made his mark when he started [women’s] softball.”

In 1976, at the request of some women undergraduates, Washburne started the women’s softball program at the university, and was also the team’s advisor, Molta said. Title IX, which protects people in education programs or activities from discrimination based on gender, was fairly new to the scene – and Washburne had to fight for equality for the team.

“He worked to get equal facilities, equal equipment; he fought for them,” Molta said. “He went through a lot of things with the administration through Title IX and standing up for the athletes.”

Washburne kept at it, pushing the school to follow through and give women students equal opportunities.

“He didn’t mind ruffling feathers and he didn’t mind demanding what he wanted,” Molta said.

It was no great surprise that Washburne took a stand for the women; he had fought for male athletes when necessary too.

“He was always the champion of the underdog,” Molta said. “He didn’t care what their nationality was, he didn’t care what their color was, anything like that.”

Washburne, according to his obituary, was voted Coach of the Year multiple times at Eastern, and was inducted into ECSU’s Hall of Fame and the Connecticut Scholastic and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame. In 2006, Clyde was inducted as a pioneer in women’s softball into the National Fastpitch Coaches’ Association.

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## Andover Teacher Honored by State PTA

by Sloan Brewster

Andover Elementary School teacher Kirstina Frazier has a huge stack of paper in her personnel file – but it’s not disciplinary.

Andover Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said she opened the file to get some more information on Frazier in preparation for the April 12 Board of Education meeting – at which she announced the teacher had been selected as the 2018 Connecticut Parent Teachers Association Elementary School Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

“There’s this huge file, literally it must have been five inches [thick], and I thought, ‘Wow, she’s had a lot of discipline,’” Doyen, who’s helmed the Andover school district since 2015, said at the meeting.

Instead, Doyen found letters and validations detailing the course of the teacher’s 20-year career at Andover Elementary School.

Frazier, 43, started out at Andover Elementary in 1998, teaching grade five. She later taught sixth grade and then second, a position she held for 15 years. In 2015, she became the school’s math specialist and technology teacher.

“I’ve really been impressed with your knowledge base,” Doyen said to Frazier, who sat in the audience at last week’s meeting.

Andover Elementary Principal John Briody told the board Frazier’s naming as outstanding teacher of the year started with a nomination by sixth grade teacher Lisa Turgeon.

“[Turgeon] saw the award and said, ‘I have the perfect candidate,’” Briody said. “She came to me a long time ago.”

With Briody’s backing and support from the Andover PTA, Turgeon wrote what the principal called “a powerful letter.”

“She was kind of a one-person campaign

chairman,” he said.

In a press release on the award, Turgeon described Frazier as a “phenomenal teacher who inspires her students, fellow teachers, parents and administrators with her dedication, leadership, creativity, and professionalism.”

Turgeon and Frazier work together, Frazier said in an interview Tuesday. She does remedial services for Turgeon’s sixth-graders and has filled in in Turgeon’s class while she has been out on medical leave. One project Frazier has been working on with the class involves raising salmon, which the children will be releasing into the Salmon River at Salmon River State Forest in Colchester.

This past week, during April vacation, when most of the school was empty and quiet, Frazier was there, caring for the fish and said she was crossing her fingers enough would survive so

every student could release at least one into the watercourse.

Frazier grew up on a small farm in Maine and was in the 4-H, she said. It was in that youth organization she first realized she liked kids and teaching – “whether it was helping a kid teach their horse to do something or training a dog to perform a task,” she said.

“Now,” she added, “it’s technology.”

Frazier began her teaching career in Andover and has been there since. She is so taken with the Andover school system that, while she lives in Vernon, she pays tuition for her son to go Andover Elementary.

“I believe in Andover and the teachers and want him to attend what I believe is the best little school in Connecticut,” she said.

Frazier said she enjoys teaching technology

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**Hebron Coach cont. from Front Page**

tion Hall of Fame.

Although Washburne had retired the year before Pepin played softball at the school, he was still a presence when she was on the team and was a mentor to her, she said. When she became coach, she asked him to come on as her assistant.

He did, and would talk to the team about traditions, pass his knowledge onto players and inform them of ways to make the game better. Pepin recalled conversations with Washburne about the fundamentals and techniques of the game and said he challenged her to think differently.

“He was a very dynamic person,” she said. “His personality is very outgoing and inquisitive. He’s a very intelligent guy.”

Molta forwarded the *Rivereast* statements from several former athletes in the softball program. They spoke of relationships and friendships with Washburne and of their gratitude for all he has done for them and the myriad ways in which he helped shape their lives.

Sue Murphy, a 1983 ECSU graduate, said she has coached high school softball for the past 32 years and runs her team with the same philosophy that Washburne touted when ran the game at Eastern.

“Next to my parents, Clyde has easily had the most impact on my life. He is the reason I still get up most mornings at 5:15 a.m. and go for a run. To me his philosophy was simple –

‘always do your best, be proud of what you do, always make it fun, and never be afraid to make a decision.’” Murphy said. “It took me about 20 years to finally sit down and write Coach a thank-you note telling him thanks, but there is not a day that goes by that he is not still influencing my life.”

Washburne left a legacy and changed peoples’ lives, Lori Runksmeier, director of athletics at ECSU, said.

“[His death is] going to leave a big hole,” she said.

At the time of Washburne’s death, the athletics department was planning to name the school’s softball stadium at the Mansfield Outdoor Complex in his honor. The ongoing endeavor began about two years ago, with the establishment of an endowment fund to make it happen.

“It’s just a sad day in softball,” Pepin said. “[Washburne’s death is] a huge loss to the softball community. He will never be forgotten and always be a part of Eastern softball.”

A celebration of a life well-lived will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day), at Eastern Connecticut State University in the Francis Geissler Gymnasium.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to Covenant Soup Kitchen, 220 Valley St. in Willimantic, or the Eastern Connecticut State University Softball Endowment Fund in his name.

**Andover Teacher cont. from Front Page**

– which makes her a good match for her students.

“Kids love technology,” she said. “They are so enthused, you never have to worry are they on task.”

When students tell Frazier they don’t know how to do something technical, she is not quick to show them the way to do it, she said. Rather, she has them go back and figure it out. That problem-solving ability empowers them and transfers over to other subjects. Not only do they realize they can do it, but they get a confidence boost at the same time.

In working with students who are struggling in math, Frazier uses fun technical games and ideas to get them past the difficulties, she said.

“A lot of it is to provide them with opportunities to explore math with games and [see] that math can be a fun subject,” she said.

Sometimes, it’s the ones who struggle in their other subjects who excel in tech, she added. They hone tech skills and even show others how to do things.

Frazier also uses technology in working with students gifted in math.

“It’s all about finding a balance,” she said.

One project she has been working on with students is making videos in front of a green screen and then switching it out for a more colorful or active background. For example, fifth-graders completing a writing unit on shipwrecks added backdrops with shipwrecks and created a movie on the subject.

“I enjoy the challenge incredibly,” she said about teaching in general.

According to Turgeon’s press release, Frazier is also known for the Bow Wow Biscuit Company.

The project, which she has been doing for eighteen years, is interdisciplinary, Frazier said. Students make dog biscuits, design logos and sell and package the biscuits, learning about, and overcoming, the complications of running a business. A community service aspect of the project involves donating the proceeds to a deserving cause.

For the past several years, that cause has been the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. Frazier said



**Kristina Frazier is the 2018 Connecticut PTA Elementary School Outstanding Teacher of the Year.**

her class goes on a field trip to Fidelco in Bloomfield, where students learn about blindness and what the organization does and, later, someone from Fidelco visits the school to pick up the check.

In past years, proceeds from the operation have been donated toward looking for a cure for juvenile diabetes and the State Police K-9 Unit.

Frazier said she was taken completely by surprise when she learned of the award. She said she was both “overwhelmed” and “a little bit humbled” that Turgeon nominated her.

She also said she thought it was ironic that she was working on getting a PTA STEM + Families Tech Night grant for the school from the Connecticut PTA at the same time Turgeon was working on getting her named outstanding teacher by the group.

Frazier was awarded the grant and, in June, there will be a Family STEM night at the school.

Frazier will be honored as outstanding teacher at a celebration dinner and awards ceremony Wednesday, April 25, at Sheraton Hartford in Rocky Hill.

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I was sad this week to learn of the passing of Barbara Bush. I was a child during the George H.W. Bush presidency, and growing up with a Republican dad, I liked Bush. I liked his manner, his speaking voice, and Dana Carvey’s impression of him on *Saturday Night Live*. And I particularly liked Barbara.

During her four years as first lady, she struck me as a calming, grandmotherly type. As is often the case, I suspect, with kids between the ages of 9 and 13, I didn’t know much about her politically at all, just like I didn’t know much about the Bush presidency at all. But he was the president, and as such I respected and even liked him in the way I think most little kids felt about their president back then. (I thought Reagan seemed like a great guy too.)

That fondness spread to Barbara. Like I said, she kind of felt like America’s grandmother. Her bushy white hair, pleasant smile and gentle tone made you picture warm brownies coming out of the oven, or applying a Band-Aid on a scuffed knee. She seemed like a very nice woman – and continued to seem that way after she left the White House.

I’m sure others have more meaningful tributes to Barbara Bush – tributes that actually touch on what she did. But it’s tough for me to not view her through the lens I did as a 10-year-old boy. She seemed like a strong, nice, loving woman. Rest in peace, Mrs. Bush.

\* \* \*

Speaking of Republican presidents: You may have heard Trump is, as he did last year, skipping the White House Correspondents’ Dinner. Instead, he’s going to be holding a rally in the town of Washington, Mich., surrounded by people who love him and will stroke his razor-thin ego. He similarly held another “Look at me!” rally on the day of the Correspondents’ Dinner last year. But whereas back then his administration at least claimed it was all a coincidence, that Trump simply wanted to celebrate his 100th day in office, this year all pretenses have been dropped.

His administration – again, the administration of the president of the United States, the highest office in the land – put out a press release Tuesday saying, “While the fake news media will be celebrating themselves with the denizens of Washington society in the swamp that evening, President Trump will be in a completely different Washington, celebrating our national economic revival with patriotic Americans.”

He does it so frequently I guess it shouldn’t bother me anymore, but the fact that the president of the United States openly displays such utter, utter disdain for the media really gets to me. It’s not funny. It’s incredibly irritating. And him being the president just validates his childish behavior – and encourages others to engage in behavior just as juvenile. He conducts himself with the maturity of an 8-year-old child – and often the vocabulary of one as well. He is an utter, utter embarrassment, and every week – heck, sometimes

every day – brings something new to just completely disgust me.

\* \* \*

And now, as Monty Python would say, for something completely different. Last week, you may recall, I offered some quotes from Milton Berle. So, for this week, let’s take a visit to another classic comic – the legendary George Burns, one of those rare stars who was a success in vaudeville, radio and television, usually accompanied by his wife, the equally funny Gracie Allen. Later in life he had a successful career in movies as well. He also performed often on the stand-up circuit, and did shows until not long before his death in 1996 at age 100. Here are some classic Burnsisms – which deliver not just comedy, but sometimes some wisdom as well:

“First you forget names, then you forget faces. Next you forget to pull your zipper up and finally, you forget to pull it down.”

“There’s an old saying, ‘Life begins at 40.’ That’s silly. Life begins every morning you wake up.”

“I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate.”

“I get up every morning and read the obituary column. If my name’s not there, I eat breakfast.”

“You can’t help getting older, but you don’t have to get old.”

“You know you’re getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you’re down there.”

“Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxicabs and cutting hair.”

“People ask me what I’d most appreciate getting for my 87th birthday. I tell them, a paternity suit.”

“Lots of people have asked me what Gracie and I do to make our marriage work. It’s simple – we don’t do anything. I think the trouble with a lot of people is that they work too hard at staying married. They make a business out of it. When you work too hard at a business you get tired; and when you get tired you get grouchy; and when you get grouchy you start fighting; and when you start fighting you’re out of business.”

“I love to sing, and I love to drink scotch. Most people would rather hear me drink scotch.”

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, then having the two as close together as possible.”

“Love is a lot like a backache. It doesn’t show up on X-rays, but you know it’s there.”

“In those days the best painkiller was ice; it wasn’t addictive and it was particularly effective if you poured some whiskey over it.”

“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.”

“When I was a boy the Dead Sea was only sick.”

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Hebron School Board Keeps Preschool As Is

by Sloan Brewster

Preschool in Hebron is going to remain “status quo.”

At its meeting last Thursday, the Board of Education unanimously approved a motion to maintain the program’s existing configuration, with three full-day sections and two half-day ones for the 2018-19 school year. Tuition will also remain the same, at \$600 monthly for students doing full days and \$240 for those taking half days.

The motion also included a proviso for a study to look into how the program should be shaped in the future.

The motion came after residents converged on the meeting to speak in opposition to possible changes. Speaker after speaker lauded the program in its current alignment and criticized and fretted it was on its way out.

One of the parents, Kelly Reynolds, said the program was the only local preschool accredited by The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

“I don’t want to send my child to Glastonbury,” she said. “I want him to be in Hebron; this is where we live.”

Other parents raised concerns that the program would transition to half days only.

Schools Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel clarified those plans were not on the table and said he had watched the recording of his presentation at the April 3 meeting to determine what may have given folks the wrong impression.

The presentation included different cost structures and program models, but Van Tassel recommended keeping it the same, he said.

“I was afraid I said something,” he said. “The recommendation was a status quo program for

the 2018-19 school year.”

Van Tassel said the idea of a half-day program was discussed, but was not something he was considering for next year.

“My real hope was that we would have time to research and do more about that,” he said.

Other parents had an issue with what appeared to be a surplus of more than \$100,000 in the program.

Shannon Congdon said she wanted to know why it took so long to find out the program was netting a surplus.

“I don’t understand and I’d love a bit of an explanation,” she said.

Board member Kevin Williams said he was concerned about the comments about a surplus.

“It’s not a surplus,” he said. “The surplus number and the surplus thing is something I’m very concerned about.”

Van Tassel took some time to discuss \$103,920 in supposed gains from the program.

“I don’t want parents to think that we are making a profit,” he said.

Every year, the board adds extra funds to the program as a “budgeting tool” to account for delays in notifications on how much funding will come from the state, Van Tassel said.

“So the numbers are based on a perfect scenario,” he said.

The cost of the program shifts from the projections based on how many children with special needs register, or the cost of additional supplies and equipment, such as \$20,000 spent last year to replace Little Tykes outdoor toys, Van Tassel said.

“That \$103,000 literally starts to whittle away,” he said. “This number has never been

the number that it is and that’s because we added more revenue.”

In discussing the preschool program, board members took the opportunity to remind folks in the audience to vote at the May 8 town budget referendum.

“I just really hope that your passion, your drive and your desire gets you to the poles on May 8 and bring a friend bring your neighbor,” said board member Maryanne Leichter.

“Please vote,” school board vice chair Heather Petit echoed. “Like Maryanne said, and bring your whole street, not just your neighbor.”

The preschool program was also the subject of other recent meetings in town. At the April 5 Board of Selectmen meeting, selectmen and Board of Finance members discussed a situation that had arisen at the Board of Finance meeting a couple days previously.

“The pre-k issue ballooned out of control on social media over the weekend,” Board of Finance vice chair Malcolm Leichter said, in a letter he read aloud at the meeting. “It never should have happened.”

Leichter was referring to a situation on Facebook, in which he said misinformation was spread about the preschool program – including that some elected officials had recommended it be eliminated. Leichter and various town officials, including Town Manager Andy Tierney, were adamant this was not the case.

Van Tassel sent out a memo in response to the situation, in which he also denied the claims elected officials were pushing for preschool to be cut.

“No member of the Board of Selectmen,

Board of Finance or Board of Education has recommended the elimination of the preschool program,” he wrote in the April 3 letter.

One of the concerns selectmen and Leichter had was that Ramon Bieri, a Board of Finance member, was part of the misinformation campaign.

In a post on the “Hebron CT Community” Facebook page – a post that has since been deleted – Bieri said that selectmen Gail Richmond and Clara O’Brien and finance board member Diane Del Rosso called for the elimination of the program.

At the selectmen meeting, Town Manager Andrew Tierney “denounced the falsehoods of Mr. Bieri” while saying Bieri was entitled to his freedom of speech.

“There was never any mention of people asking the pre-k program be eliminated,” he said.

Leichter, in his letter, recommended addressing involvement by elected officials in discussions about ongoing local issues.

“I believe we as a group need to come up with process, policy, statement, or whatever you want to call it that addresses our involvement in discussions of, or providing information about, items that are actively under debate, discussion, or consideration, by any of the elected or appointed bodies in town,” he said. “We are only individual members of our boards and may not speak on behalf of our body unless the body agrees that a statement should be made as an entire body.”

At the April 10 Board of Finance public hearing on the budget, Leichter reiterated, in a discussion with this reporter, that the issue needs to be addressed.

# Marlborough Finance Board Vacancy Causes Dissension

by Allison Lazur

At Tuesday night’s Board of Selectmen meeting, a motion was made by selectman Board member, Dick Shea to appoint Liz Gorgoglione – Board of Finance alternate – to the open position that has existed since the death of finance board member Midge Denno in March.

The motion was quickly rejected, as Shea, a Republican, did not receive a second, and First Selectwoman Amy Traversa, a Democrat, expressed her lack of support for the motion.

“I’ve told a number of people because I’m still interviewing candidates that I’m not entertaining that [motion] until after the budget’s been done,” said Traversa, “but I have a whole list of people who are interested [in the position].”

Traversa told the *Rivereast* she’s not against appointing Gorgoglione, but wants to make the best decision she can after reviewing the additional “three or four applicants that have expressed interest.”

Section 2.6 of the town charter states that a vacancy in any elective town office should be filled with a member of the same political party and appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The vacated finance board seat is Republican – Gorgoglione is a member of the Republican Party.

Shea expressed his disappointment in the board to commit to appointing Gorgoglione, someone who has “been very good at attending Board of Finance meetings and participating in the meetings” as well as having an “excellent background related to finance – evalu-

ating bonds, loans, debt, commercial credit applications and related bank services.”

“Right now, with the budget situation where it is and things where they are in general, we need to have the board at full strength,” said Shea. “We seem to have some issues of who gets appointed when and I think this would lower that problem. She has full support of the Republican Town Committee and this is a vacant Republican seat.”

The appointment problem that Shea referred to is the vacant seat that has yet to be permanently filled, leaving the responsibility of the seat to the alternates – Deb Bourbeau, Liz Gorgoglione and Bob Cindric.

The past practice has been to rotate the three alternates through the vacant position at each finance board meeting. Additionally, town ordinance D.7 states that “except where otherwise provided by state statute [the chairman of the board should choose] alternates in rotation so that they shall act as nearly equal a number of times as possible.”

However, state statute said that the majority of finance board members – not simply the chair – may designate an alternate in the event of the absence of a regular member.

The Board of Finance has been adhering to the town ordinance instead of the state statute. However, that trend was altered at the April 10 Board of Finance meeting – at which the proposed \$24.63 million budget was passed.

Finance board chair Douglas Knowlton decided to sit Deborah Bourbeau in the vacant

position instead of sitting Gorgoglione, even though Bourbeau had sat for the vacant position at the meeting prior, on April 3 – Gorgoglione was also sat at that meeting, but in Erik Young’s seat.

At the April 10 meeting however, Gorgoglione was instead sat for Dieter Zimmer who eventually arrived late, reverting Gorgoglione’s position back to alternate – a position that did not allow for Gorgoglione to cast a vote on the proposed budget.

Because Gorgoglione left 30 minutes early at the April 3 meeting, and has an overall attendance record “slightly lighter than Bourbeau,” Knowlton explained that prompted his actions.

“I think everyone knew how people were going to be voting [at the April 10 meeting]; there were no surprises there,” said Gorgoglione. “I do think there is some sort of bias.”

Knowlton did tell the *Rivereast* he was “neutral” on whether or not he thought Gorgoglione should be appointed to the vacant position.

While the issue of which alternates to seat and when to seat them is one that effects whether a motion is passed, Shea stated he did not believe Knowlton’s decision was made with the intent to pass the budget.

“I don’t think that [Knowlton’s decision] was intentional to stack the budget [vote],” said Shea. “I didn’t think it was the right call, but I know Doug is a straight shooter.”

After Shea’s motion did not pass, the only other appropriate time to address the vacancy matter further was during the public comments

portion.

“When we had a Democrat alternate seat that was open, the board appointed Deb Bourbeau to that seat,” said Shea. “There was no discussion of anyone that had any interest, as I recall. We all knew Deb; we had confidence in her; we voted for her. Now all of a sudden it seems we have a list of candidates that we have to carefully consider. I don’t have a good feeling about this. I don’t think it’s fair.”

“I think Liz would do an exceptional job and there’s every indication to that effect,” he continued. “And [to] further the position that we can’t do anything until the budget is finished, I don’t think is valid. There’s no reason why this appointment could not be made tonight or in the very near future. I can’t see a downside to it and I think right now we are looking at a little bit of politics.”

Resident Louise Concodello, also a Republican, spoke on the vacancy matter as well.

“I also agree with Dick. I think it’s another political move, which is unfortunate,” said Concodello, who is also a member of the local Board of Education. “We all used to get together, we all used to get along, but now things have changed.”

Concodello said to the selectmen, “You seem to be stacking the boards and things with people [where] some of them have no qualifications. ... If there are other people who are dying to get on these boards and commissions, they should be at all these meetings – it’s disheartening.”

# Audit Reveals \$660K Surplus in Marlborough

by Allison Lazur

The town saw a \$663,634 surplus at the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year – a major increase from the previous fiscal year’s budget surplus – and the question has arisen of what to do with the money.

According to the audit, the surplus was made up of \$170,697 in revenues that came in higher than budgeted, as well as \$492,937 in unexpended funds for general government, public works and contingency. This amount is a major increase from the 2015-16 surplus, which was \$85,000.

First Selectman Amy Traversa this week chalked up the hefty surplus increase to a combination of factors. For one, she said, the state didn’t adopt its budget until last October, well after Marlborough’s had been passed, and that changed the state aid the town actually received versus what it had budgeted for.

Also, Traversa said, she was still relatively new to the first selectman position when the 2016-17 budget was crafted; she was elected in November 2015. She learned to be more efficient as time went by, she said, and to do more with less – resulting in not having to spend as much as was originally budgeted for.

With a tax increase on the horizon for the residents of Marlborough, the idea to use at least a portion of the surplus has been the topic of discussion at several Board of Finance meet-

ings.

At a Board of Finance meeting last week, a motion was made by board vice chair Susan Leser – and subsequently passed by the rest of the board – to utilize \$100,000 of the surplus to offset the tax increase in the proposed 2018-19 budget. This would bring the increase to just under 3 percent.

However, Traversa revealed she wasn’t thrilled about using the surplus to help reduce taxes – though she understands the desire to do so.

“Although I’m against using any portion of the returned surplus, I understand and accept that a portion of it needs to be used to offset a tax increase,” she said, “but we cannot continue to use the surplus moving forward [after the 2018-19 year].”

If the entire surplus were to be deposited into the undesignated, or “rainy day,” fund balance, the balance would total \$2.67 million – a figure Board of Finance Chairman Douglas Knowlton said he felt would still be too low. Knowlton said the undesignated fund balance should be closer to \$4 million, or 12 to 15 percent of the town’s total proposed 2018-19 budget of \$24.63 million.

At the finance board meeting last week, Knowlton went on to list several more reasons why the surplus should be kept as a reserve,

beginning with a downgraded credit rating by Moody’s Investors Service in December.

The investor’s report stated Marlborough has “a stable but limited financial position that could be challenged by state fiscal and economic pressures.”

“Yes, our credit rating was cut by Moody’s and they cited the condition of the state as reason, but Hebron is in the same state we are and they did not get cut,” said Knowlton. “The difference between getting your bond rating cut and not cut was the amount of the rainy day fund as a percentage of the expense budget.”

Knowlton also expressed his concern for mid-year cuts from the state which he predicted to occur around Feb. 14.

“The last couple years [there] have been \$200,000-\$300,000 [in cuts] to Marlborough and there’s another big elephant in the state that hasn’t been dealt with yet – and that’s called teacher pensions,” said Knowlton. “Last year, when they wanted to tag the towns with teacher’s pensions, the hit to Marlborough was \$861,000, if I remember my numbers. Where are we going to come up with that type of money, if we don’t have something set aside in the rainy day fund?”

Finance board member Ken Hjulstrom offered a slightly different plan of action for the surplus, stating that although he understood

wanting to “build up the town’s reserve,” he felt a larger portion of the surplus – \$200,000 to \$250,000 – should be used to offset the tax increase.

“When there is a surplus as large as this, I do not see it as automatically the town’s money,” said Hjulstrom. “It is the taxpayers’ hard-earned money that was not needed, so why not return as much as possible to those same taxpayers?”

Using more of the surplus could also reduce the need to cut parts of the education budget, Hjulstrom noted. He said he’s “very concerned about seeing a \$132,000 cut to the Board of Education budget, while the Town Operations budget went untouched.”

While the revenues portion of the surplus was only \$170,697 of the total \$663,634 surplus, collected resident taxes actually saw a surplus of \$351,975 in the 2016-2017 auditor’s report. The \$170,697 figure takes into account a reduction of \$148,523 from the unused fund balance, as well as reductions from the state, which were lower than anticipated, resulting in a \$149,746 cut.

Residents will be given an opportunity to address the surplus, as well as the 2018-19 proposed budget and its cuts, at Monday’s Board of Finance public hearing at 7 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

# Andover Residents Balk at Proposal to Cut Trooper

by Sloan Brewster

Andover residents at a public hearing on the proposed 2018-2019 budget Wednesday were none too pleased with a plan to axe the resident state trooper.

The \$11.03 million budget proposal, which includes \$8.7 million in education expenses and \$2.23 million in general government expenses, represents a 12.40 percent decrease or \$709,620 from the current year.

The amount proposed to be funded through taxation verses revenues from other sources is \$8.72 million and represents a 34.30 mill rate, a 1.8 mill increase.

The big issue at Wednesday’s public hearing was a proposal by the Board of Finance to exclude funding for the resident state trooper in the budget.

Adding the approximately \$200,000 in additional funding to cover the cost of the trooper’s salary and vehicle maintenance would have added nearly another mill to the tax increase, Dan Warren Board of Finance chairman said.

Cathy Pallazzi, resident and senior coordinator, met folks at the entrance to the meeting, asking folks to sign a petition in favor of keeping the funding for the position.

By the time the meeting started, she had four pages of signatures, she said.

After giving his budget presentation, Warren

spoke of the finance board’s decision to cut the trooper position.

Currently, the town is responsible for 85 percent of costs associated with the trooper position and the state pays the rest. A proposal from the state would increase the town’s costs to 100 percent, Warren said. In addition, Andover Public Schools has set aside \$45,000 in its budget for undetermined security measures.

The resident state trooper position – which is currently being held on an interim basis by Jared Avery – is a seniority post, meaning the permanent trooper that comes in would have a high salary, something over which the town would have no control.

Instead of paying for a resident state trooper, the town would get “barracks coverage,” at no cost, meaning police from state police Troop K in Colchester would respond when there is a need for police in town, Warren said. At this time, the resident trooper is in town only for an eight-hour shift and the rest of the day, Troop K responds as needed.

Before opening the floor to the audience, Warren read a letter from Jared Avery, who currently holds the resident state trooper position. In the letter, he said constant police presence in town was a crime deterrent, and that the same level of service would not be available with

exclusive reliance on the Troop K barracks.

“Additionally, that lack of presence also adversely impacts response time and those minutes can make a life-saving difference,” Avery wrote. “You will lose the community policing and connection with those who serve you and the immeasurable value of those interactions to include the D.A.R.E. program, which has been a nationwide model for decades in the prevention of drug use among children.”

Speaker after speaker rose and expressed concern and dismay about the proposal, some saying they would be willing to pay the extra taxes to cover the position. One speaker calculated that it would cost him about \$38 and said it was worth it.

“I think that getting rid of the trooper is going to have a terrible effect on the town,” resident Molly Hallisey said. “I think that when it comes to the money that taxpayers are going to be okay with it.”

Another concern some had with the budget was the new treasurer position, which will cost \$65,000 of the \$97,962 department line item. The \$6,862 increase in the line item represents a portion of the salary, part of which was also included in this year’s budget, as it was a possibility the position would be filled earlier, Warren said.

“I have a concern about the cost of the treasurer,” resident Marcie Miner said, who added she was also concerned that Town Administrator Joseph Higgins was not in attendance. “That’s my concern with the treasurer that we’re going to pay a lot of money and they’re not going to perform.”

Warren, who explained Higgins was at a meeting of a commission on which he volunteers and could not be there, said Miner’s concern resonated with him.

Thursday Warren spoke to the *Rivereast* about the meeting.

“I appreciate and empathize with people’s passions, the reality is there are a lot of other people in the town that did not attend the public hearing,” he said.

Warren said he disagreed with some speakers who called “the meeting the ultimate form of democracy.”

With senior households represented by an average of two individuals and younger working families having only one person there, he said he does not think the town meeting is the fairest form of democracy and that the referendum is a chance to even the playing fields.

The referendum on the budget will take place Tuesday, May 15.

## East Hampton Fire Claims Lives of Three Dogs

by Allison Lazur

An improperly-disposed cigarette is to blame for a South Main Street fire that killed three dogs, according to local fire officials.

The fire was reported at a single-family residence at 51 S. Main St. Thursday, April 12, Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Guest said.

“It was a stubborn fire they were there for a while [and] they had some issues,” said Guest. “It was an old balloon construction house” – a term that describes the home’s wall studs that run uninterrupted from the top of the first story to the end rafter of the second story or attic. Because of the excessive voids in this sort of construction, a fire spreads very quickly, according to [fireengineering.com](http://fireengineering.com).

Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier said a cigarette was placed into a bucket designated for discarding cigarette butts at the home, by one of the three residents that lived there; that resident then proceeded to leave the house imme-

diately after.

The home’s owner, John Krom, could not be reached for comment as of press time Thursday.

According to James Burke, East Hampton Fire Department’s public information officer, a 911 call was made by a neighbor at approximately 3:41 p.m. and the first East Hampton firefighters arrived on scene at approximately 3:44 p.m. All three East Hampton fire stations responded, said Burke, as well as “apparatus and manpower from Marlborough, East Haddam, Colchester, Portland, Glastonbury, Hebron, Salem, Gardner Lake, Lyme and Bozrah.”

The fire was “declared to be under control” at approximately 5:48 p.m., said Burke, and the scene was cleared at approximately 7:42 p.m.

## Lightning Strikes House in Marlborough

by Allison Lazur

A two-story home on Sherwood Lane was struck by lightning during Monday afternoon’s rainstorm.

According to Fire Chief Kevin Asklar, the strike occurred just outside the 51 Sherwood Ln. home, where an invisible dog fence exists. The current traveled into the garage, blowing out the controls, and then popped the main breaker inside the house, he said.

No one was home at the time, and there were no reported injuries, but Asklar said firefighters did make a forcible entry into the home to confirm there was no fire.

Asklar said the current exited the side of the house causing some damage. Neighboring houses in the area were checked, revealing those residences also experienced popped breakers.

## Andover Man Killed in Mansfield Crash

An Andover man has died in a three-car collision in Mansfield.

According to state police, Mark Aspinwall was driving south on Route 32 on April 16 at 12:07 a.m., when his vehicle crossed the double yellow line in the center and struck a vehicle driven by Kyle Shea of Coventry. On impact, Aspinwall’s vehicle spun out and hit yet another vehicle, driven by Nicholas Mor-

gan of Columbia, police said.

Aspinwall sustained fatal injuries and was presumed dead at the scene. No other injuries were reported.

The case is under investigation and police ask anyone with information to contact Trooper Joseph Stogoff at the Mansfield resident state trooper’s office at 860-429-6204.

# Obituaries

## Amston

### Sean Darmody Greene

It is with profound sadness that the family of Sean Darmody Greene announces his sudden passing on Wednesday, April 11, at the age of 23. Sean was the beloved son of Stephen and Kathleen (Darmody) Greene. His birth Nov. 4, 1994, brought them great joy and they were proud of him every day of his life.



Sean grew up in Amston and graduated RHAM High School in 2012 where he was inducted into the National Honor Society and the Latin Honor Society. Sean was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 28 Hebron, and is an Eagle Scout. He was committed to Scouting for Food and expanded it to a year-round program. He earned his third-degree Black Belt at Tae San Tae Kwon Do Academy in Hebron. He was a PSIA-certified ski instructor at Mount Snow in Vermont.

Sean graduated Trinity College in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He used his knowledge of global government to work tirelessly to achieve social justice for marginalized people both at home and abroad. He was proud of his dual USA and Irish citizenship and he considered himself a "citizen of the world," due to his extensive travel and perspective.

Sean was happiest writing music and playing guitar, sailing Lake Raconda, Vt., and skiing with friends and family at Mount Snow in Vermont. He was a loyal friend, loving son, and devoted brother who appreciated and celebrated the unique gifts of his friends and family.

In addition to his parents, he leaves his brother, Owen (currently studying at the University of Chicago); his grandparents, Jeremiah Darmody and Richard and Dolores Greene, all of Worcester, Mass.; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members and friends. He is predeceased by his grandmother Anna (Tangney) Darmody and his cousin Jane Greene.

The family received guests Monday, April 16, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 17, directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron.

At the funeral, Sean's mother Kathleen said, "Sean was a loving son who made us proud every day and every minute of his life. He told me that we were different than other families because we loved each other, talked every day, and enjoyed being together. He recently told me how happy he was that we were the best family skiing on the mountain. When he went through tough times, he asked me why Steve and I were always so loving and supportive. I told him that I never knew if that would be the last time I saw him, and if anything ever happened I wanted him to know that his mother and father loved him with every fiber of their being. I wanted my every action and every word to tell him that each day.

"I would ask you all here today to remember Sean by going out of your way to help those people marginalized by society due to economics, race, sexual orientation, or mental health. Use your privilege not to get ahead but to reach out and help others to be given the respect and dignity they deserve as our brothers and sisters in humanity. And finally, I would ask you to speak every word with kindness, hug those you love. ... You never know if you will get another opportunity to make peace. Please do this to honor my son."

Donations in his memory may be made to "Scouting for Food" c/o Hebron Interfaith Human Services, P.O. Box 634, Hebron, CT 06248.

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

## East Hampton

### Ralph Vincent Nesci

Ralph Vincent Nesci, 73, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones at Hartford Hospital Thursday, April 12. He was born in Meriden Dec. 10, 1944, to the late Vincent (Jim) Nesci and Mary Markiewicz Nesci.



Ralph graduated from Orville H. Platt High School in Meriden and Porter & Chester Institute. His late father purchased Vanderman Manufacturing Company of Willimantic in 1966 and moved the business (now Nesci Enterprises) to its current location in East Hampton. For much of his life, Ralph pursued his interests in skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing and hunting and, for the last several years, he was an NRA-certified pistol instructor.

A member of the East Hampton Lions Club since 1988, Mr. Nesci served in several capacities, including president, secretary, treasurer, director and on many committees. He also held positions at the state and district levels, including president of the Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut, Zone Chairman, SightSaver Day chairman and district newsletter editor. He was a Melvin Jones Fellow, a Knight of the Blind, an Ambassador of Sight, and the recipient of many awards on the club, district and state levels and four International Presidents' Certificates of Appreciation.

Ralph was a member and past grand of the International Order of Oddfellows Stephen Terry Lodge 59 of Portland, a longtime member of the board of directors of Camp Connecticut, a member of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League and Quaker Hill Rod and Gun Club, a life member of the National Rifle Association, and a past member of Westbrook Elks Lodge. He had previously served as a member of the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority, the East Hampton Water Development Task Force, and on the board of directors of the former Moodus Savings Bank. In the 1970s, he was a member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department and the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association.

In addition to his wife of 35 years, Sandra (Shook), Ralph is survived by his brother David and wife Mary of Florida; brother-in-law Rene Shook of East Hampton, wife Paula and their children, Sarah and Joshua; brother-in-law James Wills of Westbrook; sister-in-law Laura Wills of Middletown and her daughter Beverly Archer; and several cousins. He will also be sorely missed by his recently-adopted daughter Nena.

In addition to his parents, he was pre-deceased by several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family wishes to thank the staff on Bliss 10 for their compassionate care of Mr. Nesci during his hospitalization, as well as the staff at Davita Dialysis of Middletown.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, April 18, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main Street, East Hampton. A funeral Mass was held Thursday, April 19, at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High Street (Route 66), East Hampton. Cremation and burial at sea will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in his memory to the Lions Low Vision Center of Eastern Connecticut (a Lions charity near and dear to Ralph's heart), P.O. Box 43, Colchester, CT 06415 or to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

## Colchester

### Mark J. Graves

Mark J. Graves, 59, of James Island, S.C., passed away Thursday, March 8. He was born Aug. 11, 1958, in Bar Harbor, Maine. He was the son of Mary Jane (Spear) Graves and the late John Graves.



Prior to moving to South Carolina, Mark was a longtime resident of Colchester. Mark worked for many years as a machinist and plumber. Aside from his career, Mark was an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and boating with friends and family. Mark was a longtime member of the Colchester Fish and Game Club.

Mark is predeceased by his father, John Graves and his sister, Lisa Graves. He is survived by his loving family: his mother, Mary Jane Graves of Glastonbury; two sisters, Kelly Rozanski of South Windsor, and Wendy Babcock of Uncasville. He had three children, Mark J. Graves Jr. of Vernon, his daughter Lindsay (Graves) Therian and son-in-law Mike Therian of Colchester, and his son Hunter Graves, also of Colchester. Mark had four grandchildren, Eva, Emerson, and Audrey Graves and Kara Therian. He was an uncle to numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial luncheon will be held in Mark's honor at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 29, at the Colchester Fish and Game Club. In honor of Mark, we ask you to leave your suits in the closet and wear something casual. His preferred style was a Hawaiian shirt and boat shoes.

Donations in Mark's memory can be made to the Colchester Fish and Game Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 275, Colchester, CT 06415.

## Portland

### Richard R. Gildersleeve

Richard R. Gildersleeve, of Westbrook, formerly of Portland, died Sunday, April 8, after a brief battle with cancer. He was born Nov. 23, 1942, to James B. and Mary (Allen) Gildersleeve.

At a young age, Rick developed a passion for drumming that stayed with him for the rest of his life. He played in various local bands for many years. Rick worked as the store manager for Carolyn Adams Country Barn, in Durham. He also dedicated years of service to the Portland Historical Society, including serving as the society's president and program director, and spent time researching and writing about Portland history, the Gildersleeve shipyards, and family genealogy. Rick's passion for history also led him to cultivate an interest in the Civil War and, especially, cannons.

In his retirement, he devoted himself to serving Trinity Episcopal Church, where he attended services each week, served as a member of the Vestry, and volunteered his time cleaning and maintaining the church facility, even after moving to Westbrook. Rick also spent significant time in his retirement caring for his two young grandchildren, Abigail and Zachary, who adored their grandpa as much as he adored them.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Lynn (Carey) Gildersleeve, of Westbrook; his daughter, Elizabeth Gildersleeve, her husband, Michael Alviar, and their children, Abigail and Zachary, of West New York, N.J.; his son, Andrew Gildersleeve and his girlfriend, Emily Keevil, of Arlington, Va.; his sister, Rebecca (Gildersleeve) Robinson, of Middletown; his brother-in-law, John Carey, of Pawcatuck; his sister-in-law, Pamela Carey, of Holderness, N.H.; and devoted nieces, nephews, and friends.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 21, at 11 a.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland. A reception will follow immediately afterward in the church hall. Burial will be at the discretion of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland, CT, 06480, or the Portland Historical Society, 492 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

## Portland

### Mary J. Esposito

Mary J. (Rossitto) Esposito, 97, of Portland, beloved wife of the late Anthony P. Esposito, died peacefully Thursday, April 12, at the Portland Care & Rehab Center. Born in Portland July 7, 1920, she was the daughter of the late Guri and Pasqualina (DeRita) Rossitto.



All that knew Mary loved her. She was "Meema" to everyone. She was a kind and funny woman who crocheted many, many afghans for family and friends.

She is survived by three loving sons and their wives: Gerald and the late Bette Esposito of St. Petersburg, Fla., Patrick and Patricia Esposito of Portland, and Peter and Andrea Esposito of Portland; nine grandchildren; over 20 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Pam Cox of Montville.

She was predeceased by a son, Anthony "Guy" Esposito Jr.; three brothers, Anthony, Fred and Jerry; and three sisters, Nicky Mastergeorge, Den Sienna and Sue Green.

The funeral was held Thursday, April 19, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial was in the family plot in St. Mary's Cemetery Portland. Friends called at the funeral home Thursday morning.

The family would like to give a special 'thank you' to the nurses at the Portland Care and Rehab facility for the special care of our mom.

## Hebron

### Annie L. Kulynyck

Annie L. Kulynyck, 92, of Hebron, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, in the presence of loved ones. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Annie (Bellware) Carpenter. She was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, John Kulynyck. She leaves behind her daughter Norma Kulynyck, and her three grandchildren T.J. (Timothy), John, and Noelle.

Annie was a graduate of Windham High School class of 1944. She was employed at the University of Connecticut prior to becoming a homemaker. She was a member of the American Legion Aux Unit 95 for 55 years in Hebron. Annie was a communicant of the Church of the Holy Family, Hebron. In her spare time, she was an avid vegetable gardener and enjoyed spending time in the kitchen where she was an amazing cook.

Annie was a wonderful wife and grandmother and was loved by many for her outgoing personality, and her ability to always look on the bright side, and keep a smile on her face. She had a deep love and devotion for her family and friends.

Annie was the youngest of 12 children, and was predeceased by 11 siblings, Lillian, Ethel, Ella, Evelyn, Effie, Minnie, Vivian, Reginald, Charles E., Harold and Gerald.

She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, extended family, and friends who loved and will miss her.

From your example, you've inspired us to be more than we ever thought we could be.

Annie's family received relatives and friends Tuesday, Jan. 2, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Route 195), Willimantic. Her funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 3, at the Church of the Holy Family, Route 85, Hebron. She had a graveside service Monday, April 2, with family and friends attending.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hebron Volunteer Fire Department or Columbia Fire Department.

For an online memorial guestbook, visit [potterfuneralhome.com](http://potterfuneralhome.com).

Colchester

Agnes Rita Haesche

Agnes Rita Haesche of Colchester, beloved wife of Richard P. Haesche Sr., passed away peacefully at home Sunday, April 15, at the age of 93. Born Sept. 23, 1924, in Quincy, Mass., she was the daughter of the late John and Agnes (Collins) Gordon.



Mrs. Haesche had worked for the Connecticut Department of Labor in the unemployment compensation division for many years, before her retirement as a supervisor. Her greatest joy, however, was found in caring for her family. She was a talented seamstress who lovingly made dresses for her daughters' proms, weddings and other special occasions. Additionally, many of her knitted and crocheted creations, as well as beautiful paintings that she made later in life during her retirement in Florida, will be cherished for years to come.

In addition to her loving husband of 63 years, she leaves their three children and their spouses, Paula Scopino and Dr. Michael Pierce of Glastonbury, Cory Haesche and Thomas Cannamela of Salem and Richard and Tina Haesche Jr. of Chaplin; five grandchildren, Daniel Scopino and his wife Allison of Bristol, David Cannamela of Essex, Katie Cannamela of Meriden and Lucy and Zoe Haesche, both of Chaplin; a great-granddaughter, Romy Angelina Scopino; her brother and sister-in-law, John and Mary Gordon Jr. of Pocasset, Mass./Naples, Fla.; and numerous extended family members.

The family will receive guests from 5-7 p.m. today, April 20, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. She will be laid to rest following Mass in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005 ([heart.org](http://heart.org)).

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

Portland

Donald A. Kierys

Donald A. Kierys, 64, a longtime resident of Portland, passed away peacefully Sunday, April 15.

He was born in 1953 in Meriden and graduated from Maloney High School and went on to graduate from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in business. He retired from Cigna Insurance as an IT project manager. He was an active member of St. Mary Church and the Knights of Columbus. Don's favorite time of the year was summer, when he could spend his time gardening, fishing, camping, and swimming in the lake.

He is survived by his two sons, Donald A. Kierys Jr. and Anthony Kierys; his daughter-in-law, Christina Kierys; two grandchildren, Addison and Ryan; and his sister, Judy Kierys.

A Celebration of Life Mass will be held at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, Thursday, April 26, at 10 a.m. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Wednesday, April 25, from 5-7 p.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, Don requested donations be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 188, North Haven, CT 06473.

Colchester

Joseph Stewart

Joseph "Paul" Stewart, 91, of Colchester, formerly of Rocky Hill, died Saturday, April 14. Born in Cromwell, he was the son of the late Joseph W. and Pauline (Varac) Stewart. He died of a broken heart after his wife, Sally, passed on March 26.



In 1949, Paul married his childhood sweetheart, Sarah "Sally" (Clinton) Stewart. Living most of their lives in Rocky Hill, they moved to Colchester in 1981, where they built a log home. Paul was a lifetime member of the Rocky Hill Volunteer Fire Dept., having joined in 1951, as well as a life member of VFW Post 3336, the American Legion Post 156, both of East Haddam, and a life member of the Wethersfield Cove Yacht Club. Paul was a member of the Rocky Hill Methodist Church, St. Anthony's Polish Club of Colchester and the Masonic Lodge of Rocky Hill.

Paul proudly served his country in the U.S. Merchant Marines in World War II. He served in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters and was awarded the Atlantic and Pacific War Zone Medals in addition to the Victory Medal.

During his life, Paul acquired many skills, first starting out as a carpenter and then learning small engine repair. He was the original owner and operator of Stewart's Lawnmower Service established in 1964 in Rocky Hill, which is currently owned by his son, Michael. Paul loved boats and in his younger years spent many a weekend sailing on the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound on his boat, the Sara-Jo, with family and friends. His five children adored him and Dad was the one to call for advice or help on a project.

Paul always treated others the way he wanted to be treated and helped family and friends whenever he could. Paul took great pride in his most recent venture of helping to restore a 1940 Maxim Fire Truck, one of Rocky Hill's first custom-built apparatus. Family members will never forget his "speeches" at family gatherings over the years. Paul had an indomitable spirit and even though ill for the last several years of his life, he vowed he would "keep a going" for as long as he could.

He is predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Sarah "Sally" Stewart and he is survived by four daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen and Wayne Palmer of Hebron, Sharon and Mark Adams of Fairport, N.Y., Barbara and Chuck Luddy of Colchester, Mary and Danny Spencer of Andover; a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Joelle Stewart of Rocky Hill; nine grandchildren, Heather (husband Andrew), Jennifer (husband Demetrious), Nathan (wife, Julie), Amy (husband Rob), John, Stacey, Michael, Joseph and Nicole; and eight great-grandchildren, Veda, Rex, Jonah, Nolan, Brayden, Isaiah, Travis and Kennedy; a brother, John Stewart; and a sister, Ruth Ledderhose; as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Calling hours were at Brooklawn Funeral Home, 511 Brook St., Rocky Hill Thursday, April 19. A funeral service will be held today, April 20, at noon, officiated by RHFDC chaplain the Rev. Dr. William Veinot. Burial will be immediately following in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Rocky Hill Fire Museum, 3050 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Marlborough

Debra D. White

Debra D. (Clark) White, 59, of South Windsor, formerly of Marlborough, passed on Wednesday, March 28, to her home in heaven, three short months after diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme stage 4 brain cancer.



While Debbie was in grade school the family moved from Wethersfield to Marlborough and she graduated RHAM High School in 1976. She went on to attend Manchester Community College. She was an accomplished artist working in silver jewelry, painting on tin and wood, and worked a few years in Charlemont, Mass., for New England renowned artist Jean Dewey. She returned to Connecticut and worked for Fotomat Corp., where she met the love of her life, Ian White. She was employed many years at JC Penney Distribution Center and then Scott's Orchard and Nursery.

Deb had a love for nature and the ocean; antiquing and gardening were her favorite pastimes. She and Ian spent time at their cabin in North Dartmouth, Mass., and family home on Fripp Island, S.C. Debra was a spiritual person and belonged to the Church of the Living God of Manchester, where she and Ian were very devoted to Isaiah 58 street ministry and regular volunteers for countless years to their Saturday afternoon program to provide hot meals to those in need.

Debra was predeceased by her beloved husband Ian of 25 years and parents, Edgar and Patricia (Bagshawe) Clark. She leaves behind in deep sorrow sisters Linda Tedeschi of Wethersfield, Donna (Romuald) Flieger of Palm Coast, Fla., Sandra (Gary) Zawistowski of East Haddam and Riva Clark of Marlborough; nephews, Joseph and Matthew Tedeschi of Wethersfield; niece, Amber Zawistowski and her fiancé Brett Gallitto and precious grandniece Brianna Gallitto of Middletown; stepson, Austin White of Pompano Beach, Fla.; sister-in-law, Vivian Carrier of Fripp Island, S.C.; dear family relative, Elizabeth Robinson of Palm Coast Fla.; half-nephew Dennis Zawistowski of Colchester; cousins, friends and especially close friends Billy Gagne and Sandy Griffin.

The family extends their thank you to the staff at Marlborough Healthcare and Masonic Hospice for their care during her last months.

Calling hours begin at 1 p.m. and a memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Church of the Living God, 199 Deming St., Manchester. A private family burial is planned.

Memorial donations may be made to Isaiah 58 Outreach, 414 Tater Hill Rd, East Haddam CT 06423.

To extend online condolences and/or share a memory, see [farleysullivan.com](http://farleysullivan.com).

Andover

Mark George Aspinwall

Mark George Aspinwall, 69, of Andover, beloved husband for 50 years of Karen (Smith) Aspinwall, died Monday, April 16, from injuries received in an automobile accident in Mansfield.



Mark was born in Manchester Sept. 29, 1948, son of the late Leroy M. "Bud" Aspinwall Jr. and the late Buella (Meacham) Aspinwall. He was raised in Bolton, attended Howell Cheney Technical School in Manchester, and has been a resident of Andover for the past twenty eight years. Mark was a former employee of the Town of Manchester, and prior to retiring was a self-employed master electrician.

Mark enjoyed camping, going to the beach, trips to the casino, and was a former owner of a SK Modified race car at the Stafford Motor Speedway and the Waterford Speed Bowl.

With his wife, he is survived by his daughter and son, Lisa Bosco and her husband Scott of Bolton, and Mark D. Aspinwall and his wife Lisa of Andover; five grandchildren, Kathleen, Timothy, Robert, Alexandra, and MacKenzie; a great-grandson, Jordan; two sisters, Donna Lilly and Karen Aspinwall and her husband Mike Elliott of Manchester, and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Calling hours for family and friends will be held Saturday, April 21, from 4-7 p.m., at the Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main Street, Manchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Foundation, the American Heart Association, or the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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

Portland

Edmund and Jane Glinski

All are invited to a graveside service being held to celebrate the lives of Edmund A and Jane C. Glinski Friday, April 27, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Cemetery in Portland.

The two were former Portland residents, living in Swansboro, S.C., at the time of their deaths. Jane Glinski passed away Oct. 14, 2017, at the age of 89, and husband Edmund Glinski died Nov. 14, 2017, also at age 89.

# Marlborough Home Invasion During Family Barbecue

by Allison Lazur

According to state police, last Saturday, April 14, at approximately 4:25 p.m., a home invasion was reported on Ridgewood Drive.

Sandy Brinck Chasse stated on Facebook – information she later verified to the *Rivereast* – that she was hosting a family barbecue at another home when a man driving a Black Mercedes with tinted windows and a Connecticut license plate, approached the seven members in attendance at the gathering “looking for weed that he thought someone stole from him.”

Chasse said the man knocked on the door of the home, but no one answered, so he came through the open garage into the house. She said he had a semi-automatic handgun and only left once he realized he had been given incorrect information and was at the wrong residence.

According to Chasse, the alleged intruder forced her son-in-law to take him to the son-in-law’s car so the trunk could be inspected. After the inspection revealed there was no marijuana in the trunk, the intruder said “I know where you live” and got back into the Mercedes and sped off, she said.

Chasse also added that the intruder stated he knew the person he was trying to locate worked at “the Post Office.”

“It happened so fast,” said Chasse. “I know my son-in-law thought he was going to be shot to death, but wanted to follow instructions protecting all of us.”

Chasse described the man as dark-skinned with a scruffy beard, average height and ap-

proximately 165 pounds wearing a dark shirt and jeans.

While the alleged intruder and Chasse’s son-in-law were outside the home inspecting the car trunk, Chasse’s daughter called police, Chasse said.

While Resident State Trooper Jeff Dunshee did not return multiple calls for comment, First Selectwoman Amy Traversa said an arrest in the incident has been made. However, Chasse emphasized this individual – whom police did not identify – was not the intruder who invaded her property, but instead a person who happened to be in the “wrong place at the wrong time” when the police responded to the scene to investigate. She said that the person was driving on Ridgewood shortly after the alleged home invasion and police detected a smell of marijuana coming from the person’s car and pulled them over.

State police said a number of specialized police units and resources responded to the scene and a very active investigation is still ongoing. The incident has been referred to Eastern District Major Crime Squad, according to Traversa.

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There is a community forum with Dunshee scheduled for Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Marlborough Elementary where topics covered will include: crime statistics in 2017 and 2018 to the present, frequent police requests, methods of mitigation, etc., as well as a question-and-answer portion.

## East Hampton Police News

4/5: Lorraine Valli, 53, of 239 E. High St., was issued a summons for misuse of registration, insufficient insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

4/6: Joseph Rondinone, 33, of 70 Johnson Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

4/8: Amy Seppa, 44, of 39 Young St., was arrested and charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

4/11: David Gaudino, 59, of 75 Old Marlborough Rd., was issued a summons for interfering with an officer, police said.

Also, from April 2-8, officers responded to 13 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and 14 alarms, and made 26 traffic stops, police said.

## Colchester Police News

4/10: Colchester Police said Joshua Taylor, 21, of 272 Prospect Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with violating a protective order.

4/10: According to Colchester Police, at approximately 11:13 a.m. Thong Q. Nguyen, 74, of 50 Barber Hill Rd., South Windsor was driving a Toyota Rav4 on Parum Road near Lake Hayward Road. He failed to grant the right of way to Vanessa L. Reynolds, 60, of 592 Deep River Rd., driving a Subaru Legacy, resulting in a collision between the two vehicles, said police.

Reynolds was transported by Colchester Ambulance to the Middlesex Clinic with possible injuries. According to police, Nguyen was found at fault and issued an infraction at the scene and both vehicles were towed by Desmond’s Auto.

4/11: Colchester Police said at approximately 10:09 p.m. Patrick A. Spranzo, 25, of 45 Standish Rd., was driving a Toyota Corolla traveling eastbound on Middletown Road, when he crossed over the yellow line, resulting in a head-

on collision with a Lincoln Navigator, traveling westbound, driven by Amanda R. Bickford, 46, of 272 Meadow Lark Ln., Westbrook.

Spranzo was transported by the Colchester Fire Department to Backus Hospital as a precaution and both vehicles were towed from the scene by Evans Automotive Repair, said police. The crash remains under investigation by the Colchester Police.

4/12: Colchester Police said Jamison Cole, 42, of 9 Pearl St., New London, was arrested and charged with DUI.

4/14: State Police said Jason Bassett, 38, of 27 Franklin St., Enfield was arrested and charged with violation of probation.

4/15: Colchester Police said at approximately 7:12 a.m. there was a report of a missing vehicle. The missing tan Subaru Legacy was parked on the street in front of the victim’s residence. The victim reported that the Subaru was unlocked and the keys were in the vehicle, said police. This incident is still under investigation.

## Hebron Police News

4/12: According to State Police, Daniel Levander, 34, of 80 Oxford Dr., Norwich was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, criminal possession of a firearm, third-degree assault, second-degree threatening and second-degree reckless endangerment.

4/13: In a traffic stop, two male offenders, both 17, were each arrested and charged with drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, state police said. The juvenile driver was additionally charged with sale of a controlled substance, third-degree possession of a weapon and carrying a dangerous weapon.

## Marlborough Police News

4/13: State Police said Dillon F. Dias, 24, of 749 Woodtick Rd., Waterbury was arrested and charged with failure to carry a driver’s license and DUI.

4/14: State Police said Matthew Guida, 25, of 490 Nott St., Wethersfield was arrested and charged with drug paraphernalia, possession with intent to sell or dispense narcotics and possession of a controlled substance.

## One-Car Crash on Route 6 in Andover

A Willimantic man was transported to the hospital with suspected injuries following a one-car crash on Route 6 Sunday night.

Police said the crash occurred at approximately 10:15 p.m. April 15, near the intersection with Lake Street.

Andrew B. Keen, 29, of Coventry, was driving a Nissan Altima with two passengers, police said. One of the passengers, Andre E. Rivas, 38, of 78 Lebanon Ave., Willimantic, was transported to Windham Hospital by Columbia Fire Department with suspected minor injuries, according to state police.

## Portland Police News

4/9: Brian Lyford, 40, of 38 Grove St., was charged with DUI and traveling too fast, Portland Police said.

4/13: Christopher Radman, 40, of 8 Prout St., was charged with sixth-degree larceny, police said.