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Mike and Kasha Morris recently started a foundation to support research into the recently-discovered TANGO2 disease. Their son Ryan was diagnosed with the genetic condition last year, after 15 years of searching for answers in the dark. From left are Kasha, Ryan, Mike and Kaitlyn Morris. In front is Ryan's dog Kemba, who was named after former University of Connecticut star basketball player Kemba Walker.

Belldown Family Fights Rare Disease

by Elizabeth Regan

Ryan Morris was just 1 year old when he began showing signs of a disease that wouldn't be discovered by science for almost 15 years.

Mike and Kasha Morris said their son – who was born Sept. 11, 2001 – had been reaching milestones according to the typical developmental timeline when he suddenly began to regress. The words he had, he lost. Inexplicable episodes of muscle weakness left him struggling to sit up or hold a toy. It took two years for him to learn to walk.

Test results ordered by dozens of doctors from four hospitals over the ensuing decade and a half came back normal – even though it was clear to Ryan's parents the situation was anything but ordinary.

It wasn't until 2016 that researchers identified a mutation in the TANGO2 gene as the cause of the kind of metabolic issues 16-year-old Ryan has been experiencing for most of his life: intellectual challenges, muscle weakness and sudden fatigue.

Ryan was diagnosed with TANGO2 disease by a geneticist at Yale New Haven Hospital after the results of an extensive battery of genetic testing came back in July 2017.

The diagnosis, which answered the most basic question about their son's condition, did not come with much more information about the extremely rare disease. That's why the East Hampton couple co-founded the TANGO2 Research Foundation just months later.

There are currently 30 children in the world diagnosed with the TANGO2 disease, according to the Morris family. They said there have been no diagnoses in adults so far. One of the things they don't know is whether that's because most people with the disease don't live into adulthood or if there has been a lack of genetic testing in adults with similar symptoms.

The disease is characterized by episodes ranging from head tilts, speech difficulty and seizures to potentially life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia.

Mike described "a sense of urgency" behind their work.

"We know the clock is ticking for Ryan and other kids like this a bit faster than it is for other people. But at this point, we just don't know

how much faster," he said.

The Morrises started the foundation in support of a better understanding of the disease and with the hope of improving the quality of life for Ryan and others like him. They said eradicating the disease completely is an eventual, rather than immediate, goal.

"We want information first, and treatment and prevention. But the science probably will exist down the road for a cure," Kasha said.

The couple described their son, who has a permanently youthful outlook on life, as a funny, active boy with a love for sports – especially basketball.

Mike said that sense of innocence is one of the beautiful things about children with the TANGO2 mutation.

"Ryan, and I think a lot of them, are kind of stuck at age 6, when things are still magical," he said.

Kasha put it this way: "Ryan is exactly the way he's supposed to be. We wouldn't change his personality for anything. We just want his quality of life to be the best it can be."

The inherited TANGO2 disease affects chromosome 22. According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, chromosome 22 likely contains 500-600 genes that provide instruction for making proteins. TANGO2 is one of those genes. The disorder occurs when part of the gene is lost during DNA replication.

The disease is passed on when both parents carry one copy of the same gene mutation. According to a January 2018 study by a team of researchers from Baylor College of Medicine in Texas and the Indiana University School of Medicine, there is a 25 percent chance that a child will be born with the disorder if both parents carry a copy of the gene mutation.

Ryan's older sister, Kaitlyn, does not have the disease. While it is not yet known if she carries the TANGO2 mutation, Kasha said her daughter will most likely undergo genetic testing when it comes time to plan a family of her own.

Kaitlyn is a junior at the University of Connecticut, where she is pursuing a career in health care. She started a club called "Huskies for

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'One Thing After Another' with Hebron CVS

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney is calling CVS a "blighted property" and an "eyesore."

Tierney admitted that, when the drug store chain proposed its building in the then-brand new Village Green District, town officials were a little hesitant.

"We wanted to preserve the rural character" of the area, Tierney said. "The trouble was the design."

Conditions of the November 2012 approval of the CVS included adding stone walls and landscaping and the company also agreed to

design the building with a colonial flare, with peaks and valleys, he said.

CVS, which is on Main Street in the town center, was approved in November 2012 and built the following year, Town Planner Michael O'Leary said.

"We were assured [by CVS], 'Don't worry about it, it will be well-maintained,'" Tierney said. "'It'll be beautiful.'"

Despite those assurances, the company, which leases the property and worked with a developer to build the store, hasn't kept its end of the bargain, Tierney said. The property's

condition started going downhill after the first year, and for the last three years, Tierney said, he has been going there regularly to point out areas of concern to the store manager.

"The stone wall is falling down, the fence is in disarray," he said. "It's one thing after another."

Though Tierney said he deals with store manager Ashley Lang, he added that he knows the situation is out of her hands and is a matter for corporate headquarters.

O'Leary has been in touch with property

owner Gregory Salvatore, of Salvatore Capital Partners LLC, in Dedham, Mass., Tierney said. But the situation is apparently out of his control as well.

"Sorry to hear this about CVS," Salvatore wrote in an email to O'Leary that was forwarded to the *RiverEast*. "It is really surprising. We will do what we can to convey the town's frustration. As you know, this is a ground lease with them and we really have no control or power to make them do anything."

See Hebron CVS page 2



Hebron officials say they have had complaints from residents about the condition of the CVS property, including stones falling from the wall in front of the property (shown at left). After complaints from town officials, CVS fixed the wall (seen at right) – but Town Manager Andrew Tierney said it’s been “one thing after another” with the pharmacy chain since it opened its store in the Village Green District.

Hebron CVS cont. from Front Page

When the *Rivereast* visited the store Tuesday, stones had fallen from the stone wall in front of the lot in two spots and lay scattered on the sidewalk. A soda can was wedged between some of the stones still in place. The white picket fence appeared in need of a coat of paint.

The town is also concerned with the landscaping, O’Leary said Wednesday. He said he was there Tuesday and noticed workers “getting rid of weeds that took over.”

“There are still plants that have died that need to be replaced,” he said.

He added that mulch needs to be put down to cover exposed landscaping fabric, and said the fence not only needs to be painted but is also in need of repair.

O’Leary said he spoke to a landscaper that was on the property when he visited, and the landscaper told O’Leary he was waiting for the go-ahead from corporate to do the mulching and replanting.

In an email sent to Lang earlier this month and forwarded to the *Rivereast* Monday, Tierney complained that landscaping improvements and

cleanup have not been completed on the property and threatens legal action to the corporation, which he said is in violation of its agreement with the town.

“CVS is in violation of their approval once again, as you well know,” Tierney wrote. “They should be ashamed of themselves to have their business looking this way. Quite frankly I wish we never approved them in the first place.”

He went on to say that he had dropped off a blueprint indicating areas of concern and that it is “totally unacceptable” for a business on Main Street to “look this way,” and told Lang to “feel free to forward [the email] to whoever can expedite the cleanup of this now blighted property.”

On Tuesday, Lang said she had no comment, and provided the phone number to the corporate offices.

Mike DeAngelis, senior director of CVS corporate communications, responded to a phone call from the *Rivereast* with an emailed statement.

“CVS Pharmacy is proud to serve the Hebron

community and we have taken Town Manager Tierney’s feedback seriously,” he wrote. “Landscaping issues are currently being addressed. Wall and fence repair and retaining pond work is scheduled to be completed before the end of the week. We have engaged our property maintenance service provider to ensure that our site stays in compliance with the agreement we made with the town.”

O’Leary said he had noticed some fixes had been completed Tuesday and that some trash and a shopping cart had been removed from the pond in front of the property, but that more work is necessary.

On Wednesday he noticed more work had been done.

“I was driving by there this morning and I did notice that somebody fixed up the stone wall,” he said Wednesday. But, he added, “there’s a lot of attention that needs to be given to the site.”

According to O’Leary, the company does not respond to requests to remedy issues with the property unless the town “puts pressure” on it.

“This has been an ongoing issue that we’ve been having with that site for the past three years and it just seems it takes that kind of an effort to get CVS cooperation,” he said, referring to Tierney’s email. “It’s a site in the center of town that looks pretty unkept most of the time.”

O’Leary and Tierney both noted that the CVS property in East Hampton is well maintained and said they wondered why that property is cared for while Hebron’s is not.

“We get complaints from other businesses, we get complaints [from] other citizens,” O’Leary said about the property’s condition.

Dan Larson, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said he was copied on the email to Lang.

“We do try to keep a nice picturesque town and we ask people to be nice neighbors and keep their end of the deal,” Larson said. “I’m hoping that they will address this and get it cleaned up.”

Belltown Family cont. from Front Page

Healing” to raise money for the study of rare diseases.

Finding Treatment...and a Cure

The TANGO2 Research Foundation began after Kasha and Mike connected on Facebook with a group of people in multiple countries whose children have the same disease. It was there the Morrises realized what they could accomplish with their shared experience, dedication and resources.

“At first, when you don’t have that diagnosis, you’re in a room that’s completely dark. You don’t know if you should walk in this direction or that direction,” Mike said.

Mobilizing as a group was the most powerful effect of being diagnosed with a newly-discovered and little-understood disease, according to the Morrises.

“So now we’re still in the room that’s kind of dark, but at least we’re pointed in the right direction,” Mike said.

The foundation includes a six-member board of directors with members from the social media group as well as one of the leading researchers in the field.

The Morrises reached out to Dr. Seema Lalani, an associate professor at Baylor Col-

lege of Medicine, after they read about her research in the only two medical articles on the topic that existed at the time of Ryan’s diagnosis. They said the doctor has treated six patients with the TANGO2 mutation.

“We found the person who cares about something even though it affects so few people,” Kasha said.

Lalani has kicked off a study to examine the medical records of children with the disease and to establish a biorepository of blood and skin samples to be stored at the university, where it will be available to researchers around the world.

The board of directors meets once a month via video conference to talk about how they will take that study “to the next level,” according to Kasha. The foundation’s initial goal is to raise about \$250,000 to hire a researcher or team of researchers to mine the data being compiled by Lalani.

Ultimately, the couple said they hope the foundation will be able to fund multiple, concurrent studies both in the United States and abroad.

The need for grassroots support is critical due to the nature of rare diseases, which typically

do not affect enough people to make research and development a lucrative option for Big Pharma.

“It isn’t like drug companies are very interested in going after it, but I think there are researchers who are legitimately interested,” Mike said.

He said harnessing the power of the 30 families whose children have already been diagnosed with the TANGO2-related disease – and their associated networks of family and friends – will make it possible to generate the funding necessary to address so many unanswered questions about the disease.

In East Hampton, that network of friends and family extends to the wider community, according to Mike – “whether it’s school, Special Olympics, church, or whatever it happens to be.”

The parents expressed gratitude for a school system that has embraced Ryan since he entered the special education program. He is currently a rising junior at East Hampton High School.

Ryan’s parents cited a sense of welcoming and positivity evident in administration, teach-

ers and students alike.

“When your kid’s different, you always worry that how he’s treated is going to be a problem,” Kasha said.

But every year, he has been surrounded by peers who have accepted him and been kind to him.

“And he’s kind back,” she said. “He’s very empathetic and good to others.”

The foundation plans to launch its fundraising efforts this fall. Mike described an organized, strategic approach to building a charitable organization that will be able to sustain itself.

The Morrises said their own professional background provides a solid basis for the most important work of their lives.

Mike is the founder and CEO of Recdesk, a computer software program for recreation organizations, while Kasha brings experience as a special education teacher.

“Our lives and our careers have given us the skills we need to be Ryan’s parents,” Kasha said.

For more information about TANGO2 disease, visit tango2research.org.

Town on the Hunt for New Assistant Clerk in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

The town clerk will be getting a new fulltime assistant.

At the July 19 Board of Selectmen meeting, the board approved a measure to reinstate the assistant position. In May, the board cut the position to save money.

“In our effort to try to keep the budget numbers low and knowing that we had a retirement coming up in that office, it was one of the things that seemed like a great idea,” said Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson.

The previous assistant, Ann Hughes, retired at the end of June.

In May, when they learned Hughes would be leaving, selectmen cut the position, with the intention of having existing town staff help out in the office, Larson said. However, many of Hughes’ responsibilities would have required the town staff to be certified with the Connecticut Town Clerks Association. When the selectmen learned of this, they reconsidered.

According to Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz, the certification process takes a minimum of three years and consists of classes by the Connecticut Town Clerks Association in the proper handling and recording of vital records, records management, elections, land records, other duties and a final certification test.

“With the requirements and certifications that have since come to light, it was deemed that it just was not going to be as easy to fix,” Larson said, referring to filling the job with floaters

from different offices. “We were able to [reinstate the position] with the state coming through with some extra money that we had not anticipated.”

According to Town Manager Andrew Tierney, the funding was realized through Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) grant money that was restored to the town in June, after the state budget was passed. There were also no new reductions in state funding, he said.

“And we closed out the year better than we anticipated,” Tierney said. “So all three of those things contributed to going back to a fulltime assistant town clerk.”

As of last month, the town is getting approximately \$5.98 million in ECS funding for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

On Tuesday, Pomproicz manned the department mostly by herself, with the exception of some help in the vault from a part-timer. In the half hour to 45 minutes the *Rivereast* observed, she handled several customers, who came into the office one after the other in a continued stream.

When one asked her about her lunch, she joked that she doesn’t take one.

In between customers, Pomproicz described what she was doing.

“Our duties are extremely varied,” she said.

She recorded several land records for an attorney’s office, did a land release, processed a dog license, and helped a resident complete

some research on land records for a title search.

Earlier in the day, she said she processed absentee ballots for the August primary and updated an index to make it easier for people to do searches on local businesses.

Pomproicz has also been checking petitions of candidates looking to get their names on the ballot in the upcoming primary and said she has given the registrars about 20 pages of signatures to verify.

As she spoke, she instructed a customer on how to find maps and information on the department’s computer and printed some pages for her.

Other things she does include recording and archiving agendas and minutes for the 30-plus boards and commissions in town, property transfers, and creating vital records, including marriage, birth and death certificates. She also gives fishing and hunting licenses, which come in waves based on the season, she said.

“Fishing season is almost as busy as dog licensing,” she said.

Lori Rogoff, a paralegal for attorney William D. Grady in East Hampton, stopped by the office to get paperwork for a property transfer.

“All the local town clerks are great,” she said. “They’re very helpful. They clearly know what they are doing.”

Hughes, who spoke with the *Rivereast* from Nova Scotia where she is currently vacationing, said the office has made an effort to index

and image records dating back to the town’s 1708 incorporation.

“We’ve done a great job on backtracking,” she said. “[Hebron is] one of few towns that have all the vitals imaged back to day one.”

Hughes, who started with the town in 1994 in the Parks & Recreation department and later worked for the assessor’s office, moved to the clerk’s office in 2002, where she worked with Pomproicz for 16 years. According to both women, it was a good match.

“She was awesome, very strong where I am weak,” Pomproicz said. “We were a very, very good team.”

Hughes reiterated what Pomproicz said about the clerk’s duties being varied, adding that they are mandated by state statutes.

“It’s very important; you don’t want to make an error,” she said. She added that, in the town clerk’s absence, the assistant is also “supposed to fill her duties as a town clerk.”

Hughes said she and Pomproicz had each other’s backs – and added that she misses her job.

“It was a great run,” she said. “You couldn’t ask for a better boss or associate.”

The town has opened the assistant town clerk position to union employees as it is required to do before reaching into the community at large, Pomproicz said. The plan, as of Tuesday, was to post the job for everyone at the end of this week.

Vigilance Encouraged After String of Car Break-Ins in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Local officials and state troopers want folks to remain vigilant in light of a string of car break-ins in town over the past week.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson alerted the *Rivereast* of the incidents on Tuesday.

“We’re getting more break-ins in motor vehicles in town,” he said. “People need to be conscious.”

Resident State Trooper Daniel Greenwood said that, since last Thursday, he and troopers from Troop K have responded to “numerous” incidents in town involving residents whose vehicles have been stolen or broken into.

There are active investigations ongoing regarding several of these incidents, he said.

Most of the cars that were broken into have been unlocked when the crimes took place, Greenwood said. In surveillance videos police have of two of the burglaries, this is apparent.

One of the videos shows at least three indi-

viduals wearing hooded sweatshirts going through the vehicles.

“People are just walking right up to the cars and seeing if the cars are locked and then going to the next one,” the trooper said.

The recent spate of illegal activity started early in the morning last Thursday, July 19, Greenwood said.

That morning, two vehicles were stolen out of a driveway on Charles Lane, he said. That same night, there were reports of cars that were rifled through in the area, he added.

Three days later, on Sunday, July 22, at least one vehicle on Brennan Road was broken into and someone searched through it, Greenwood said. He added that on Tuesday at around 12:15 a.m. residents from Hills Lane also had their vehicles burglarized, and later that day, several residents on Porter Road, Martin Road, Olde Hall Road, Charles Lane, and Karen Circle reported experiencing the same thing.

A window was smashed in one car on Olde Hall Road and a bag was taken, which was later recovered. Greenwood said. On Karen Circle, a vehicle was stolen and later recovered in Wethersfield.

Greenwood responded to assist in recovering the vehicle and seized several items that belonged to residents of Hebron, Southington and Newington.

“There was also unidentified property in the vehicle that has not been claimed or reported stolen,” Trooper said.

The recovered items include camping equipment, credit cards, identifications, wallets, gym bags, playing cards and a Dewalt heavy-duty polisher. Greenwood and Troop K are assisting local agencies in identifying the property and any other victims.

Greenwood advised people to lock their cars, and to be sure to take all valuables inside and do not leave keys or key fobs in vehicles.

He also said people should leave outdoor lights on at their property and, if possible, use motion and or sensor lights to keep criminals away from their cars.

“Lock your car; be vigilant,” Greenwood said. “Make sure you look out for your neighbors too and if you see something unusual and suspicious, don’t wait – call the police at that time so we can get there then.”

Larson echoed that sentiment. “People need to be more vigilant until these individuals are apprehended,” he said.

Report suspicious or questionable activity to Troop K at 860-465-5400. If it appears that a crime is occurring call 911.

Greenwood is available to speak with any Hebron resident who would like to talk more about and said to please call him at 860-228-3710 or email him at dgreenwood@hebronct.com.

Colchester Resident Brings Rock Concert Closer to Home

by Allison Lazur

Music fans won’t have to travel to locations like New Haven or Hartford to hear national acts next Friday. Resident Estevan Vega is bringing the sounds of alternative rock to Colchester.

The author and barber decided to take on concert promotion by organizing an all-ages alternative rock concert at Bacon Academy featuring six national touring acts including Seventh Day Slumber, Spoken, Random Hero, ZAHNA, Gold Frankincense & Myrrh and Amongst the Giants.

“Music is my second passion,” Vega said. “Even though I don’t play any instruments, I love live experiences.”

The six bands, which had their 2018 Summer RockFest tour venues in place, have now added Bacon Academy to their schedule of stops.

“If people are fans of [bands such as] Breaking Benjamin or Nickelback or Linkin Park, they’d be into this,” Vega said.

Vega told the *Rivereast* last week his own experience traveling to concerts as a kid is what prompted him to work on bringing live performances closer to home.

“I know when I was a kid, I was always going to concerts and I loved the live experience, but I always had to travel to Hartford or New Haven,” he said. “My parents would always worry if I was safe or not and I would always

have to go with somebody, so I’m trying to cut out that aspect.”

Vega said the alcohol- and drug-free show is geared to be a place where young people can go to feel “safe and comfortable.”

“I want to show kids that you don’t have to get tanked or high to have fun,” he said.

Vega also discussed a regional impact from the show, stating that headlining acts typically travel to cities such as Boston, New York and Philadelphia, adding “Connecticut always gets stiffed and I don’t want that to be the case.”

Whenever big-name acts do stop in Connecticut, they’re usually playing at Mohegan Sun or Foxwoods, or in Hartford or New Haven, Vega said, “So if you live in a rural area and you don’t want to drive an hour, you’re not seeing a show.”

Vega explained that he first delved into concert-promoting six years ago, but after his partner backed out at the last minute, he decided to instead focus his time and energy on writing, as well as cutting hair at Joe’s Main Street Barber Shop in Colchester, which is owned by his father.

However, after taking this hiatus, Vega said he decided to give the concert promoting another try.

Vega, under the title Capulet Entertainment, has partnered with Abundant Life Church to

bring the performance to town.

Charles Brown, pastor of Abundant Life Church, is the father of Vega’s girlfriend, Nicole, and also a supporter of bringing events to the youth community.

“We want to reach out to the young people and music speaks highly to every culture, Brown said, adding “Our whole church is behind it – it’s going to be a lot of fun.”

Brown said the church has always been involved with the community but “never with something to this extent.”

Vega explained that solidifying Bacon Academy as the venue took some coaxing.

“At first, [the superintendent’s office] turned it down because I think they were intimidated by a rock concert and the fact that it had never been done before,” Vega said.

But after leaving flyers and additional information in the superintendent’s office, the school came around, Vega said.

Vega said he chose Bacon Academy to host the concert because “I work in town, I live in town and I wanted to have something in town.”

The school’s auditorium, which seats nearly 700, will also host a slew of volunteers comprised of Vega’s friends and individuals from the church to help with ticket, merchandise and food sales come the August show.

Vega disclosed through chuckles that the

funds for the show were generated by a car he sold.

“Anytime you’re pursuing an art or something that is atypical, be prepared to lose money,” he said.

While the financials for next week’s show are secured, Vega is still working on funding for a “bigger concert” in the fall, followed by the possibility of another show in spring 2019.

“I’m hoping this is going to be the beginning of more stuff like this,” Vega said. Adding that the ultimate goal is to have a regular and successful concert series with a show scheduled every couple months.

Vega said he wants kids to know “You don’t have to go to New Haven [to see a show]; it’s right here and it’s dirt cheap.” He added, “It’s the price of a movie ticket and you’re getting six bands.”

Anyone interested in attending the Aug. 3 show can purchase tickets for \$12 from several places including the church’s website at abundantlifect.com, itickets.com or from Vega himself at Joe’s Main Street Barbershop. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$15. VIP tickets can be purchased for \$20 and include a meet and greet with the bands before the show at 5:30 p.m. The regular concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

Residents Urged to Lock Vehicles in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

After a rash of approximately 20 to 25 vehicle break-in incidents over the last month, First Selectman Art Shilosky, Resident State Trooper Supervisor Sergeant Martin Martinez and Officer Tim Edwards urged residents to do three simple things: take your keys, remove your valuables and lock your vehicle.

At Wednesday night's public information session, Shilosky informed approximately forty residents that the town is taking proactive measures to remind everyone to be vigilant.

"If you see something, say something," Shilosky said. "We are going to be proactive, but we need to work as a team."

A banner on the town green, as well as signs on the town's major roadways, will display the three simple reminders.

Martinez also urged residents to take further precautionary measures to deter criminals from targeting their vehicles.

"Take your keys, lock your vehicles, take your IDs and licenses inside," he said. "If you see something suspicious call 911 – that's what it's there for."

He also encouraged residents to make sure outside lights are working properly and encouraged residents to provide video footage of break-ins to police.

"Help us help you," he said.

Martinez called upon a community effort to protect the town from being targeted, including communication to get the word out about the number of break-ins and what to do to minimize the impact.

"Take care of the elderly – visit them, help them out as far as securing homes and cars," he said.

He informed residents they could also file paperwork with the police department indicating when they will be away on vacation and what cars, if any, are expected to be at the residence.

Effortless Crime

Martinez explained juveniles are breaking into vehicles with little to no effort.

"They're going into residences and apartment complexes and they're checking vehicles; they're checking to see if your car is unlocked [and] checking to see if you have valuables in there."

While Martinez stated the department is not finding the perpetrators are armed, the department has witnessed an incident where the individual took a step further and entered an open garage to search through a vehicle.

"They're not going to spend a whole lot of time on a car that's locked unless something is visible," he said.

Throughout the session residents asked questions regarding what to do if they witness suspicious activity. The answer offered by Martinez was consistent.

"Call 911," he said. "I don't want anyone confronting anybody."

Residents also inquired about the specific time of day these incidents were taking place.

Edwards informed attendees "there's no

rhyme or reason" to when the break-ins are occurring and explained that even the Colchester parks are being targeted.

"In the summertime there are a lot of kids out and they have nothing better to do, so some of the break-ins might just have to do with kids looking for loose change," he said.

He went on to divulge that the role of technology in these crimes has made the issue increasingly difficult for officers.

"The evolution of these crimes is more difficult. If there's more than one person working an area, they communicate via cell phone," he said.

Edwards explained that if a perpetrator happens to have a scanner and knows that the officers or troopers on duty are busy somewhere else, they take advantage of the situation.

"Technology is our friend, but sometimes it's our worst enemy," Edwards said.

Police Measures

The ten officers of the Colchester Police Department have a shift that ends at midnight, but after 12 a.m. the shift is taken over by two troopers from Troop K, Martinez explained.

With the recent slew of break-ins, Martinez said schedules have been adjusted to include more night coverage, with two to five officers on duty at any given time.

There is also collaboration with the police departments throughout Connecticut to identify suspects and make arrests, he said.

He cited two specific incidents in other parts

of the state.

"Yesterday Simsbury called because there were some people trying to open accounts with someone else's ID and using credit cards," he said.

Two weeks ago, there was a call from Waterbury that an individual attempted to use a credit card stolen from Colchester at a Sunoco station and a McDonald's located in the city.

We did send officers [to Waterbury] and we're working with other towns [such as] Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia," adding, "It's not just happening here."

Shilosky, again, urged residents to do their part explaining that there are approximately 56 miles of town for officers to cover.

He reiterated his advice – "if you see something, say something."

Selectman Stan Soby was also in attendance and explained that there are 125 miles of town roadways that "our officers are tasked with patrolling."

He cited a nationwide social media movement called #9pmReminder to encourage residents to do their part, explaining that it's a reminder via social media to check your cars at the same time every night to ensure the vehicle is locked and empty of all valuables.

Throughout the public forum Martinez continued to field various questions from residents, but regularly returned to a single bottom line.

"Give us a call if you see something – it's not rocket science, it's as simple as that."

Colchester Dad Continues to Honor Donor Daughter

by Allison Lazur

Resident Peter Kupczak's home is adorned with photos of his daughter Jessica. In his office, bedroom, on the walls of his hallway and even on top of the dog crate, Jessica can be seen achieving milestones throughout her 24 years of life.

Next week, Kupczak will achieve his own milestone, as homage to his daughter, by participating in his eighth Transplant Games of America.

Jessica suffered a serious asthma attack on Nov. 17, 2002 in her New York City apartment, going into cardiac arrest. She was put on life support, but declared brain dead. She died six days later on Nov. 23.

Her heart, pancreas, kidneys and liver were donated to four individuals and, since then, Kupczak has made it his mission to honor his daughter and advocate for organ and tissue donation.

As one of several acts Kupczak has done to remember his daughter, participation in the biennial organ transplant games has been a tradition for him since 2004.

This year the games will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, and will run Aug. 2-7.

Kupczak explained he was encouraged to attend the games by his donor family coordinator through the New York Organ Donor Network, now known as LiveOnNY. He wasn't interested in going at the time, but when the 2004 Minneapolis games were on the horizon, the New York Organ Donor Network reached out and offered to sponsor Kupczak as a donor family member.

After some hesitation, Kupczak said he decided to go, calling his first year at the games "a wonderful, healing experience."

Kupczak said that every time he attends the games, he wears a pin with Jessica's photo. His first year in Minneapolis, he was approached by a donor recipient who thanked him and offered him a hug.

"You get adopted," Kupczak said. "Even though they didn't receive Jessica's organ, the recipients know that someone like me or [a donor] made the choice to give the gift of life in the darkest times."

Kupczak said the games are modeled after the Olympics, including an opening and closing ceremony, a lighting of the torch, medal ceremony and the participation of approximately fifty teams from across the United States.

According to the Transplant Games of America website, organ, corneal, tissue and bone marrow transplant recipients, as well as living donors, compete in athletic competitions throughout the six-day event.

"The excitement of the games is seeing a 5-year-old with a new heart run down the track," he said, explaining, "The games are very stimulating – everybody roots for everybody."

However, Kupczak explained that not all participation is athletic. Attendees can take part in events like ballroom dancing or trivia.

Kupczak said he and his wife Frances will be running in a non-competitive 5K race this year.

Kupczak is a member of Team Liberty, a

group that participates in the games, and is composed of recipients, donors, donor families, supporters and professionals from throughout Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

Kupczak said when he first joined Team Liberty in 2006 there were only about 50 members, but the group has since grown to 136.

The number of attendees at the games has also exponentially grown. Team Liberty Co-manager, Patti DiSanto, said 50 people attended the first games in 1986 and approximately 6000 people are expected to take part this year.

When it comes to attending the games, Kupczak said unlike other teams, Team Liberty fundraises so that every member in the group has the opportunity to travel to the games.

He explained the money is raised through bake sales, cookie and candy sales, a golf outing and a collaboration with the professional female basketball team, the UConn Huskies.

"There's a donor recognition day where they bring us down, we all play five minutes on the [basketball] court at half time and meet all the players," Kupczak said. He said also at the basketball games Team Liberty sells shirts.

"Wherever we are selling something, we have a booth set up to become a registered donor."

A tremendous part of the Transplant Games is remembering loved ones.

Kupczak said everyone is encouraged to talk as much or as little as they like.

"What I love about the games is the opportunity to talk to people – help them open up because I always want to hear everybody's

story," he said. "We give them all the time they need to tell their story because we want to know about their loved ones."

Kupczak said a "very somber" memorial service is also held.

Families are encouraged to create quilt squares for their loved ones, which are sewn into one large quilt, Kupczak said.

"You will see these beautiful quilt panels and every one is designed by the donor family," he said, adding that Jessica's square went on the quilt at the 2014 games.

Kupczak also makes sure to wear the vest, which he says is covered in pins of his own, as well as ones that have been "traded" with him at the event over the years.

In addition to being a regular attendee at the games, Kupczak also speaks to Hartford Hospital dialysis patients considering a transplant.

Kupczak says while he talks about the positive aspects of a transplant, he also wants to make sure the recipient does not feel any guilt.

"I try to tell these people, please don't feel guilty," he said. "No one wants to be a part of this club and we don't want you to feel guilty; it's just not part of that. We want you to have a better quality of life, and that's what this is."

DiSanto disclosed that nationwide there are 120,000 people on the list to waiting to receive an organ transplant and 21 of those people die every day waiting, she said.

Anyone interested in becoming an organ and tissue donor can register at donatelifenewengland.org.

East Hampton Finance Board Chair Abruptly Resigns After Meeting

by Elizabeth Regan

Board of Finance Chairman Michael Rose resigned Wednesday night after his fellow Republicans refused to reinstate three teaching positions as part of this year's protracted budget battle.

The finance board on Wednesday approved a revised \$15.07 million general government budget without endorsing Finance Director Jeff Jylkka's plan to appropriate \$250,000 for the reinstatement of three teachers cut from the already-approved education budget.

The budget proposal must now be approved by the Town Council before being sent to a third budget referendum.

Rose said his goodbyes to fellow finance board members after Wednesday night's special meeting before informing Jylkka and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco of his resignation.

Rose on Thursday described it as "inexcusable" that the finance board would reject the opportunity to put three teaching positions back into the budget when the town is looking at a 2017-18 budget surplus of roughly \$700,000 combined with the unexpected allocation of \$715,415 in funding from the state.

It was a point he emphasized to finance board members at the meeting.

"When we have \$1.4 million that we didn't plan on when we put these budgets together, it blows my mind that we would let teachers go. It just absolutely blows my mind," he told the board before calling a vote on the \$250,000 supplemental appropriation, which failed 4-3.

Republicans hold a 5-2 majority on the finance board.

"At the end of the day, the four members of my group who are more conservative on this issue had their own vision. Their vision should be led by someone who agrees with it," Rose said on Thursday, shortly after he submitted his official resignation letter to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel.

No Compromise

The failed budget maneuver crafted by Jylkka would have taken \$250,000 slated for student computer tablets and classroom interior door locks out of the town's proposed 2018-19 capital budget. The items instead would have been funded through a portion of the past fiscal year's budget surplus, which Jylkka said this week is "just north of" \$700,000.

The \$250,000 freed up in the capital budget would have been directed to the Board of Education to restore three teaching positions, according to the plan.

Superintendent of Schools Paul K. Smith has said he would use the funding to bring back a third grade, fifth grade and high school English teaching position. He said the affected elementary classrooms will have about 27 students each without the additional teachers.

The plan was a response by Jylkka and Smith to clamoring from education advocates angered by the finance board's decision to cut \$670,000 from the Board of Education budget in April. The cut reduced the school board's requested 3.73 percent increase over the 2018-19 budget to a 1.5 percent increase.

The \$30.50 million education budget, which was presented as a separate question at the initial budget referendum in May, passed on the first try by 125 votes despite the fact that it included the reduction of eight teaching positions. Three of the affected teachers were laid off; the remaining positions were left unfilled after teachers retired or were shuffled around the district.

But some of the same voters who supported the education budget rejected the proposed general government budget at the first and subsequent referendum. Advocates for the school system have been vocal at public meetings and on social media in saying they believe some or all of an unexpected allocation of \$715,415 in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds from the state should be applied to the education budget.

Finance board members like Richard Brown and Bridget McLennan said concerns about the schools' budget should be addressed to the Board of Education.

McLennan argued voters knew the education budget proposal included layoffs when they voted for it.

"They actually passed the budget knowing that," she said. "So appropriating more money, aren't we ignoring what the voters did? They said they liked the cut."

The comment drew scoffs from some education supporters in the audience.

Brown asked why the school board chose to eliminate eight teaching positions instead of making cuts to programs – like the junior varsity volleyball program initiated last year – and to highly-paid administrative positions.

He also rejected the idea that teacher and administrator salaries, which make up a large portion of the education budget, are an indisputable fixed cost.

"Don't tell me it's in the union contracts, unless you approach the unions and they refuse

to work with you," he said.

The finance board did, however, approve a supplemental appropriation of \$223,000 for repairs to the library roof. The move transferred money from the fund balance to the 2017-18 capital reserve fund.

The suggestions came from Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, who argued that paying for the much needed repairs out of the current budget surplus would save money in the upcoming budget and would be more expedient.

Officials had set aside \$91,000 in previous versions of the proposed budget for repairs to the leaky library. But if they wait until a 2018-19 budget is passed to fund the repairs, according to Maniscalco, it will likely be too late to get the job done before the winter ice dams hit and exacerbate the situation further.

He added that \$91,000 in the upcoming budget – even when combined with capital funding available in the current budget – wouldn't be enough to cover the cost of the project. That means he'd eventually have to come back to the finance board for a supplemental appropriation regardless.

The finance board then voted 6-1, with Rose casting the lone 'nay' vote, to appropriate \$223,000 from the 2018-19 budget surplus.

The roof repair combines with a previously-approved finance board supplemental appropriation for \$347,000 to pay in cash for a public works department truck and paver using the budget surplus instead of financing the items over several years.

By the Numbers

The finance board approved the total general government budget proposal in separate votes for town operations, capital and debt.

The finance board's total \$15.07 million general government budget proposal, including debt and capital, is 6.08 percent over the current budget.

The budget proposal, if endorsed by the council and then approved by voters at referendum, could result in a mill rate of 32.33 mills, which would amount to a 1.01 mill increase over the current year.

The finance board's town operations proposal of \$10.73 million, which would represent an increase of 1.11 percent over the current budget, did not change from the amount that failed at the last referendum.

The \$1.12 million capital and transfers budget, an increase of \$37.7 percent over the current budget, was approved with a reduction of \$91,000 after finance board members chose to

fund the library repairs from the current budget surplus.

The town's debt accounts for \$3.23 million in the finance board's approved budget. That's an increase of 15.74 percent over the current year.

The finance board rejected a suggestion by member Janine Jiantonio to fully deplete the approximately \$700,000 current budget surplus.

"I want to spend that surplus," she said. "If we can wipe some things out, if we can pay for something as opposed to finance something, because that then not only reduces this tax year but every year thereafter. That's what I would be in favor of."

Jylkka said the \$700,000 budget surplus is reduced to roughly \$130,000 when the library roof repairs and public works vehicles are taken into account. He said that will leave the town's fund balance at approximately 12 percent.

He said he'd like to see the fund balance at a healthy 12-15 percent in order to secure favorable outlooks from credit rating agencies. A healthy fund balance is critical to securing the lowest interest rates possible on bonds for projects like the construction of the town hall and police department.

Residents Patience Coleman and Tania Sones after the meeting acknowledged they supported the Board of Education budget at the first referendum despite the staffing reductions. They said comments by Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel influenced their decision to vote 'yes.'

"They threatened us with cuts if we didn't, so that was our only choice," Coleman said.

Engel told the *Riverast* prior to the first referendum that a 'no' vote in East Hampton has historically resulted in further reductions, where it is assumed a budget fails because it is too high.

"If you vote 'no' with the expectation that we'll put more money back in, you're wasting your vote," Engel said at the time.

Board of Education Republican Nancy Oakley after the meeting was perplexed by the finance board's refusal to reinstate the teaching positions in light of their subsequent willingness to spend the current budget surplus on other expenses.

"I can see what the finance director is saying about the fund balance. You want it to be super healthy. But to then have a Board of Finance member sit there and say 'spend the entire surplus' ... I don't know. I'm confused by that," she said.

East Hampton Police News

7/4: Linda Cavanna, 50, of 2 Birch Mountain Rd., Bolton, was issued a summons for driving while suspended, East Hampton Police said.

7/16: Mark Peszynski, 56, of 42 Old Marlborough Rd., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, police said.

7/19: Anthony Majewski, 56, of 100 Crescent St., Middletown, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a protective order, police said.

Also, from July 9-15, officers responded to 19 medical calls, six motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 18 traffic stops.

Portland Police News

7/15: Nathaniel Gauthier, 22, of 16 Coe Ave. Ext., was charged with third-degree assault, disorderly conduct, interfering with an emergency call, second-degree criminal mischief and second-degree strangulation, Portland Police said.

7/20: Cristina Moreno, 23, of 10 Coe Ave., was charged with third-degree assault and risk of injury to a minor, police said.

7/20: Dominica Anderson, 22, of 36 Chatham Court, was charged with third-degree assault and risk of injury to a minor, police said.

Two SUVs Stolen in Hebron

State police said that two SUV-style vehicles were stolen from a residence last week.

Police said sometime during the night and early morning hours on July 19 the two SUV style vehicles were stolen from a driveway on Charles Lane.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Jason Hickey at 860-465-5400 ext. 4077.

Colchester Police News

7/17: State Police said Robert Garrand, 38, of 132 Gill St., was arrested and charged with violating a protective order.

7/19: State Police said Leatta F. Bailey, 48, of 134 Main St., Baltic, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

7/21: Colchester Police said William S. Cherry, 53, was arrested and charged with failure to renew registration, improper use of marker/license/registration, operating a motor vehicle without minimum insurance and first-

degree dumping bulky/hazardous waste for an incident dating back to February.

In February, Cherry drove an unregistered, uninsured vehicle and intentionally crashed the vehicle into a boulder blockade and then abandoned the vehicle in the woods. A resident witnessed these actions and reported the incident to police at that time. On July 22, Cherry turned himself into police pursuant to the arrest warrant.

Motorcycle Saddle Bag Causes Colchester Collision

State Police said a fallen motorcycle saddle bag was struck by a second motorcyclist, resulting in suspected minor injuries.

Police said on July 15 at approximately 8:54 a.m., a Harley-Davidson driven by Roger E. Pratt, 52, of 1422 Highland Ave., Cheshire, was traveling westbound on Lebanon Avenue near Louis Lane.

Police said Pratt stated he realized his right saddle bag had fallen off his bike while on Lebanon Avenue. A second Suzuki motorcycle, driven by Mark E. Hunter, 57, of 138 Main St., Meriden, was following directly be-

hind the Harley Davidson and also stated he saw the saddle bag fall from the bike.

According to police, Hunter said he attempted to avoid striking the saddle bag; however, the bag struck the front fender of his bike causing him to lose control and fall onto the roadway.

Hunter was transported by the Colchester Volunteer Fire Department to Middlesex Hospital with abrasions to his arms, legs and head as well as a complaint of pain in his ribs.

East Hampton Lake Water Testing Results Questioned

by Elizabeth Regan

As residents and town officials alike await with trepidation the arrival of the annual Lake Pocotopaug blue-green algae bloom, the accuracy of water testing results from the Sears Park beach has been called into question.

Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said separate water samples taken by the health district and the town's lake consultant have produced "drastically, drastically different results."

Water samples taken from the town beach by the health district have come back with much lower levels of blue-green algae than results from deeper areas in the lake sampled by the town's limnology consulting firm, Northeast Aquatic Research.

Maniscalco emphasized the lake is still safe for swimming at this time based on either calculation.

The state-recommended threshold for closing a public beach is greater than 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter, according to guidance published jointly by the state Department of Public Health and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Chatham Health District Director Don Mitchell said this week that levels of blue-green algae sampled on July 17 came in at 42,000 cells per milliliter.

Hillary Kenyon, a research scientist and certified lake manager with the town's limnology consulting firm Northeast Aquatic Research, said blue-green algae results from the dam area taken on July 23 came back at 72,000 cells per milliliter.

Chatham Health District collects weekly water samples from the town's main public beach because of concerns about the annual blue-green algae blooms that have plagued the lake for more than 30 years. The samples are sent to the Berlin-based Northeast Laboratories Inc. for testing.

Northeast Aquatic Research – which has no connection to Northeast Laboratories – has been monitoring the lake for the town since 2014 and has studied scientific data collected over the past three decades. The firm sends its blue-green algae testing samples to GreenWater Labs in Florida, according to Kenyon.

Both Mitchell and Kenyon acknowledged the discrepancy in the two sets of results.

They also agreed there are variables at play, including date and location of the sampling.

Mitchell said the health district's next water sample will be analyzed by multiple laboratories for "quality control" purposes.

The town's lake consultants and the health district will work together to split the samples on Tuesday, according to Kenyon.

"They will then send the split samples to specialized cyanobacteria testing labs around the country to compare to Northeast [Laboratories] cell counts and make decisions from there," she said.

Kenyon expressed skepticism about the validity of the Northeast Laboratories results.

"From looking at the Northeast Labs cell counts from Pocotopaug, and other lakes in the area, it seems like their results are not at all consistent and sometimes orders of magnitude lower than what we have found," she wrote in an email this week.

Mitchell described Northeast Laboratories as the only lab in the state that performs blue-green algae testing.

"Anyone that wants to use a lab in Connecticut would have to use this one," he said.

Northeast Laboratories did not return a call for comment.

Blue-green algae testing fees are paid for out of the town budget. Town Manager Michael Maniscalco said each test by Northeast Laboratories costs between \$75-\$100, depending on whether it needs to be expedited. Testing has been expedited in the past in the hope of minimizing the duration of beach closures.

Once water samples show levels in excess of 100,000 blue-green algae cells per milliliter, the state recommends a swimming ban remain in effect until at least two weeks of successive testing indicates levels below the danger threshold.

A blue-green algae bloom is characterized by green or brown water that may be cloudy or even thick like pea soup, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Low amounts of exposure to an algae bloom can cause allergic-type reactions, skin irritation or nausea and diarrhea in humans and animals, according to the Department of Public Health. The agency cautions that swallowing relatively large amounts of tainted water can cause liver damage and nervous system effects.

The state's guidelines pertain to public beaches, which is why the health district does its sampling close to shore at Sears Park.

Kenyon said Northeast Aquatic Research has taken beach samples in the past, but has not done so since the health district took over that responsibility. She said she prefers to collect algae samples in deeper, open water conditions



A sign in front of Edgemere Condominium Association on North Main Street announces a new initiative from the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug to install low-impact improvements to reduce infiltration and runoff into the lake.

since they are more representative of lake-wide conditions.

"Beach cyanobacteria concentrations may change with wind action concentrating cells along shore (scum formation) so it would be more appropriate to compare counts from two beach samples from the same time/day, which has not been done yet," she said. "The split samples from the health department in the next few weeks will be interesting."

Mitchell noted water samples taken by the health district this month came back with lower blue-green algae concentrations than they have during the same time period in previous years. He said he'd typically be looking at a swimming advisory or a closure right now based on recent history.

George Knoecklein, the head of Northeast Aquatic Research with a doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Connecticut, released an April report outlining trends in the lake's water quality.

He noted that clarity, which is one indicator of a lake's health, is only good in May and June of each year.

He said a healthy lake should be clear 20 feet down. During an algae bloom, Lake Pocotopaug has clarity of less than three feet.

The lake is roughly 30 feet deep at the most,

he said.

During a presentation by Knoecklein in front of the Town Council Tuesday, Councilor Tim Feegel asked if the depth of a lake is advantageous to its overall health. He cited Lake George in New York as an example of a busy, thriving and clean lake.

The 32-mile-long lake has a maximum depth of 200 feet, according to the Lake George Association.

Knoecklein said deeper lakes are "much better overall" than shallower lakes, but added that depth is probably not the main problem in East Hampton.

He said the Lake George community has been aggressive in maintaining the health of the lake, which is surrounded by a largely undisturbed watershed.

Knoecklein's research has repeatedly emphasized the need to stabilize shoreline erosion to limit the amount of fertilizer-containing runoff that the lake receives from being surrounded by developed land.

"They don't have the development that you guys have," he said. "If you took Lake George and cut all the trees down around the entire shoreline and put houses out there, I don't know if you'd have the same lake."

Obituaries

Hebron

Marcia B. Lineberry

Marcia B. Lineberry, 67, of Hebron, passed away peacefully after a long, drawn-out battle with cancer on Monday, July 16, at home. Born March 24, 1951 in Milton, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Norman and Janet (Foster) Brown.

She married the love of her life, Francis Lineberry Jr., on Dec. 20, 1969; the couple shared nearly 50 years of marriage together and raised two wonderful sons.

Friends and family will remember her as being a warm and loving woman who enjoyed taking time to appreciate the subtle things in life, whether it be in the soil of her garden, or in the patterns of her artwork.

In addition to her loving husband she is survived by her two sons, Francis Lineberry III and his wife Carri of Lebanon and Justin Lineberry and his wife Deborah Casey of Jamestown, R.I.; her brother, Gregory Brown of Boston, Mass.; her sister, Ann Brown Tangherlini of Duxbury, Mass.; two granddaughters, Shailyn Cora Lineberry and Maia Shea Lineberry; a grandson, Cassidy Lineberry; and many other extended family and friends.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Hebron Vol. Fire Dept., P.O. Box 911, Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Robert B. Tourville

Robert B. Tourville, 88, of East Hampton, husband of Jeanette Knotek, died Friday, July 20, at Middlesex Hospital, after a brief illness. Born Jan. 29, 1930, in Easthampton, Mass., he was the son of the late Philip J. and Florence E. (Lapan) Tourville.

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Florence V. Tourville, in 1973 and by his wife, Gloria B. Tourville, in 2007. Bob attended elementary schools in Easthampton, Mass., and was a graduate of Northampton Vocational High School and attended Memphis State University.

During his career, he was employed by Hayden Machine and Tool Works and U.S. Government Springfield Armory in Springfield, Mass., Easthampton Rubber Thread of Easthampton, Mass., Western Mass Electric Co. of Springfield, Mass., and he ended his career with Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co. of Haddam Neck in 1990. Bob proudly served in the Massachusetts Air National Guard for seven years.

Bob was a life member of Lions Clubs International and served as the past district governor from 1986-87. He was a 4th Degree Knight in the Belltown Council 6190 Knights of Columbus, and was a CRIS Radio Board Member Emeritus.

Besides his wife Jeanette, he is survived by his daughter Susan McDermott of Nevada; stepson and wife Richard and Jane Knotek; stepson and wife Russell and Cheryl Morris; stepdaughter and husband Theresa and Rodney Schlosser; stepdaughter and husband Robin and John Bova; stepson and daughter in-law Joseph and Norma Joniec; eight grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his grandson, John McDermott III; brother and sister-in-law, Leonard and Eleanor Tourville; sisters, Agnes Shannon, Cecelia Meggison; and stepdaughter, Frances Joniec.

Friends called Wednesday, July 25, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, July 26, at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lion's Low Vision Center of Eastern CT, P.O. Box 43 Colchester, CT 06415.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Judi Robertson Burnham

Judi Robertson Burnham, 71, beloved wife of David E. Burnham of East Hampton, died peacefully Wednesday, July 18, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born Nov. 8, 1946, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Eileen Robertson and the late Harold Robertson.

She raised her children, Brian Robertson Burnham and Jill Robertson Burnham Kwasnick, in East Hampton on the shore of Lake Pocotopaug. Judi was known for her generous spirit, and for seeing the good in everyone; her door was always open to family and friends, and she enjoyed entertaining all during the summer at her lakeside home. She was successful in her career as an accountant with Bigler Investment Management Services/Capital Analytics and most recently as a vice president with Lehman Brothers. She was an avid reader, puzzle maker and die-hard UConn women's basketball fan. Go Huskies!

In addition to her husband and two children, she is survived by her mother Eileen Robertson (West Hartford); her sister, Geraldine Williams and husband William (Glastonbury); her brothers, Thomas Robertson (Manchester) and James Robertson and wife Donna (Farmington); along with her sisters-in-law, Gale Morianos (East Hampton), Sandy Burnham (Manchester) and brother-in-law Peter Burnham and wife Diana (Manchester); her new son-in-law Joseph Kwasnick; and many loving nieces and nephews and dear family friends.

Friends and family are welcome to come together for a memorial gathering Sunday, July 29, at 1 p.m., at the American Legion in Marlborough (128 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447) to celebrate her life. Burial will be private, at the family's convenience, at Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her honor to the East Hampton Food Bank, 43 West High St., East Hampton, CT 06424 (tinyurl.com/yc6c9e5p).

To leave online condolences, please visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Colchester

Catherine Evans

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our mom, Catherine (Murtari) Evans of Colchester (and formerly of Hope Valley, R.I.), after a very long battle with dementia, on Monday, July 23. She is now at peace with our dad, who predeceased her in 2009.

She leaves to mourn her three cherished daughters and their families, Debbi and Jim Maynard of Columbia, Denise and Glenn Milardo-Martonic of San Diego, Calif., and Dianne and Paul Evans-Pulcini of Newington. She also leaves her special granddaughter and great grandson, Angela Milardo and C.J. Maggio of San Diego.

Along with our dad Richard, Catherine was predeceased by her brother, Joseph Murtari.

She is also survived by her sister, Patricia Prouty; her sister-in-law, Patricia Murtari and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Sheila and Dennis Madigan. She also leaves three nieces, two nephews and their families as well as numerous extended family and friends.

Our family would like to thank Pilgrim Manor of Cromwell and Franciscan Hospice Care for their loving care of our mom. Fly free momma! Enjoy the heavenly garden parties with dad.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations (in memory of Catherine Evans) may be made to Franciscan Hospice Care, 267 Finch Ave., Meriden, CT 06451 or to the Benevolent Care Fund at Covenant Village, 52 Missionary Rd., Cromwell, CT 06416.

To leave online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

Wesley Arthur Holmes

Wesley Arthur Holmes, 93, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Tuesday morning, July 24, with his family by his side, at Chestelm Health & Rehabilitation Center in Moodus. Born July 22, 1925, in Norwood, Mass., he was the son of the late Henry and Lillian (Phelps) Holmes.

Wesley served proudly with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, along with his brother and father. Following his honorable discharge in 1946, he went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Northeastern University.

He went on to become resident state trooper, first in East Haddam and then Marlborough. Mr. Holmes then joined the Connecticut State Police Troop K in Colchester, retiring in 1989 as trooper first class after 31 years of dedicated service. He was the recipient of a plaque in his honor, which remains outside the barracks today.

He is survived by his children; Patricia Dunn of Leominster, Mass., Barbara Woodbury (and her husband Alden) of Fayetteville, N.C., David (and his wife, Patricia) of East Hampton and Peter (and his partner, Kim Melluzzo) of Marlborough; grandchildren, Denise MacKenzie, Damian Woodbury, Lindsay Holmes, Kylie Holmes, Jessica Edson and Danielle Holmes; as well as nine great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his twin brother, Warren; his sister, Virginia Allsworth; and his former wife, Jeanne.

The family would like to thank the staff at Chestelm for their outstanding care and compassion during the past year.

Funeral services will be observed at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 28, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The family will receive guests prior to the service, starting at 9:30 a.m. Burial with honors will follow in Marlboro Cemetery.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Amston

Craig Francis Pierce

Craig Francis Pierce, 51, of Amston, died unexpectedly at home Wednesday, July 4. Born June 29, 1967, to Natalie and Raymond Pierce, Craig spent his school years in Amston, graduating from RHAM High School in 1985.

Following high school, Craig spent several years serving our country, first as a member of the Navy Reserve SeaBees, then as a member of the United States Army. He belonged to the Manchester chapter of the American Legion. He will be remembered most for his quirky sense of humor, love of cats, cars, *SpongeBob SquarePants*, the Toronto Blue Jays and the Seattle Seahawks.

Craig is survived by his loving mother Natalie of Amston; brothers, Stephen Pierce and his wife Clara of East Hartford and Keith Pierce of Lebanon; nieces, Chenoa Pierce-Atkins and her husband Steven of Lake Grove, N.Y., and Tashauna Pierce and her fiancé, Steven St. Louis, of Colchester; nephew, Adam Pierce of Marietta, Ohio; his beloved cat, Gooch; and several beloved extended family members.

He is predeceased by his father, Raymond L. Pierce.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Craig's name to the charity of your choice. Memorial services will be private as requested by the deceased.



Colchester

Brian Anthony Cantone

Brian Anthony Cantone, 61, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, July 19. Born Oct. 9, 1956, in Bristol, he was the son of Jeanne (Barrows) Cantone of Salem and the late Frank Cantone.

Brian had worked as a carpenter before his illness. He was a lover of blues music and will be fondly remembered for his positive outlook and wonderful personality.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by two sisters (and their spouses), Katherine (Ronald) Croxton of Norwich and Nancy (Jeffrey) Mattson of Colchester; nine nieces and nephews, (his special nephew) Dylan Hayn, Jessica Cantone, Maggie (Mike) Callender, Angela (Christie) Flanagan, Mary Hayn and John, Alex, Olivia and Samuel Marzullo; his "Angel," Lorraine Domijan of Norwich; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his brother, Morgan.

Friends called Monday, July 23, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, July 24, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

Elaine Barrows

Elaine (Bloomquist) Barrows, 74, of East Hampton, died Friday, July 13, at Middlesex Hospital surrounded by her family, after a short illness.

Born Jan. 28, 1944, in Middletown, she is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Robert Barrows, and her three children, Robert Barrows Jr. of Granby, Michael Barrows and his wife Christina of Middletown, and her daughter Jennifer Sullivan of Colchester. She also leaves behind her pride and joy, her five grandchildren, Griffin and Jake Barrows of Granby, Katy Kleindienst of Middletown, and Lindsey and Maddie Sullivan of Colchester. She is also survived by her brothers- and sisters-in-law, Billy and Ann Barrows of Portland.

Elaine loved taking many vacations with her husband; they would spend many weeks in Hawaii each year. She enjoyed gardening, watching the Red Sox and spending time with her family.

A memorial will be held Thursday, Aug. 2, from 5-8 p.m., at Laurel Ridge Clubhouse, 55 Laurel Ridge, East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

