



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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Marisa Lee of Marlborough recently signed a letter of intent to play women's basketball at the University of Hartford next season.

## Resident Signs Letter of Intent

Marisa Lee of Marlborough signed a letter of intent on Nov. 13 to play women's basketball at the University of Hartford next season. Lee was surrounded by friends, family and a host of former coaches as she signed a binding agreement to play basketball for the Hartford Hawks next season under a full athletic scholarship.

UConn women's basketball legend and first-year Hartford head coach Morgan Valley and her staff – who followed Lee during the Spring AAU circuit, which included tournaments in Atlantic City, Washington, D.C.

and Chicago – were not in attendance due to NCAA regulations. Valley selected Lee as her first overall recruit as she embarks on a journey to bring a Division One National Championship to Hartford.

Also in attendance was Marisa's current coach Keith Moyer who is the head coach of the RHAM High School girls' basketball team. Moyer, Lee and the rest of the team begin their quest to bring a second state championship in three years to RHAM High School on Monday, Dec. 16 in the school gym. All are invited.

## Belletown Council OKs Lake Algae Plan

by Sloan Brewster

The East Hampton Town Council Tuesday approved a plan for aeration to address blue-green algae in Lake Pocotopaug.

The unanimous vote was followed by rounds of applause from the standing-room-only crowd gathered in the Town Hall meeting room at Tuesday's meeting.

The plan is a way to combat the nutrients on which algae thrive, Town Manager David Cox told the council, pointing to a four-page memo that explains how the treatment will work by reducing phosphorous in the water, Cox said.

"Basically what the conversation is, is that there are a couple options that we would have for attempting to have a real assurance that the lake is not subject to pollution next year," Cox said.

Aeration, according to the memo, will introduce oxygen to oxygen deprived areas of the lake via liquid oxygen or controlled bubbles.

De-stratification, another method highlighted in the document, would involve mixing the water using air pushed through diffusers near the bottom of the body of water.

The oxygen will release phosphorous in the "muck of the lake" into the water column, which exists in an oxygen-free environment. In addition, the oxygen will diminish the impact of new phosphorous introduced to the lake through runoff.

"It boils down to, how do we keep phosphorous from being a problem?" Cox said.

Phosphorous, which is present in typical lawn fertilizer, is a nutrient on which cyanobacteria – blue-green algae – feed. The algae also feed on nitrogen, which is also an ingredient in fertilizer. Blooms of the blue-green algae have

caused the closure of Sears Park for the past several years.

Cox recommended aeration as a means to starve the blue-green algae of one of its nutrient sources.

While possible funding ideas were part of the memo and Cox briefly mentioned funding, including through the town's budget, namely the \$226,000 allocated in the capital funds toward projects to improve the lake's health and condition, the council decided to give the town manager the go ahead to put out a Request for Proposals for the project and once the cost is more concrete determine where to get the funds.

Cox said he needs to talk to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection [DEEP] staff to make sure they are on board with the plan and that he will immediately contact the department to begin the permitting process. He will work on that through December and January, adding that staffing changes at DEEP have made it challenging for his staff and members of the Conservation Lake Commission looking for direction from the state on the aeration plan.

"Once we can engage with DEEP staff, we will be able to move toward proper permitting and inclusion of any DEEP requirements in the RFP process," he wrote in the memo.

He said he anticipates the council will be able to take action on the plan in February and that an aeration system could be operational by Memorial Day.

After the vote, Dean Markham, Town Council vice chairman, offered compliments to Cox for "getting this together;" and the audience

See Algae Plan page 2

## Hebron Firefighter Retires After 60 Years

by Sloan Brewster

After six decades in the Hebron Fire Department, one local firefighter is handing in his gear.

On Sunday, the fire department will celebrate Bruce DeGray's 60 years of service.

"He loves the fire department since he joined many moons ago," Bruce's son Bryan DeGray said. "He has just recently started turning in his gear, which is pretty emotional."

The Amston resident joined the fire department in 1959 "to follow in my father's footsteps," he said in an interview at his home Monday.

Bruce recalled his childhood when his father, who passed away when he was 16 years old, was a Rocky Hill firefighter and would take him along on calls.

"When he went to the firehouse after hours, I guess I went with him," Bruce said. "If he had a fire to go to, he would drive his car to the scene; I went along with him and stayed in the

car."

Sitting across the table from him, his wife Roberta DeGray chuckled and said that would be "a no-no" nowadays.

In his time as a firefighter, Bruce, who was a member of the Amston Lake Volunteer Fire Department and then the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, rose through the ranks, serving as president, secretary, lieutenant, captain, training officer, assistant chief, deputy chief and chief.

Back in the day, firefighters would stay for hours after a fire had been doused to make sure it did not reignite, Bruce said. Roberta recalled a time when her husband and Daniel Larson, who served together for many years, spent the entire night after a house in town had been ablaze.

"It would be something considered as a fire watch," Bruce explained. "If there was a flare-

up we would be there to call [it in] and put some more water on it."

Bruce was also an emergency medical technician for 40 years. He recalled being the first responder at car accidents and "coming across some horrific scenes, some gory sightings."

"As soon as the backup came [I] was able to inform them of what we had and how we're going to go about fixing [it]," he said.

Bruce recalled one particular accident where the driver had sustained a serious head injury and Bruce and another EMT had to stabilize him in the car until he was safely removed from the vehicle.

When asked why he had stayed in the fire service for so many years, Roberta was first to answer for him.

"You love it!" she said.

Bruce's reply was more pragmatic.

"Just to help people," he said. "If I could help

people that were in need of help – that satisfied me."

While Bruce has been handing in his gear and going from an active member to an inactive one, he will remain a life member.

Roberta joined him in the department as a member of the Women's Auxiliary. While serving together, they spent many hours on fundraising projects, including raising the funds to restore the department's first firetruck – a 1937 truck. Bruce and fellow firefighter David Lynch still drive it in the local Memorial Day parade and the parade on July 4 around Amston Lake.

Bruce helped build the original Company 2 Fire Department building, which at the time was located at Amston Lake, he said. It has since been relocated to Church Street in Amston and the original building was torn down.

See Firefighter Retires page 2





Hebron resident Bruce DeGray, right, is handing in his gear after 60 years with the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department. DeGray and his wife Roberta sat down this week with the *Rivereast* to reminisce about his time with the department. At right is a 1980s-era photo of Bruce in front of the department's first fire engine – a 1937 truck that he still drives in the yearly Memorial Day Parade in town and in the July 4 parade at Amston Lake.

**Firefighter Retires cont. from Front Page**

Fire Chief Nick Wallick said Bruce went on an extensive number of calls in the 60 years he served.

"He was a great responder," he said. "He's been a great contributor to the fire department and the town of Hebron over the 60 years that he served."

Bruce was captain when Larson joined the

department. Later, when Bruce became chief, Larson was his deputy chief and when Larson was chief, Bruce was deputy.

Bruce was a good person with whom to work, Larson said.

"He was very good; very, very knowledgeable and a lot of people didn't give him all the

credit for the knowledge that he had, [he was] very exacting," he said. "He put his heart and soul [in it] and he still does."

Larson, who is the chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said he will be bringing a proclamation for Bruce from the board to the party.

Lynch, who also served alongside Bruce for

many years, said Bruce was at the department all the time but was "very low-key" about it.

"He was the one that got me into the fire department," he said.

A celebration for Bruce will take place at the Company 2 Fire Department on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 1-4 p.m.

**Residents Balk cont. from Front Page**

gave a round of applause.

A few residents spoke at beginning of the meeting noting their satisfaction with the aeration plan.

"I'm happy the town is moving forward with aeration and the nine-point plan," said Susan Fielding, adding that she was pleased with "the enthusiasm and the effort that's being put in and I hope it goes on."

The nine-point plan recommends an array of improvements that could cost as much as \$1.4 million. Broken down by cost, the plan includes 14 recommended fixes that can be undertaken as part of regular maintenance or by volunteers; 21 areas that each need up to \$10,000 in funding; and eight areas that will each cost more than \$10,000 to address.

*From the Editor's Desk*

**Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

I trust you all had a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving.

While I know many of you are going to be hitting up the shopping plazas today to get those Black Friday deals, many others are content to avoid the consumer madness of today and do their shopping later on in the holiday season. Having gone out on Black Friday before, I certainly can't blame anyone for staying home.

It's probably an easier call if you're faced with a bunch of leftovers and wondering just what in the world you should do with them all.

Fortunately, the Food Network has a whole host of ideas – and they go beyond turkey soup or an all-purpose turkey casserole, delicious as those might be. For example, have you ever thought about converting that leftover stuffing into a waffle? Food Network has. This recipe actually uses up a whole bunch of leftovers, so it might be a good choice if you want to get a lot out of the way today or tonight and start meals fresh tomorrow.

You'll have to have a waffle iron, of course. Take four and a half cups of crumbled leftover stuffing, one-quarter cup of chopped fresh parsley and two large eggs, beaten, and combine it all in a bowl. Evenly and firmly pack the waffle iron with some of the mixture, and cook until the waffle is golden and can be lifted out easily; Food Network estimates this will take 4 to 6 minutes.

Then, transfer each waffle to a plate, top it with a scoop of mashed potatoes and then cover it with gravy; finish with a dollop of cranberry sauce. (That's of course assuming you like cranberry sauce; I actually never really have.) Food Network says this recipe will

yield 2 to 4 waffles.

Got some leftover veggies you want to move too? Then you might want to try some delicious-sounding turkey and string bean pot pies. This one involves a cup of leftover turkey meat, chopped, and four cups of leftover green bean casserole. In a medium bowl, combine the turkey and casserole with half a cup of milk and half a cup of turkey, beef or chicken stock.

Then, take two puff pastry sheets and cut out six 4-inch disks from each sheet. Lightly press the disks into the bottom and up the sides of six 1-cup muffin tins, leaving about half an inch of crust over the edge to secure the top. Press the tines of the fork into the bottom and the sides to dock the pastry. Fill each cup level with the top and cover with another cut circle. Secure the edges by pinching together, and then cut a small hole in the top for steam. Bake for 30 minutes or until the crust is golden brown.

Food Network has a bunch of other ideas for leftovers listed on its website. Simply go to [foodnetwork.com](http://foodnetwork.com) and search for "Best Thanksgiving Leftover Recipes."

By the way, now's as good a time as any to point out that, traditionally, the turkey is my least favorite part of a Thanksgiving meal. Oh, it's still delicious – but as far as my taste buds are concerned it's eclipsed by all of the various side dishes that light up a Thanksgiving table. Dishes like sweet potato casserole, or buttered squash, or stuffing, or scalloped potatoes, or green bean casserole...the list goes on and on.

So bring me the turkey on Thanksgiving Day and lots of it. Just be sure to bring me more of the sides.

\* \* \*

See you next week.



# Hebron Selectmen Disband CIP Committee

by Sloan Brewster

The Capital Improvement Plan Committee is no more.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously last week to disband the committee. From now on, the town manager will make suggestions to the selectmen as to what capital purchases it should consider.

The board also increased the threshold for purchases to be included in the CIP budget versus department budgets from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larson said he needed some convincing before agreeing to eliminate the committee, which included representation from other boards and commissions and citizens-at-large. In the end, he decided other municipalities that use the same setup had the right idea.

"I was torn," he said. "I personally would like to keep the citizens involved."

With the citizen involvement though, there "always seemed to be a learning curve," Larson said. In addition, the committee would make its recommendations for projects to fund months before the budget process was completed and by then selectmen may have a different perspective on the proposals due to things that had taken place in that timeframe.

"They would wrap up long before it would go to voters; things [would] change," Larson said.

By way of example, he mentioned sidewalks that are planned along Wall Street from RHAM

High School to Ridge Road. The committee had proposed funding the project in the current year's budget but by the time the proposal was to go before voters in May, plans for traffic reconfigurations on the RHAM school campus had been delayed and selectmen wanted to wait on the sidewalks too.

"We wanted to tie that in with the RHAM parking lot," Larson said. "Just to have a sidewalk going to nowhere, it just didn't make sense."

The two projects tie together because the parking lot project may involve changing street cuts and that could be an issue if the sidewalk was already laid, he said.

Tiffany Thiele, who was one of the citizens-at-large on the CIP Committee, said it was unfortunate the board decided to disband it and that she hopes selectmen "are committed to full transparency" on capital expenditures.

"Speaking for myself, I was an advocate for ensuring the Wall Street sidewalks stayed top of mind for committee members," she said. "Broadly, the robust conversations the committee had about various projects were valuable. The diversity of individuals on CIP brought new perspectives to the town's capital planning."

Board of Finance member Malcom Leichter, who was also on the CIP Committee, said he did not agree with the decision to disband it, in part because the new process for selecting capital projects will only involve the town manager and selectmen.

Every year the committee was given a list of projects to consider for funding and had an in depth process for deciding which ones to recommend, Leichter said.

"We would then go to the site, look at the repair that needed to be done, look at the actual plow truck to figure out what then we would go back and prioritize and select," he said. "My understanding is that none of this is going to be done, they're just going to review [the list]."

Leichter said folks have told him they support CIP budgets because of the citizen involvement.

"I believe that if the committee of non-politicians believes this is a priority, it is," he said they have said.

In the 14 years he has been on the committee, there was only one issue with the process, Leichter said. It involved an old Dodge pickup truck that, unbeknownst to the committee, appeared on the list for three years in a row, despite in each case having been replaced the year before.

After the truck was replaced for the third time, Leichter said he saw it in town and said to Town Manager Andrew Tierney that he thought it had been replaced. Tierney said he thought so too and made sure the department that had received it got rid of it, and that it did not appear on the list again, Leichter said.

After that, the committee requested a plan for replacing vehicles in town and said it should only be looking at high-priced ones, such as

street sweepers, and plow and firetrucks, Leichter said.

"We kept saying we don't need to determine what vehicles need to be replaced by the quality of the presentation, the most compelling presentation you make," he said. "The town manager and department heads know exactly how bad the shape they're in and exactly how much they're needed, you should be doing that."

As far as increasing the threshold is concerned, Leichter said that was something the committee had wanted to do for about a decade. When the committee was formed in the late 1980s the threshold was \$5,000. It eventually was increased to \$25,000 but the committee had recommended going higher and gave a range of \$50,000 to \$100,000, with \$75,000 the number committee members had in mind.

Despite his objection to the disbanding of the committee, Leichter conceded that Tierney has the skillset to review CIP projects and recommend them to selectmen.

"Do I think the town manager is capable of doing it? Yes, he should be," he said. "Andy's got a point. He really is qualified to do it without input from anybody. He really is. I think Andy's honest."

Still, including citizens-at-large removes some of the politics from the process, Leichter said.

"I think giving the people of the town the ability to participate, it ends up being less political," he said.

## Marlborough Resident Opens New VR Gaming Center in East Hartford

by Karla Santos

A Marlborough resident that has been in the collectible industry for over 40 years, recently opened a business with a brand-new concept – a virtual reality and tabletop entertainment center.

Total VR is located at 28 Main St. in East Hartford. The 5,500-square-foot business, features a family environment with tabletop games and virtual reality entertainment.

With people becoming increasingly attached to their mobile devices, Craig Soifer said he decided to create the tabletop part of the business to get friends and families to interact with each other face to face.

Total VR will host Magic the Gathering, Pokémon, Dragon Ball Z, and other tabletop games.

Soifer opened Total VR about two months ago, after learning how much the virtual reality industry had been growing. The virtual reality part of the business includes more than 50 games, including shooters, sports, escape rooms and more.

"We are probably the first virtual reality center in all of Connecticut that's wireless," Soifer said. "We have top-of-the-line equipment sitting there."

The family-oriented environment features a safe, accessible space and equipment for the comfort of all who visit, Soifer stressed.

"I had everything custom-made – high-end, wireless headsets and 55-inch televisions," Soifer said. "You could come with your kid and you could watch what he's doing live at that moment in real time with the games while he's in virtual reality."

But virtual reality wasn't how the business world started for Soifer. He has been in the comic books and collectible industry for more than 40 years. He started it as a hobby and later turned into a business.

Soifer is also the owner of Comics and Collectibles at 50 Main St., East Hartford, just a

few doors next to Total VR. Soifer said he opened Comics and Collectibles about one year ago, but has owned businesses in the comic books and collectible industry for more than 40 years.

"I'm probably the biggest independent pop culture store," Soifer said. "This venture, the virtual reality center is a brand-new concept that's sort of connecting what I do."

Soifer said he collected books for quite a few years when he was very young. He then decided to open up his first store in the Bronx, N.Y. His goal was to have the business temporarily to raise money and to liquidate his collection. But the short-term project has kept him in the comic books and collectibles business for decades.

He said the industry has had its ups and downs like any other business.

"I went from a little store in the Bronx into being the third largest periodical distributor in the country," Soifer said. "We had a chain of five stores."

Soifer said he was fortunate enough to have invested money into real estate and gas stations and other businesses because the comic books and collectibles industry crashed in the early 2000s.

Soifer said that about 15 years later, when he was selling one of his buildings, he found about 600,000 books he had been storing in there but had forgotten about.

"So I had to empty that out and at that point I was in the gasoline business, so I had to transfer everything to my warehouse up in Newtown," he said.

Soifer later started to put books for sale on eBay, which is when he realized there was a demand for the books again.

"This is unbelievable; the industry is actually back," Soifer recalled saying at the time.

So, he decided to open a small shop near his office in New York, but a short time after closed it. Then, three years ago, he opened another



Resident Craig Soifer has opened a new business in East Hartford that specializes in virtual reality games, as well as tabletop ones.

store in Westfield, Fla. Soifer then decided to move to Connecticut and opened his store in East Hartford. The East Hartford store has 3,000 square feet of comics and statues from movies, Soifer said.

"The store is packed from floor to ceiling with statues and games and books from the 1960s until present and books from \$1 to \$20,000," Soifer said. "We have exclusive lines that we signed off for since I have been in the industry forever. I know all the guys from all the manufacturers now."

Soifer's wife, Sandra Soifer, said she is ac-

tively involved in the business with her husband. Sandra said since she met Soifer, she has also been collecting comics as a hobby. She said he has a lot of knowledge of the industry.

"He knows exactly what he's doing," Sandra said. "I'm learning so much from him. The business is fantastic. I'm also involved in the business in the back end."

Soifer said that anyone who reads this article goes to his new business and mentions it will receive a discount. To learn more about Total VR, call 860-206-4457.

# Marlborough Public Hearing Coming on POCD

by **Karla Santos**

The town will hold a public hearing next month to let residents share their views on the town's new Plan of Conservation and Development, which will take effect in January.

The public hearing will take place at the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12.

Marlborough's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is updated every 10 years with the purpose of providing a guide for the development of the town for the next decade. Town Planner Peter Hughes said the plan includes improvements in the areas of infrastructure, buildings, athletic fields, transportation, economic development, quality of life and housing. State law requires towns to update their POCDs every 10 years, and to be consistent with regional and state plans.

The Marlborough plan that will take effect in January includes the idea of continuing to develop the town center. The plan states that the town is looking to "maintain and enhance" the town center, "where services are available to Marlborough residents." Opportunities for employment, a variety of housing, maintaining safe and efficient traffic movement and to maintain the "small-town character," are part of the POCD goals within the town center.

Hughes and First Selectman Greg Lowrey recently sat down with the *Rivereast* to talk

about the POCD.

While the plan does not include any changes in terms of land use, Hughes said, the town needs to look at affordable housing options, especially because of the changing demographics across Marlborough and the region.

"We need to develop areas where people can come in, first time home buyers or downsizing people to buy some smaller units that are more affordable," Hughes said.

In addition, Hughes said the town is trying to bring up the percentage of affordable housing options in town, since the state's requirement is 10% of the housing stock and Marlborough is only at 2.13%, he said.

"There's going to be different kinds of activities and services that we are going to have to look into because we have an older population," Hughes said.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey brought up the property By the River in Marlborough, a residential care home for seniors located at 370 Jones Hollow Rd., as an example of the housing options the town may start to look into.

"We don't have a lot of downsizing options within town so those are the kinds of things you have to look at," Hughes added.

The available land in Marlborough totals about 6,000 vacant acres. Hughes said that about 2,800 acres of that total that won't be de-

veloped because they have private conservation restrictions on them.

"That's part of the charm of the town; you have the open spaces," Hughes said. "There's only 3.78% of the town zoned nonresidential so that's roughly 400 acres out of 14,000 that are not residential."

The goal of the POCD is to focus on developments right in the center of town so that they don't interfere with people's quality of life.

The town owns 76 acres for business and industrial purposes, Hughes said.

"We're going to work with the people at Churchill & Banks in Rhode Island who own 36 acres next to us," he added. "There's a third property owner who owns 22 acres on the other side of the highway. We've got around 144 acres all together for economic development purposes so we just need to work on it."

Part of the POCD also included extending the sewer across the highway.

"The piece of land on the other side of the highway needs sewer for certain uses just because of the way the geology is over there," Lowrey said.

Marlborough's POCD has been developed by the Planning Commission during the last 18 months. According to Hughes, the town held four information sessions in the spring on particular topics in the plan and invited target

groups to those meetings. In June, the town also held a meeting for the public with about 30 people in attendance, he said. Now that the commission has drafted the plan, it is ready for the public hearing in December to see what their comments are before the plan goes into effect.

Part of the plan included a community survey that was sent out in September. About 40% of the town's population has responded to the survey.

The survey includes 35 questions in such categories as Living in Marlborough, Quality of Life, Development in Marlborough, Services in Marlborough, Possible Future Town Endeavors, and Demographics.

The POCD will be updated depending on the public hearing and survey responses.

The town must submit the POCD to the state's Office of Policy and Management in order to be able to receive discretionary funding.

"Then we are good for the next 10 years," Hughes said.

"I think that Marlborough has a number of opportunities that can harness the location to build our commercial base without sacrificing quality of life," Lowrey said. "The current zoning puts the convenience features in the town center so that folks that want those conveniences can access them and for folks that want peace and quiet, they can use the open space."

## East Hampton Police News

11/14: Matthew King, 35, of 128 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to display lights, East Hampton Police said.

11/18: Jared Anderson, 36, of Coventry was taken into custody pursuant to three active warrants for his arrest, one of which was held by East Hampton Police for third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny, which he was charged with along with a second-degree failure to appear and violation of probation.

11/19: After an investigation into a minivan vs guardrail motor vehicle accident at the intersection of West High Street and Barton Hill Road after which the operator left the scene. Jeannine Rowe, 60, of 487 Main St., Portland, was issued a summons for failure to drive right and evading responsibility, police said.

Also, from Nov. 11-17, officers responded to nine medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 18 traffic stops.

## Andover Police News

11/11: State Police said Justin Talaga, 20, of 140 Hebron Rd., Andover, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief, sixth-degree larceny, third-degree robbery, second-degree breach of peace, and third-degree assault.

## Hebron Police News

11/18: State Police said Michele McNaughton, 46, of 213 West Main St., Hebron, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault.

## Marlborough Police News

11/21: State Police said Thomas Kramer, 33, who police said had an undefined address in Oklahoma, was arrested and charged with second-degree breach of peace, interfering with officer, simple trespass and failure to comply with fingerprinting.

## Colchester Police News

11/12: State Police said John Vunutter, 75, of 48 Harbor Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, interfering with an emergency call, violation of protective order, third-degree assault and strangulation.

11/13/19: State Police said Elizabeth Robida-Eiman, 59, of Willimantic, was arrested and charged with first-degree larceny and false statement.



# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Linda Ann Orange

Connecticut State Rep. Linda Ann (Smith) Orange, 69, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by her loving husband, sons, family, and friends, Wednesday, Nov. 20, after a sudden and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

During this time, she continued to put family, friends and community first. Linda's grace and courage never faltered. Linda and her family are grateful for the outpouring of well wishes that brought her joy and smiles. She never lost her sparkle.

She was born in Hartford Sept. 25, 1950, to the late Arthur L. and Anna (Gemeasky) Smith. Linda grew up in Marlborough and attended RHAM High School, became a respiratory therapist, and had a distinctive public service career. Linda was very dedicated to her two sons and always active in their lives, especially as they were growing up. She was very active in their schools, Boys Scouts, baseball games and as a second grade catechism teacher. She served as a member and chair of the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals, the Colchester Police Commission, the East Haddam Historical Society, and as a corporator of William W. Backus Hospital. She also was an honorary member of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company and a major in the Connecticut Civil Air Patrol, legislative wing.

Linda was an enthusiastic member of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee and the Colchester Democratic Women's Club, which led to her eventual career at the State Capitol. In 1991, she became assistant clerk of the Human Services Committee and later became clerk of the Public Health Committee. She made many friends and learned the working of the legislature so well that she ran as a candidate for state representative of the 48th District in 1996. She went on to serve 12 terms in Hartford, becoming one of the longest-serving members at 23 years. The interests of her constituents were always her priority without regard for political labels.

As a legislator, Linda served on many committees and currently was a member of legislative management, general law and the public safety and security committee. She became a knowledgeable authority on public safety issues and the legislature's chief advocate for work of first responders – police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, dispatchers and others. Linda also was deputy speaker and often presided over the House of Representatives, controlling the process by recognizing members wishing to speak, putting all questions to a vote, and directing the business of the legislature. While presiding, her charming personality, ability to add a quip or joke, and her booming voice endeared her to all her colleagues on both sides of the aisle. The staff at the Capitol, the senators and representatives, and all those associated with the Connecticut General Assembly will remember Linda for being such a kind and warm-hearted person, friendly to everyone, and always ready for a good laugh at herself or playing a joke on others.

Over the years, Linda was recognized by many organizations – too numerous to mention all. She humbly accepted such honors and was grateful to those who appreciated her work. Some of her distinctions included awards from the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen, UConn Advocates, the Middlesex County and New London County Medical Associations, the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, the Connecticut Council of Police Unions, the National Guard Association, the Eastern Connecticut EMS Council, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the Association of Connecticut Ambulance Providers. Recently, the charter of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut was changed to make Linda the only lifetime honorary member.

Linda was known to end her many encounters on the phone and in person with: "Bye, Bye, now!" Her spirit will live on with her many friends, using this phrase to remember her extraordinary life.

Linda is survived by her husband of 43 years, Dennis Orange Sr., her son Patrick Orange and his partner Jennifer Nadeau, stepson Dennis Orange Jr., all of Colchester; stepdaughters, Denise and Darleen O'Neal of Arkansas; her beautiful granddaughter, Dezarae Ann Orange, whose love is everlasting; brothers, Brian and his wife Linda Smith of Marlborough, George and his wife Phyllis of Windham, Maine; goddaughter, Lorna Smith of Marlborough; sisters-in-law, Genevieve Lescoe of Meriden and Marion Coriaty, of Willimantic; many extended family members; and a host of amazing long-time friends.



In addition to her parents, Linda was predeceased by her son, Matthew Orange, who passed away in 2018 of pancreatic cancer; her brother, Bruce Smith; parents-in-law, William and Rose Orange; brother-in-law, Henry Coriaty; and her sister-in-law, Rosemarie Hart.

Calling hours were held Monday, Nov. 25, from 3:30-7 p.m., at St. Andrew Church, located at 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. On Tuesday, Nov. 26, a Mass of Christian Burial was held directly at St. Andrew Church. Burial followed in Marlboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Linda's memory may be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Co., 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Dale Marvin Kaye

Dale Marvin Kaye, 64, of Lebanon, formerly of Colchester, passed away peacefully with his family by his side Monday, Nov. 18.

Dale is survived by his beautiful wife Linda of 30 years, his mother Charlotte, his son Curtis and his wife Emily and their two children Benjamin and Blake, his son Clint and his wife Erin and their child Vivian, and his daughters Lauren and Erin. Dale is also survived by his sister Dawn, his brother Douglas and his wife Audrey, and his brother Dalton, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended relatives and friends.

Dale was born July 22, 1955, to Charlotte and the late Marvin Kaye, and grew up in Hanson, Mass. He graduated from Whitman-Hanson High School and continued his education at Northeastern University where he earned a degree in civil engineering. He loved playing hockey on the pond with his childhood friends, and was raised with a strong faith in God that guided him throughout his life.

As a co-owner of Partitions Inc., Dale's love for the construction industry drove his passion to become the successful businessman he was. He fostered many valuable relationships both professionally and personally throughout his career, and carried them with him throughout retirement. Although he was committed to his career, his most precious gift was his family, which he took pride in as a devoted husband, father, and grandpa. One of Dale's gifts was his generous heart, which he provided to so many. He was a father figure and supportive friend always offering guidance, advice, and constant humor.

Dale enjoyed spending his time golfing, cooking, and being with friends and family. He never missed an opportunity to watch Boston sports teams, or tease a friend about the opposing side. Dale and his smile will truly be missed by so many.

His family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Stuart Herlands, Dr. Martin Hoffman, and all the staff at St. Francis Hospital, who never ceased to show support and compassion.

A memorial service was held Sunday, Nov. 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. His family received friends prior to the service.

Donations may be made to the American Liver Foundation in memory of Dale Kaye via [liverfoundation.org/donate](http://liverfoundation.org/donate) or National Living Donor Assistance Center via [livingdonorassistance.org/donate](http://livingdonorassistance.org/donate).



## Colchester

### Donna S. Skawinski

Donna S. Skawinski, 71, of Lebanon, passed away at home Sunday, Nov. 24, with her beloved family by her side. She endured a valiant and courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Manchester March 17, 1948, the daughter of the late Comillo and Eileen (Chandler) Scopino.

She married her beloved husband Tony Skawinski Aug. 28, 1976. The couple lived many years in Colchester where they raised their sons. For the last 8 years they made their home on Red Cedar Lake in Lebanon, where Donna enjoyed observing the wildlife and enjoying the peaceful "lake life." Donna worked as the manager of the former National Drug Store in Colchester for many years after which she managed their family business, Corvettes and Classics, also located in Colchester.

Donna was very fondly known by many people, whom she helped or took care of during her lifetime. She always put others before herself. Her love of family, friends and of animals were her strengths and devotion.

Donna will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband, Tony, of 43 years; her sons, Arthur Thomas and wife Charma of Independence, Mo.; Roger Thomas & Christy Kelly, of Glastonbury; a brother, Russell Chandler of New London; a sister, Carol Bell of Colchester; a granddaughter, Samantha Thomas of Glastonbury; her beloved cats, Lucy and Linus; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her infant son, Ritchie Felciano, and a sister, Lori Dickinson.

Friends are welcome to attend calling hours Monday, Dec. 2, from 4-6 p.m., at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service and celebration of Donna's life will be held at the funeral home Tuesday, Dec. 3, beginning with visitation at 10 a.m., followed by services at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be in the New St. Andrew Cemetery in Colchester. The family requests that donations in her memory be made to Connecticut Humane Society, [cthumane.org](http://cthumane.org).

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



## Colchester

### Beatrice Louise Bradstreet

Beatrice Louise Bradstreet, 84, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Nov. 21, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born Nov. 10, 1935, in Holton, Maine, she was a daughter of the late Frederick John and Raphie Etta (Smith) Hanlon.

She married her beloved husband Dana and the couple moved to Colchester where they made their home and raised their family. The couple was married for 57 years before Dana predeceased her Sept. 9, 2014. Beatrice retired in 1993 after a long and successful career as an executive assistant at Aetna Insurance Co.

Beatrice was an active member of Colchester Federated Church where she served as past president and treasurer of Women's Fellowship, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, Baptist clerk, and she served on the Diaconate. Beatrice enjoyed Bible study, spending time with close friends and family, jigsaw and crossword puzzles and she loved camping with her family and traveling to five continents. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a devoted and loving wife, mother and Mimi.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her children, Steven and his wife Judean Bradstreet of Colchester, Beth Ann and her husband Michael Voiland of Colchester, Krista and her husband Glenn MacGregor of Glastonbury; 13 grandchildren, Sarah, Leah, Rebekah, Dayna, Therese, Jesse, Joseph, Kaitlin, Jacob, Joshua, Charlotte, Cameron, and Caleb; five great-grandchildren, Kolton, Kody, Beatrice, Evelyn and Logan; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, Beatrice was predeceased by her siblings, Frederick Hanlon Jr., Kenneth Hanlon, and Verda Macala.

Calling hours were Sunday, Nov. 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service was held Monday, Nov. 25, at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester. Burial will follow in Linwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Colchester Federated Church.

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



## East Hampton

### Charles John Scheid III

Charles John Scheid III, 60, formerly of East Hampton and Colchester, passed away overlooking the Connecticut River at his residence in Glastonbury Monday, Nov. 4, on what would have been his father's 97th birthday.

Charles growing up was an exceptional athlete attending Xavier High School in Manhattan, also attending Boston College on a full swimming scholarship. He competed in the 1976 Olympic trials for swimming, and ran 13 marathons. Graduating from Boston College with a degree in applied mathematics, he started his climb in corporate America – always hungry for promotion, striving to be the best he could in every aspect.

Charles' close friends and colleagues described him as a hard-working, loyal, honest individual. He would always give you the benefit of the doubt and would do anything to help any point.

When it came to family, that was the most important aspect. He cared so much about all of his nieces and nephews, his two sisters, his wife Joanne of 24 years, as well as his two boys Charles and Brian. Charles also had such incredible love for his late parents, Dr. Charles John Scheid Jr. and Marye Scheid. Charles also was an animal lover with over seven family dogs nearly a dozen rabbits, Guinea pigs, all of which he cared so much for.

Charles leaves behind sister Marylou, wife of 24 years Joanne, and sons Charles, 26, and Brian, 22, and his beautiful Great Pyrenees Tessa Bell.

May he rest in peace and know his family loves him.