

RIVEREAST

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A Nifty Ninety-Nine!... Lillian Stefanowicz turned 99 years old on July 4. She has lived in Colchester most of her life and raised her children there. Her family celebrated by giving Lillian a birthday car parade down her road, followed by a socially-distanced "chicken dance" performance in her driveway. Lillian's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren performed the dance for her birthday. Pictured is Lillian on her front porch, watching the performance, dressed to celebrate in her typical Stefanowicz style.

School Reopening Plan Labeled 'Problematic'

by Jack Lakowsky

Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed said the state's plan to fully reopen schools in the fall – while accepting the risk of some COVID-19 transmission – is "problematic."

"The state plan lacks some level of detail, from my perspective," said Melmed. The Chatham Health District covers Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

Melmed said the state Department of Education's "Adapt, Advance, Achieve" school reopening plan uses qualifying language that is attached to many state guidelines. Phrases such as "whenever feasible" or "wherever possible" are attached to guidelines on information like how to properly socially distance small classrooms. Melmed said the state essentially advises distancing students to the best extent possible, rather than explicitly requiring standard six-foot distances.

Melmed said any school closures due to confirmed case of COVID-19 are left up to local decision-makers.

"This is problematic, in my view," said Melmed. "We're going to see different thresholds in different districts."

Melmed said consistent rules across all school districts are essential to a successful reopening of schools.

Melmed said the state's plan also fell short on details about transmission in the overall community. He said there are no specific numbers or percentages attached to the state's definitions of "low," "moderate" and "high" transmission rates. He said the state's plan leaves out details of specific triggers that would move schools to a hybrid or distance learning model.

"Statistically, terms like 'high' and 'low' have

no meaning," said Melmed.

Melmed said he has asked officials in the state education department and the state Department of Public Health for more information on numbers to define transmission rates. Melmed said the state has not released any such information. This information will not be released until the state itself decides what constitutes low, moderate, or high community transmission rates. Melmed said state officials are waiting on guidance from the CDC and other federal bodies.

Melmed also questioned the state's vague "sick child" policy. He said the "Adapt, Advance, Achieve" plan is clear that schools need to designate an isolation room for students displaying COVID-19 symptoms – but it does not say which symptoms to look for specifically.

"If a kid is nauseous, do we assume it's COVID? Do we look for sore throat, fever, cough? All three?" said Melmed. If a case is presumed due to given symptoms, the school building where the case was found would need to close for cleaning and for contact tracing to be performed.

Melmed said the state or federal government, or an industry association like the National Association of School Nurses, must come up with standards of practice to combat the spread of the pandemic in schools across the state and nation.

"When the guiding principle is getting students in the building, that means [the state] is prepared to accept some level of COVID transmission," said Melmed. "But there's nothing that describes an 'acceptable' level."

Melmed said students, parents, and staff will likely have different standards of "acceptable"

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RHAM Campus Modifications Continue

by Sloan Brewster

Construction on traffic reconfigurations at the RHAM school campus is ongoing.

Hebron Town Manager Andrew Tierney said Monday the project, which began in the end of May, is still set for completion in the fall.

"It appears to be on schedule, knock wood, no major setbacks or surprises," he said. "If it continues in that manner, it should be on schedule."

On Tuesday, after a noon lunch break, crew members at the worksite donned hard hats and went back to it, some climbing aboard excavators and bulldozers and others grabbing hand held tools.

The work on the actual campus should be completed by September, Tierney said. Changes to the parking lot across the street at Veterans Memorial Park should be finished by the end of September and won't affect students – provided they return to school.

Schools have been closed since March due to COVID-19, but the state has issued a plan to

fully reopen them in the fall. Interim Superintendent of Schools Scott Leslie said he will have a plan by July 24 as to how RHAM schools will look in the fall.

So far, the parking lot project is within budget, Tierney said.

The \$984,000 project is being funded by a state grant secured in 2015, following the death of Dawn Mallory, 65, a teacher at the middle school.

Mallory, who had taught seventh- and eighth-grade math at the school, was walking through the parking lot around 7 a.m. the morning of March 14, 2014, when she was struck by a vehicle. State police said the driver, Elizabeth Everett, 50, of Hebron, backed up and ran into Mallory after she realized she had driven into the bus lane.

Everett was later found guilty of misconduct with a motor vehicle by criminal negligence and unsafe backing, and sentenced in February 2017 to 20 months in prison.

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On Tuesday, a construction worker at RHAM works on a sidewalk while another worker in an excavator does some digging in the distance.

School Reopening cont. from Front Page

COVID-19 transmissions rates. Some people will say the only acceptable number of cases is zero, he said, and that one confirmed case of the virus is enough to close school. Others may say it is enough to enact quarantine measures and contact tracing, said Melmed.

“It’s all going to be a challenge,” said Melmed.

Melmed said the state’s plan assumes full cooperation at home from parents and students, which will include following guidelines like self-monitoring for illness and staying home if any symptoms are found, diligent hand-washing, and wearing protective facemasks to school. The state plan requires students and staff alike to wear facemasks throughout the school day.

In East Hampton, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said the school system has purchased a large supply of facemasks for students and staff who may forget theirs at home, but that both groups will need to bring masks from home as well.

In Smith’s own reopening plan, drafted with state guidelines, students and staff will be allowed designated “mask breaks” when and where proper distancing measures can be taken. For example, while the weather is warmer, breaks can be taken outside where proper measures can take place, said Smith.

However, Melmed said, “This only works if people can be trusted to do the things they need to do at home.” He recommended that students be kept home if they present any known COVID-19 symptoms, even if mild.

Despite his concerns with the state’s school reopening plan, Melmed said he understands how vital schools are to communities. He said the best learning a child can do is in a classroom. Melmed said he knows there are concerns about the education quality of distance learning.

Melmed said there are also concerns about the equity of distance learning. He said quality and availability of home internet – and parental responsibility – are variables that impact a student’s learning at home.

Melmed said parents rely on public schools to keep their children safe and supervised while they’re at work. He said parents of younger children could find it challenging to find, and afford, alternative childcare. Daytime care and providing meals to students are ways in which schools relieve parents of some economic burden, Melmed said.

The Chatham Health District towns have had relatively little COVID-19 activity, according to Melmed. According to the state health department, East Hampton has 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with three deaths.

Information from East Hampton Town Manager David Cox states that 1.5% of tests conducted in Chatham communities have been positive.

“I think we’re in great shape,” said Melmed. “But the risk-level can change.”

East Hampton Plans

At a Board of Education meeting last week, Smith presented his preliminary school reopening plan, drafted before the state released its own guidelines.

“I think people expected the state to offer a definitive plan,” said Smith in a Monday interview with the *Riverast*. “But that’s not what they intended to do.”

The state’s intention was to give definitive guidelines rather than a concrete plan to allow local officials to make decisions on their procedures, said Smith.

Smith drafted a second reopening plan which included the guidelines released by the state. Both before and after receiving the state’s information, Smith said he wanted a full reopening of Belltown schools. However, Smith said his reopening plan is flexible. He said East Hampton’s plan outlines details on hybrid learning or softer openings if there is a local surge of cases or a change in state guidelines.

Should case numbers in East Hampton remain low, schools will fully reopen with new rules and procedures to prevent COVID-19 transmission. If, before or during the school year, East Hampton sees a moderate spike in cases, Smith’s plan allows for a switch to a hybrid model of distant and in-person learning. If cases in East Hampton jump to a high number, Smith’s plan allows for a transition to the same distance learning model used in the springtime.

However, as Melmed pointed out, there are

no exact figures defining a low, moderate or high number of COVID-19 cases.

Smith said his reopening plan assumes that Connecticut will remain on its current transmission trajectory, which is seeing consistently lower numbers of hospitalizations and positive cases. Also, Smith and the Board of Education have set up a committee to help reopen local schools. Every school in town will also have its own subcommittee to help reopen each respective building.

Smith said the district has purchased a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) like N95 facemasks and stand-up plexiglass shields, to be installed between the desks of K-5 students. Smith said families are still asked to supply students with their own masks. School staff and students are all required to wear masks throughout the school day.

“We would all love to see kids come to school without masks, and we’re hoping that day comes sooner rather than later,” said Smith. “But as of now, the wearing of masks is an iron-clad rule for all grade levels.”

East Hampton students and staff will be allowed planned breaks from their facemasks, a provision not required by the state, but one included in Smith’s own plan.

When and if schools reopen in the fall, students will be grouped into “cohorts” – teams of students that will function as independently as possible. These groups will stay together throughout the day. Should a case be confirmed in any East Hampton school, grouping students in this way will ease contact tracing. This grouping is not required by the state but is required by East Hampton schools.

Smith’s plan reads that, if schools fully reopen, buses will operate close to full capacity with heightened health and safety protocols, including requiring all students and drivers to wear face masks. Plans must also be developed to increase social distancing on busses. Students will not be allowed to change busses. Smith’s document reads that parents are “strongly encouraged” to drive students to school each day.

Parents are required to check their child’s health each day and must keep the child home if their temperature is higher than 100 degrees. Students will also be screened upon arriving to school. Students with a high temperature will not be allowed in school.

Smith’s reopening plan reads that there will be no COVID-19 testing of students, staff or volunteers in schools, a provision not required by the state, but required by East Hampton. Local testing site information will be shared with families and staff.

School bathrooms will be sanitized twice a day, according to Smith’s reopening plan. Connecticut does not require this frequent bathroom cleaning but it is a rule in East Hampton.

Food service in each of Belltown’s schools will be redesigned to promote social distancing, according to Smith’s plan. East Hampton requires that food service staff work with school principals to figure out how best to serve meals to students. Methods include a staggered cafeteria pick-up model or a classroom delivery model.

Smith’s plan also states that special education teachers and school guidance counselors will work with families to help develop transition plans to assist special education students in returning to school buildings.

“As the situation warrants, we can lighten up or clamp down,” said Smith.

Athletics and extracurricular activities like drama club must still be discussed, Smith said.

“We’re in a ‘wait-and-see’ mode for those,” said Smith.

Meanwhile, Melmed said the COVID-19 crisis may still be in its “infancy.” He said frustrations must be endured if this crisis is to end soon. He said, in other states, economic development was prioritized over people’s wellbeing.

“That is not a correct balance,” said Melmed.

Melmed attributes Connecticut’s recent success in combating the pandemic with swift, prompt action by Gov. Ned Lamont. Not letting the state’s shutdown lapse was another prudent move, said Melmed. He said the state’s phased approach to economic reopening was also prudent.

“If the governor had let the shutdown lapse, we’d be looking at a very different Connecticut right now,” said Melmed. “I hope people don’t have short memories and see how vital public health is when we don’t have treatments or vaccines for a virus.”

RHAM Campus cont. from Front Page

Tierney credited state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19) with securing the funds, which he said went to the town and the town put the project to bid.

In April, Milton C. Beebe & Sons Inc., of Storrs, was awarded the bid. Luchs Consulting Engineers, of Meriden, designed the reconfiguration and will oversee the job.

The design includes about a dozen improvements, including a one-way parent drop-off loop to separate parking from moving traffic, according to Ron Dagan, project manager and principal for Luchs. The new driveway would bring parents exclusively to pick up and drop off locations with pavement markings to manage traffic flow. It will also provide longer lanes for dropping off and picking up children.

The project was approved by the RHAM Board of Education in January 2019. The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission sub-

sequently gave its approval that August. The state Department of Transportation approval to start the work came in May of this year.

Since the original approval by the school board and Planning and Zoning Commission, there have been a couple of minor changes to the project, including sidewalks planned along Wall Street from the school to Ridge Road, which were not included in the funding, Tierney said. The sidewalks will still go in but they are being funded through the town’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

In the 2019-20 CIP, \$25,000 was included for the sidewalks and in the 2020-21 CIP budget, \$134,000 more was allotted for the project.

The sidewalks will be laid later in the fall, Tierney said.

*From the Editor’s Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

Over the course of my 19 years in journalism, and particularly during my reporter days, I met a number of delightful Republicans at the local and state level. Really decent people who really did have good ideals about what they wanted to see in terms of change. And because of that, it’s been difficult at times when I’ve railed against the party as often as I have in recent years.

But then I see stuff like what I did over the weekend – and I don’t really have that many qualms about being critical. CBS on Sunday released the results of a CBS News/YouGov poll – conducted just last week – that had 57% of Republican respondents feeling the United States death total from the COVID-19 pandemic is “acceptable.” (By comparison, 67% of Independents – and 90% if Democrats – labeled it “not acceptable.”)

Look at that number again: 57%. As of Sunday, when that poll was released, the U.S. had 174,000 dead from the virus – the highest death total in the world. And before anyone points to the U.S. having such a large population: In terms of deaths per million, that translates into the ninth highest of 189 countries across the world.

This is “acceptable”? How? How can a majority of anyone — Republicans, Democrats, ANYONE — feel this is anywhere close to an acceptable number?!

But see, it has to be acceptable. Because for it not to be means their boy, Donald J. Trump, didn’t handle it as well as he could have. It’s what we’ve been seeing the past three and a half years, and it’s disgusting. Republicans who hated – HATED – Trump before he was elected now think he’s the greatest thing since sliced bread. And don’t even get me started on how folks like Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz now practically bend over backwards to praise the guy.

These aren’t the types of Republicans I first met when covering Andover and Hebron board meetings in the early 2000s. Those types of Republicans still exist, I know they do, but they’re increasingly not the ones in power.

In fact, as that CBS News/YouGov poll indicates, they increasingly don’t represent Republicans, period. And that’s pretty depressing.

* * *

Speaking of depressing: I’m not quite sure what the Hebron Board of Education is thinking. As Sloan Brewster reported last week, the Republican-controlled school board has

decided to completely reject the thinking of the schools superintendent and the principals of both of the town’s elementary schools and open to in-person learning five days a week in mid-September, after just one week of the hybrid learning that many school systems in the state are following.

I mean, I think it’s too soon to be opening up the schools anyway; I haven’t been shy about saying as much. But if you must open them, hybrid seems the way to do it. Yes, unfortunately the teachers and school staff would still be in the buildings every day, potentially being exposed, but at least you’d cut down on the number of kids in there at one time. Many of us have probably seen the photo by now of (largely maskless) kids bunched together in the hallways at a Georgia high school earlier this month. Having a crowded school is just a recipe for disaster, in my opinion.

Look, we all want a return to normalcy. I know I certainly do. But COVID doesn’t care what we want. I don’t think hybrid learning is anyone’s ideal, but these aren’t ideal times. We can’t pretend they are.

I hope the Hebron school board reconsiders.

* * *

In closing this week, I offer some thought-provoking, and really quite wise, quotes from the late Canadian novelist and playwright Robertson Davies, who was born this day in 1913:

“The quality of what is said inevitably influences the way in which it is said, however inexperienced the writer.”

“If we seek the pleasures of love, passion should be occasional and common sense continual.”

“A truly great book should be read in youth, again in maturity and once more in old age, as a fine building should be seen by morning light, at noon and by moonlight.”

“Only a fool expects to be happy all the time.”

“The eye sees only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.”

“Nothing is so easy to fake as the inner vision.”

“Few people can see genius in someone who has offended them.”

And lastly – a quote that is so, so true:

“The world is full of people whose notion of a satisfactory future is, in fact, a return to the idealized past.”

* * *

See you next week.

Paving Projects Getting Done in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Paving at Gilead Hill School is underway. Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the paving project at the school is almost completed. "Gilead Hill should be hopefully done at the end of this week," he said Monday.

Paving at Hebron Elementary School or the North Street Fire Station will be completed next, he said.

The \$2.4 million in funding for the projects as well and some roadwork was added to the bonding for the \$7.6 million sewer upgrade project.

"In order to save the taxpayers some money in the annual budget we tacked in paving to the bonding project to upgrade the pump station to the sewer," Tierney said.

Initially, the plan was to pave the lots for the two schools and the Russell Mercier Senior Center, but Tierney said that plan has changed since the referendum approval of the bonding, which took place last November. The town has decided to pave the lot at the fire station instead and hold off on the senior center as the town may be doing some additional improvements there.

The sewer upgrade project is also moving forward, according to Tierney.

The upgrades will be achieved in two phases, Kevin Kelly, director of public works, said.

The plan dates back to 2015, when the town

applied for a planning grant from the Clean Water Fund through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to assess the condition of the pump station and system. The system, which was built beginning in 1989, has a 40-year lifespan and was already showing the signs of age, Kelly said.

The Clean Water Fund grant was ultimately approved and the town, after sending out a request for quotations, selected Wright-Pierce Engineering, of Middletown, to complete the four-year study, Kelly said. The study of the nine pump stations included an estimate of the cost for upgrades.

Phase 1 will consist of repairing four of the stations and will run \$3.3 million, Kelly said. Phase 2 would be fixing the remainder of the stations and would also cost \$3.3 million.

The additional amount in the funding covers the cost for designing the project, the replacement of grinder pumps as well as sewer evaluation surveys and force main – a sewer operated by pressure rather than gravity – inspections, Kelly said.

The town is getting ready to put Phase 1 out to bid, Tierney said. The bonding will be finalized in a month or two.

Kelly estimated the project will take between 14 and 16 months to complete.

Phase 2 should begin in 2027.



A crew pours asphalt at Gilead Hill School on Tuesday. The paving project, which is one of three moving forward in town this summer in addition to roadwork, should be done by the end of the week.

New Absentee Ballot Option Available for August Primaries in Colchester

by Karla Santos

The presidential primaries are around the corner and the town of Colchester is working with its residents to facilitate voting through an absentee ballot.

While a new absentee ballot option is available in towns across Connecticut, the town of Colchester has issued an official ballot drop box that will be located in front of Town Hall and will be available 24 hours a day from July 21 through the Aug. 11 Democratic and Republican primaries.

An executive order by Gov. Ned Lamont will allow registered Democrats and registered Republicans in the state of Connecticut to vote by absentee ballot. This measure is part of an effort to prevent residents from spreading or being exposed to COVID-19.

Gayle Furman, Colchester town clerk, told the *Rivereast* the town is working with the office of the Secretary of the State "to ensure the safety of all our electors" while allowing them to exercise their right to vote.

According to Furman, the Secretary of the State's office has hired a mailing house to is-

sue applications and absentee ballots. They are in the process of sending applications and postage paid return envelopes addressed to local town clerks, to all registered voters that are either Democrats or Republicans via U.S. mail.

"These applications have already arrived at many residences," Furman said.

During a live update on Facebook Tuesday, First Selectman Mary Bylone explained that in the past, absentee ballots were only for particular individuals who for some reason – such as being out of town, or working all day – couldn't get to the polls.

But the option that makes the absentee ballot application different this year is open to a wide range of residents and it has to do with COVID-19.

"But now if you even are worried about contracting or being exposed to the coronavirus you can use your absentee ballot in place of coming in and voting," Bylone said on Facebook.

Furman, who was also present during Bylone's Facebook update to explain the process, told the *Rivereast* that when the vot-

ers receive the absentee ballot application, they must state why they are eligible to vote absentee.

Then the completed application must be brought to Town Hall.

"We then enter the voter's information into our state system which will be uploaded by the Secretary of the State's office to the mailing house on a daily basis and the mailing house will mail a ballot to that voter," Furman noted.

The voter then can proceed to filling out the ballot and bring it to Town Hall.

Furman said that those filling out absentee ballots have three available ways of returning their ballot to town hall. They can send it in the mail, in the included postage-paid envelope. They can return it in person to the town clerk's office or they can drop it into the secure official ballot drop box that will be in front of Town Hall.

Absentee ballots will become available at Town Hall starting July 21.

Democrats and Republicans who choose not

to use an absentee ballot and want to vote in person must do it from one of three polling places in town depending on the district they belong to. People from district one vote at town hall; districts two and four vote at Abundant Life Church; and residents of district three vote at Bacon Academy. To see what district you're in, go to www.colchesterct.gov/registrar-voters.

Bylone on Tuesday suggested that those who can't wear a mask vote by absentee ballot to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

She also said the town is looking for poll workers because some of the people that have worked the polls in the past are of older age.

"We are hoping that they would stay home and not show up to work the polls all day or work shorter hours to lessen their exposure as well," Bylone said.

Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. though 8 p.m. on Primary Day.

Questions can be directed to the town clerk's office at 860-537-7215 or townclerk@colchesterct.gov.

Canceling Portland Fair is a Blow

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland's Economic Development Coordinator Mary Dickerson said the cancellation of the Portland Agricultural Fair will impact many local churches and nonprofit organizations, two groups that rely on the event to raise money.

Portland Fair Association officials announced the fair's cancellation on Monday, citing difficulties associated with preparing the event against COVID-19.

Donald Bascom, president of the Portland Fair Association, said indecision at the state level was another reason he decided to cancel this year's fair, which would have been the 22nd. He said he reached out to state officials, but never received definitive answers about safety procedure guidelines, or whether events like fairs can even operate in the first place.

"You can't invest money in something that's uncertain," said Bascom. "But we'll be even bigger and better next year."

Bascom said the association normally begins planning the fair in February. Bascom kept up with pandemic updates and, saying he had a

"bad feeling," stopped advertising the fair as early as March. He said many vendors and animal exhibitors backed out as well.

Bascom said he and other fair organizers will soon discuss how they might run next summer's fair differently than in previous years.

The Portland Agricultural Fair joins a growing list of canceled annual events across the state. Portland's summer concert series and summer camp have also been postponed. Bascom said the only other time the fair was canceled was in the 2000s, due to flooding from the Connecticut River.

Dickerson said the town has discussed ways to replace these events. Some towns have set up alternatives like drive-in movie theaters to replace their canceled activities, she said. Unfortunately, as a small town, Portland lacks certain resources and facilities to organize large scale public gatherings at short notice, according to Dickerson.

Dickerson said the fair's cancellation means

local churches and nonprofits will have to endure a serious loss in revenue.

"That's a big fundraiser to lose," said Dickerson. "This will effect hundreds of people in town." She said all local nonprofits that rely on sales from their food trucks to support themselves cannot do so this year.

Portland's volunteer Fire Company 2 runs a popular French fry booth every year, which often has huge lines of hungry fairgoers, Dickerson said. Company 2 has lost this revenue, and that from the property they rent out as a venue on the riverfront, which was ordered by the state to be closed. Company 2 also usually sells fries at the Durham Fair, which was also canceled.

Portland Fire Company 2 Captain Dale Benoit did not return request for comment on this story.

"Every cent is important to them," said Dickerson.

Portland's town-wide tag sale, which is a

major fundraiser for the Portland Historical Society, was also pulled.

Despite these canceled small-town milestone events, Portland residents still find summer fun in town, Dickerson said. Portland's golf courses are bustling, she said. Brownstone Discovery Park is operating at 25% capacity, or about 750 visitors. The park property is about 30 acres, Dickerson said, so guests can be easily spaced. Dickerson said the park reached capacity every day of Independence Day weekend.

Portland's riverfront marinas are also brisk with activity, Dickerson said. Portland's Airline Trail section is also busy with hikers, bikers, and joggers, she said.

"People are finding affordable, distanced activities," said Dickerson.

Open-air grocery markets like Gotta's Farm on Route 17 have also seen an increase in business. Shopping outside avoids crowded grocery stores and can alleviate anxiety associated with being in a closed space during the pandemic.

In Contentious Vote, Dennler New BOF Vice Chair

by Karla Santos

At its meeting last Wednesday, July 1, the Board of Finance chose Democrat Bernie Dennler III to be the new vice chair – in a contentious vote that resulted in two members of the board abruptly leaving the meeting altogether.

Previous vice chair Mike Egan, also a Democrat, is remaining on the finance board, but has stepped down from the leadership position following allegations from other board members of bullying during the budget process.

At last Wednesday's meeting, Democrat Mike Hayes nominated Dennler for the position of vice chair, whereas Republican Andreas Bisbikos nominated fellow Republican Andrea Migliaccio.

Ultimately, the vote was 4-2 for Dennler. Dennler voted for himself, as did Hayes, Egan, and board chair Robert Tarlov, a Republican. Bisbikos and Migliaccio voted in favor of Migliaccio.

Last week's board meeting took place on Zoom and, after the vote did not go in their favor, Bisbikos and Migliaccio immediately signed off.

Before the vote, board members discussed the qualifications of Migliaccio and Dennler. They also spoke about the importance of having a bipartisan board. The Board of Finance has a total of six members – three Democrats and three Republicans. Democrats were looking to have another Democrat vice chair continue in the role.

Tarlov said his vote for Migliaccio would have created a tie, something he wasn't looking forward to. He spoke in favor of both Migliaccio and Dennler to justify his vote. He said Migliaccio has the experience needed to fill the role – serving not only on the Board of Finance but to other boards as well – and added that she has been a valuable contributor.

Tarlov said he's also looking at the future and what the best way would be to get six people together for discussion.

"I think we need more collaboration on the board," he said.

Tarlov added that the only strike against Dennler is that he has the least experience of the six members, having only served on the board since being appointed in April.

"I think that on the other hand, he has different experiences and I also think he has the ability to come up to speed rather

quickly," Tarlov added.

Tarlov also noted Dennler was on the board for this past budget season, which took place right in the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic and was, as Tarlov described it, "the most exhausting budget experience." He said this year's budget was difficult because of finances but the fact that they couldn't meet in person also created more difficulties among the board members.

While Tarlov said the board typically does not vote along party lines, he added, "My concern though is working towards the budget next year. I believe that the best way to do that is having representation in the leadership positions from both parties."

Bisbikos, meanwhile, stressed that, in contrast to Dennler, Migliaccio has five years of experience on the finance board. He also noted that Dennler "doesn't have a career in finance" – working as an administrative assistant for the Town of Lebanon – whereas Migliaccio has been a financial advisor for several years, and currently works at Santander Investment Services.

"Andrea is responsible for millions of dollars at her place of work," Bisbikos said, "and she has also been elected, so she's a true representative of the people. Bernie hasn't knocked on a single door to earn his seat."

Hayes advocated Dennler for various reasons – stressing, like Tarlov, the importance of keeping a Democrat as vice chair. Hayes also noted that the only responsibility of the vice chairperson is to run the meeting in the absence of the chairman – and said that running the meeting has nothing to do with financial experience.

In addition, Hayes mentioned some of Dennler's qualifications, such as his previous role as the vice chair of the economic development commission in Colchester. Dennler works at the first selectman's office in the town of Lebanon and is a collaborator between the first selectman and the finance director in that town. According to Hayes, Dennler also manages a FEMA grant the town received following a 2018 flood.

Hayes said that Dennler sat through this budget process being "extremely passionate."

Migliaccio stressed that she has attended five years' worth of finance board meetings, missing perhaps only three during that time. She noted that she has also attended Board of Education meetings, Police Commission meetings

and budget committee meetings.

"To say that it's fair to have a Democrat as the co-chair is a little weak because [in] the past Rob has always insisted upon the most experienced being by his side," Migliaccio said. "For some reason this year experience is not the factor. We are going into a predicted high budget season and you are going to put inexperience in the leadership of one of the most important boards in this town."

Migliaccio added that it "absolutely seems like a political play."

"I've been elected," Migliaccio said. "I had a campaign. I think experience matters."

Dennler said he was also in agreement of having bipartisan leadership. He stressed that, while Migliaccio does indeed have more experience than him on the board, he has "experience working in municipal government."

"That is a difference between us," he said. "We have some different kinds of experience."

Dennler said he would be "proud" to serve as vice chairman if he was chosen.

In addition, he said that regardless of the outcome he hoped the board can move forward together.

"We have a lot of work to do; it's going to be a very difficult year for us," he said.

First Selectman Mary Bylone, also a Democrat, told the *Rivereast* that Dennler is a "great listener." She noted that as a board member, Dennler is one to look for consensus.

"He has a lot of experience with municipal government and truly appreciates the inner workings of running a town," Bylone said about Dennler. "These are important characteristics for board members who serve our community. I am excited he was selected and I know the town will benefit from his expertise."

Migliaccio's departure from last week's meeting was abrupt. Following the vote, she said that if her experience didn't matter and didn't bring anything to the board, she didn't need to experience the rest of the meeting. Then she signed off.

Bisbikos then said that in support of Migliaccio he was also going to sign off.

"I can only say that if shady politics and runaway spending is to be the character of the board there will certainly be a division," Migliaccio later told the *Rivereast*.

Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* "the snake of politics won over honesty and experience."

"The taxpayers should be furious that politi-

cal games are being played at their expense," he added. "Leadership has lost my confidence."

Migliaccio further told the *Rivereast* that Dennler's appointment as vice chair was determined prior to last week's meeting – and she and Bisbikos both accused board members of "backroom deals."

However, Tarlov told the *Rivereast* "there was no negotiation with the Democrats."

About Bernie Dennler III

According to Dennler, he was born and raised in Colchester. He said that when he was serving as vice chair of the Economic Development Commission, right before the budget season, there was a vacancy on the Board of Finance. Dennler applied and was appointed to fill that seat in April.

Dennler said he didn't expect the sudden change in the leadership of the board.

"I wouldn't have guessed there would be any changes in leadership at this point, but volunteering in your community means you have to be ready to step up when asked," he said.

Dennler's term ends in November 2021. He said he enjoys serving and "would like to continue beyond that."

He also downplayed concerns about his lack of longevity on the finance board.

"Seniority and experience are not the same thing," Dennler said. "I may not be the longest-serving member of the board but I do have experience spending every day working in a municipal environment."

Dennler said that every town is unique but some of the biggest issues the towns face are similar.

In his role as assistant to the first selectman in Lebanon, Dennler has served in two administrations. He said he is the first point of contact for some residents when they have a concern. In addition, Dennler is responsible for developing agendas for the Board of Selectmen and taking the minutes.

"I think that experience will be valuable as vice chair because I'm used to keeping careful track of agenda items, motions, and votes in fast-paced meetings," he said.

Dennler said he has worked in collaboration with the first selectman and the senior accountant on Lebanon's budget process.

"I frequently work with their Board of Finance to make sure anything that requires both Board of Selectman and Board of Finance approval reaches both boards," he added.

Funds Raised for Portland Food Bank 'One Nickel at a Time'

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland locals and recent college graduates Ruth Kelley and Tyler Wyslick had not expected to finish their degrees during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic turbulence. Both face an uncertain job market.

"We had some free time," said Kelley, who this spring graduated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. "So, we wanted to help out."

Kelley said she is acutely aware of how the pandemic has caused so many to lose their jobs and face food insecurity. So, she and Wyslick – who recently graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a business management degree – decided to collect recyclable cans and bottles from Portland locals and redeem them for the usual nickel. They dubbed their grassroots campaign "One Nickel at a Time." Every cent raised is used to buy food for the Portland Food Bank.

"We knew from the news that a lot of people

are struggling, so we reached out to the food bank," said Kelley.

"We started this because we were really bored," said Wyslick. "We had no idea it would get so big."

Wyslick said he and Kelley have raised over \$1,200 so far.

However, Kelley said, on Tuesday, she and Wyslick collected their biggest haul thus far, visiting 25 houses throughout Portland.

Kelley and Wyslick offer no-contact pick-up of returnable items. The pair has even made a few out of town trips, but this is for exceptionally large pick-ups. They accept nothing in return for their work, and so must conserve gas, Wyslick said.

"Her shed is full right now, and I'd guess that'll put us past \$1,500," said Wyslick.

Kelley said East Hampton-based real estate agency Carl Guild & Associates donated to them a box truck free of charge, which has al-

lowed them to increase their pick-up capacity.

"We filled a 15-foot box truck," said Wyslick.

Kelley and Wyslick collaborated with Portland Food Bank Director Ruth Maio. Every week, Maio gives the pair a list of the food bank's needs. Kelley and Wyslick also shop for the food bank, buying requested items with funds raised from recyclables.

Wyslick said peanut butter and jars of jelly are the most requested items. Maio said spaghetti sauce is another often requested item, as are breakfast cereals, kid's snacks, and canned fruit. All items are brought to St. Mary Church on Freestone Avenue, where they are isolated for decontamination, then brought to the food bank. Maio said the food bank is serving clients with a contactless drive through.

Maio said Kelley and Wyslick have helped mitigate the shortfall of donations caused by the pandemic.

"Normally, we're able to have large food

drives," said Maio. "Right now, we can't. We weren't getting those big donations."

Maio said Kelley and Wyslick also buy gift cards and donate them to the food bank. Maio said gift cards are very popular with visitors.

Kelley said she and Wyslick spread the word about One Nickel at a Time through Facebook posts on Portland's community forums and by going door-to-door to hand out fliers.

"We were putting fliers in people mailboxes, too, which I actually found out is not legal," said Wyslick, laughing.

Kelley said the community has been eager to help them in their campaign.

To organize a pickup with One Nickel at a Time, email onenickelatatime@gmail.com. Recyclables should be rinsed and in decent condition.

Neither Kelley nor Wyslick are sure how long they can continue their grassroots nonprofit but will do so as long they reasonably can.

Mural Depicting Local History Defaced in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

Vandals damaged the mural – and spray painted over images of Rochambeau and Washington – at Andover Public Library last weekend, but they were caught on surveillance and left fingerprints and DNA and by Wednesday had been identified and their arrest warrants were pending.

There were three males in a silver sedan that was filmed on a video surveillance camera pulling into the library at about 1:14 a.m. on July 5, Darrell Tetreault, Andover resident state trooper, said in a phone call Monday. A white male, who got out of the car and walked toward the mural holding a can of spray paint, sprayed the wall, seemingly taking cues from the driver.

On the video, the vandal can be seen turning and looking to the driver “for what I would say is guidance,” Tetreault said. The driver subsequently relays “verbal remarks” to him.

After doing some more destruction, the vandal returned to the car and handed the paint can to another passenger, also a white male, according to the trooper, who got out of the car and further defaced the painting before they both get back into the car and it drove away.

The video did not capture the car’s license plate numbers and the driver was not visible enough for Tetreault to give a description, but possible DNA evidence was found at the scene, the trooper said.

Tetreault posted a description of the crime on Facebook along with photos of the car, the vandals – including in the act of painting over the mural – and the damage they did.

An update he posted Wednesday stated that all the suspects had been identified and arrest warrants were pending at Rockville Superior Court.

The mural, which was done by Hebron artist Sara Walling and completed last November, is dedicated to former first selectman and library board member Jean Gasper, who passed away in 2015 and had long spoken of having a mural put on the library.

The 40-foot painting, which stretches over three walls in the back of the library, portrays a sampling of Andover’s historic, people, places and events, including an image of General Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau as he marched with his troops through town to aid George Washington – whose image is also on the painting – in the Revolutionary War; the old town hall; First Congregational Church; a hiker strolling along the

covered bridge; the train depot; Monument Park; the old creamery, which was located where Monument Park is now located and was known for its award winning butter; and a bald eagle flying over Andover Lake at sunset.

The steam train, which, according to Library Board member Dianne Grenier “was a big deal” with 50 trains rolling through town per day in the 1920s and ‘30s, is also depicted and seems to be rushing toward onlookers as it rolls along the tracks on one of its many routes, such as bringing local students to Willimantic High School.

Grenier, who was part of the mural committee, said Rochambeau’s and Washington’s images were painted over in black paint.

“The rest [of the damage] is against the whole back wall,” she said. “It’s just a series of scribbles, just scribbles, Rochambeau and the historic creamery; the old train depot; the big train, that was a big part of [the damage]; and the covered bridge, the library.”

The library building was blacked out and the church was also defaced, she said, adding that the middle and side walls – where the dedication is inscribed and the eagle flies over the water – were not touched.

Grenier said she was surprised the damage lacked political imagery or commentary and concluded the vandals did not have a social agenda and were “not even making a political statement, or if they did, it was lost on all of us.” Rather, they were “kids doing mischief.”

“I expected when I went down there to see ‘Black Lives Matter’ or anti-Trump or some swastikas or some statement. There’s no statement; there’s not a word,” she said. “A couple hooligans on the Fourth of July in the middle of the night, who had nothing else to do.”

Grenier, who put some of the blame for the misdeeds on the fact that people have been cooped up for three months, said she does not believe the vandals should face jail time but that they should pay for the repairs.

“I would like to see a letter to the editor apologizing to all the residents of Andover,” she said. “And I’d like to see them do some community service. You like to paint? We’ve got gazebo. I don’t think they need to go to jail or be tarred and feathered or anything like that.”

Walling took months to complete the mural, which hasn’t even been up for a year, Grenier said and while the artist was painting it, folks would stop by and talk to her about the work and local history.



Last Sunday, in the early morning hours, vandals damaged the mural at the Andover Public Library. In the section in this photo, black paint is sprayed over images of General Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau and George Washington. During the Revolutionary War, Rochambeau marched with his troops through town to come to Washington’s aid.

“It’s just a total embarrassment for the town,” she said of the damage. “The residents took great pride in that mural.”

Grenier applauded the library board for having the insight to keep the mural lit at night and add a security camera.

“Because we knew somebody was going to do something stupid,” she said. “They pulled into the spotlight with surveillance in use. They did not have facemasks, they did not have ski masks, they did not have a hoodie.”

They also left the cap from the paint can behind, with their finger prints on it, and a beer bottle with DNA, she said.

Grenier said she spoke to Walling on Sunday and that the artist topped the painting off with anti-graffiti sealer, added two coats of sealer on top of that and was planning to add a third coat in May, but had not gotten to it due to the state shutdown as a result of COVID-19 and because she was pregnant – she gave birth

Monday.

“She thinks that the [spray] paint will just come off with mineral spirits,” Grenier said.

In the meantime, Town Administrator Eric Anderson said he was in touch with the town’s insurance provider to cover the costs of repairs.

While a couple generous people have contacted the library offering to do the repair work, Grenier said the town plans to hire a professional who will use appropriate cleaning materials based on the brand of paint Walling used when she completed the mural.

The Board of Directors, which spearheaded the mural project, funded it without tapping into taxpayer dollars, Grenier said. A big chunk of the cost came from the Myron Parker Yeomans/Edward Myron Yeomans Family Fund that was established by Alice Yeomans-Moe, who passed in 2000 and left the funds to the library to use for historical purposes. The fund is managed by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Hebron Police News

7/3: Jeremy Roberts, 19, of 96 Heron Hill Road in Amston was charged with driving under the influence after officers allegedly found him asleep at the wheel with his car running on Old Colchester Road in Hebron. Roberts, according to state police, failed field sobriety tests and was transported to Troop K in Colchester.

Colchester Police News

7/3: Paulinea Knight, 35, of Hartford, was charged with violation of probation, police said.

7/4: Brandi Feliciano, 24, of Groton, was charged with driving under the influence and failure to maintain lane after a July 4 car accident on West Road in Colchester, state police said.

Colchester Police News

7/1: Michael MacDonald, 25, of 14 Meadow Drive, Colchester, was charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without minimum insurance, reckless driving and operating under the influence, state police said.

Marlborough Police News

7/3: Cole Caso, 18, of 42 Keirstead Circle, Marlborough, was charged with sale of narcotics, possession of over half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, state police said. According to state police, Caso was the passenger in a car that was stopped for speeding on Chapman Road in Marlborough.

Marlborough Police News

7/1: Stephen Jacinto, 54, of 22 Brewer Rd., East Hampton, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and making an improper turn, state police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

MaryAnn Brown Olzacki

MaryAnn Brown Olzacki, 83, of East Hampton, wife of the late Robert J. Olzacki, passed away peacefully Friday, July 3. MaryAnn was born May 28, 1937, at Crescent Street Hospital in Middletown. She was the daughter of the late James Marshall and Elsie (Ferrigno) Brown of East Hampton.



MaryAnn sold real estate in the Middlesex County area for 35 years prior to her retirement with her partner in real estate Barbara Brown. MaryAnn also believed in giving back to her community and served on the former East Hampton Police Commission where she was chairperson for many years. She was also on the Youth Services Juvenile Review Board; Public Health Nursing; was instrumental in organizing well child clinics; volunteered with the Red Cross; was a past member and chairperson of the Republican Town Committee; and was assistant registrar of voters and election moderator.

MaryAnn is survived by her three sons: Joseph A., Robert D., Michael and his wife Cheri; and daughter Kristin and her husband Paul J. Olzacki-Owen, all of East Hampton. She also leaves behind her four grandchildren, who she was so proud of and each held a special place in her heart: Nichole and husband Michael, Dylan and wife Meghan; Austin; and Baylee. MaryAnn also enjoyed getting to welcome her three great grandchildren, Emma and Aria Decker and Brooks Olzacki. MaryAnn leaves behind a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Patricia and Michael Gallagher of Groton; niece Sheila and husband Ronald Powers and their children of Old Saybrook; and nephew Sean Gallagher and his children of Waterford.

MaryAnn was predeceased by her brother, Monsignor Robert L. Brown.

Over the last few months our family has had to endure the loss of two parents/grandparents, and we would like to thank our friends and family for the guidance and support they have given. In their lifetime our parents gave us the gift of family and the realization that family doesn't have to be blood: Kevin and Kim; Dave and Michelle; Trish; Erl; Mona; Rich and Beth; Stephen; Josh; Jay; Wayne; Pete; Sheila; John; May; Nancy; Barbara; Gus and Paula. The loss we all endured has only strengthened the friendships our parents have left us.

The family will have a modified Irish/Polish/Italian wake in memory of Robert and MaryAnn Olzacki at a date to be determined at the Compound.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Jean C. Newsom

Jean Csere Newsom, 87, of Portland, passed away Friday, June 26, with her family at her side. The wife of Peter B. Newsom, Jean was born Sept. 17, 1932, in Portland, to the late Julia (Ronay) and Julius Csere.

Jean is survived by her husband of 68 years, Peter; her son, John Newsom of Portland; her daughter, Judith and son-in-law Jeffrey Smith of Killingworth; and her daughter, Jacqueline Nantais of Portland. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Richard and Cristina Mohr, Raymond Peterson, Lauren and Shawn Kerr, Julianna and Craig Whited and Samuel Newsom. She is also survived by six great-grandchildren, Ava, Holden and Sabrina Mohr, Camilla Whited, Mya Peterson, Madeline Kerr and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, Jean was pre-deceased by her siblings Marguerite and Leonard Long of Thornton, Iowa, James Csere, Grace and Ernest Benoit, Ethel and Salvatore Puglisi, William and Patricia Csere, Catherine and Harold Luckhardt, Helen and J. William Foley, Eleanor and Sebastian Milardo, Dorothy and Robert Parker, and Richard and Eleanor Csere, all of Portland, CT.

Arrangements are in the care of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Private services and burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, a charitable contribution can be made to the giver's choice in remembrance of Jean.

East Hampton

Robert Allen Cullen

Robert "Bob" Allen Cullen, 64, of Salem, formerly of East Hampton, a beloved son, husband, father and grandfather, passed away suddenly Thursday, June 25.

He worked at Electric Boat in Groton until he discovered his passion for teaching others his trade. He was a beloved welding department head at Howell Cheney Technical High School in Manchester for over 30 years. During his time there, he also taught night school to postgraduates. He was instrumental in building HCTHS's weld shop and made it a place that students looked forward to coming each day. Many students kept in touch with him over the years; one of his greatest joys was to see how successful his students had become in life. He developed the department's reputation into one that was trusted by local businesses that were looking for quality welding and reliable welders.

Bob loved spending time with his family and his Dobermans; he found particular joy in being with his grandchildren, whether he was teasing them, teaching them, or just talking with them. He loved to reminisce with his daughters about their childhoods and entertain them with detailed stories from his life. But more importantly he was a constant in their lives, always knowing how to fix anything or giving them the best advice.

Bob was a fitness enthusiast for his entire life, participating in numerous biathlons and triathlons over the years until he ultimately focused his attention on bicycling. Bob became a passionate cyclist, always striving to be better than he was the ride before. He loved Maine, a place that had his heart since his parents introduced him to the area many years ago. He had been going there for decades but still discovered something new to love every time he visited. Bob enjoyed riding his bike along the coast or getting lost in the surrounding forests.

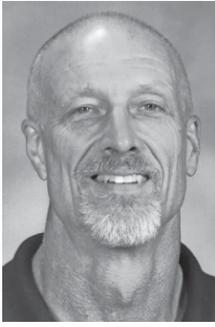
He always had multiple projects going at the same time and always saw each and every one of them to completion, down to the most minor of details. Everyone that knew Bob knows that he was reliable, knowledgeable, calm under pressure, caring, and funny. He loved Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, homemade sweet iced tea, Mazda Miata (and cars in general), Led Zeppelin, and working in his home weld shop. Bob will be remembered for his warm smile, reassuring presence and infectious laugh.

Preceded in death by his father Robert L. Cullen, Bob is survived by his mother, Evelyn Cullen; his wife, Millie (Hernandez) Cullen; his daughters, Jessica Cullen and Amy Grendzinski; his stepdaughters, Beth Funk and Chris Gudaitis; and five grandchildren.

Private services have been entrusted to Belmont Funeral Home, Colchester. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Please consider donating to Special Needs Dobermans (www.doberman911.org) in his memory. This group helps Dobermans all over the country.

To share your memories with the family, please visit their website at www.belmontfh.com.



East Hampton

Scot Earl Kellman

Scot Earl Kellman, 58, of East Hampton, passed away tragically Wednesday, June 10, due to an accident at work.

Scot was born in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 3, 1962, to David Earl Kellman and the late Mariilee Kellman (2015). Scot was raised in Glendale Heights, and he attended Reskin Elementary, Marquardt Middle and Glenbard North High schools.

Scot was a natural athlete, and he had a larger than life personality which made him unforgettable to all who met him. Scot loved to travel and explore while he lived an unconventional lifestyle. He moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he worked as a carpenter, and he lived in the Channel Islands, Scotland for a period of time. Later, Scot settled in Los Angeles, Calif., for 13 years.

The last six years of his life, he lived with his girlfriend, Lynda Ferguson of East Hampton, where he indicated that he "finally found home." Scot and Lynda enjoyed their life on the farm as well as their numerous travel adventures to many different countries.

Scot was truly a selfless and generous person, and he will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.

Scot is survived by his father, David Kellman and wife Joanne, of Glendale, Ariz.; his beloved brother, Mark Paul Kellman of St. Petersburg, Fla.; sister, Debrina Marie Cajrati Crivelli and her husband Alessandro of Los Angeles; niece and nephew, Caterina Crivelli and Riccardo Crivelli of Los Angeles; niece, Amanda Kellman, of Oak Park, Ill., and his dear girlfriend, Lynda Ferguson of East Hampton and their dog Jenny.

Scot joins his mother, Marilee, and his childhood friends, Tim Peterson and Frank Pinkert, to continue their circle of friendship elsewhere.

Rest in peace brother. Now it's time to enjoy your eternal residence. Please be up there waiting for the rest of us. May God keep you and bless you.

Scot's life celebration in Chicago, Ill., will be announced at a later date.



Portland

Rosemarie Organek

Rosemarie (Spada) Organek, 79, of Portland, wife of the late Edward A. Organek Sr., passed away Tuesday, July 7, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by her children. She was born in Cromwell, daughter of Anthony Spada Sr. and Emanuela (Luistro) Spada.

Rosemarie worked for many years at the Town of Cromwell as assistant to the tax collector. She also worked for several years as secretary for St. John Church in Cromwell. With her husband Edward Sr., she worked hand in hand at the family business Precision Plastic Products in Portland.

Rosemarie always provided support and love for her family and friends. She is survived by two sons, Edward A. Organek Jr. and his wife Magdalena of Portland, Joseph Organek and his wife Eve of Portland; a daughter, Joanne Musumeci and her husband David of Middletown; seven loving grandsons, Matthew, Adam, Alexander and Edward (III) Organek, Michael Seeley, Sebastiano and Anthony Musumeci; great-grandchild, Matthew Organek Jr.; her special cousin, Angela D'Aquila; as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward Sr.; brothers, Louis, Salvatore, Anthony (Jr.) Spada; and her sister, Anna Spada Carta.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to her outstanding, loving and compassionate caregivers Kisi Edwards and Myra Allen.

While Rosemarie's family grieves her loss, they know that she is now reunited forever with the love of her life, Edward Sr.

The family is asking you to join them for calling hours that will be held at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, Sunday, July 12, from 4-6 p.m. The Funeral Liturgy in St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, will be held Monday July 13, at 10:30 a.m.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.



Marlborough

John F. Brown

John F. Brown of Marlborough, formerly of Pawtucket, R.I., passed away Thursday, June 11. He was the husband of the late Patricia M. (Johnson) Brown. Born April 10, 1929, in North Adams, Mass., he was the son of the late John F. and Anna L. (Boyle) Brown.

Mr. Brown was a Korean War veteran, an educator, and a school administrator in the Rhode Island School Department, having retired in 1994. Until his move to Connecticut, Mr. Brown was a trustee and Eucharistic minister of St. Mary's Church, Pawtucket.

He is survived by four sons and daughters-in-law, John and Susan (Melly) of Coatesville, Pa.; Michael and Joyce (Kelleter) of Tucson, Ariz.; Kevin and Sandy (Thomas) of Windham, N.H.; and Patrick and Colleen (Morrison) of Marlborough; grandchildren, Cathy (Nick) Sears, Joseph (Lena) Brown, Becky (Dan) Edwards, Jessie, Nicole, Francis, and Lilly Brown; and great-grandchild Elizabeth Edwards, all of whom he loved very much; a sister and brother-in-law Nancy A. and James E. Bradley of Newark, Ohio; and sister-in-law Ann R. (Quinlan) Brown-Sauté of Cumberland, R.I.

He was the brother of the late Judge Francis B. Brown, Paul E. Brown, and Maryann L. Crowley.

Calling hours and the funeral Mass will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, 79 S. Main Street Middletown, CT 06457.

D'Angelo Funeral Home in Middletown is handling the arrangements. To share memories or to send condolences to the family, please visit www.dangelofuneralhome.com.

