

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 33, Number 34

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

November 7, 2008



Beverly Wilson, left, and her husband Colin each participated in races recently to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Their young son Dillon passed away earlier this year from a blood-based cancer called myelofibrosis.

Marlborough Couple Runs to Remember Young Son

by Hannah Charry

After running 15 miles and facing 11.2 more to go, Beverly Wilson stopped to take a picture. The crest was one of many she conquered during the Nike Women's Marathon on Oct. 19, but this particular hill offered a view of the San Francisco Bay beneath it.

When Beverly crossed the finish line, she collapsed into her husband Colin's arms, with fleeting images of the sunrise over the Golden Gate Bridge and her young son Dillon flashing through her mind. Beverly decided to run the marathon in April, just one week after her two-and-a-half year old died from a rare blood disease.

Beverly ran the race as a member of Team in Training (TNT), a national organization that provides free coaching for ordinary people to complete long-distance athletic events. There are no previous physical requirements to join. In return, TNT participants agree to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Beverly had not heard of TNT until a brochure randomly arrived in the mail a

week after Dillon's death. Her husband also joined the club by signing up for the Tri-State Seacoast Century bike ride, which was held Sept. 20-21 in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Colin completed the race with his brother.

Between the Tri-State bike ride and the Nike Women's Marathon, Beverly and Colin raised over \$6,000.

The Nike Women's Marathon "was incredibly hard, but it was something that I really just had to do in his name," Beverly said. TNT "was the thing that kept me going, and raising the money would help people remember him."

Dillon's health problems began last September, when he suffered an ear infection that wouldn't go away. He also seemed more lethargic than usual.

A series of blood tests were held over the next several weeks, as doctors tried to figure out what was wrong.

While the doctors analyzed the tests, the Wilsons kept on living their lives. In December, Colin took his daughters Grace, 8, and Emma, 6, to Rockefeller Center. The

plan was for Beverly to take Dillon to join them later in the day, but a warning call from the doctor immediately brought the entire family back home.

Doctors had initially suspected Dillon had leukemia, but the call Beverly received that day showed he had myelofibrosis, a blood-based cancer that is usually found in adult men over the age of 50. It is similar to leukemia, in that the victim's blood cells grow rapidly, forcing marrow out of bones. In January, the Wilsons went to the Philadelphia Children's Hospital for a second oncologist's opinion. Colin said the family saw three specialists – the other two were located in Hartford and Boston. The entire family underwent genetic tests in Delaware to see if Grace and Emma were at risk for developing the condition themselves. The tests came back negative.

Dillon was in and out of Hartford Hospital in February. On March 7, he was admitted to the hospital, due to a very high fever and a deteriorating spleen condition. Beverly and Colin would then take turns

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Front Page

spending sleepless nights on a cot next to Dillon's hospital bed, as his condition grew worse. Dillon's spleen was removed later that month.

"Looking back, I feel ignorant about children's cancer," Colin said. "I never knew much about it, had never really fundraised but was a blood donor."

Dillon's hospitalization period was a learning process for the family. According to Colin, one thing he and Beverly learned is that parents have a slim chance of being able to match bone marrow types with their children, but siblings have about a one in four chance of being a suitable donor.

Colin also discovered that many marrow donations come from Europe, particularly Germany, because of a more-developed donor program that is widely publicized. A simple cheek swab can determine if you are a suitable match for someone in need.

In fact, it was a European donor who was identified for Dillon. On April 10, he went to the Boston Children's Hospital for a bone marrow transplant, followed by rounds of chemotherapy. Into the fifth day of new treatments, Dillon began having tremors, and he passed away on April 18.

After word of Dillon's illness spread, community members arrived on the Wilson's doorstep in droves. Following his death, the town continued to rally behind the family.

"This community came together like nothing I've ever seen before," Beverly said. "Meals were delivered four nights a week from everyone in town. People gave left and right. I can't get over how generous they are in these tough times that people are still willing to help." Neighbors offered to babysit her girls while the couple arranged doctor's visits and coordinated work hours to pay the bills.

"Strangers sent gift cards and church members gave thoughtful notes. We'd get home and find offers to do laundry, it was overwhelming at times," Colin said. "I can't say enough about what a community Marlborough is, how they help people in trouble. My wife and I will never be able to thank everyone in town; support-wise, I wouldn't want to live anywhere else but here."

Christine Urcioli, senior director of the Connecticut chapter of TNT for nine years, also credited the camaraderie inherent to TNT to the high level of success participants achieve in completing their fundraising and athletic goals.

"It's a life-changing experience and I've never really had anyone who has gone through the program and regret it," Urcioli said. "If you're in a funk and looking for something different this is definitely something to get you motivated. Everyone has a life checklist, climbing Mount Washington, going to Europe, but to say that you're able to help cure blood cancers... The only way I can put it is that it's much bigger than you. It's pretty amazing that a lot of people go through life not sure what they have done to make this a better world. This is something that people can look back on."

While training with the local TNT chapter, Colin noticed many participants have been directly affected by some sort of cancer. His head coach's son underwent three years of treatment for leukemia, and several of Colin's teammates were survivors. "It was neat to be able to be part of a group of people who can connect with someone who has also lost someone," he said.

Urcioli said that approximately 60 percent of those who join TNT get involved because they have a direct connection with blood cancers. They're not all athletes either, Urcioli said.

She estimated that, of TNT participants, just 60 percent had exercised even as frequently as once a week before joining the group.

TNT members "are usually successful in completing their races because they are very mission-focused," she said. "That's what got them involved."

Beverly said she thought the support network of TNT members in San Francisco helped get her through the more emotional moments of the experience. The night before the Nike event she attended a pasta dinner, a TNT tradition, which brought together about 5,000 people including mentors and coaches. Olympic marathoner Joan Benoit Samuelson spoke, along with a cancer survivor. Over 20,000 runners (including 1,089 men, as men were allowed to participate in the event, even though it was designed for women) completed the race.

"When I got up on Sunday I was nervous, but then felt excitement at the starting line," Beverly said. "The sea of purple [TNT jerseys] was amazing to me. I loved reading the names and pictures on the backs of people's jerseys as they ran by. It really touched me."

Beverly said training was difficult, and at times during the race, her emotions got in the way as she thought about her son, but the support of her family, friends and strangers pushed her towards the finish line.

San Francisco offered a mix of physical beauty in environment and comic relief in its characters. A man dressed in a long pink gown and wig floated by Beverly at one point. Another runner wore a shirt that read "Toenails Are Overrated," a nod to a frequently-cited malady of marathoners.

"There were a couple of points where I got teary," Beverly said. "I didn't know if it was the beauty of the situation but overall the experience was phenomenal. It was incredible and I would encourage anyone to do it. I wasn't a runner but this seemed like the right thing to do. I met some wonderful people along the way."

Colin said people asked him why he participated in the bike race so soon after his son's death.

"Honestly, for me it definitely helped keep my mind focused on something where I wouldn't just be crying about losing him or thinking our last memories together," Colin said. "My brother and I would ride after work a few nights a week until it got dark. I came to look forward to that time, where your mind wasn't focused on the loss."

The Wilsons are now developing an idea for an event to honor Dillon while raise money towards a children's hospital. Donations for the Leukemia Society or a scholarship fund for a local student are also a possibility. For more information, people can e-mail Colin at colin-wilson@sbcglobal.net. And for more information on TNT, visit www.teamintraining.org or call the head Meriden office at 203-427-2061.

Urcioli said they recently finished their fall season with 200 total participants, but currently have 35 signed up for the winter program. Meetings will be held in January for the spring/summer seasons.

During Dillon's funeral service, Father Arthur Audet, the family's pastor at St. John Fisher, said that in Dillon's two and a half years he touched more people than Audet had done in his entire life.

"I just don't want him to be forgotten," Beverly said. "I want people to remember what a good little boy he was and how sweet he was and to keep helping people in his name."

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

by **Mike Thompson**

We did it!!!!

President Barack Obama.

I'll repeat: President Barack Obama.

Sounds good, doesn't it?

I sure think so. Tuesday night was a very, very good night. Yes, many of the polls in the days leading up to the election showed Obama had a pretty good lead over McCain, but I didn't want to take anything for granted. I remember on Election Day '04, exit polls during the day suggested John Kerry just might become the next President, but when night rolled around and the votes came in, it was a different story. Plus, we had all heard the speculation that people may be telling pollsters they wouldn't have any problem voting for a black man for President, but when they stood in the booth on Election Day and time came to pull that lever or touch that computer screen – or, as was the case here in the Nutmeg State, fill in that bubble – they just wouldn't be able to put their money where their mouth was. (And then there was WTIC radio host Colin McEnroe's interesting theory as to why exit polls just don't work: Democrats are more likely to tell you how they voted than Republicans are.)

Simply put, I didn't want to assume anything. I started watching the election returns early; perhaps a little too early. NBC (and I suppose all the other networks did too) had a big map of the country, which they would fill in red or blue as the night went on and they made their projections. When I started watching only two states had been called, leaving McCain with something like eight electoral votes to Obama's three. And the map stayed at that 8-3 number for a long time. I knew there was a way to go, and I tried watching something else, to get my mind off the election for a bit, but I kept flipping back to NBC. I needed to know.

After the clock moved past 9, projections started to come in faster, and more of the map began to fill up. Obama soon had a pretty good-sized lead over McCain, though he was still a good bit short of 200, to say nothing of the 270 electoral votes needed to win. McCain then started to gain a little on him, and I looked at the map and noticed there were still many, many states that hadn't been called yet. As Brian Williams reminded the audience, it was those states that would decide the election. After he and Tom Brokaw chatted some more, they went to commercial, and then to a local news update.

And then it happened.

The election of Barack Obama is an event of such significance that, as one TV commentator put it late Tuesday night, it begs the question: Where were you when you heard the

news? Well, here's where I was: Having already gotten a fairly good idea how the local races were shaping up, I left the TV on during the local news update and went into the next room to use the computer for a few moments. I could still hear the TV, though. And they were just about to do the local weather forecast when Keisha Grant, the Channel 30 anchorwoman, said, "Right now, we're going to send you back to NBC in New York, where history has just been made." I jumped up from my computer chair and raced into the living room. There, on the screen, were the words "Projected Winner," with Obama's face underneath them. It was 11 p.m., and NBC had just called the presidential election for Barack Obama.

I sat on my couch watching, in wonder, for more than an hour. I thought John McCain gave a very, very nice and gracious concession speech. I liked that, whenever the crowd would boo (as they did when he'd mention Obama's name), McCain would try to quiet them down. Now was not the time for boos; now was not the time for division. McCain knows this and, more importantly, he said it too. It was just a classy speech.

And Obama's speech, delivered a little after midnight, was, of course, great. It was both touching and inspiring. He's such a great public speaker, and it'll mark such a contrast from George W. Bush.

So, when all was said and done, it turns out I had nothing to worry about. Obama wound up with 349 electoral votes to McCain's 173. He also won the popular vote by a decent margin too; as of Wednesday night, he had 63.9 million votes compared to McCain's 56.4 million (all but 2 percent of the voting precincts had reported, hence the "as of Wednesday night" qualifier). Not a crushing blow by any stretch, but it was decisive, and after 2004 and (especially) 2000, I think the country really needed that.

Tuesday has accurately been described as an historical night for the country. The phrase "history-making event" gets thrown about perhaps a little too much these days, but in this case it's of course absolutely true. We just elected our first black President. But it was also a history-making event for yours truly. This was the third time I've voted in a Presidential race, and the guy I voted for finally won (I went with Gore in 2000 and Kerry in 2004). So, thanks, America, for improving my Presidential Election Batting Average. I'm now hitting a solid .333. And congratulations, Barack Obama, for a hard-fought and well-deserved victory.

President Barack Obama.

It just sounds so good.

Like Rest of State, Andover Goes With Obama

by Sarah McCoy

A steady stream of voters turned out in Andover to cast their ballots in Tuesday's historic election, which featured an African-American Presidential candidate on one side and a female Vice Presidential candidate on the other.

And like virtually every other town in Connecticut, Andover gave its support to Barack Obama.

According to Associated Press results, Obama won 140 of the 169 towns in Connecticut and easily captured the state's seven electoral college votes. Across the state Obama received 60 percent of the popular vote, Republican candidate John McCain received 39 percent, and Independent candidate Ralph Nader received 1 percent.

In Andover, these numbers stayed virtually the same with Obama getting 58 percent of the votes, McCain 40 percent and Nader 2 percent.

Eighty-four percent of the town's registered voters exercised their right to vote Tuesday. This was down slightly from 2004, when the town saw an 85 percent voter turnout. Despite the high number of voters, Assistant Town Clerk Mikki Bush said voters were never waiting very long to cast their ballot. "We had a steady stream the entire day," she said. "It was nice."

Democratic Town Committee Chair Donald Keener said a group of about a half-dozen Democrats spent the evening at the home of Democratic Board of Finance member Marie Burbank and Republican First Selectman Bob Burbank. There the group – sans Bob Burbank

– made calls to registered Democrats, urging them to head out to the polls if they hadn't done so already.

"It was a great night. It was as expected but there's always an anxiousness that what is expected won't come to be," Keener said. "I don't think Bob was too thrilled with having a bunch of happy Democrats in his house though."

With the Democrats in control of Washington D.C. now, Keener said he expects to see better health care, an end to the war, and more respect for our country in the eyes of foreign countries. "It's an exciting time in our country's history," he said.

Republican Town Committee chair Bob Cararra did not return calls from the *Rivereast* for comment.

Andover residents also reelected Republican Pam Sawyer as State Representative and Democrat Edith Prague as State Senator. The two were running unopposed.

On Question 1, which asked voters if they wanted a Constitutional Convention, Andover said no by a count of 1,075 to 612. Voters across the state agreed, voting down the measure by a margin of 59 percent to 41 percent.

Andover, however, disagreed with the majority of the state on Question 2, whether 17 year-olds should be allowed to participate in the primary process if they will be old enough to vote by Election Day. Connecticut voters said yes by almost a 2-to-1 margin. Andover said 'no' by a count of 906 to 553.

Courtney Easily Wins Another Term

by Sarah McCoy

U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney won another term in Washington Tuesday – and this time his victory came in convincing fashion.

Courtney, a Democrat, captured the popular vote in all 65 towns that comprise Connecticut's 2nd District and will continue to serve as Congressman for the region. (Included among Courtney's towns are Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, Colchester, Salem and East Hampton.)

"It was a nice win," Courtney said. "It certainly made for a shorter night than in 2006."

Two years ago, Courtney ran against three-term Republican incumbent Rob Simmons, and won by a mere 83 votes. It was the closest margin of victory in the nation.

This year Courtney beat Republican challenger Sean Sullivan handily, by a count of 210,786 to 104,029. Green Party candidate Scott Deshefy received 6,895 votes. "There is no questions people are frustrated with where our country is economically and with these two wars," Courtney said. "These election results show that people believe I'm on their side."

Courtney celebrated in New London Tuesday night, and will head to Washington D.C. within the next few days. The newly-reelected Courtney said he's eager to get back to work. He'll begin next week as he accompanies a New London family to Arlington National Cemetery for a long-denied honor.

Cornelius Charlton, an African-American soldier in the Korean War and recipient of both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor, led three charges up Hill 543 near Chipo-ri before dying in combat on June 2, 1952. Somehow Charlton's body never ended up at Arlington – some have suggested due to race reasons – but next week that will change.

Through Courtney's support and the support of other veterans, Charlton's family will have

his body transferred to Arlington.

After that ceremony, which will be held Nov. 12, Courtney's schedule is up in the air. He said Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has hinted at a possible lame duck Congressional session the week of Nov. 17. "Right now the economy is 1, 2 and 3 on everyone's list of priorities," Courtney said. "We've got to get a moving on a new stimulus package. If we wait until the new administration is settled it will be too late."

On the flip side, Sean Sullivan, the Naval Base Commanding Officer turned attorney turned Congressional candidate, is taking things one day at a time and considering his future options. "It's not what I had hoped for but the sun is up this morning and life goes on," he said Wednesday morning.

"Clearly the people voiced their opinions that they support the policies espoused by the other side of the political aisle," Sullivan said. "When one party gets clobbered across the board it stops being about the individual candidates but something larger."

Courtney agreed, saying that he benefited from the high number of voters that came out to support Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama. "It was certainly a help but I think the results are a reflection of our efforts to reach out to every community and the connections we have with every town in the 2nd [Congressional District]," Courtney said.

In the coming months, Courtney said, he plans to hold seminars and roundtable discussions for municipalities and non-profit organizations interested in grant writing and finding grant opportunities. "We need to find alternative sources of funding to support our towns," he said.

More information on this will be forthcoming through Courtney's website, www.joecourtney.com.

Heavy Turnout in Hebron on Election Day

by Sarah McCoy

Like every other small town in America, voters poured into Hebron Elementary School Tuesday to participate in the 2008 election. And, like so many other towns across the Connecticut and the United States as a whole, Hebron formally voiced their support for Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

According to reports published by the Associated Press Obama won the 2008 election with 349 electoral votes compared with 147 for McCain. Obama also won the popular vote with over 62.6 million votes compared with 55.5 million for McCain. Obama will take office officially on January 20, 2009 on Inauguration Day.

In Hebron voters also showed their support for Obama. He and Vice Presidential candidate Joe Biden received 2,944 votes, or 56 percent of the votes cast in Hebron. McCain and Sarah Palin received 2,280 votes, or 43 percent. The remaining 78 votes went to independent candidate Ralph Nader and his running mate Matt Gonzalez.

The historic election brought an unprecedented amount of voters out to the polls. In Hebron voters lined up by the hundreds to cast their ballot. By 5:45 a.m., the parking lot at HES was near capacity and by 9 a.m. almost 1,400 votes had been cast which represents 22 percent of town voters. When the polls closed, 5,301 of 6,390 voters had exercised their right to vote. The 83.5 percent turnout is the highest election turnout in Hebron in over 20 years.

"I'm certainly pleased with the outcome and very pleased with the citizen participation," Democratic Town Committee chair Bill Rudis said late Tuesday night. "I think voters responded to the concerns of our nation, our state, and our town."

Like New England as a whole, Hebron has traditionally voted Democratic in Presidential elections. In the last five Presidential elections, in fact, the town has gone Democratic.

On the national scene, Republicans were not expected to fair well due to the lack of support for now-lame duck President George W. Bush. Hebron Republican Town Committee Chair Donna McCalla was hoping things wouldn't be as bad as expected, "but," she said, "they were pretty much as bad as they could get."

"You hope voters look at the candidates on their own merits but it seems these election results were written in the stars," she said. "If you had an 'R' next to your name it seems you were fighting an unwinnable battle."

Statewide, Democratic Congressmen Joe Courtney, John Larson, Rosa DeLauro and Chris Murphy all ran successful re-election bids, while Democrat Jim Himes unseated 21-year incumbent Chris Shays in Connecticut's Fourth District. For the first time since the GOP formed in 1854, Connecticut will be without a Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The only Republican Hebron residents did support was State Representative Pam Sawyer. She and incumbent State Senator Edith Prague will continue to serve, as they both ran unopposed.

As a state, Connecticut voters opted not to form a Constitutional Convention. Hebron residents felt the same. They voted against Question 1 by a count of 1,335 to 731. Question 2, which asked whether 17-year-olds should be able to participate in the primary elections if they are going to be old enough to vote in the election, passed soundly both in Hebron and Connecticut as a whole.

East Hampton Man Gets Six Years For Possessing Child Porn

A local man was sentenced to six years in prison this week after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography.

Jeffrey Hall, 39, of Mott Hill Road, was sentenced Tuesday by Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to 72 months of imprisonment, followed by 10 years of supervised release, for possession of child pornography, Nora R. Dannehy, acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, said in a press release.

Hall pled guilty to the offense on March 13, the press release said.

According to documents filed with the court and statements made in court, on Oct. 3, 2006, special agents of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement executed a search warrant at Hall's residence, as part of a nationwide investigation known as Operation Emissary. The investigation focused on the operation of a pay-to-view website featuring thousands of photographs and movies depicting child pornography, the press release said. Through court authorized searches of computer servers hosting the website, court-authorized monitoring of e-mail accounts used to manage that website, and other investigative techniques, agents gathered extensive information regarding the

operation of the website, including information identifying many of its customers, the press release said.

After the investigation revealed that Hall had purchased a subscription to the website and used his home computer to access its illegal images and movies, agents obtained a warrant to search his home, the press release said. During the search, law enforcement officers seized Hall's home computer and hard drives, and analysis revealed the existence of more than 600 images of child pornography, including photographs of children under the age of 12 engaged in sexually explicit conduct and photographs depicting violent or sadistic sexual conduct involving minors.

This investigation was conducted by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James Smart.

According to Dannehy, this prosecution is part of the United States Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Initiative, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. For more information about the initiative, visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov. And to report cases of child exploitation, visit www.cybertipline.com.

Portland Police News

10/27 — Joseph Pelkey, 46, of 208 Main St., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, third-degree criminal mischief, reckless endangerment and breach of peace, Portland Police said.

10/28 — Adam Wood, 23, of 83 Bayberry Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with improper use of motor vehicle plate and unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

10/30 — Eric Lachappelle, 23, of 1113 Portland-Cobalt Rd., was charged with violation of protective order, third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

Another Successful Scarecrow Contest Wraps Up in Colchester

by Hannah Charry

The ninth annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest recently wrapped up, and the event evoked some political themes this year.

The contest, held on the Town Green, was organized by the Colchester Business Association (CBA) and the Parks and Recreation Department. The submission deadline for entries was Oct. 10, voting occurred from Oct. 12-24, and the announcement of winners was Oct. 24.

The purpose of the annual event is to promote and encourage community spirit in Colchester.

"I think it's a fun community event and it's designed to help celebrate autumn with the community and bring together different groups," Chi Labossiere, the CBA's Media Coordinator and owner of the event planning firm Chi Consulting LLC, said. "We basically do it as a service to the town."

There were four categories, with gift certificates awarded for each category: Individual/Family, Youth Group, Business and Adult Organization. Anyone could enter the contest — there were no limitations — and the entry fee was \$10 per scene. Entry photos are now displayed on the CBA website, www.cba.biz.

Debi Rushford's hair salon Shattered Endz on 75 Norwich Ave. won first prize for her scene "A Hairy Situation." The salon also won first place in last year's contest. Rushford, along with employees Cindy Klaja and Vickie Miorelli, organized a politically-themed scene with scarecrow representations of themselves giving haircuts to Senator John McCain and Senator Barack Obama. The scene also depicted Miorelli giving them both a pedicure. Opposite the candidates were mirrors that read on

the back "Time for a Change." A George Bush scarecrow swept errant hair off the floor and wore a nametag that voted him "Number One Mess Maker."

"We just wanted to do something a little humorous," Rushford said. She said passerby probably "thought it was good and pretty funny."

Rushford, Klaja and Miorelli spent a few days developing the idea, and went to Goodwill to buy suits and ties for the politicians. They worked on their scene during evenings after work in time for the CBA's kick-off party on Oct. 10 on the Town Green. The kick-off allowed for contestants to set up their scenes and provided goody bags for children.

Winning first prize in the Youth Group category was the Bacon Academy Choir's entry "Hay-con Academy Choir." Friends of Cragin Library's entry, "Scary Story Time," took first prize in the Adult Organization category and, for the Individual/Family category, the Brennan family took first prize with an entry titled "Kids Have Strokes Too! Scaring Up Awareness."

"We did the contest in support of the CBA, also to put our name out there and also because the public can go and vote," Rushford said. Also, she added, "we did it for the kids. It was a really fun event that pulls the community together because they make the decision as a whole."

Jack Faski, president of the CBA and owner of Skyview Realty on 35 Hayward Ave., said events such as the scarecrow contest, 57 Fest, an annual tag sale, and business showcase are beneficial for all.

"Our slogan is 'Shop Colchester First' so that's what we try to help people understand,"



Another successful Scarecrow Decorating Contest recently drew to a close. Among the winners was this piece, "A Hairy Situation," which was put up by Debi Rushford's hair salon Shattered Endz. The display won first prize in the Business category.

Faski said. "We want them to look at what the town has to offer by supporting the community and dealing with local businesses first."

Faski said he thinks there are many advantages for businesses to join the CBA, including monthly meetings, newsletters, sponsorships

and raffle opportunities to help self-promotion. "A lot of these smaller businesses are able to get more leverage by joining," he said. There are already 174 businesses that have opted into the association.

Heavy Turnout in Colchester as Voters Flock to Polls

by Hannah Charry

Town officials reported record turnout, and a relatively painless voting process, as residents cast their ballots on Election Day.

By 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 50 percent of all 9,904 registered voters had cast ballots, according to the Town Clerk's office. By the end of the night, 7,562 residents — 76 percent of those registered — had voted and 681 provisional votes — absentee, presidential, and overseas ballots — were recorded.

For the 33rd District State Senate race, incumbent Democrat Eileen M. Daily won reelection, collecting 30,282 votes in the 12 towns the district covers. This will be her ninth Senate term. In Colchester, Daily received 4,681 votes, while her opponent, Republican Vincent A. Pacileo III, collected 2,595 votes. Green Party candidate Colin D. Bennett received 302 votes.

State Representative Linda Orange, a Democrat, ran unopposed for reelection to the 48th District, which covers Colchester and East Haddam. She received 5,682 votes in town.

The three polling locations in Colchester were Town Hall for District 1, The Assemblies of God Hall for District 2 and Bacon Academy for District 3. Moderator Stan Soby said he was

prematurely concerned about long lines, but the day ran smoothly and he didn't hear any complaints.

"There was a steady stream throughout the day," he said, "but we had to do some trouble shooting at certain points, with people who came in and were surprised by the new voting system instead of the levers, or people who needed special assistance such as the visually impaired."

Town Clerk Nancy Bray said her office registered 200 new voters per week in the last month, which gave her a good indication of the large final tallies on Election Day. By comparison, last year the town averaged approximately 60 new voters per week in the final stretch. When asked how she handled the extra traffic coming in and out of the office, Bray said she has been depending on "a lot of coffee and chocolate."

Voters both young and old felt that the national election took center stage, with less knowledge expressed regarding the local races. The Town Clerk's office reported that 3,355 Colchester voters went for the McCain/Palin ticket, while 4,712 chose Obama/Biden.

Katelyn Baker was one of the many new voters who turned out. Baker turned 18 this past

August. She said she was "really excited. I'm glad I finally have the right to say my point of view." She said she was undecided up to the day before the election. She watched various news stations and researched the latest information on the candidates on the Internet. The war in Iraq was a big issue she took into consideration, before making her decision to support Obama.

"I'm sure Obama wants to get the troops out of Iraq after 16 months and McCain wants us to stay there," Baker said. "I think we need to get out of there and stop wasting lives and money."

Baker, a graduate of Bacon Academy, is currently studying to be a medical assistant at Lincoln Technical Institute in New Britain. She said her classmates there span a wide age group, from peers to 40-year olds, but they found a common denominator in that all were looking for a change with this election.

Now that she's involved with the political process, Baker said, "I'll definitely follow up more with news online than I did before."

Tom Garrity, 50, is a registered Democrat but voted for McCain because, he said, McCain was "most concerned about local Gulf and Vietnam veterans. We haven't had a good voice to

advocate for some of the benefits these guys need. We need somebody who's been there and appreciates what veterans have done." Garrity is a Navy veteran and was stationed for four years on a ship on the West Coast during the Gulf War.

Garrity said he was "pretty excited about this election because it's a chance to voice your political opinions in an important time."

Bob Hodge, 51, saw a non-stop flow of voters outside from 5:45 a.m. to the close of polls at 8 p.m. He stood in front of Town Hall all day to promote Obama's candidacy with rally signs. Hodge, the husband of First Selectman Linda Hodge, has lived in town most of his life. He said he was supporting Obama because he feels it's important "having a national leader that can relate to international leaders in a more proactive stance, rather than offensive. The importance of Barack is that in matters where he may not be experienced, he would be smart enough to surround himself with people who can help him make those right decisions."

As for the heavy voter turnout, Hodge said, "The only comparison I can make is with Ronald Regan's election [but] I haven't really seen anything like this in my voting lifetime."

Colchester Police News

10/12- Heather Kinney, of 124 Westerly Ter., was charged with DUI and an improper turn, State Police said.

10/15- David McDaniel, 33, of 412 Norwich Ave., Taftville, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

10/16-Shane Keeney, 41, of 79 Elmwood Heights, Colchester turned himself in on charges of breach of peace and criminal mischief charges, State Police said.

10/17- Diane Putnam, 48, of 48 North Moodus Rd., Moodus, was charged with DUI, State Police said.

10/20-Rebecca A. Hunt, 23, of 251 Lebanon Ave., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/23- Joshua F. Warfield, of 14 Babcock Rd., Windham, was charged with third-degree burglary and third-degree larceny, State Police said.

10/25- Jeffery R. Anderson, 24, 106 Prospect St., Norwich turned himself in on charges of operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor, risk of injury to a minor, and second-degree reckless endangerment.

10/27- Jorge Vazquez, 29, of 72 Chapman

St., Windham was arrested and found after fleeing the scene after striking a DEP State Officer's vehicle after he had illegally parked an ATV, State Police said.

10/27- Brett E. Rushford, 18, was charged with drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, narcotics and less than four ounces of marijuana, state police said.

10/27- Robert Stowe of 9 Fawn Hill Rd., Beacon Falls, turned himself in on a charge of third-degree larceny, State Police said.

10/27- Frederick Christopher Walker, 43, of 134 Bishop Ln., Madison, was charged with first-degree larceny, State Police said.

10/27- Shyam A. Kulkani, 21, of 105 Deer Run Dr., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/27- Michael Reavey, 22, of 164 Deer Run Rd., was charged with DUI and making an improper turn, State Police said.

11/1- Andy Sarnowski, 61, who police said was homeless, was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/2-Richard Miller of 24 Crouch Rd., Amston, was charged with harassment and criminal violence, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

10/16 — Tiffany Norman, 22, of an unknown address, was arrested for breach of peace and criminal trespass, East Hampton Police said.

10/17 — Shawn McDonald, 18, of 6 Olsen Ave., Portland, was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, police said.

10/25 — Tanya Benoit, 27, of 13 Sherry Dr., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

10/25 — George A. Graham, 50, of 383 Moodus Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and failure to drive right, police said.

10/26 — Tanya Erikson, 21, of 139 North Main St., Marlborough, was issued a ticket for

operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

10/27 — Sarah C. Engel, 17, of 11 Markham Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

10/28 — Sheryl L. Spaulding, 44, of 274 Moodus Rd., Middle Haddam, was issued a ticket for failure to use child restraint for a child 6 or under or weighing less than 60 lbs., police said.

10/29 — Christian J. Graff, 44, of 80 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a control signal and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

Like Other Towns, Marlborough Goes to the Democrats

by Hannah Charry

Democrat candidates won across the board in Marlborough on Election Day – including State Senator Mary Ann Handley, who topped her Republican challenger, David Blackwell.

Handley was running for reelection to her Fourth District seat; the district includes Marlborough, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester. In Marlborough, Handley received 1,699 votes while Blackwell received 1,481. Across the four towns in the district, Handley collected 28,292 votes, compared to Blackwell's 20,271.

"Obviously we're disappointed by the results for the Republican candidates," Republican Town Committee Chair Ken Hjulstrom said. "Usually, with this current financial situation, it'll reflect poorly on whatever party that's in the office at the moment. I think that reflected a lot on the Republican candidates in spite their personal performance."

Of the 4,364 registered voters in town, 3,658 cast ballots, for an 84 percent turnout. Moderator Maddie Yardis has worked town elections before, but never a Presidential election – and she noted the difference.

"Normally with local elections we're lucky if we have 2000 voters, but [as of 5 p.m.], we were at 3,200," Yardis said. "Of course we're seeing at the local level something that's happening in all states: 18-23 year olds voting in numbers we haven't seen before."

This year's election sported six new voting machines at the town's polling location, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School. And while there was a heavy traffic flow in the morning, voters didn't have to wait any more than 10 minutes in line, Yardis said. Yardis said there were 80 spoiled ballots, due to such occurrences as people folding the ballot before they fed into the electronic voting machine and voting for two people for the same office; the people who did this did get a chance to vote again, Yardis said. Yardis also said, there were people who wanted to get a receipt that their vote had counted.

"It's been very busy and continuous but we've had very little backups," Carlson said Tuesday. "We have about 50 percent of the population using this machine for the first time and they're starting to get used to it."

Ruth Kelley, Deputy Registrar, said the day had been "very smooth with no complaints."

Democratic Town Committee chair Shawn Fisher stood outside the polling location from 5:30 a.m. until the 8 p.m. close. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," he said Tuesday. "It's a real privilege to be here and see our community make a statement."

He said he felt it was important to be out there to greet neighbors, answer questions and make sure there wasn't confusion over the voting process.

"This election in part has captured the imagination of the nation, the momentum created by the need for change has motivated people to come out and register and vote," Fisher said. "This feels more like a movement than an election. People who are behind Barack Obama are part of something that is bigger than electing a president. People are feeling positive."

Of the state senate race, he said, "I'm feeling it's a competitive race where, unlike the national [Presidential] candidates, both have been keeping to the issues and have engaged in respectful debate with one another. It was a debate people could be proud of."

As for that Presidential race, the Barack Obama/Joe Biden ticket won, receiving 2,071 votes in town. The John McCain/Sarah Palin ticket collected 1,594 local votes.

Fisher said he has seen an awakening of interest in politics this past year. "There's real excitement that we've been able to move the town and register more Democrats." Earlier on Election Day, Fisher took a picture of a local 16-year-old boy next to an Obama poster. The boy was really interested asked how he could be more involved in politics; Fisher said he thought this was rare for a teenager.

Cathy Gaudinski, the town's Board of Finance chair and a member of the Republican Town Committee, stood outside with Fisher for the duration of the day. She said she hoped to

see Blackwell win because "he's had experience before in the House of Representatives. Blackwell is energetic and has good ideas."

As for Blackwell, he said Thursday, "I can honestly say that I had a fun time during this campaign meeting so many people."

Blackwell noted that Tuesday was tough for Republicans across the country.

"I told everybody on the night of the election that I really ran against Barack Obama," he said. "I think we saw all across Connecticut, New England, across the United States that it was not a night for Republicans."

While he lost, Blackwell said "it appears that we ran well and it appears that the message that I was articulating resonated with voters. Marlborough was close, Bolton was close, Glastonbury also showed good numbers. It was harder in my own hometown of Manchester which is so heavily Democratic."

Blackwell also congratulated Handley for winning the election, and added, "I truly enjoyed running this race. I had fun doing it and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many people and walking through the towns. I think I now know Marlborough better than some of the residents."

Blackwell said he has "no plans right now" to run for office again.

Handley did not return calls for comment.

Daily Gets Ninth Term in Hartford

by Michael McCoy

Along with many other Democrats across the state and country, Eileen Daily had a good day Tuesday, as she easily earned her ninth term on the state senate in the 33rd District.

The district covers 12 towns, including Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

All told, Daily got 60 percent of the vote. Republican challenger Vin Pacileo took 35 percent, while Green Party candidate Colin Bennett received 6 percent.

In East Hampton, the numbers were similar, as Daily got 3,809 votes, Pacileo got 2,263 and Bennett got 275. In Portland, the vote went 2,797 for Daily, 1,485 for Pacileo and 128 for Bennett. In Colchester, 4,681 votes were cast for Daily, 2,595 for Pacileo and 302 for Bennett.

Daily said she never really goes into an election with any certain expectations, but said, "I always work as hard as I can and hope for a win."

Daily started her day at 6 a.m. in her hometown of Westbrook. She then proceeded to

visit every one of the 15 other towns in her district, a feat she said she accomplishes every Election Day. She finished the long day in Deep River.

When asked, if she voted first thing when she arrived at Westbrook's polling place, she said, "You bet!" before laughing, "I don't mean to sound like Sarah Palin."

When asked about the Democrats success at large Daily said, "I think that serves as an incredibly clear indicator and mandate. People are so hungry for a change. They're so fed up with the administration they had, and it was pretty much a sweep."

However, Daily also said the state lost "some very good legislators" in the Democratic knockout. She singled out state representative Ray Kalinowski, a GOP incumbent who lost the 100th District by just over 300 votes on Tuesday. "He's an excellent legislator," Daily said, and added that his loss does not reflect a misstep on his part.

Though legislators will reconvene in Hartford in January, Governor Rell has called a special session to address the anticipated state deficit of more than \$300 million. However,

Daily said that fiscal committee chairs, such as herself (Finance, Revenue and Bonding) have been meeting weekly.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, the Office of Policy and Management will issue a formal report concerning the deficit, though the reported number will still be a mere forecast. "At all times, we're working from estimates," Daily said, and added that it was not until this past August that the state realized they had a \$70 million surplus on their hands.

As for Pacileo, he laughed Thursday morning that he was "making up or two or three months of lost sleep."

He also admitted, "Well, of course I'm disappointed." He said he felt he put his best foot forward and presented fresh ideas and challenges to the incumbent. "When people don't accept that, it's disappointing," he said.

"We ran what I thought was a positive and issue-oriented campaign," he added, and chalked some of his loss up to the national political landscape, figuring, "That's tough to overcome."

"All that momentum at the top of the ticket influenced my race as well," he said. "It was

quite the tide, so to speak."

Tuesday night, as votes were being tabulated, Pacileo found himself at La Vita Gustosa in East Haddam with other area Republicans. Once his defeat seemed unavoidable, he decided to give Daily a congratulatory call. However, since Daily was just across the street at the Gelston House, he figured a call made little sense. So, he and his wife Laura simply walked across the street to concede. He figured, "She earned it, and I need to acknowledge that."

"She was gracious enough to let me crash their party," Pacileo quipped.

Despite the defeat, Pacileo held, "It was a wonderful experience. The people of the 33rd [District] are wonderful, win or lose."

So now it's back to the Essex Board of Selectmen for Pacileo; his term on that boards runs through November 2009.

Though he said he promised to run for reelection should he have won Tuesday, when Pacileo was asked if he was considering a future state race, he remarked, "I don't have a clear enough head right now to make that kind of decision."

Long Lines for Portland Voters

by Michael McCoy

Portland voters had plenty of things to think about Tuesday – and plenty of time to think about them, as there were lines at the polls the entire day.

Like other towns, polls opened at 6 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m. According to Scott Adamsons, Republican candidate for state representative, one woman was in line as early as 5:30 a.m. Adamsons, who arrived at around the same time, said the woman worked for a dental office and could not be late. By the time the polls opened, a legitimate line had formed; First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield estimated there were two dozen people in line. There was not a break for the entire day.

Bransfield called the turnout a success and figured the nice weather “helped tremendously.” In fact, Bransfield wondered what would have happened had it been raining, as so many voters had to wait outside Portland Library, the sole voting location in town.

“I’ve never seen so many people,” Bransfield said.

Roselani Ferguson was the day’s election moderator. Though she reported no major problems, she said some voters were disgruntled with the wait, and some people also suggested that an additional or alternative polling place be explored. In fact, just as Ferguson was explaining this Tuesday, one child mumbled to his mother, “I don’t want to wait all day.”

Bransfield said the town explored the option of an additional or alternative voting location, but said there was not ample time to pass the idea through the proper state channels in time for the election. She said the town would continue to look into the prospect of adding another polling location or simply moving it to the high school. But, she said, having voting at the high school would complicate the issue further, since Portland would not only need to clear it with the state but make the decision before the academic calendar is generated, so the day could be scheduled off for students.

Nevertheless, Bransfield said Wednesday that she would bring the matter up to the Secretary of State, and figured, “If it’s easier for people to vote, I’m all for it.” However, she noted that if the town decided to have two polling places, this would cost more money, because “two sets of everything” would be necessary.

However, she also noted a silver lining to the wait: “It gives neighbors the chance to stand and talk to one another.”

Bransfield commended the police department and the town’s public works department on a job well done, making sure all the logistics, such as directing traffic, went off without a hitch. There were no reported safety issues.

A total of 35 Portland residents helped work the polls Tuesday. One of them was Democratic Registrar of Voters Sandy Boisselle. While scampering around the Mary Flood room, she quipped, “Make sure you use the word ‘zoo’ in [this story.]”

The only incident Ferguson reported was that a number of voters felt intimidated by advocates of one party approaching them in line. This occurred very early in the day, and though Ferguson said it was not illegal for the advocates to do so (party advocates aren’t allowed to speak to voters once they are within 70 feet of a voting location; the line parts of the day Tuesday stretched well beyond 70 feet), she still asked them to stop nonetheless, and the matter did not come up again.

Ferguson said the steady line of voters was “incredible.” But, she said, there were no glitches with the new electronic voting machines, and added, “Portland has had a fantastic day!”

Once the votes were tallied, 5,170 out of

6,298 eligible voters showed up in Portland, yielding an 82.1 percent voter turnout. This marks a stark difference from last year’s 35 percent. (It should be noted that 2007 did not have a monumental presidential race to hang its hat on.)

Adamsons, who split his time Tuesday between Portland and Cromwell, said he was happy to see everyone come out vote. Late in the afternoon, he had discussion with Carl Fitzgibbons, a 30-year resident who helped man the Democrats’ tent.

“I don’t ever remember seeing anything like this,” Fitzgibbons said of the impressive line. (Around 4 p.m., the line stretched along the library parking lot to the playscape behind the police station, nearly spilling into the senior center parking lot.)

But they waited none the less. “God bless ‘em; it’s their right,” Fitzgibbons said. A Navy veteran, Fitzgibbons added, “This is why people served and did all the things they did.”

Speaking of Adamsons, his race was one of the big ones in Portland, as he calls the town home. In his first state race, he squared off against incumbent Jim O’Rourke, who has represented the 32nd Assembly District since 1991.

Adamsons said he felt the time was ripe for a change in Hartford; but in the end, he lost, 8,018 to 3,900, bringing in 33 percent of the vote to O’Rourke’s 67 percent statewide. (The 32nd district encompasses Portland, Cromwell and a section of Middletown.) When isolating Portland, the numbers are almost identical, with O’Rourke earning 3,005 to Adamsons’ 1500.

“I think the coattails of Obama are quite long,” Adamsons said Wednesday, figuring that many people voted along party lines. Adamsons also lamented the defeat of Republican Congressman Chris Shays by Democrat Jim Himes, leaving New England with no GOP representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

However, Adamsons said, “I think that, now that we have a new President, that the people need to support their president. Hopefully, he’ll take a look at some of the conservative policies as well.”

As for his own race, Adamsons said, “I think I had a pretty good showing.” He added, “I hope Mr. O’Rourke got the message that people don’t want to see any more state spending.”

When asked what he learned in his first state campaign, Adamsons said he wish he would have started fundraising earlier. Adamsons explained that he waited until officially receiving the Republican nomination. Instead, “You have to fund raise as soon as you think about running.”

Mentioning specifics such as going to door-to-door and designing advertisements, he remarked on the campaign, “I can say it was a lot of fun.” As for future bids for state office, Adamsons said, “If the party wants me to run, I will talk to my family and consider it.”

Adamsons also echoed the sentiments are many others, saying, “I think we need to look at a different polling place.”

“It’s one of my biggest victories,” O’Rourke said. He added that, while he “felt confident” going into Election Day, “I was outspent in the race, and that’s never happened before.”

O’Rourke said he wants “to thank the people of Portland especially” and said the town’s support “means a lot to me. I’m looking forward to the next few years.”

O’Rourke also seemed quite pleased with the larger political picture that emerged Tuesday evening. “Well, it’s a tremendous result,” he said. “We’re all very happy to get a new President and new Vice President.” He also pointed out that he had “a fairly narrow majority” at



Some voters faced quite a wait when they went to vote Tuesday in Portland. Lines stretched through the library parking lot to the playscape near the police station.

the state house when he started in 1991, but the number has grown steadily since.

“We have a deep bench,” O’Rourke said of active Democratic Nutmeggers.

Maudine Martin, a 37-year resident of town, said Tuesday she voted right along the Democratic party lines. She voiced a special affinity for Barack Obama and John Larson, remarking on the former, “I believe in his values.” As for the referendum question on whether the state should hold a Constitutional Convention, she said she voted ‘yes,’ explaining, “I think it should be amended; it’s time that everybody should have a choice.”

Despite the intimidating line, Martin said, “The wait wasn’t bad. I’m glad to see so many people casting votes.” She continued, “Today is a history-making today. [Waiting in line is] not a bother at all.”

Due to events the nation is currently dealing with, resident Cheri Williams said she feels “sorry for the kids of tomorrow.” She proposed, “We need a change,” noting her vote for Obama.

Jessica Grzegorek said she voted for Obama “for many, many reasons,” which included his views on education and health care. She also voted for Larson “because he’s always been there.”

As for the Constitutional Convention, she said she voted ‘no’ “because of my teachers’ union,” explaining that an affirmative vote could result in eliminating binding arbitration. She also said she supported gay marriage.

One voter, who did not wish to be named, simply said, “How did I vote? Reluctantly.”

Portland’s Clean Energy Task Force had a tent set up all day sharing information and soliciting sign-ups for attaining electricity through renewable sources. Their chairman, Andy Bauer, speaking for himself, said he voted for Obama. “He has a clean energy plan that’s going in the exact direction that we need,” Bauer said. He also voiced his support for Jim O’Rourke, saying, “He’s been ahead of the curve in energy efficiency.”

Bauer voted no for the Convention and yes for the two water-related referendum questions. On the latter, he commented, “I have faith in the people who studied these issues... They put in the time; I haven’t.”

Those water questions passed fairly easily.

The first, passed by a 2,652-1,740 vote, involved spending \$1.025 million on water storage tank improvements, while the other, which was approved by a 2,791-1,540 vote, was to spend \$816,000 to replace an old water main nearly a mile long.

Bransfield said she was unsure how residents would vote on the water issues, but she was clearly pleased with the outcome, and said both of the water issues would go before the Board of Selectmen and the Water and Sewer Commission soon. The next step is to hire an architect to design the plans. Furthermore, the improvements will be paid for with the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which provides low interest loans to municipalities for such projects. To this end, Bransfield said she contacted the state’s Department of Public Health this week.

Public Works Director Rick Kelsey said he was confident the water questions would pass. According to Kelsey, Chester-based Nathan Jacobson & Associates, the town’s water engineer, will do the design work on both projects over the course of the next six months. In fact, Kelsey hoped both projects would happen pretty much in tandem from start to finish, though he said it was highly unlikely that the same contractor would perform construction on the water main and storage tank projects. Kelsey estimated that the projects would go out to bid in late spring and enter the construction phase in summer.

On the state questions, Portland voters agreed with the rest of the state. In town, the call for a Constitutional Convention was denied 2,882-1,584. Portland also backed allowing 17-year-olds to vote in a primary when they would be 18 by the general election 2,839-1,596.

Another state trend Portland followed was John Larson’s trouncing of the competition in the 1st U.S. Congressional District. Across the district, Larson, a Democrat, took 67 percent of the vote, Republican Joe Visconti, took 29 percent and Green Party candidate Stephen Fournier received three percent of the vote. In Portland, the votes ran 2,965-1,343-113.

As for the historic presidential election, Portland followed suit with the nation. Obama garnered 2,913 votes locally, while McCain collected 1,840. Ralph Nader received 59 votes.

Big Turnout for Belltown Voters

by Michael McCoy

Like in other towns across the country, voters came out in droves to vote on Election Day in East Hampton, where the high school gymnasium was opened from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Tuesday, State Representative Gail Hamm earned her sixth term as state representative of the 34th District, which includes East Hampton and a portion of Middletown. The race was not terribly close, though it was tighter than many of the state's Democratic surges at the state and national level.

Overall, Hamm, a Democrat, defeated Republican David Bauer by a vote of 5,913-4,031, giving her 59 percent of the vote. In East Hampton, she won by a count of 3,538-2,928, giving her 55 percent of Belltown's vote.

"It was a huge win," Hamm said Wednesday. She partially explained the victory by saying, "I'm the kind of candidate who works hard every year." However, she seemed to take nothing for granted, adding, "I never know till the votes are counted."

Hamm said, the state representatives would assemble this week to elect leadership, and will go into session in January. However, she added that Governor Reil has called a special session at the end of the month "to help address the deficit."

As for the overwhelming stampede that was the Democratic Party Tuesday night, Hamm said, "It's good to be a Democrat. I'm proud of my country and proud of my state."

She called politics "very cyclical" and added, "I'm very excited."

"We can't do everything of course," Hamm admitted, "but government *can* help."

Bauer called the election results "consistent and very impressive." He said Tuesday was a "tidal wave for one political party," not just for the state but for the nation as well. And, he added, "the Republican brand name has got some real problems because what has happened at the national level."

Bauer went on to call the election "a humbling experience," and, acknowledging his veteran opponent, said, "I do wish Gail Hamm all the best. I don't think the next two years at the state are going to be easy."

Bauer voiced a newfound soft spot for Belltown though, speaking to his door-to-door campaigning. Many familiar with East Hampton's political landscape may have to read this twice, but Bauer called its attitude "kinder and gentler" than Middletown.

"Middletown plays a rougher brand of politics," admitted Bauer, recalling one instance where, "I was chased right off the porch."

However, Bauer seemed ready to make lemons into lemonade, saying he has "the losers' luxury," which allowed him to "sit back and wait to see what happens."

Bauer will continue to sit on Middletown's Common Council.

Upon exiting the town's voting place – the East Hampton High School gym – on Tuesday, resident Lisa Collins revealed that she voted for McCain, and said, "I don't think Obama has enough experience." She continued, "While Sarah Palin wouldn't be my first choice, it's almost the lesser of two evils."

She also voted for David Bauer, saying, "I'm not sure Gail Hamm makes a big difference."

One Obama voter, who didn't want to be named, said he worried that McCain would institute the draft if elected.

On the other hand, Sal Bibisi voted for McCain, explaining that he likes his experience and the fact that he's a veteran. However, he added, "I did mostly Democrat for the other races. I think it's time for a change."

Bibisi said he voted in favor of the Connecticut referendum question that would allow 17-year-olds to vote in a primary, provided they will be 18 by the time of the general election. Bibisi called this one a "no-brainer."

However, he said he voted against the question about whether the state should have a Constitutional Convention, despite being against gay marriage and Catholic. Bibisi said he trusted his politicians more than most, but thought the convention would simply represent a bunch of special interests instead of actual public opinion. Instead, he suggested, "If you talk to [your politicians] you can have them vote your way."

When asked to explain his vote, another McCain supporter, who didn't want to be named, let his young daughter speak, and she responded, "Because old guys are smart."

Another voter, who also didn't want to be named, said he chose Obama "because enough is enough in Iraq," and also praised Obama's positions on health care and education. He said he voted for Hamm due her "devotion to issues involving kids" and for Eileen Daily because, he said, "you got to have people who are advocates for education."

East Hampton voted along with the rest of the state on the two referendum questions. At the state level, 59 percent of voters shot down the Constitutional Convention. In East Hampton, the vote was 3,907-2,329 against the proposal. In Connecticut, 64 percent of voters affirmed 17-year-olds voting in primary elections provided they will be 18 by the general election. Belltown voters agreed, by a 3,997-2,189 tally.

The story was not much different with the presidential election, the presumed reason so many people came out in the first place. In the U.S., Barack Obama received 52 percent of the



Nearly 6,900 voters cast ballots in Tuesday's election. The 81 percent turnout rate was up, albeit slightly, from the 80.4 percent turnout rate in the 2004 election.

vote, while John McCain took 46 percent and third parties received one percent. Of East Hampton voters, 3,839 supported Obama, 2,891 went with McCain and 120 backed Ralph Nader.

Congressman Joe Courtney handily won reelection Tuesday, capturing all 65 towns in the 2nd Congressional District. East Hampton is included among those towns, and in Belltown Courtney received 4,025 votes to Republican Sean Sullivan's 2,278. Green Party candidate Scott Deshefy collected 153 votes.

In addition to waving Republican and Democrat candidates, the East Hampton High School parking lot was also occupied by Chatham Party members petitioning to revisit a fertilizer ordinance the Town Council voted down in May. Around 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Chatham Party chair Kyle Dostaler said he was aiming for 200 signatures for the day. Ultimately, 370 people signed the petition. This puts the total number of people who signed the petition at a little over 1,000, which Dostaler said was the goal.

"People get it; people understand," Dostaler said, who planned to submit the petition to Town Hall very soon.

Republican Town Committee chair David Balthazar was one of 22 poll workers Tuesday. When he arrived at 5:30 a.m., about half a dozen

were already waiting, he said.

Jim Mathias served as election moderator Tuesday and said around 6:30 p.m., "It's been a steady stream all day," though he mentioned that the busiest period was from 6-9 a.m. The lines kept the workers busy enough that Mathias had not voted yet with only around 90 minutes left.

But despite the lines, Mathias said complaints were few, and described East Hampton residents as "very cooperative" and "very patient."

Of the 22 poll volunteers, about five were students from Middlesex Community College, who earned credit for their efforts.

"They've been very helpful," Mathias said. "They've earned their credits."

Another new arrival to East Hampton was the practice of curbside voting. This is available to voters with serious disabilities. It is permissible as long as one Republican and one Democrat deliver the ballot to the voter and then feed it into the machine.

"The people are most appreciative," said Republican Registrar of Voters Margaret Jacobsen.

Out of the town's 8,518 registered voters, 6,898 cast ballots, for an 81 percent turnout. This is just slightly up from the 80.4 percent who showed in 2004 and the 77.3 percent who came out in the dicey 2000 election.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Frederick E. Coleman III

Frederick Eugene Coleman, III, of Macon, GA, formerly of Marlborough, died Thursday, Oct. 30. Memorial services will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 3715 Northside Parkway, 400 Northcreek, Atlanta, GA 30327.

Coleman was born in Lewiston, ME, and raised in Marlborough. He graduated from East Hampton High School in 1952 and received his B.S. in pharmacy from the University of Connecticut in 1957 and his MBA from Auburn University in 1972. Coleman entered the United States Air Force in 1958 and retired as a Colonel in 1984. Following his retirement from the United States Air Force, Mr. Coleman became the Director of Pharmacy at the Medical Center of Central Georgia until his retirement in 1998.

Survivors: wife, Jean J. Coleman of Macon, GA; daughter, Patricia L. Coleman of Windermere, FL; son, Scott F. Coleman of Macon, GA; and sister, Barbara C. Roberts of Marlborough.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Louise C. Nichols.

Hart's Mortuary and Crematory in Macon, GA, has charge of arrangements.

East Hampton

Emma E. Prince

Emma E. (Parsons) Prince, 90, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Edgar Prince, died Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Harrington Court in Colchester, surrounded by her loving family. Born June 26, 1918 in Everett, MA, she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Mae (Sprague) Parsons.

Emma was a graduate of Arlington High School in Arlington, MA, Class of 1938. She had worked in defense factories during WWII. She and her husband Edgar were married Sept. 29, 1945.

She was a member of East Hampton Congregational Church where she taught Sunday School for more than 32 years, a Jr. P.F. advisor for 20 years, team director of Salvation Army for 20 years, a member of Treadway Cavanaugh Post 64 American Legion Auxiliary serving as secretary for 32 years, president and past president and chaplain of Fowler-Dix-Park V.F.W. Auxiliary No. 5095. She was past president and chaplain of Conklin-Sellew Aux. No. 20 Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War, past National Chief of Staff of SOUVCW Aux., past president and chaplain of New England Regional Assoc. of SOUVCW Aux. Emma was also awarded the Citizen of the Year Award by the East Hampton Lions Club in 2000.

Besides her husband Edgar, she is survived by her three sons, Alfred Prince of Colchester, Edgar Prince of Oakdale and Robert Prince of East Hampton; a daughter, Mary Alice Hale of Enfield; two sisters, Edith Parsons and Alice Nichols, both of Arlington, MA; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Robert Parsons and a sister, Lucy Stockman.

A memorial service was held Saturday, Nov. 1, in the East Hampton Congregational Church. Burial at the convenience of the family in the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called Friday, Oct. 31, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Congregational Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Andover

Steven Frances Mosher

Steven Frances Mosher (1950-2008), of 4 Rose Ln., Andover, passed away on Nov. 1 at Windham Memorial Hospital, after a brave battle with throat cancer.

Steven leaves behind his daughter, Alisha Reil, whom he loved and was so proud of: his sister, Nancy Deroche and her husband Gilbert of Benton, ME, a very special aunt, Beverly Mosher of Marlborough, and many nieces and nephews in Maine, Rhode Island, Maryland and Florida.

Steven wishes to thank his longtime good friends and neighbors, Dan Bouchard and Dyann Flanagan, for their consistent help and consideration during this long difficult time, as well as Mary Cella and Laurie Riel. He also wants to thank Ed Kaulback for his friendship, daily visits and his role in leading him to the Lord. He holds his good friend and former boss at M&M Oil Co. in high esteem and thanks him for the many second chances.

Steve's family would like to take this opportunity to thank Windham Hospital doctors and nurses for the great care he received and for the courtesy extended to us while we were there.

A graveside service will be held at Townsend Cemetary, Andover, on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m., where he will be put to rest next to his mother and father.

East Hampton

Anna Higgins

Anna (Siamno) Higgins, 86, of East Hampton, widow of Harold Higgins, died Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Feb. 28, 1922, in West Hartford, she had lived in East Hampton for more than 30 years. Anna had worked as an inspector for the Colts Firearms Company in Hartford.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, William and Carol Warren of Franconia, NH; and a brother Edward Mashiak of Windsor.

Funeral services will be private and there are no calling hours.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of the arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

Irene A. Gianopoulos

Irene A. Gianopoulos, 72, of Marlborough, wife of George A. "Pete" Gianopoulos, died peacefully Monday morning, Nov. 3, at her home. She was born Jan. 13, 1936, in Tartu, Estonia, the daughter of the late Very Rev. Ilia Adamov and Koidula Ludmila Adamov.

Irene attended grade school in Norway and Sweden and graduated from high school in New York City. She studied art at Columbia University in New York City and at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts. Irene was both an accomplished artist and gardener. She was a member of the East Hampton Art Association and the Connecticut Horticultural Society.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by sister-in-law Jean Gianopoulos of Hartford; sister-in-law Elaine Greene and her husband Jeremiah Greene Jr. of Leominster, MA; nieces and nephews John, George and Perry Gianopoulos, Kim Hanka, Anthony and Edward Greene and Meredith Ross; and two cousins in Estonia.

Her family received friends Wednesday, Nov. 5, at All Saints Orthodox Church, 205 Scarborough St., Hartford. A Panikhida Service took place during the visitation, The funeral service was held at the church Thursday, Nov. 6. Interment will take place today, Friday Nov. 7, in St. Tikhon Cemetery, South Canaan, PA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Irene may be made to All Saints Orthodox Church, 205 Scarborough St., Hartford, CT 06105 or to Fr. Ilia Adamov Memorial Scholarship Fund c/o Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 414 Valley St. Willimantic, CT 06226.

Arrangements through Potter Funeral Home, Willimantic. For online memorial guestbook, visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Janet Healy Brown

Janet Healy Brown, 71, of Portland, beloved wife of Earl E. Brown for 52 years, passed away peacefully at her home, surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, Nov. 1, after a long illness. Born in Middletown, Dec. 1, 1936, the daughter of the late Joseph and Barbara (Tracy) Healy, she was a lifelong resident of Portland.

She ran the family business, Valli Construction Co. with her husband for over 30 years. She loved cats, especially her Boots and Tabby. She also loved to travel to Hawaii and Florida with her husband. She loved knitting, reading, country music, the Christmas holiday and especially her seven loving grandchildren.

Besides her loving husband Earl, she is survived by her three sons and their families, Lawrence and his wife Susan, and their children Sarah and Nathaniel of Middletown; Richard and his wife Mary, and their children Caitlin and Jordyn of Cromwell; Michael and his wife Lori, and their children Kelly, Justin, and Jacklyn of Portland.

The family would like to express special thanks to the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center and to the Middlesex Hospice Homecare.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Wednesday, Nov. 5. Funeral services were Thursday, Nov. 6, in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home. The Rev. Edward Dempsey officiated. Interment followed in the Swedish Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Janet's memory may be sent to the charity of one's choice.

For directions or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

Portland

Helen Organek Kuzina

Helen Organek Kuzina, 86, formerly of Marlborough Street, Portland, died Oct. 30, at the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center. She was the wife of the late Richard H. Kuzina, Sr. Born in Middletown, daughter of the late Konstanty and Valeria Organek, she was a lifelong Portland resident.

She had been employed by the Elmcrest Hospital in Portland for 20 years until her retirement several years ago. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary and had been a member of the Altar Society and the St. Theresa Society. She was a very active member of the Portland Senior Center, knitting and crocheting many baby hats for newborns.

Helen is survived by her sons Gerald J. Kuzina and his wife Theo of Portland, and Thomas Kuzina of Meredith, NH; her grandchildren Gerald A. Kuzina, Joseph Kuzina, Thomas Kuzina, Jr., Michael Kuzina, all of Portland and Lori Kuzina Sangage of Oregon, her great-granddaughter Mercedes, and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son Richard H. Kuzina, Jr. and her brothers Victor, Adam, John and Joseph Organek.

Her family will receive relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Wednesday, Nov. 5, when they will proceed to the Church of Saint Mary where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Helen's memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

For directions or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.