

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

Volume 34, Number 33

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

November 6, 2009



Colchester's new first selectman, Republican Gregg Schuster, cheerfully celebrated his victory over Democrat Glenn Morron at Gung Ho restaurant Tuesday night. In the background, also all smiles, is the newly-elected official's brother, Adam Schuster, who had joined the Republican candidate earlier in the day to wave at voters.

## Schuster Wins in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Colchester Republicans rejoiced Tuesday night after Gregg Schuster defeated Glenn Morron, becoming the town's new first selectman.

Schuster wound up collecting 62 percent of the vote, with 1,963 ballots cast for him, and 1,192 cast for Morron.

It was all smiles and congratulatory handshakes at Gung Ho restaurant, where the Republicans convened after the results came in.

"In the end, voters had to give us a chance and they did," a smiling Schuster said, adding that he was thrilled with the results. In a written statement, Schuster said, "I am honored and humbled by the trust the citizens of Colchester have placed in me."

Schuster was certainly not alone in his GOP victory, as all 10 Republicans who ran in this year's election won seats. The Board of Finance will welcome two new Republicans, Rob Tarlov and Cathy Pompei, who beat Democrat Joseph Wagner. Wagner lost to Tarlov by 423 votes and to Pompei by 764. Three Republicans were also elected to the Board of Education (BOE): Betsy Ciccone, Ron Goldstein and Mitch Koziol. Goldstein received the most votes of any candidate with 2,222 and Ciccone was a close second, receiving 2,208 votes.

However, for the Democrats, victory was not quite as widespread. In every contested race, the Democrats finished last. Of the four races

that had more candidates than available seats, only Democrats Don Kennedy, who ran for the BOE, and Nancy Riella, who ran for the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) were elected. Republicans David Anderson and Gary Harris will join Riella on the BAA.

The four candidates who ran for the Board of Selectmen all won seats. Republicans Stan Soby and Greg Cordova combined received 1,000 more votes than Democrats Rosemary Coyle and James Ford.

Overall, six out of 10 Democrats won, albeit most were guaranteed seats, due to vacancies. This included Gregg LePage, who ran uncontested for town treasurer, and Mary Tomasi, who also ran uncontested to fill a vacancy on the BOE.

Ultimately, though, it wasn't a very good day for the Democrats. When asked for his thoughts on the results, Democratic Town Committee (DTC) Chairman John Malsbenden replied simply, "I think the Democrats lost."

Of the four Democrats who lost, Terese Peters, who ran for the BAA, and Monica Swyden-Bolles, who ran for the BOE, were both incumbents.

Peters lost to fellow Democrat Riella by 332 votes, which was the largest discrepancy between Democratic running mates. Riella said Tuesday she was happy with her campaign de-

See Schuster on Page 2

## Hebron Republicans Sweep on Election Day

by Sarah McCoy

It was a clean sweep for Hebron Republicans this past Tuesday. GOP candidates won all of the possible races, including on the Board of Selectmen, where Dan Larson was the top vote-getter.

"I'm just so pleased," Republican Town Committee (RTC) Chair Donna McCalla said Tuesday night. "Every candidate on the Republican slate was extremely qualified for the slot they were running for. And, they got out there and worked hard at campaigning."

Larson received 971 votes to earn a spot on the Board of Selectmen (BOS). He will be joined by Democrat Mark Stuart, who squeaked by fellow Democrat Peter Moon by a tally of 785-668. Moon, a relative newcomer to the town, said afterwards that he was in a no-lose situation. "It just means I get to spend more time with my wife," he said after the results were announced on Tuesday.

For Larson the election means the work is just beginning. "There are a lot of really tough decisions coming," he said on Tuesday night. "We need to hire a Town Manager and put together a budget that balances all the needs of Hebron from our seniors to the youngest residents."

On the Board of Finance (BOF) incumbent Republican Phil LoBianco was the top vote

getter with 1,019. Also elected were Republican Tom Sousa (with 991 votes) and Democrat Mal Leichter (732), who narrowly beat out Democrat Karen Strid (704). LoBianco said Tuesday night that he was "humbled" by the turnout and that he hopes it's an indication of "trust" and recognition that he's hardworking and looking after the interests of all residents.

For Leichter, the incumbent Democrat said he's pleased to be reelected. "The signs are gone and so is the partisanship," he said Tuesday night. "Now is when the real work begins."

Before that "real work" starts, the BOS will need to appoint someone to fill the vacancy on the Board of Finance left by Larson. Larson has two years left on his BOF term but needed to step down from the position in order to serve on the BOS.

McCalla said on Wednesday that the party has an individual in mind for Larson's vacancy on the BOF but won't announce the name until Larson officially resigns from the finance board.

Republicans Will Moorcroft (1,000 votes), Kathy Shea (970) and Tina Blinn (938) were elected to the Board of Education. Democrat Brett Monroe (710) saw his bid to serve on the school board fall short.

On the RHAM Board of Education, Democrat incumbent T.J. Morelli-Wolfe received the lowest amount of votes (592) and was not elected. Democrat Lorraine Davey (608) also fell short of being elected to the regional BOE. Republicans Laura Steiner (838), Debra Dee (829) and Brenda Casoni (761) were elected to the RHAM BOE.

Republican Natalie Wood ran away with the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) race with 949 votes. She was followed by Republican Terry Piggott (775 votes), Democrat Judith Podell (768) and Democrat Don Masters (673). Wood, Piggott and Podell will serve on the PZC.

In an uncontested race, Republican Pete Harrington was elected as an alternate to the PZC with 967 votes.

Republican Valerie Watt and Democrat Jeffery Schwarz were both elected to the Board of Assessment Appeals. This was also an uncontested race.

Republicans Henry Sawicki (934) and Jardo Opocensky (889) and Democrat Diane Christensen (843) were elected to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) in an uncontested race. Republican Nicole Thorspecken was elected as an alternate to the ZBA also in an uncontested race.

With the highest vote total of any candidate Democrat Carla Pomproicz (1,119) was re-elected as Hebron's Town Clerk.

By a vote of 705 to 372 voters also approved the recommended charter revisions.

After Tuesday's elections were announced, McCalla said she was pleased to be a part of an "issues-oriented campaign." She attributed the Republicans' success not only to the quality of the candidates but also a thorough campaigning period full of door to door meetings, waving at street corners and phone calls to remind voters of the election.

Larson agreed. He said that Republican candidates gave "150 percent" of themselves to the campaign and they were rewarded for the hard work.

Early on Tuesday, Leichter was concerned about a low turnout. After the polls had been open for three hours, only about 200 voters had cast their ballot. "The Democrats didn't come out and the Republicans did," he said on Tuesday night. "We saw that consistently through each race."

All told, 1,491 of 6,330 eligible voters cast their ballot on Tuesday. This equals 23.6 percent of the town's eligible voters. This was down from 2007, when 30.1 of the percent turned out at the polls.



## Schuster cont. from Front Page

cision to cross party lines and endorse Schuster.

Swyden-Bolles lost by a margin of two. She received 1,737 votes and Kennedy, also a Democrat incumbent, received 1,739. Town Clerk Nancy Brey said Wednesday, there could have been a recount in this situation, but Swyden-Bolles refused one. Swyden-Bolles, who was visibly upset when results were read at Town Hall Tuesday night, said Wednesday, “Don’s a great board member and I wouldn’t want to take his seat.”

Overall, about 3,000 voters, or 33 percent of those registered, cast votes on Tuesday. This was down from the 45 percent that turned out for the last municipal elections in 2007, and significantly down from the 76 percent that turned out for last year’s presidential election.

Yet, despite the Republican’s sweep, Morron, who is also chairman of the town Police Commission, remained optimistic. “I’m not done,” he said confidently. “I’m proud of myself and my team. I’m a better person for having been involved in this, so it’s a win-win.”

Morron said his team fought “an uphill battle” because of controversy that stemmed from incidents involving the current first selectman, Democrat Linda Hodge. Hodge was the DTC’s nominee at July’s caucus, until Morron was nominated from the floor that night and won by four votes. Hodge then decided not to participate in the primaries.

It was later revealed some members of the DTC knew Morron was to be nominated from the floor, but did not inform Hodge ahead of time. Morron said Tuesday he and his slate were “guilty by association.”

David Wheaton, a registered Republican who voted Tuesday, said he voted entirely for his party’s slate because he “didn’t like how the Democrats treated Linda Hodge this year.” Hodge’s only comment at the Republican’s celebration Tuesday, was “I think it’s awesome the public made their opinions known.”

However, Mary Bylone, who said she was a Hodge supporter, voted for Morron. She admitted she didn’t know much about him, but said she preferred the Democrats over the Republican Party.

Paul Randolph also voted for Morron after talking with the candidate at a meet-and-greet. Randolph said Morron “seemed like he would be more receptive to ideas” from residents. He added that Schuster was “only interested in bringing in more business” to Colchester.

Other voters saw Schuster’s economic views as a plus. Cliff O’Donal voted for Schuster, saying the Republican candidate had “more education and more entrepreneurial experience.” “I think the town needs someone with a basic knowledge of how to run a business,” O’Donal said.

Robert Fradetti also voted for the Republican candidate after learning about him through the social networking website [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com). He said Schuster contacted him through the site and Fradetti “liked his ideas.” Fradetti also said he was opposed to Morron’s plan for a third shift in Colchester’s Police Department.

Schuster will be sworn in Monday, Nov. 16 at 9 a.m., in Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Yesterday, Thursday Nov. 5, was Hodge’s last BOS meeting as first selectman.

## From the Editor’s Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

As is tradition at the offices of the *Rivereast* and *Glastonbury Citizen* (and a tradition that I’m sure extends to other offices as well), this past Monday saw a lot of candy at the workplace, as various employees sought to unload their leftover Halloween candy.

In the morning, there was a bowl filled to the brim with various chocolaty delights: Snickers, Kit-Kats, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, Almond Joys, Whoppers and Milk Duds. By the end of the afternoon, though, most of the candy was gone. Not all, though, and by seeing what was left, one could draw a clear conclusion:

Nobody likes Whoppers and Milk Duds.

That was all that was left. Folks (myself included) had gone for the other sweets instead, and I can’t say as I blame them. Whoppers are okay but not great, and I prefer my chocolate malteds to be in milk shake form anyway. But Milk Duds are just terrible, an overly chewy disappointment of a candy. It’s no wonder there were still a couple stray boxes of those things floating around Wednesday afternoon.

When I was younger, I had a favorite kind of chocolate bar: the Mars bar. It was milk chocolate, almonds and a delicious vanilla nougat, and I thought it was just great. It wasn’t as easy to find as other candy bars, which always disappointed me a little, and it seems like it’s even more difficult to find these days. While I don’t buy candy much anymore – the fact that chocolate bars are up to like 89 cents each has been a nice little deterrent – if I stumbled across one, I know I’d probably pick it up, if only for old times’ sake.

Another favorite of mine growing up was Mr. Goodbar. I know there’s nothing much to it; it’s just a Hershey bar with peanuts inside. But that was part of its charm. Sometimes candy bars are just too busy, crammed too much with different kinds of goodies. The Mr. Goodbar, though, was just peanuts in milk chocolate. So simple and yet, so delicious.

Unlike the Mars bar, I still see Mr. Goodbar pretty regularly. And every so often, if there’s a sale going on (and even two candy bars for \$1 is a deal these days), I’ll buy one and enjoy it, breaking off those little Hershey’s-stamped rectangles one by one, like I did when I was a kid.

However, even a 10 for \$1 sale couldn’t tempt me to pick up Milk Duds. I’ll leave them on the store shelves, and wait for them

to fill up the leftover-Halloween-candy bowl at work next year.

\* \* \*

As I’ve written about here in the past, I’m a sucker for those “news of the weird” types of stories. And I just stumbled across a story that is definitely one of the stranger ones. Seems a man in Utah missed the birth of his son a few weeks back after he was arrested – for groping a hospital nurse while taking his wife to the delivery room.

According to police, after arriving at the hospital with his wife, Adam Manning, 30, proceeded to tell a nurse how attractive she was. Police said Manning then told the nurse she had something on her neck and attempted to massage it. He then grabbed her breast. Police were called to the hospital, and Manning was charged with forcible sexual assault.

According to police, Manning’s wife, attempting to explain his actions to the nurse, said he was drunk. So, let’s review: This guy shows up drunk at the hospital with his pregnant wife, and then proceeds to grope a nurse en route to the delivery room. Something tells me a “World’s Greatest Dad” T-shirt isn’t in this guy’s future.

\* \* \*

Finally, let’s close with a little history lesson. Today, Nov. 6, is actually a pretty significant date in the history books. A fair amount has happened on this day. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States of America, and exactly one year later, on Nov. 6, 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederate States of America.

On this date in 1947, the show *Meet the Press* debuted; the program is still going strong 62 years later. Also, the first modern football game was played on this day in 1869, with Rutgers defeating Princeton, 6-4. That sounds more like a baseball score than a football score.

And speaking of baseball, congratulations to the New York Yankees, the 2009 World Champions. Ugh, that was difficult to write. But at least now, with the World Series out of the way, baseball’s hot stove can start to get fired back up, and we can start getting either Jason Bay or Matt Holliday fitted for a Mets uniform....

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Republicans Sweep on Election Day in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

The Republicans swept the Democrats in Tuesday’s municipal election. All 18 Republicans won, as opposed to the five of 12 Democrats who were elected.

Newcomers to the Board of Finance (BOF), Republicans Dick Shea and Cliff Denniss, won the two open seats. (Denniss previously served as an alternate on the board.) They will be joined by Republicans Pasquale Amodeo and Susan Lesser who won the two alternate positions. Democrat Lauren Cragg did not win a full BOF seat – although she will remain an alternate – and Democrat Russ West did not win an alternate spot.

Shea received 766 votes and Denniss received just two more than his running mate, while Cragg had over 300 fewer votes, with a total of 450. The results were similar for Amodeo, Lesser and West, where West lost by nearly 200 votes.

Cragg acknowledged the loss, but congratulated Denniss on his win. She said she was still happy to be able to serve the BOF as an alternate, but mentioned “the board has huge challenges ahead.”

Denniss called the outcome “fantastic,” saying, “I feel the voters have sent us a message that taxes are too high.” He added that he was “shocked” by the margin of victory. Shea largely agreed, saying, “The Republicans were very pleased and amazed.” He said he was aware residents were upset at “the level of taxes

and expenditures,” but did not expect to see such a “landslide.”

“The results were a validation that the taxpayers agreed with the Republican message and history of fiscal responsibility,” Republican Town Committee Chair Ken Hjulstrom said in a written statement. “Lauren Cragg’s voting record of repeatedly opposing cost reductions came back to haunt her.”

Hjulstrom won a seat on the Board of Assessment Appeals along with fellow Republican David Morganson.

Regarding Cragg, Shawn Fisher, chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, said it’s a “contrivance” that her voting record influenced the outcome of the election. Fisher also said it’s “inappropriate” to view only one party as being fiscally responsible, because “everyone in town” wants this.

Instead, Fisher viewed the results as a national trend, saying it’s not an endorsement of Republicans or Democrats, but called it a “much larger social situation.” “If you look across the country there’s a trend of people who are fearful about the state of the economy,” Fisher said, adding that people largely, and incorrectly, associate Democrats with higher taxes.

“We did not believe in tax increases, but it’s an easy cliché to make,” he said.

Hjulstrom disagreed. He said the election results were likely the product of Marlborough’s local economic issues and not due to national

situations.

Despite the Republican sweep, Fisher noted that the balance of party members on the BOF, the local Board of Education (BOE) and the RHAM BOE did not change.

Both Democrats and Republicans were elected to the BOE and the RHAM BOE. Four ran for the BOE and all were elected. They were: Democrats Mimi LaPoint and Shannon Margaret Bielaczy and Republicans Karen McKinney and Carole Shea. Also, both Republican Sandy Sudduth and Democrat James Cherry were elected to the RHAM BOE.

However, other races were not so even. With three Republicans and three Democrats in the running for the Zoning Commission, the Republicans won all the seats. The three were Susan McFarland, who collected 657 votes; Scott Miller, who received 680; and Jeffrey Tracey, who received 585. All three rather handily topped Democrats Ned Hickey, Lisa Hawes and Frederic Klein, who received 448, 373 and 362 votes, respectively.

Similarly, on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), both Republicans who ran won seats, while only one of the three Democrats was successful. Republicans Richard Proch and Alan Donze received 639 and 626 votes, respectively, while Democrat John Grasso won 571. (The two losing Democrats were Alan Miller, who received 489 votes, and Nicholas Yeager Higgins, who collected 399 votes.) These three

will be joined by John Valentine, who was elected as ZBA alternate in an uncontested race.

On the Planning Commission, all that ran were elected. The three seats went to Republicans Jim Fox and Wendy Nichols and Democrat Denis Soucy. The commission has three vacancies for alternates who can be appointed at any time.

About 27 percent of Marlborough’s voters, or 1,157 people, came out to vote Tuesday. “I was very pleased with the voter turnout,” Hjulstrom said in a statement. “It confirmed my feelings that the public saw this as a very important election.”

Ben Stulpin, who came out Tuesday to cast his ballot, said he voted all Republican because, “I’m tired of the Democrats in this state increasing taxes and increasing everything.” Stulpin said his taxes have increased \$300 per year since he’s been in Marlborough.

Donze, who said he voted mostly Republican, said people are turning on the Democrats because of the party’s national and state-level reputation. He cited Senator Chris Dodd’s mortgage debacle and said Democrats are known to raise taxes.

Jeff Johnson said simply, “I’m tired of being taxed,” and voted all Republican. Donna Brierley said she voted the same way, because, she said, “I’m definitely on board with more of the conservative values.”



# Local Potter in Hebron Art Show

by Sarah McCoy

Artists of all kinds will be out in full force on Saturday for the second annual Hebron Creates Art Exhibition and Sale.

The event started last year as a way of both recognizing the town's artists and celebrating Hebron's 300th birthday. The well-attended event is back again this year. Potters, painters, jewelers, authors and the like will fill the library and open their own studios to both display and sell their wares.

One artist participating in the show is potter Shari Reveron.

Art is a strong part of the Reveron household. She has been a potter since she was a small girl. One of her sisters is a weaver, another is a gospel singer and Shari's children sing, dance and do sterling silver jewelry work. "It's a family thing," she said of art. "We support each other."

Reveron estimates it's been 35 years since she began making pottery. As a child she attended a camp and, since then, she was hooked. Reveron went on to earn a degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in ceramics from Southern Connecticut State University.

To pay for college, Reveron played guitar in a blues band and worked at a local hospital. Her affinity for the medical profession stuck as Reveron now works as the administrator of Glastonbury Endoscopy Center. However, on nights and weekends she can often be found at her potter's wheel, spinning a new creation.

Just as the clay on the wheel needs to be balanced, Reveron says, its pottery that brings balance to her life. "It's a way to relax," she said. "I love the satisfaction of taking a lump of clay and turning it into a beautiful vase."

Plus there is the practical side of it. Reveron

has been known to make her own casserole dish or bowl if she needs a piece for a meal.

For years, Reveron has been a member at the Wesleyan Potters. Located in Middletown, this nonprofit group promotes the teaching of and development in the arts. Reveron credits this group in helping her to further her own skills and stay current on new techniques in the field.

Reveron typically works on a wheel-spinning her works at fast speeds as she molds the clay with her hands. For firing she varies on her approach. In order to make pieces functional for eating and drinking Reveron will glaze them and fire them in a kiln at a high heat. Other pieces are fired in a kiln at a lower heat and then removed and placed in a closed-in area (such as a garbage can) with other combustible material (copper, hay, seaweed, etc.) to give a piece a one-of-a-kind coloring and texture.

The latter method is known as raku, a Japanese style of firing.

For Reveron, she often doesn't know what she'll end up making when she sits down to work. Instead, she'll see where the clay takes her.

In preparation for the holiday season Reveron has been busy making mugs, vases and bowls. She also makes custom pieces such as vessel sinks or dishes for eating and drinking. Each piece might take only 20 minutes to throw but she'll then trim it the next day, glaze and fire it. Every element that goes into a piece of work is made from scratch.

Reveron will use items such as volcanic ash or melted glass to create her glazes. "It's like cooking with a recipe," she said. "I often enjoy the process just as much as the final product."



Hebron potter Shari Reveron will be one of 21 artists featured at the Hebron Creates show on Nov. 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Douglas Library. Examples of her work are shown above.

Reveron's work can be found at the former Marlborough Barn (now called Shoppes at Marlborough Barn), at the gallery at Wesleyan Potters and at the Hebron Creates exhibition. The exhibition will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Eighteen artists will feature their work at Douglas Library.

In addition, Golden Egg Studio at 325 W. Main St., Blissmeadow Arts Studio at 209 Millstream Rd. and Artful Judith's studio at 667 Gilead St. will be open for demonstrations and tours.

For more information, visit the town's website, [www.hebronct.com](http://www.hebronct.com), and click on "Local News."

# Hebron Officials, Board Members Pleased with CMT Results

by Sarah McCoy

The results of the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs), administered last spring, were presented to the Board of Education last Thursday, and officials and school board members were thrilled by what they saw.

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz presented the scores to the Board of Education (BOE) at its Oct. 29 meeting. Board members responded with kudos and heartfelt gratitude for the work being done at Gilead Hill and Hebron elementary schools.

"The combination of making progress on the test along with the desire of the school staff to get better is very satisfying," BOE member Mark Allaben said earlier this week. "I'm really pleased."

The CMTs are administered to all Connecticut students in grades 3-8 each spring. Cruz's presentation only dealt with students in grades three through six; grades seven and eight are part of the RHAM school system.

In math, scores went up or remained constant for each grade level. Third grade went up from 83 percent of students achieving mastery in 2008 to 84 percent this year. Scores went from 77 percent to 81 percent in fourth grade. Fifth-grade scores remained steady at 85 percent of students achieving mastery level. And, sixth grade, which saw huge gains in every subject, jumped from 88 percent in 2008 to 94 percent achieving mastery in 2009.

The sixth grade math score was one of the top 10 scores in the state.

The scores for each grade level are between three and nine percentage points higher than the average in District Reference Group C (DRG-C). The state Department of Education places school district in groups of similar size

and socioeconomic breakdown for comparison. Other districts in DRG-C include Andover, Marlborough, Columbia, Tolland, Ellington and Suffield.

For reading, scores in third grade jumped from 69 percent in 2008 to 75 percent this year. Fourth-grade scores rose from 75 percent to 82 percent of students achieving mastery level. Fifth grade showed a slight decline from 88 to 86 percent. And, sixth grade improved from 87 percent of students achieving mastery in 2008 to 95 percent in 2009.

The sixth grade reading score was the fourth highest score in the state.

Only fifth-grade students take the science portion of the CMT. This year, scores rose to 81 percent of students achieving mastery level, up from 79 percent in 2008. On the writing portion of the test, third-grade scores went from 77 percent of students achieving mastery in 2008 to 82 percent in 2009. Fourth- and fifth-grade scores declined slightly from 81 percent to 80 percent and 87 percent to 84 percent, respectively. Sixth-grade scores showed another major jump as scores went from 79 percent of students achieving mastery level in 2008 to 88 percent in 2009.

While students in grades three, four and six showed consistent increases in scores, scores for fifth-graders remained stagnant or slightly below last year. But Cruz said she's not about to hit the panic button.

Cruz highlighted that those students who took the test last March as fifth-graders actually improved from third and fourth grade. The cohort went from 77 percent achieving mastery level in math in fourth grade to 85 percent

in fifth; 75 percent achieved mastery in reading last year compared with 86 percent in 2009 and 81 percent to 84 percent in writing from 2008 to 2009.

One area that Cruz did identify as an area for focus was the achievement gap between genders specifically when it comes to writing. Ninety-two percent of girls in grades three through six achieved mastery level in writing but only 76 percent of boys did. Cruz said that several programs have either already ready been or will be implemented to address this gap.

One of these programs is a Boys' Writing Club, something the school district started last year. This afterschool program is intended for students who struggle with writing as well as others proficient in the craft. Cruz said there is a good deal of peer learning as students practice the concepts of writing in a smaller group.

Another area for focus will continue to be special education. The district failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in math and reading for students receiving special education services. Those students did meet AYP for writing, however.

Cruz said the district will continue to work on closing the gap between Special Education students and non-special education services. However, she also said she's pleased that the district did see improvement in the scores, just not enough to meet AYP.

Allaben wondered if the shortfall in making AYP could be attributed to the fact that over 20 students had their scores count as zeros. Early last year school districts received word that the state had approved a pilot test called the Modified Assessment Test (MAS). The test measures

grade level abilities but with fewer questions and not as difficult of questions. In order to qualify for the test, students had to meet a very specific set of criteria.

Twenty-three students took the math portion of the MAS and 21 for the reading section.

At the last minute, Hebron received word that the MAS would not count toward AYP scoring and, therefore, the 20 plus students who had taken it would count as zeros for the district. Earlier this week, Cruz said she didn't want to use this as an excuse for not making AYP. "Did it sway the numbers? Probably," she said. "But, that's not reason why we can't still make sure all of our students are prepared."

Overall, Hebron scores handily beat the average in DRG-C. Also, in every grade but fourth, Hebron beat the DRG-B average, which includes districts like Farmington, Glastonbury, Greenwich and Avon. Hebron's sixth-grade score of 92.2 percent of students obtaining mastery level across the subjects, also beat the DRG-A average, which includes districts such as Darien, Westport, New Canaan and Ridgefield.

BOE member Dave Burgess reflected at last week's meeting the progress the district has made in the four years he's served on the board. "It's because of the leadership of the superintendent, the administration and the hard work of our teachers that are students have been successful," he said. "We have a lot to be thankful for."

Copies of Cruz's presentation are available from the Board of Education. The next BOE meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St.



# East Hampton Democrats Gain Town Council Seat

by Michael McCoy

Tuesday's elections brought good news to incumbents in town: all six Town Council incumbents were re-elected, and no incumbents on major boards lost their seats.

Tuesday also brought a party shift on the Town Council, as there are now three Republicans, three Democrats and one Chatham Party member.

Democrat John Tuttle took more Town Council votes than anyone, with an even 1,400. Also re-elected to the council were Republicans Melissa Engel with 1,321 votes, Thomas Cordeiro with 1,281 and Bill Devine with 1,221. Democrat Christopher Goff took 1,191 votes, while Chatham Party member Sue Weintraub won 1,018.

The only incumbent not awarded another term was Chatham Party member Scott Minnick, and that's because he did not seek re-election; he ran (unsuccessfully) for the Board of Education instead. Democratic Town Committee Chair and Board of Finance (BOF) member Barbara Moore took his spot, collecting 1,148 votes.

Also notable is the apparent fading of the Chatham Party backing. During its first election in 2005, the Chatham Party stormed the polls, taking five of the seven council spots in a landslide. Just two years later, the party lost three of those seats, resulting in a 3-2-2 (Republican-Democrat-Chatham Party) split. This year, the Chatham Party lost another council seat, and took no other seats in town, despite putting up candidates for three other boards for the first time.

Losing in their bids for the Town Council were Republicans Ted Hintz Jr. and Judy Isele, who collected 995 and 876 votes, respectively; Democrats Jill Simko and Nancy Ninesling, who received 939 and 918 votes, respectively; and Chatham Party members Kyle Dostaler (with 914), Derek Johnson (865) and John Jordon and Scott Sanicki, who scored 814 votes a piece.

The Democrats also picked up one BOF seat. However, more interesting is the board's new makeup in general. Of the four BOF members whose terms were up, only one sought reelection – Republican Henry Thorpe, who got 1,346 votes. So, three of the seven BOF members are new: Republican Patience Anderson, who took 1,391 votes, and Democrats Matthew Walton and Timothy Csere, who received 1,467 and 1,324 respectively.

This means the Democrats now have a 4-3 majority on the previously Republican-controlled BOF.

Finance board candidates not making the cut were Chatham Party candidates Mary Ann Dostaler, with 1,127 votes, and Dean Maurice, with 979; Democrats Thomas O'Brien, with 1,240 votes, and David May, with 1,101; and Republican Maria Peplau, who garnered 1,203 votes.

In the Board of Education (BOE) race, the Republicans picked up a seat. Winners included three Democratic incumbents and two Republican newcomers. The Democrats were Joanne Barmasse with 1,398 votes, Glenn Gemma with 1,228 votes, and Mark Laraia with 1,225 votes. Republicans Carol Lane and Josh Piteo took spots with 1,418 and 1,326, respectively.

The board now has a 5-4 Democratic majority.

Democrats Chris Hetrick and Rich Leone came up short with 1,155 and 1,102 votes respectively. Also unsuccessful were Republicans Karen Lee, with 1,185 votes, Gina Ritchie, with 1,184, and Sal Nucifora, who received 1,071 votes. Neither Minnick, who received 1,137 votes, nor his Chatham Party running mate Molly-Kate Hall, with 980, won seats on the school board.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) consisted of two races. Republican Don Martin won the 2009-14 term with 1,100 votes. He bested Democrat Charles Gotta's 1,009 votes and Chatham Party member Bob Hart's 894.

Incumbent Vincent Jacobson, another Republican won the 2010-15 term. His opposition was Democrat Jim Vick with 919 votes and the Chatham Party's Everett "Dick" Breece with 906 votes.

Six candidates fought for three ZBA alternate slots. Democrat Robert Hines, Jr. led the pack with 1,496 votes, and Thomas Keegan also won for the Democrats with 1,481 votes. Republican Lori Wilcox also won a seat with 1,417 votes. Democrat Brian Spack, the only incumbent in this race, lost with 1,154. Chatham Party member Irene Curtis lost with 1,114 votes, as did Republican Town Committee Chair David Balthazar with 1,234 votes.

The overall top vote getter was Democrat Andy Tierney who, running unopposed, retained his seat on the Midstate Regional Planning Agency with 2,079 votes.

Exit polling proved unrepresentative of the pulse of the town as a whole. Despite the Chatham Party ultimately only winning one seat, interviewees seemed to largely endorse them, at least in part.

A voter named Andrew said he voted entirely

for the Chatham Party because, "From what I know, the Democrats and Republicans are all the same party." Another voter said he mixed his ballot, but went largely Chatham because, "I believe in what they stand for."

Another voted for the Chatham Party because he liked "the third-party element" they bring. He said candidate Kyle Dostaler "was closest to my political beliefs."

Bill Bradley voted mostly for the Chatham Party, saying, "We still need to make some changes to town."

Another voter said he split the council vote between three Chatham candidates, one Republican and one Democrat, but, as a Republican voted mostly with his party on the rest of the ballot. He specified, "I like Josh Piteo's experience. He's been active in town forever."

However, one voter said she voted for the Chatham Party last time, and has not been enamored with them of late. Voting mostly Democratic this time, she said she was especially impressed with Goff and Ninesling.

Democrat Julie Johnson actually said she split her ballot mostly between Chatham Party candidates and Republicans. She said it was the Republicans who "came to my door and talked about what I wanted to talk about." She said she appreciated this effort, and speaking of scheduled meet and greet events said, "It's hard to get the time to meet people." Johnson said she was most impressed with Republicans Ted Hintz Jr. and Judy Isele.

One voter split her ticket, mentioning her affinity of Lane for the BOE, and, for the Town Council, said, "I'm a big admirer of Barbara Moore."

Katie Maceyka said she voted Democrat. "We share similar views," she said of the party, and figuring the local candidates "cover all bases very well."

Minutes after the results were read, a newly re-elected Cordeiro said, "We got our Republican message out there," but, noting the 3-3-1 Town Council split, added, "It's not a landslide by any account." Cordeiro also said he was sweating out the results "right down to it."

"I'm pretty excited," Moore said, and added, "the Democrats did very well," noting the seats picked up on council and the BOF.

Among council candidates, no one got more votes than John Tuttle. "I'm grateful for the support," he said. "I'm flattered." Speaking about some of the things he's helped accomplished on the council, he said, "If that's the reason many people voted for me, that's cer-

tainly rewarding."

Tuttle said that, during the past two years, he and Goff have "worked hard." As for Moore, he called her "a great asset."

Despite only Weintraub being elected from the Chatham Party, Dostaler, also the Chatham Party chairman, said, "For a third party, we did extremely well." He said the party would continue to present new ideas and challenged their alleged labeling as "angry outsiders."

"This is our third political race," he said of the party. "You've got to learn to walk before you can run, and we've certainly learned to walk."

Dostaler promised to maintain a presence, but as far as the Chatham Party returning for the next election, he said, "I can't predict what's going to happen in two years."

Weintraub said the Chatham Party has "a solid group of supporters, and the numbers show that."

Speaking on her lone status on the council, she said, "In a traditional two-party town, I'd be the swing vote. We'll see how that works in East Hampton where the parties are...not so clearly defined."

Weintraub didn't sound discouraged. "It's a new day," she said, calling the results "very, very exciting and positive."

"I really had no idea," said BOE top vote-getter Lane. "I'm just really happy," she said.

When asked how he felt, Balthazar sighed, "Tired."

As for the results, he said, "We're happy; I think we just had a good slate of candidates." Singling out Anderson, fresh off a BOF win, he said, "She's just been phenomenal. She just campaigned like no one I've seen in a long time."

On the Republicans' overall success on Election Day, Balthazar said, "I'm just thrilled that the hard work paid off."

"I'm pleased," said a cheery Town Manager Jeff O'Keefe. "I think it's gonna be a good council to work with," he added, voicing his anticipation to work with Moore.

Of the 8,310 eligible voters, 3,223 turned out to vote Tuesday. That's a 38 percent turnout rate, down from the 47 percent that showed up in both the 2007 and 2005 municipal elections, and significantly down from the 81 percent that voted in last year's presidential race.

The Town Council is slated to choose its chairman during a special meeting this Tuesday at 6 p.m., just before the 6:30 p.m. regular meeting.

# Iron Gate Offers Assortment of Antiques in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

An antique can spark a dormant memory, it can excite an owner with its story and it can even sprout new life – and the ones at Iron Gate do all three of these.

The store, tucked away in the Shoppes in Marlborough Barn complex, boasts an array of antiques, their much-younger variations – reproductions – and home goods.

Aptly put by co-owner Annmarie Rizza, "It's a mix of new and old."

Rizza and Peter Shevchenko opened Iron Gate in August. The store sells "anything rustic," Rizza said. Inside, a glass table and iron chairs sit surrounded by antique plates, vases and reproductions of figures. The walls are ornamented by oil paintings of flowers and landscapes and framed, local artifacts.

Outside, there's a garden section enclosed by an authentic, Victorian iron fence that dates to the 1800s. The patio displays iron benches, iron bird baths and a large iron gazebo. There are also several large urns, both inside and out, that host a variety of plants. Inside the shop, a small conifer happily lives in a cement urn from the 1920s. Next to it is another one from 1886 with fantastic, ornate handles.

Rizza, who lives in Coventry, and Shevchenko, a Marlborough resident, said the urns are popular items. On Tuesday, the owners said one customer had a bit of urn envy and bought four of the large vessels. The customer was compelled to purchase the urns after seeing a neighbor's that displayed a pumpkin pyramid.

The co-owners said they sell a mix of antiques and reproductions. Shevchenko said

those who choose the reproductions, generally like the rustic look but want a more economical option.

Besides new and old, Iron Gate also sells indoor and outdoor items. Rizza said she wants customers to utilize their garden accessories year-round. She said she brings her urns inside during the winter and anchors them on either side of the fireplace for a stately touch. She also questioned why certain candle lanterns couldn't be used inside. She said once things are pigeonholed, customers may not seek other uses for items. "I want to show people how to mix it up," she said.

Rizza and Shevchenko procure their antiques from all over the state. The duo has been buying and selling antiques together for five years. Rizza said she's liked antiques since she was a kid. "You have to like history – to see how something evolved" over time, Rizza said. Shevchenko called the process of seeking out antiques "almost like an addiction."

Shevchenko's passion for antiques came through when he excitedly pointed out an ephemera posted on the shop's wall. He pointed to a small frame that displayed a document from 1882. Oliver Gildersleeve, more than 120 years ago, filled out a master carpenter certification for a schooner he built, and the Iron Gate now houses it.

Shevchenko said, for him, antiques can rejuvenate past memories. He said he bought glass tumblers with birds on them because they reminded him of summers at his grandmother's. "It brought back that memory of being a kid on a farm and how much fun I had," he said.

Rizza said items at the Iron Gate can also



Antiques, reproductions and home goods are for sale at the Iron Gate in Marlborough. The store opened in August and specializes in garden items.

forge new memories. She said a grandmother recently came into the shop and bought a Christmas ornament for her grandchild – something she does every year.

So whether it's old items and new memories or new items and old memories, Rizza and

Shevchenko said the Iron Gate can provide. Dotted with indoor and outdoor items, the shop hosts a worldly array of pieces and maintains a local charm.

For more information about Iron Gate, call 295-6453.



# Bransfield Wins Fourth Term in Portland Office

by Michael McCoy

Susan Bransfield staved off two challengers Tuesday on her way to a fourth term as first selectwoman.

Facing opposition for the first time since 2003, Bransfield managed 1,545 votes, while Republican challenger Sandy Downes received 1,021 votes. Independent write-in candidate Lambros Lambrinides got 55 votes.

The race for the other six Board of Selectmen slots saw all six incumbents re-elected. That means Democrats Brian Flood with 1,508 votes, Mark Finkelstein with 1,479 votes, Kathleen Richards with 1,440 and Sharon Peters with 1,282. Republicans John H. Anderson and Carl Chudzick also won reelection. They took 1,302 and 1,147 votes, respectively.

Republican Thomas Nash's 919 votes were not enough for a BOS slot, as was the case with fellow Republican Matthew Rice's 914.

The three Democratic incumbents for Board of Education won re-election bids: Ben Srb collected 1,608 votes, Rosemary Murphy-Woitowitz received 1,558, and Andrea Alfano won 1,373 votes. Republican Jennifer Godwin collected 1,281 votes, enough to wrestle away a spot from fellow Republican, incumbent Brenna Kosicki, who had 1,207 votes. Republicans Christopher Orcutt, with 1,132 votes, and Joseph Dinegar, with 998, both lost.

Clearly voters were not as hungry for a party change as some Republicans had hoped. However, they did take one seat from the Democrats. Jack Sterry took Gloria Gdovin's Zoning Board of Appeals seat by a count of 1,344-1,134. That term does not begin until 2010, though. The 2009 term race pitted Republican Richard Varricchio against Democrat incumbent Richard Basso. Basso kept his seat, by a vote of 1,425-1,050.

In the Board of Assessment Appeals race, Republican Marabeth Gildersleeve's 1,132

were not enough to beat any incumbents. The winners were Republican Peter Castelli who got 1,163 votes, as well Democrats Richard P. Murphy and David O'Brien. Respectively, they took 1,384 and 1,280 votes.

Early in the day election moderator Roselani Ferguson was optimistic about a large voter turnout. "There's a lot of voters I've never seen before," she said, and added, "something's going on," suggesting voters were mobilizing for something. But, by the end of the night, only 2,478 of the 6,100 eligible voters showed up, for a 41 percent turnout, an increase from the 35 percent that turned out in 2007, but half of the 82 percent that showed for last year's presidential race.

After exiting the polls Tuesday, one couple, who wished to remain anonymous, said they voted almost strictly Republican, like they normally do. However, they did vote for Kathleen Richards. "I wish she'd run for First Selectman," said the man of the pair.

Jerry Prout said he voted Republican because he's "sick of the Democrats in Washington." He also said he voted for Lambrinides because he was an Independent.

One anonymous voter, who has lived in town for all of her 72 years, called herself "an old Democrat," but said she voted for Downes, saying, "I figured we're ready for a change."

On the other end, one self-proclaimed conservative voter, who voted Republican, gave Bransfield his vote, calling her a "friend of the family."

Louis Negrelli said he voted Democratic, explaining, "I know the people," and credited their experience. He singled out Bransfield, calling her his "number one choice."

Cheryl Lee's favorite candidate was Alfano. "We've taught Sunday School together for years," she said. As for politics, she said, "I think

she does a great job." She also praised the work Alfano did for the playscapes prior to her BOE tenure.

Frank Winiski praised Bransfield, saying, "She's done a great job for the town, and she'll continue to do so." His wife Carol added that Bransfield "responds to what people are looking for and what they need."

Democratic Town Committee Chair Kathleen Richards said Wednesday "we were thrilled" by the results of the elections. "I think it shows people are happy with what's going on in town overall," she said. However, Richards couldn't claim to be surprised, and said the results were "pretty much what I thought."

Still, Richards acknowledged the momentum Republicans gained in Connecticut overall, and said, "Compared with the rest of the state, we did good."

Republican Town Committee Chair Cindy Varricchio called the results "disappointing," but said, "We ran a positive campaign that we're all proud of."

Despite her apparent weariness, she said, "I think we may have closed the gap over the years."

She sighed, "It's Portland," noting the uphill battle Republicans fight in town. Still, she said the party was "energized to move forward."

Similarly, Lambrinides said, "Well, I knew I was running up a hill," and figured he would have had far more votes if he was on the ballot instead of being a write-in candidate.

"I'm not a sore loser, and I'm not crying," he said, though he said he hoped to get 150-200 votes, about three times more than what he received. He called the results "a little disheartening," and spoke of people who were "ready to follow me into Hell" but never even showed up.

As for taking another crack in 2011, he said,

"There might be some more support at that time."

Kosicki said she was "certainly disappointed" but gave a full vote of confidence to newcomer Godwin. "She'll do a great job," Kosicki said.

Kosicki added, "Being a Republican in Portland's not easy." As for running next time, she hinted against it, saying she was "seriously considering" spending more time with her family.

As for Downes, her spirits did not seem compromised Wednesday. She called the campaign "a great experience" and said, "I think we have a team that works well together."

With 524 votes separating her from Bransfield, she figured she only needed to take another 270 from her to eke out a victory, leaving her apparently pleased with that achievement. "It all depends on the amount of disenfranchised Democrats and unaffiliated voters," she said.

Downes proclaimed the Republicans are "gonna win the next time," although she wouldn't say if she's going to run again.

Bransfield said she was confident going into Tuesday, albeit, "cautiously optimistic."

"It's humbling to put your name out there to get elected and re-elected," she said. However, she did call the outcome "a decisive win."

According to Bransfield, the Republicans spent between \$15,000 and \$20,000 on advertising this election season, to the Democrats' \$5,000. She acknowledged the opposition as a "full court press," commenting, "There was a tremendous amount of effort to get out there and make some changes."

But, speaking for the Democrats on their victory, she said, "We're grateful; it's going to be a very good next two years."

# After Two Years, Portland Tattoo Parlor Thriving

by Michael McCoy

Tattoos may be associated more with the Route 66 of the mid and southwest, but Portland's on the map as well.

Route 66 Ink on, well, Route 66 has been thriving for over two years now. They opened back in September 2007. Though doubling as a piercing and tattoo parlor, as its name suggests, Route 66 Ink's bulk of work comes from the latter. While only owner Bobby Trepanier, 41, handles the piercing, he and his other two experts handle the tattoos. They are Max Rothert of Haddam and Eric Wettemann of Middletown, who have, respectively, been with the shop for one and two years.

But why would someone who's cut his teeth in Corpus Christi and New York pick Portland to plant their business? "I'm more of a country boy," Trepanier said. Plus, he said, "It's always been a dream of mine to have a shop in Portland too."

Trepanier has been around. Born in New Britain, he grew up in Florida, then spent his adolescence in Middletown, with virtually all of Middlesex County as his stomping grounds. At 18 he moved to Sabine Pass, TX, and then Corpus Christi two years later.

In 1998, looking for a way to use his artistic bent he started working at Fugi's Tattoos in Longview, TX, and then Electra Arts in Corpus Christi. The latter is the business of his mentor, Bruce Edwards. Just before moving back to Connecticut, he worked at AAA Bombay, run by Edwards' brother, Wayne.

But, by 2007, Trepanier said, "I was homesick," and moved back to New Britain. That July, he happened to be driving down Route 66 and saw a "For Rent" sign. Within days, he secured the spot, and spent the next two months replacing building's flooring, replacing them with new floors, putting up sheet rock, painting, installing new lighting and the work stations, and then touching it up with its unique interior design.

Trepanier also purchased "state of the art" sterilization equipment, and said Route 66 performs spore testing every 30 days, making sure there are no bacteria on any equipment. They are also certified by the Red Cross. He called

the sanitary regulations "strict," but also "the way it should be."

As most people, it's not just sailors and bikers who get inked anymore. In fact, Trepanier said at least half of their clientele is women, especially older women. Trepanier recalled one recent female client in her late 60s.

"It seems like every two or three years, there's a new trend," Trepanier said, naming nautical stars as quite ubiquitous currently. You can stick with the traditional black and gray or opt for full color. As for the image itself, current trends include tribal, realistic, neotraditional, and bio-mechanical options. If none of that speaks to you, feel free to present your own customized concept.

The time the tattoo procedure itself takes also varies quite a bit. Trepanier said the simplest design could take 15 minutes, while a full "body suit" would take many years. Most take somewhere between one and six hours, he said, but for more elaborate designs that will take multiple days, it is broken down into five or six-hour sessions.

However, what the client is less aware of is the preparation time. If a tattoo will take three hours, the artists may take another three just to prepare the image. Because of this variation, Route 66 Ink does not have a set-pricing list, but minimum charges start at \$50.

Route 66 Ink has pulled clients from Glastonbury, Old Saybrook, Cheshire, and into Massachusetts, Rhode Island, all on word of mouth. This includes quite a few regular patrons.

Like a lot of businesses, Trepanier said Route 66 Ink's ebb and flow is somewhat seasonal. For instance, summer is the busy time, when every one wants to show off their skin. Because of this, appointments are scheduled three to four weeks out during summer. This is actually somewhat odd, since Trepanier said winter is the optimal time get a tattoo, since "UV rays are a tattoo's worst enemy." He instructed some one with a new tattoo to keep it out of sunlight for at least two to three weeks.

Route 66 Ink also does touch ups to tattoos that have faded over time. At the time of the interview, Rothert was preparing for a client



Route 66 Ink recently marked its second year. Pictured in front of their business are, from left, Max Rothert, Eric Wettemann and Bobby Trepanier.

whose tattoo of a Harley Davidson was going to be transformed into a panther.

One interesting facet to Route 66 Ink is its refusal to take advantage of potential customers who decide to get a tattoo on a whim. While walk-ins can sometimes be squeezed in, Trepanier encourages prospective clients to schedule a consultation, having as much of an idea as possible coming into that meeting. Then they'll schedule the actual procedure. Wetteman contrasted this with the far less desirable situation of somebody "just getting one to get one."

Another sign of the business' integrity is its lifetime guarantee of all work.

One funny thing Trepanier has come to learn is how much better women handle the needles than men. He said this correlates to their hav-

ing a pain threshold five or six times that of men. "That's why they have babies, not us," he said.

Route 66 Ink is located at 321 Marlborough St. (Route 66) in an impossible-to-miss yellow building. The business can be reached by phone at 342-2007 and by e-mail at [Rt66ink@gmail.com](mailto:Rt66ink@gmail.com). More information is also available at the business' Facebook site. (Search for "Route 66 Ink.") Hours are: Mondays, by appointment only; Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. In the beginning of the year, Route 66 will add hours on Sundays and Mondays. Prior to that, for the month of December, call the business to inquire about their holiday specials.



# Opocensky Performing in Musical Veterans Salute in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

This weekend, a well-known local Vietnam veteran will star in a history lesson put to music.

Jardo Opocensky is one of 13 singers/actors performing in *This is My Country: An American Musical Review*, which will be performed at the Mandell Jewish Community Center at 335 Bloomfield Ave. in West Hartford Nov. 6, 7 and 8. Showtime is 8 p.m. all three nights. The show is presented by The Veterans Memorial Theatre Company.

Opocensky estimates he's been singing for 25 years. He's played in bands and done countless gigs as an Elvis impersonator. So when his friend, fellow Hebron resident Ron Winter, was looking for singers to participate in the show, Opocensky couldn't say no.

With rehearsals three times a week and countless songs to memorize, it's a busy time in Opocensky's life. Earlier this week, though, he said it's all been worth it, as the show has really started to come together. "I'm not used to staying up past midnight," the recently retired aerospace salesman said. "And, initially I was having doubts about how the show was going to click. But, this last week has been wonderful. The show is going to be great."

Opocensky called the show a lesson in American fought wars done to music. Actors will change costumes five times during the

production to give an accurate portrayal of the look of the era.

Opocensky is a two-time past commander of the Hebron American Legion. He's also a five-time past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served in the Marines for four years during the Vietnam War.

So it's with appreciation and understanding that Opocensky signed up for a production that takes viewers through the country's major wars. Starting with the colonial era, the show features scenes and songs from the time period. It continues through the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam War and Korean War.

Opocensky has solos during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He will also be one of the featured singers in a "musical duel" between the north and south during the Civil War. This last role comes at the expense of his friend and fellow townsman John Tuttle.

Tuttle, also a Hebron veteran, intended on performing in this weekend's show as well but a case of bronchitis will keep his out of the show.

*This is My Country* is sponsored by The Veterans Memorial Theatre Company, a non-profit group committed to telling the stories of veterans from all wars. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors, students and veterans.



The Marlborough Wildfire soccer team will compete for the Connecticut Cup this weekend. Pictured top row from left: assistant coach Jane Larned, Michael Pamtreeen, Eli Lawrence, J.D. Pilver, Jack Caplan and coach Dan Lawrence; middle row from left, Stephan Ganci, Christopher Paggioli, Owen Henderschedt, Chris D'Antonio, James Larned, Zach Crombie and Paul Leone; bottom row from left, Colin Farrar and Nick Starkowski.

## Marlborough's Wildfire Competing for State Cup

by Katy Nally

The Marlborough Wildfire soccer team had a blazing season this year, leading its district with seven wins and leaving the competition in the dust. This Saturday, the 13 boys clad in bright orange jerseys will have their chance to win the Connecticut Cup.

Sixth-grader Chris D'Antonio said he's been "practicing really hard" and is very excited for this weekend's game. The 11-year-old said his team is "definitely better than last year" and finally ready for the state cup.

This Saturday, the Marlborough Wildfire will play the Shelton Crew in Farmington at Tunxis Mead Park. Marlborough became a finalist after winning their games against Naugatuck and Guilford. Wildfire coach, Dan Lawrence, said his team beat Naugatuck 3-1 and beat Guilford 4-2. He said both were exciting games that were tied at halftime.

The Shelton Crew won their seat after beating West Haven, Madison and the Shelton Stingrays. Lawrence said his team played the same Shelton Crew just four weeks ago, during a Columbus Day tournament. He said Shelton won with a goal resulting from a penalty kick. "Shelton is very good," Lawrence said. "But we are too. It could go either way this weekend."

The coach viewed his team as the underdog because Shelton has a much larger population of soccer players. He said, statewide, Marlbor-

ough isn't supposed to win, because the town has a much smaller pool of players. But Lawrence said his team is very talented, adding, "We're an extremely fit team. They run really hard and never stop playing."

Lawrence said he thought his team was "good enough" to enter the cup this year. The Connecticut cup is separate from the division finals, which also happen to be this weekend. In the cup, U11 through U14 teams from all over the state can enter voluntarily, but Lawrence said his team has never entered. He said the teams that participate in the cup are "such good teams" that "if you don't have a decent team, you could get mutilated." Nine U12 boys' teams entered in this year's cup.

Lawrence has been the Wildfire coach since the boys played in the U9 division — three years ago. He has even coached his son Eli since he was part of U7, along with three other players who have stayed with Lawrence for the past five years.

Chris's mom, Karen McKinney, said she was very fortunate to have Lawrence as a coach. "He's taken them along and made a remarkable team," she said.

The Marlborough team will compete at Tunxis Mead Park in Farmington at 11 a.m. Tickets will be sold at the field for \$1 and all proceeds will be donated to the Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

EH

### Police News

10/19 — Eric Holland, 34, of 105 Middletown Ave., was arrested for disorderly conduct and risk of injury to a minor, East Hampton Police said.

10/20 — Kevin Michaud, 35, of 34 Ridgeview Dr., was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

10/20 — Frank Dudzik, 71, of 112 Foley Dr., Southington, was issued a ticket for traveling fast, police said.

10/21 — Rick Foerstel, 48, of 40 Stevenson Rd., was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without insurance and misuse of plates, police said.

10/22 — Matthew Bailey, 20, of 158 Main St., was arrested for operating under the influence, disobeying an officer's signal, operating without minimum insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating without a license and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

10/22 — Raymond Wachtarz Jr., 21, of 180 Young St., was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

10/22 — Cassie Lynch, 44, of 139 West High St., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered vehicle, police said.

10/24 — Heidi McLean, 45, of 6 Riverdell Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

10/25 — Patrick Lachappelle, 22, of 130 East High St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

10/26 — Charlene Chiaravalle, 32, of 76 Royal Oaks Ave., was issued a ticket for oper-

ating while using a cell phone, police said.

10/26 — Nancy Obriant, 56, of 129 Leesville Rd., Moodus, was issued a ticket for traveling fast, police said.

10/26 — Julio Riera, 30, of 5 Maple Ave., Clinton, was issued a ticket for speeding, police said.

10/26 — Debra Seaquist, 46, of 311 Eastern St. 1106, New Haven, was issued a ticket for traveling fast, police said.

10/26 — Angelo Tamaro, 58, of 27 Lake Blvd., was arrested for failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

10/27 — Luis Santos, 43, of 34 East High St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for violation of conditional discharge, police said.

10/27 — Evan Ogren, 20, of 11 Tartia Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence, failure to drive right, operating without insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

10/27 — Douglas Bousquet, 47, of 137 Young St., was arrested for driving under the influence, failure to drive right and drinking while operating a motor vehicle, police said.

10/28 — Norbert Heil III, 20, of 196 Wopowog Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to renew registration, police said.

10/28 — Kristen Chapone, 19, of 4 Depot Hill Rd., Cobalt, was arrested for disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, police said.

10/28 — Carol Martin, 49, of 166 Falls Rd., Moodus, was arrested for driving under the influence and traveling too fast for conditions, police said.

### Portland Teen Arrested in August Crash

The driver of a car that in August crashed into a utility pole, critically injuring a 16-year-old passenger, has been arrested, Portland Police said.

Katherine O'Brien, 18, of 27 William St., was charged Oct. 30 with second-degree assault with a motor vehicle, DUI, traveling too fast for conditions and failure to stay in lane, police said.

The charges stem from an Aug. 9 car crash. At around 11:50 p.m. that night, police said, O'Brien was driving west on Isinglass Hill Road when she veered onto the right shoulder, struck a guardrail and utility pole and flipped the 2002 Ford Taurus onto its roof.

O'Brien reportedly came away with scrapes and "minor lacerations," police said, but her 16-year-old passenger, Brittany Schroll (who has since turned 17), had to be

extracted from the vehicle. According to Portland Police Sergeant Jim Kelly, it was apparent the passenger — suffered "definite serious injuries," especially to her head, which seemed to at least be partially caused by a piece of wood attached to the guardrail.

At the time of the crash, Kelly said he believed the girls were coming from a party at Isinglass Hill Road hosted by Angelo Lastrina, 18. That party was reportedly attended by about 10 individuals, all under 21, and Kelly said alcohol was consumed. Lastrina was charged with permitting minors to consume alcohol.

Portland Police Sgt. Scott Cunningham said this week no more arrests are expected in connection with the case. Bond was set at \$75,000, Cunningham said, and O'Brien was processed and released. She is due in Middletown Superior Court on Nov. 17.

### Portland Police News

10/28 — Clarence Braun, 24, of 177 Weston St., Hartford, was charged with third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree conspiracy to commit larceny, Portland Police said.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Katherine Mae Colburn

Katherine Mae Colburn, 84, of Colchester and formerly of Branford and Florida, widow of the late Kenneth William Colburn, passed away Monday, Nov. 2, at the Apple Rehab Center in Colchester after a brief convalescence. Born May 3, 1925 in New Haven, she was the daughter of the late Adolph and Dorothy (Nelson) Heinecke.

She was a graduate of Hill House High in New Haven and went on to work for U.S. Steel and later for Echlin Manufacturing in Branford. On Sept. 4, 1953, she and Kenneth were married in New Haven and shared 56 beautiful years together before he predeceased her on Jan. 20, 2009.

Mrs. Colburn was a longtime resident of Branford and later enjoyed her retirement in Vero Beach and Ft. Pierce, FL. In her spare time, she was an avid reader and will be lovingly remembered for her devotion to her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia Mia Jacobs, with whom she made her home; and numerous extended family members and friends. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her son, Kenneth “Kacy” Colburn, Jr.

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

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

## Colchester

### Alice (Wotus) Stula

Alice (Wotus) Stula, 85, of Colchester, widow of the late Bruno Stula, passed away Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Middlesex Hospital Hospice in Middletown. Born Sept. 9, 1924, in Hannastown, PA, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Agnes (Kustwan) Wotus.

She and Bruno were married in June of 1952 and shared 38 years of marriage before he predeceased her on Jan. 28, 1991. Mrs. Stula owned and operated L&K Farm and Garden Center in Waterford from 1976 until her retirement in 1995. She had a true passion for gardening, but her greatest joy was found in her family. A parishioner of St. Andrew Church in Colchester, she had been active with their Ladies’ Guild for many years.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Kathleen Stula of Colchester, with whom she made her home in later years; three grandchildren, Jennifer of Queens, NY, Carrie of No. Hollywood, CA and Rick of Colchester; two sisters, Violet Exline of Memphis, TN and MaryJane Rainer of Jeannette, PA; a brother, Joe Wotus of Feeding Hills, MA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by two sisters, Emily Beltz and Jean Tetorka and four brothers, Andy, John, Stanley and Frank Wotus.

Friends called 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral will assemble starting at 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church with Fr. Michael C. Giannitelli officiating. Committal will be private in the Old St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crecent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## Salem

### Elizabeth Dalkowski

Elizabeth Dalkowski, 69, of Salem Hollow Lane, Salem, died Oct. 31 at her home, after a long battle with myasthenia gravis. She was born in New Britain May 12, 1940, the daughter of John L. and Elizabeth Weber Steffany. She married Richard Dalkowski at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Britain on Oct. 21, 1961; he survives.

Mrs. Dalkowski was a graduate of New Britain General Hospital School of Nursing and later received her Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree from St. Joseph College in West Hartford. She had been employed as a registered nurse at the New Britain General Hospital, Newington Children’s Hospital, University of Connecticut Health Center-John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington and the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London. She had also worked in the Department of Pediatrics at University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons, David A. Dalkowski of Glen Burnie, MD; Bruce A. Dalkowski of Wethersfield; three daughters, Leigh P. Lezotte of Coventry; Elizabeth S. Spataj of Cheshire; Daria A. Cerminara of Salem. She is also survived by a sister, Margaret Sheehan of Orleans, MA and 10 grandchildren.

She was predeceased by a sister, Maryann Holyst.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, Nov. 5, at Our Lady of Lakes Church, Oakdale. Interment will be private in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain, at a later date. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, 355 Lexington Ave., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10017 ([www.myasthenia.org](http://www.myasthenia.org)).

Visit [www.neilanfuneralhome.com](http://www.neilanfuneralhome.com) for directions or to sign the family’s online guestbook.

## Marlborough

### Junona Bergs Hughes

Junona Bergs Hughes, 94, went home to be with the Lord Monday, Nov. 2, at Litchfield Woods Health Care Center. She was the wife of the late Robert deCorcey “Pete” Hughes. Born in Riga, Latvia, on June 12, 1915, she was a longtime resident of Marlborough.

She had been a volunteer at the Jefferson House in Newington, was a master gardener at the UConn Extension Service in West Hartford and was a member of the Dorcas Society of the Marlborough Congregational Church. As a columnist she contributed to a monthly newsletter on gardening for the *Marlborough Messenger*. Junona also volunteered for Fish Inc. She will be remembered by her family as a loving mother, grandmother and friend.

She is survived by her son, Ansis Bergs and his wife, Evelyn, of Goshen; daughter Ilze Bergs of Arizona; four grandchildren, Brenda Bergs Bennett and her husband Raymond Bennett, Ansis D. Bergs and his wife Lisa Angevine Bergs, David Walker and Amy Walker; six great-grandchildren, Keith, Danika and Wyatt Bennett, Haley and Jordan Bergs and Jordan Walker.

A memorial service will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at Bakerville United Methodist Church, 1087 Litchfield Tpke., New Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fish Inc., 332 South Main St., Torrington, CT 06790.

Arrangements entrusted to Rowe Funeral Home, Litchfield.