

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Playoff-Bound Panthers...** Tyler D'Anna of East Hampton is shown here running for a large gain against Coventry Oct. 23. The Panthers (C-Squad) won 20-6 and gained a spot in the playoffs with the win.

## Elections Commission Investigating Engel

by Joshua Anusewicz

The State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) has launched an investigation into the possible misuse of absentee ballots by Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel.

The investigation, which was confirmed by spokeswoman Nancy Nicolescu on Tuesday, began Oct. 19 and is focused on absentee ballots that Engel applied for prior to last November's referendum to reinstate Police Chief Matthew Reimondo.

The complaint was submitted to the commission on Sept. 27 by Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police Department. Nicolescu said the commission decided to investigate the matter, and has assigned Gilberto Oyola and the lead legal investigator.

According to an affidavit from the SEEC, Kelly submitted the complaint after he had performed a preliminary investigation when a citizen had filed a complaint to the EHPD. That complaint, which Kelly said he was assigned to in April, claimed that Engel had obtained an "excessive amount" of applications for absentee ballots and was "distributing them to individuals."

Kelly stated that Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba provided him with the copies of the town's absentee ballot applications, where he found 11 separate applications that labeled Engel as the "person that assists another person in the

completion of this application." The 11 names are residents of Engel's seasonal campground, Markham Meadows.

In the affidavit, Kelly states that the signatures of the "applicant" and "designee" appear unique on each application. However, Kelly states that Wieleba had a "suspicion" when two applications, for Donna and Richard Kelley, had received the absentee ballot applications "unsolicited." At the time Wieleba wrote a note on each of the applications that said "did not request."

The town clerk's office then contacted Engel, Kelly states, about the matter, and Engel informed the office that she would come to the town clerk and pick up the copies of the absentee ballots. Shortly after, the town clerk's office decided not to turn over the applications, but rather keep them "on record." Kelly states that Engel did not attempt to pick up the applications, but did request that the applications "simply be destroyed." The applications have remained on file, Kelly states.

After reviewing the information, Kelly states that there may have been violations of state statutes, related to laws "pertaining to distribution of absentee ballots, recording of absentee ballots, and requirements for designees."

This past Tuesday, however, Wieleba submitted a letter to Oyola, stating that Engel had

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## RHAM Students Urged to Curb Climate Change

by Geeta Schrayter

RHAM high and middle school students on Wednesday learned about climate change and its causes, impacts and ways to reduce global warming.

The hour-long assembly was presented by the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) and aimed to educate students about, as Brian Stilwell, an educator with ACE's New England Team put it, "a pretty serious issue."

"The last thing you want is another person lecturing you on the world's problems," he said. "I mean, what's that going to do anyways? But here's the deal: world leading scientists say there isn't much time to fix the world's climate, and if it's going to happen – you're the generation that's going to fix it."

Stilwell explained the issue in a way that was easy for students to understand and discussed the science and problem of climate change as well as the solutions.

"People always talk about the future like it's something that happens to us, but the truth is we have the power to shape the future we want to see," he said.

Students at the middle school presentation were taught how the Earth has "a sort of giant thermostat" that controls the temperature of the climate.

Stilwell emphatically stated that the temperature is being "jacked up – way up," due to green-

houses gases – the increase of which can be attributed to the way of life that's desirous in America and other countries around the world: living large.

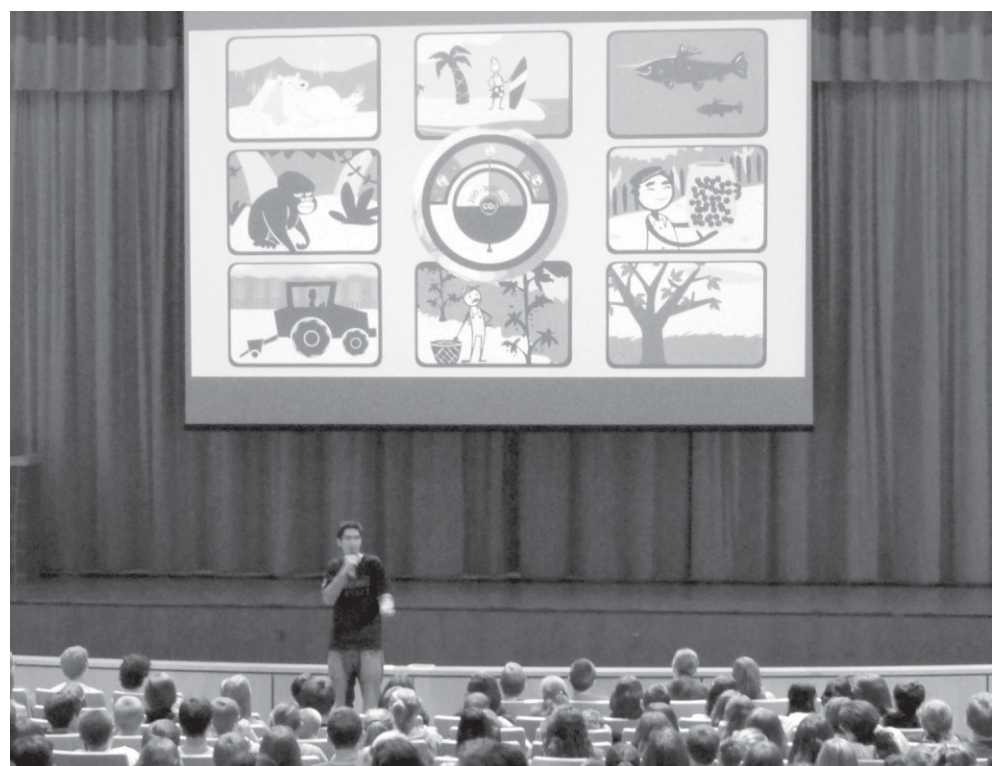
Stilwell explained most people are living large and don't realize it, meaning that each individual takes up a significant amount of space on earth. He broke it down by saying houses takes up space, the land used to grow food takes space, land in foreign countries used to produce items takes up space, land in the Middle East where fuel is from takes up space and finally, everything that's thrown away takes up space.

"The average U.S. teenager like you uses about 21 football fields' worth of resources to live," he said, adding that it would take running from Boston to D.C. to cover the amount of space used by an average school.

Stilwell showed how "living large" requires the use of a lot of energy; the burning of a lot of fossil fuels, the result of which is an increase in greenhouse gases and consequently, a warmer planet.

While acknowledging the earth's temperature naturally fluctuates, Stilwell emphasized that it's higher than it's ever been. He explained burning fossil fuels releases one of the main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO2), which, is measured in parts per million (ppm).

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**Brian Stilwell of Alliance for Climate Education spoke to RHAM students about climate change Wednesday.** Animated videos, such as the one shown here depicting activities that occur under current climate conditions, accompanied the presentation.

### Change cont. from Front Page

When CO2 levels are low, so are temperatures. At 100 ppm the earth would be as it was during the Ice Age. At 200 ppm, “things are comfy,” he said.

Historically, Stilwell explained, the amount of CO2 has never gone above 300 ppm. But because of the amount of fossil fuels that are currently used, at present, CO2 levels are at 390 ppm.

Although the earth has natural ways to deal with CO2 such as plants, trees, oceans and the soil, Stilwell stated there’s too much for them to handle, and they’re also decreasing due to the destruction of forests and the warming of the oceans. Additionally, it was explained CO2 isn’t the only greenhouse gas emitted into the atmosphere.

Stilwell went on to say that although “98 percent of the world’s climate scientists say people are responsible for global warming, and every international science academy agrees” there’s still a small group of scientists who aren’t convinced.

And now is simply not the time to roll the dice on whether that small group of scientists is correct, Stilwell said.

“I would take that chance in a cartoon world, where no one really gets hurt,” he said, “but this is the real world we’re talking about; the only world we’ve got.”

Students at the assembly were shown the consequences of doing nothing to curb climate change that included dangerous weather – some of which we’ve already seen – and the extinction of many of the earth’s animals. If nothing changes, it was stated 30 percent of the world’s animals would be extinct within the students’

### Engel cont. from Front Page

“followed the rules” when requesting the absentee ballot applications. She added that if Engel had been “willfully violating” any state statutes, she would have “addressed the issue immediately” and sought guidance from the secretary of state’s office.

Wieleba also added that Kelly stating that she was “suspicious” was untrue. She also questioned Kelly’s statement that Engel wanted the applications “destroyed.”

“I do not believe that Ms. Engel was trying to hide or destroy ‘evidence,’” Wieleba stated. “Given that the application could not be used, I did not find it unusual or suspicious for her to suggest discarding the applications.”

Engel said Wednesday she is “complying”

lifetime.

Along with this, it was explained that a changing climate would mean a change in some of the things students are used to in New England.

Sea levels are rising at a rate of 14 feet per year and eroding beaches, Stilwell stated, adding that places such as Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall could end up under water during flooding. He also said New England could end up feeling like South Carolina in August.

“Fewer cold snaps could keep maple trees from producing sap to make syrup and ski areas may not be able to keep operating all the way through the winter,” he said. “And last but not least, a warming world means that beautiful fall foliage we love so much here in New England – well, that’ll be under attack too.”

While acknowledging some of these things were already occurring, and scientists expect it to be much worse if nothing changes, Stilwell stated “the future isn’t written yet and there’s a choice.”

The presentation encouraged students to choose a DOT, or to Do One Thing to help the environment and cool the climate. Examples would be to change the type of light bulbs used at home, drink from a reusable water bottle, “green your diet” and join (or start) an Action Team to fight climate change at school.

Animated videos accompanied Stilwell’s presentation. In one of the videos, it was explained that CO2 stays in the air for hundreds of years, meaning the actions of today affects generations to come. Ultimately, Stilwell informed the students it was up to them to make a difference.

with the request from the SEEC for information on the matter, and doesn’t believe there is any truth to the complaint.

“Because I know the allegations to be false, I’m confident that the case will be dropped,” Engel said. She did not comment any further on the complaint.

When asked what the ramifications could be if Engel was found to have violated SEEC regulations, Nicolescu said Tuesday the commission “has a number of options,” but did not describe the possible punishments.

“Each case has a life of its own,” Nicolescu said. She also said that there is currently no timetable for the case to be completed.

## East Hampton Village Center Group to Hold First Meeting

by Joshua Anusewicz

Taking a page from another similarly-named group in town, representatives from businesses and organizations in the Village Center have banded together to form Friends of the Village Center, which will hold its first meeting next Thursday, Nov. 3, at 5:30 p.m. at 70 Main Coffee House.

Bonnie Sweet-Reilly of Red Door Boutique, one of the individuals who helped spearhead the effort, said that the group hopes to create a “safe, clean environment for shopping and entertainment while maintaining the integrity of the village.” She said that the group will discuss ways to promote economic development and the revitalization of the district, an idea that many in the town have pushed for.

Sweet-Reilly said that representatives from All About Blinds, Main Street Pizza, 70 Main, Xchange for Change, Hair Corner, Anything Goes, Center Package Store, and other businesses will be in attendance. She said Rich Leone, chairman of the Economic Development Commission, will be present, and she has contacted the public library and East Hampton

Congregational Church to participate.

When asked for her inspiration for the group, Sweet-Reilly said that she has seen how successful Red Door Boutique has been and hoped to “set a standard” for new businesses in the center. Red Door Boutique has been in the center for over 10 years.

There is currently “a lot of good energy working toward making the Village Center better,” said Sweet-Reilly. Just recently, with the help of the public works department, businesses helped clean the Village Center while the transfer station waived the fees for disposing of the items. Also, this week, the Town Council also approved moving forward with signs that would be posted at the intersections of Main Street and Route 66 and Main Street and Route 16, promoting the Village Center.

“We’ve gotten people together and said, ‘Let’s make it happen,’” Sweet-Reilly said. “And we’re all supporting one another, and hope the whole community will get involved.”

The meeting will be informal and will be open to the public.

### From the Editor’s Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

An always-enjoyable way to wrap up the week is with the NBC comedies on Thursday night. Even when I can’t see them live, I always DVR them and watch them the next day. TV comedies are enjoying a renaissance these days, and while other comedy blocks get higher ratings (such as CBS’ Monday night shows), for sheer laughs, you just can’t beat NBC on Thursdays.

The block is anchored, as it has been for the past four seasons, by *The Office* at 9 p.m. The show famously lost star Steve Carell at the end of last season, when the actor decided to focus more of his attention on movies. Without Carell’s Michael Scott character – who was in many ways the heart of the show, and the most enjoyable character on it – a lot of people wondered at the end of last year if *The Office* could, or should, go on.

NBC, not surprisingly, decided the answer to both questions was ‘yes.’ The network’s ratings have been tanking for the past few years, and *The Office*, though its numbers weren’t what they once were, was still one of the few bright spots in the lineup. So it returned *The Office* for an eighth year and, while I was skeptical, I thought I’d give it a shot.

And the results this season have been fairly pleasing. The show still makes me laugh, and Ed Helms’ Andy Bernard character is an enjoyable enough boss (plus Andy, who has been on the show for the past several seasons), even though his insecurities and eagerness to win over the rest of the office staff remind me too much at times of Michael Scott. (Yes, Michael was a great character, but he was such a well-drawn character, and Carell did such a terrific job playing him, that having a boss character that acts too much like Michael will only make viewers simply wish Michael were back.)

But, overall, the comedy tends to be too broad, and the plots too silly. Truth be told, the quality of the show has been in decline for the last couple of seasons. It’s still been entertaining, and there have been some great episodes here and there, but the show just isn’t the same that it had been at its peak, when nearly every week could be counted on to be a terrific episode. Gone are the days of the relatable, painfully awkward moments that used to make viewers laugh and cringe at the same time. The characters, and the relationships, on the show have become less realistic.

One of the chief reasons *The Office* is no longer what it was is that several behind-the-scenes people – including longtime showrunner Greg Daniels – departed the show in 2008 for the series that now leads into *The Office* at 8:30 p.m.: *Parks and Recreation*. The show, now in its fourth season, is the best show on the Thursday night comedy block and, in my opinion, the funniest show on TV.

The writing is just incredibly sharp, and there’s rarely a comedic moment wasted. It offers a blend of subtle moments and over-the-top ones (see Tom Haverford’s hilarious “Entertainment 720” company), to hilarious results.

*Parks and Rec.* started off rather slow in its first season, as the writers seemed to just be trying a little too hard. I wanted to enjoy it, but found myself smiling more than laughing. I stuck with it for season two, though, and that’s when things really took off. The writers and producers seemed more at ease,

the show seemed to find its voice, and the cast really began to gel.

Things got even better in season three, with the introduction of two new characters – Ben Wyatt and Chris Traeger – who fit in perfectly with the rest of the cast. (The show had also by this point rid itself of what was its only real dead weight, the bland character of Mark Brendanawicz.) The show was now firing on all cylinders, and it reached the level *The Office* had reached at its peak – delivering a winning episode nearly every week. So far, season four has proven just as good. If you haven’t seen *Parks and Rec.* yet – and it’s the lowest-rated show in the NBC comedy block, so maybe you haven’t – I strongly urge you to check it out. As Chris Traeger might say, it is *literally* the best half-hour on television.

The show that precedes *Parks and Rec.* on Thursdays isn’t so bad either. Now in its third season, *Community* is about a community college only on the periphery. In reality, it’s a show about a wacky but close-knit group of characters and their increasingly bizarre world. The show probably makes me laugh and say “what in the world???” in equal doses each week. Its plots are probably the most complex of the NBC comedies; a recent episode, for example, consisted almost entirely of seeing six alternate timelines play themselves out.

The show’s characters tend to be a little cartoonish, but that works on a show like this. It doesn’t aim for the realism of shows like, say, *Modern Family* (which is another gem). It’s a half-hour of pure escapist comedy, and it does it well.

While watching *Community*, I can’t help but think that one day the show is going to collapse under its own creativity, and become too clever for its own good; too busy with its movie and TV show references and elaborate plots to actually make us laugh. But for now, I’m going to enjoy the ride. After *Parks and Rec.*, it’s the NBC show that delivers most consistently.

Which brings me to *Whitney*, the show that follows *The Office* on Thursdays. It’s the weakest link in the Thursday night comedy lineup; that being said, it’s not bad so much as a throwback. The entire package – the relationship humor, the endless supply of sex jokes, the underdeveloped supporting characters and last but certainly not least the fact it’s filmed in front of a live audience – reminds me very much of the types of sitcoms that used to populate NBC’s lineup in the late ‘90s.

I do see potential here. The stock-sitcom annoying friends still have yet to show any other traits but annoying, but that’s not altogether uncommon on a show like this. They may develop over time. The title character, played by Whitney Cummings, and her live-in boyfriend do seem to genuinely love each other, and their fondness helps to elevate their scenes together.

*Whitney* may never become a comedy classic, or even appointment television, but I could easily see it becoming an enjoyable, if mildly predictable, way to spend a half hour. You just have to dial back your expectations a few years.

So, I guess the bottom line is: take some time and try out those NBC comedies. Even with the average *Whitney*, it’s the best two-hour comedy block on TV.

# If You Can Dream It, Mimi Can Do It in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Since Mimi Perrotti opened Mimi Design Lakeside Signs in December, she has been hard at work putting her design skills to good use. And the results are noticeable if you take a look around town.

Campaign signs? That was probably Perrotti. Signs in front of Town Hall for the high school baseball team's state championship? She did those, too. She even created the new license plates for the East Hampton Fire Department.

"It's all about being custom," Perrotti said about her business. "You tell me what you want, and I'll come up with something."

Mimi Design Lakeside Signs is the first business of its kind in East Hampton, and is certainly a one-of-a-kind shop. Perrotti offers every kind of creative service or graphic design project one could imagine, but she also specializes in large format printing, which includes banners, flags, vehicle and window graphics, and lawn signs.

Although Perrotti's business has only been in East Hampton since December, she has almost 20 years of experience with graphic design. She began in the field in 1993, and her employment has run the gamut since then. She has worked and owned shops in North Haven, Hartford and Florida, where she began to toil in large format printing. But up until recently, she had to put her design background aside, taking a management position at a grocery store.

Looking to get back into the design business, Perrotti stumbled upon East Hampton while visiting friends in town. While in town, she spotted an open location, at 21 West High St., and saw it as opportunity to start her own business again.

After a few months of renovating the building, Perrotti opened in December, in the middle of what she called "a very slow winter." But despite the weather, Perrotti said over 60 people showed up for her "opening ceremony," which

she credited to networking through her friend, Jim Markovitz of Century 21 Real Estate.

"It really showed me something," Perrotti said of the residents she met. "The town really came together to help." She said it's not uncommon for people to pop in and "check out" the shop to tell her that they'll be back, and she said she has been humbled by "all of the support."

What Perrotti said sets her apart from other design companies is her ability to "customize." Most design shops, Perrotti said, have books where you can order standard graphics that most companies offer. Perrotti, on the other hand, creates the design herself, right down to logos if she has to, for the customary brochures and business cards, to the less traditional lollipops, candy bars and even Halloween costumes.

It's not much more expensive, Perrotti said, to customize something that you want than it is to get a standard design, something that she "takes a lot of pride in." She also takes pride in the fact that she's "overly particular," a trait that most customers prefer.

"If it's not right, or I don't feel quite comfortable with it, I'll take more time," Perrotti said. But it's not just the design aspect that she works on; aside from a few freelancers, Perrotti is a one-woman dynamo, handling a project from start to finish. She said that this will help her when she plans to hire help, because she "wants to know what it takes" to get the job done, and get it done right.

Perrotti has recently moved to East Hampton and "planted her roots" in town, as she put it. She said she hopes to expand the business to other franchises, but plans to have her "home base" in Belltown, where she feels she is already becoming part of the community. Now that she has done work for the town's businesses, schools and other organizations, she is looking to give back. She allows businesses to feature business cards in her shop, and hopes to work with the Economic Development Com-



Mimi Perrotti, owner of Mimi Design Lakeside Signs, shows off an example of some large format printing in her shop, located on West High Street. Her shop offers a wide array of creative services, including signs, business cards and banners.

mission (EDC) to keep the town's businesses thriving.

During the holiday season, Perrotti said she plans to have an open house, where she will feature food and show off her work. She said it's her way of saying "thanks" to the community, while giving businesses – including her own – an opportunity to network.

And if you take a look at her shop, with examples of her work proudly displayed, it

shouldn't be hard for her business to thrive.

"I've seen the growth already," Perrotti said. "I'm happy where I am at, but I want it to keep growing."

For more information, e-mail Perrotti at [mimi-design@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mimi-design@sbcglobal.net), call 860-467-6139, or simply stop by the shop, located at 21 West High St. Its hours are 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and appointment only on Saturdays.

## East Hampton Councilors Bid Farewell at Meeting

by Joshua Anusewicz

After what could gently be described as a tumultuous two years, the seven current members of the East Hampton Town Council took a chance to reflect and give thanks at their final meeting together on Tuesday night at Town Hall.

Four members – Chairwoman Melissa Engel, Vice Chairman John Tuttle, Thom Cordeiro and Christopher Goff – are not seeking re-election; the remaining three members – Sue Weintraub, Barbara Moore and Chatham Carillo – are each running for one of the seven spots on the council at the Nov. 8 municipal elections.

"I've had a great time," said Engel, who has served on the council for the past 12 years. "And I believe [the council has] always had the town's best interest on our minds."

Engel said she would miss the residents and councilors that she served, stating that many of the people that she got to know she "would have never met otherwise." She also thanked her family and friends, adding that many had to endure "humiliation and mudslinging" that they "did not deserve."

"And they encouraged me to continue every step of the way," Engel said.

Tuttle, who has served on the council for eight years, took the opportunity to thank Cathy Sirois, the council's recording secretary, whom he said has been a "huge help" to the council over the past two years. He also expressed his happiness with the town's new road plan, which will repair the majority of town roads over the next four years.

But Tuttle also took the opportunity to defend Sgt. Michael Green, who has been suspended from the East Hampton Police since August for allegedly not performing certain duties. Combating critics, Tuttle read a list of upgrades Green had made at the police department while Police Chief Matthew Reimondo was temporarily removed from his position in 2010.

"I think he did a lot of good things," Tuttle stated after he read the list, which contained mostly technological upgrades Green made. Green ran the department as the lieutenant dur-

ing Reimondo's absence.

Cordeiro said "a lot of good things have transpired over the last four years" while he served on the board, and he thanked the community for giving him the opportunity to serve. Cordeiro took particular pride in the town's newly formed arts commission, which he helped create this year.

Goff has served on the board for eight years, and took the time to share some of his proudest accomplishment while on the council, which included being part of writing the town's code of conduct, regionalizing the town's animal control and representing the council on the town's Yellow Ribbon program.

During the meeting's public comments, residents also took the opportunity to thank the council for their service. Resident Nikki O'Neill, wife of the late Gov. William O'Neill, praised the council for "a job well done" and said she realizes the effect that political service has on an individual.

"Politics takes its toll on a family," O'Neill said. "It takes time and effort, balancing your regular job, your volunteer job and your family. We're going to miss these four members."

Resident John Hines said it was "a pleasure" to have the council represent the town. He admitted that he didn't always agree with the council's decision, but that he "always appreciated [their] point of view."

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Also discussed at the meeting, on several occasions, was an issue that has defined this council's tenure – the police department.

While the issue of Green is still being investigated, and thus has not been discussed during public session at the advice of legal counsel, the council did report on the overtime records of the officers while Green has been on paid administrative leave.

Engel announced that since Green has been on leave, he has accrued roughly \$17,500. During that time, certain members of the department have had to work overtime hours, said Engel. She provided a copy of the overtime records from the department for the month of

October, which she said were sought via the Freedom of Information Act by resident John Olzacki.

According to the document, officers have worked almost 400 hours of overtime this month. Engel also pointed out that Sgt. Garritt Kelly has accrued the most overtime, with just over 150 hours. Engel said that equaled about \$9,000 in extra pay.

Engel also said that during that time, Sgt. Timothy Dowty has been in Virginia for training. She questioned the fact that two sergeants were not working while the department was "low-staffed."

"The [acting interim] town manager [Anne McKinney] should be advised of this," Engel said. "If not, I feel this will just slip through the cracks."

Another issue that was raised was by Weintraub, who noticed that on the town's "end-of-year transfers," which were approved at the meeting, there were two vacant positions at the police department that saved the town roughly \$53,000. She questioned why they were not filled if the department was "low-staffed."

Engel agreed, and asked McKinney to discuss these issues with Reimondo. She added that the town would consider looking into the configuration of shifts at the department in hopes of finding "savings." This would have to be discussed, Engel said, in the negotiation of the new union contract.

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Sears Park was also the focal point of several actions at Tuesday's meeting – with the most significant one being the adoption of a "policy" that would restrict smoking in the park to certain areas.

Parks and Recreation Director Ruth Plummer and Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila were on hand to discuss their proposal, which offered the town either an "ordinance" or a "policy" to curb smoking. The policy, D'Aquila said, would prohibit smoking in the areas of the beach, the playground and the picnic benches in the park. Plummer said that the rule would be added to the signs that show the rules and regulations of

the park.

An "ordinance," D'Aquila said, would provide the town with enforcement of smokers at the park, and the police could issue tickets to those caught smoking in prohibited areas. The majority of the council, however, opposed an "ordinance," with the concern that police officers would be too busy to deal with the issue.

Tuttle expressed concern with prohibiting smoking in certain areas, and said that he had hoped smoking would instead be limited to "designated areas." Plummer said the decision was made to prevent parents from having to leave children unattended to smoke in the designated areas.

The council, which had opposed a total ban in the past, approved the policy 5-2, with Moore and Goff opposed. Tuttle said the town would "see how the policy goes" over the next year, and recommended "beefing it up" if it becomes a bigger issue.

Also, due to increased traffic at the town clerk's office, the council agreed to move the sale of Sears Park stickers will be moved from the town clerk to the parks and recreation office.

Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba approached the council to request this change, calling it a "burden to the office."

Sears Park stickers will now be sold at the parks and recreation office, located at the Town Hall annex, 240 Middletown Ave. Stickers will continue to be sold at the police department and public library, as well.

Finally, a contract was awarded to Cheryl Newton Architects for the design of a performing arts gazebo at Sears Park. The design process will begin early next year, Plummer said, but there is currently no timetable for its completion.

"We hope it will be done for next summer," Plummer said.

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The next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 20 East High Street. This will be the first meeting with the new council.

# 'Invisible Bridge' Dedication Takes Place in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

The 12th annual Connecticut Greenway Awards ceremony took place in Andover last Friday, Oct. 21. Representatives, residents and guests met at the Hop River State Park Trail for a presentation of the awards, a designation of new Greenways in the state and the dedication of Andover's long-awaited covered bridge.

Jokes were aplenty as First Selectman Bob Burbank acknowledged the bridge's arrival, quipping, "Finally, the invisible bridge we've had in Andover is here."

He explained the bridge was brought in three sections and weighed approximately 125,000 lbs. The sections he was referring to loomed in the background. Burbank stated once the construction of the walls, floors and roof are completed, the bridge would be moved into place with a large crane. He expected that would take place in the first week of December, and a grand opening would occur sometime in the spring.

State Representative Pamela Sawyer admitted getting the bridge had been "a long 10-year process."

"It's an early celebration of the bridge," she said, "but the long celebration of all your hard work."

Sawyer added that, once it's complete, it will be the only covered bridge on the entire Greenway "from Canada to Florida."

The East Coast Greenway is a developing trail system that runs close to 3,000 miles from Calais, ME, at the Canadian border, to Key West, FL, linking all of the major cities on the East Coast. In a recent press release from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, it was stated Greenways may be "paved or unpaved trail systems, ridgelines, or linked parcel of open space." According to the Greenway Alliance website, about 26 percent of the East Coast Greenway is currently trails, while the remainder is on road.

For bikers Gary Rosenzweig of Manchester, David Morrow of Vernon and Chris Squires

of East Hartford, the completion of the bridge means they can go further a little bit easier.

"We call this 'The Bridge-out,'" said Rosenzweig. "Everyone would say 'we're riding to The Bridge-out today,' then we turn around and go back."

"It does end up being one of the end points," Morrow added. "It tends to be the furthest we go from Vernon."

While only the "invisible bridge" was in place, the bikers stated they'd have to cut off The Greenway, go down onto the road, cross over, and re-enter on the other side.

Once the bridge is finally up, Morrow said they'd have to rename it, - "What is it going to be now, 'The Bridge?'" - and would be more likely to bike beyond it.

"It's been a long process," said Squires. "But it's definitely going to be one of a kind... this is going to be something great when it goes on. It's going to be huge."

Along with celebration of the bridge's arrival, awards were announced and new Greenway designations were recognized within the state.

Connecticut Greenways Council member Lois Bruinooge presented the awards, which included Legislative Awards for Sawyer and state Senator Steve Cassano, whose support for the Greenways has spanned more than 20 years. Sawyer was recognized as a strong advocate for Connecticut Greenways and a primary force in "securing funding for the bridge."

Former state Sen. Michael Meotti was awarded the Special Achievement Award and Tom Mazziars, Bureau Chief at the Bureau of Policy and Planning for the Connecticut Department of Transportation, was awarded the Transportation Award.

Also recognized were Doug MacGillvary who received the volunteer award, Tom Adamski who was honored with the Unsung Hero Award, and Joseph Lenear who received the Youth Leadership Award.

Five new Greenways were designated at the



Pictured speaking at the Oct. 21 dedication ceremony is state Rep. Pam Sawyer. In back are, from left, state Sen. Edith Prague, First Selectman Bob Burbank and state Sen. Steve Cassano.

event and William D. O'Neill, vice chairman of the Greenways Council, was happy with the changes.

"We're pleased to announce that our state-wide Greenway map is out of date," he said.

Laurie Giannotti, ex-officio member for the Greenways Council, announced the designations, which were Canterbury's Quinebaug River Corridor, Litchfield Community Greenway, Pomperaug River Greenway, the

Scantic River Greenway extension in South Windsor and the Shetucket River Greenway.

There are now 67 designated Greenways in Connecticut.

"It's a good beginning," said O'Neill, who also acknowledged that they were a little late with the covered bridge, as it was expected in 2008.

"We missed it a little but the feeling and purpose is the same," he said.

# State Archeologist Entertains Colchester with Vampire Stories

by Bailey Seddon

Nicholas Bellantoni may be state archeologist and a professor at the University of Connecticut, but Monday night he was also a story teller.

With Halloween just around the corner, the time was right for Bellantoni's presentation at Cragin Memorial Library, entitled "Vampire Folk Belief in Historic New England." Attendees of the presentation were enthralled by Bellantoni's tales of forensic discovery - and the lengths to which people went to vanquish what they felt were vampires.

Bellantoni led off with the tale of the Walton family. In the fall of 1990, near the Quinebaug River in Griswold, three boys were playing near a pile of sand and gravel when they discovered two skulls. Once it was obvious the remains were very old, Bellantoni and his team was called in.

Bellantoni determined the bones were around 150 years old but "the question was, who are these people?" he said.

After some research it was discovered that in 1757 a man named Nathaniel Walton had bought the plot of land the remains were found in, for the burial of members of his family. The Walton family had settled in Griswold in 1692 and farmed their land for four generations during the 18th century. However, in 1805, the Waltons sold their property and moved to Ohio. The cemetery was abandoned and forgotten until the discovery in 1990.

On the Walton property the excavation team unearthed 29 burial shafts. From the physical remains archeologists can tell many things, Bellantoni said, such as their age, gender, nutrition, cause of death (if it was caused by trauma) and other details.

"Dead men tell a lot of tales," Bellantoni joked.

Three of the shafts were enscribed with "NB, 13," "IB, 46" and "JB, 55." JB's casket was also surrounded by a brick box as a type of crypt. In all likelihood, the archeologists concluded, this was a family: father, wife and son. The letters were likely their initials and the numbers their ages at their death.

The father, JB, brought the most interest to the archeologists. His skull was facing the wrong direction, bones found outside the crypt and the skeleton had been totally rearranged in the grave. The thigh bones had been uprooted and crossed over the chest. Even stranger, it was discovered that the crypt had been tampered with five to 10 years after JB had died. The

teams first thought that it was vandalism, but that was quickly disregarded as the other graves had not been tampered with.

What could the answer be to this strange burial? Vampirism, said Bellantoni.

Just two miles away in Jewett City, around the same time, victims of tuberculosis, then called "consumption," were thought to be coming out of their graves to kill their remaining family members.

Consumption was the "biggest killer of adult Americans before the Civil War," Bellantoni said. In those days people did not understand how diseases spread, and those sick with consumption would usually pass it along to family members. This confusion sometimes led people to believe that the first person to die of the disease was still alive and coming out at night to kill their relatives, who were now also showing signs of consumption. How did these scared people solve the vampire issue? They made sure the vampire was killed for good and laid to rest, Bellantoni said.

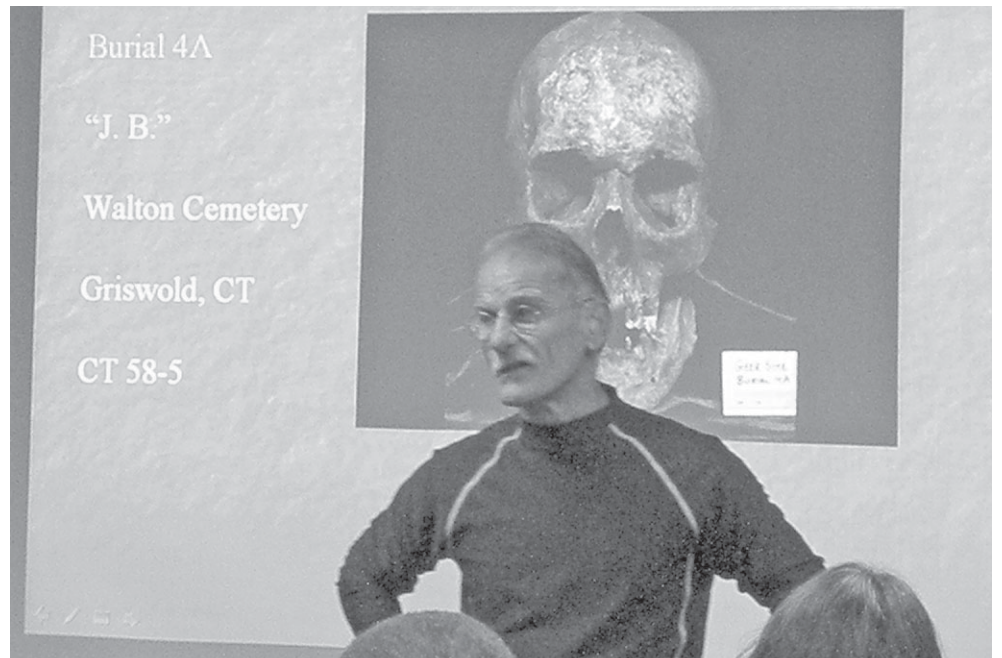
While archeologists can tell if someone had a certain disease, there is no way to be 100 percent sure that is how the person died, Bellantoni said. Archeologists have to make an educated guess based on all the facts they are given. In JB's case, it was evident that he had suffered a trauma to the left side of his body, but that wasn't what killed him. Rather, his ribs had lesions of tuberculosis, indicating this was likely the cause of death, Bellantoni said. Tuberculosis does not always leave lesions so this means for JB it must have been a chronic disease, Bellantoni said. He added that if the disease is chronic it will eat away at the bone and leave a scar.

Based on his death, and the fear of vampires just two miles away, it was easy to see this was why JB's burial had been tampered with.

"It is the best explanation of why JB was so dramatically rearranged," Bellantoni said.

He added it is likely JB died first, followed by his wife and child. When they got sick after his death, those five to 10 years later, it must have been thought that he was coming back for them, Bellantoni said.

Nearby, the Ray family was also struck with such an affliction. Henry Ray died of consumption and, when two of his sons soon followed, the remaining family members determined Henry Ray was leaving his coffin and killing off the rest of the family. His grave was dug up and it was found that he still had blood in his heart (because it had not yet decomposed,



Tales of vampire folklore throughout New England were told by State Archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni during a presentation at Cragin Memorial Library on Monday. Bellantoni also made presentations in other area towns this week, including Hebron.

Bellantoni said), which they took to mean Henry was still alive. They ripped out his heart, brought it to a blacksmith and burned it.

Bellantoni also relayed the story of the Brown family in Exeter, RI. A mother and her two daughters died of consumption. When the brother, Edwin, started showing signs of the disease, it was decided that one of the women must be a vampire. The mother, Mary, was found with blood still in her heart so the family had it burned and made into a potion that Edwin drank. However, he died four months later.

Another case came in 1790, when the wife of a Woodstock, VT, man died of consumption and was buried in the town cemetery. The man remarried and, years later, his second wife also was struck with the illness. Three hundred of the townspeople then dug into the first wife's grave, thinking she had killed the second wife out of revenge.

"There are a number of cases" like these, Bellantoni said. And while the idea of digging up corpses to make sure people weren't killing from beyond the grave may seem crazy to 21st-century thinkers, this was not unusual of the time period.

"These people were frightened, they were scared," Bellantoni said, and they were trying to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Bellantoni said the idea of vampirism was mostly a "19th-century phenomenon," Bellantoni said. In 1882 Dr. Robert Koch discovered the causes of tuberculosis, taking much of the myth of vampirism away.

Then, in 1897 Bram Stoker came out with *Dracula*, which was an immediate success. Years after his death, articles were found on his residence of the vampire cases from Connecticut. While Stoker knew about the cases, they never appeared in his book, but must have influenced some of his work, Bellantoni said.

"Every new generation re-tells the story," and each one is "interesting and entertaining" in its own right, said Bellantoni.

However, he said, "What fascinates me most is reality" - what people thought and believed at that time period and how they reacted to it.

Monday's was the first of Bellantoni's presentations that occurred in the *Rivereast* area this week. On Thursday, he also presented on vampire folk belief to the Hebron Historical Society.

# Full Slate of Candidates Look to Fill Council Seats

by Joshua Anusewicz

With 15 candidates from three different parties running for seven open seats on the Town Council, you're bound to hear a variety of ideas, priorities and promises. But one issue that has been left unsettled for over a year is on the top of each candidate's mind – hiring a permanent town manager.



**Anderson**

This year's race will include five candidates from each of the town's three parties. They will include: incumbents Barbara Moore and Chatham Carillo, James Vick, John Moore, and George Pfaffenbach for the Democrats; Patience Anderson, Sal Nucifora, Kimberley Fontaine, Ted Hintz, Jr. and Josh Piteo for the Republicans; and incumbent Sue Weintraub, Kyle Dostaler, Glenn Suprono, Angela Sarahina and Derek Johnson of the Chatham Party.

Out of the three incumbents, Weintraub has served on the council the longest – four years. She has also served on the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as the Streetscape Steering Commission. She has lived in Middle Haddam for 22 years and currently owns her own graphic design and marketing firm, Weintraub and Company.

Weintraub said that during her time on the council, she has prided herself in "listening to residents, researching issues and working in the town's best interests." She said that while her views have often made her a lone wolf on the council, she believes that she "stands up for what is right."

When speaking about finding a new town manager, Weintraub said that "professionalism" will be her biggest priority. She said she will support a town manager that has a good relationship with business partners, which she believes will help draw more commerce – and more tax revenue – to the town.

She also said she has spoken with residents about their concerns, and the theme she has heard most often is that the town "wants trust restored."

"We need to take politics out of town governance," Weintraub said. "The residents are fed up, and you can see it clearly." She added that the council should not be "micromanaging" the town and that the employees in the town's departments are under the direction of the town manager, not the Town Council.

Incumbent Barbara Moore has served the past two years on the council, and is also the chairwoman of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC). She served 10 years on the Board of Finance, is a member of the Rotary Club and is a 40-year resident of East Hampton.

Moore said that the main reason she decided to run for re-election is that she wants to help "getting the town back to the unity we had." She said that the biggest key for the council in doing that will be "stronger communication" with the residents.

Hiring a permanent town manager is also one of Moore's biggest priorities, as are the much-

needed upgrades at East Hampton High School. The school currently needs renovations, particularly in its science labs, to pass a state accreditation.

"We can't be afraid of the economy, and we can't continue to put it off," Moore said. She also said that "small steps" have been made toward regionalization of town services, like the town's animal control officer, and she hopes to take "bigger steps" toward regionalization to help reduce taxes for the town.

Although Carillo will be running as an incumbent, this will be her first election. Carillo was appointed in January after the departure of William Devine from the council. She was born and raised in East Hampton and currently works as a legislative aide for state Sen. Eileen Daily, a position she has held since 1999.

Carillo said she decided to run because it's always been in her "to give back any way [she] can." She said her experience working with Daily has given her better knowledge of "process" and how "state laws work and how they apply to individual towns."

Aside from stating the importance of a permanent town manager, Carillo also mentioned the need for renovations at the high school. Being an EHHS grad herself, she said that much of the school "remains the same" as when she graduated over 15 years ago.

Carillo also noted the "unrest" within the town, and she has heard from residents that the town needs a council that will "work with everyone, not just for certain political parties." She also said that as a younger candidate – she will be 35 in November – she understands the need for a "good community that people want to move to, live in and raise their families."

One of the more unique candidates is Piteo, who will be going for a hat trick, having served on the Board of Finance for four years and serving on the Board of Education for the past two years. Piteo currently works as an equity investor and can be seen hosting *Get Real*, a civic affairs show on local access television.

Piteo said he is running for council because he doesn't believe the town is "taking advantage of its assets." He said the town has missed opportunities, particularly in the Village Center, to "make the town attractive for small businesses" to settle and thrive in the town, improving the town's tax base.

"These [small businesses] are the job creators," Piteo said. "We want them here and we want them to be able to expand." Also to help control taxes for residents, Piteo said he is hoping the council will improve control over town expenses, and added that he plans to look into administrative contracts within the Board of Education budget.

He said his experience on both the finance and education boards has served him well, and he has been able to help accomplish a lot. For example, during his time on the finance board, Piteo said there was no mill increase for two



**Carillo**

years. "Everything was fine, and I think we can get there again," he stated.

Dostaler is a familiar face to many residents in town, having served on the Town Council from 2005-07. Dostaler is the chairman of the Chatham Party and is also a member of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce and was involved with the group Take Back Our Town (TBOT), which helped force the referendum last year that reinstated Police Chief Matthew Reimondo. He currently works as a self-employed IT professional and web developer.

Dostaler said he decided to run for council because he believes the town needs "new leadership to make new decisions for the town." Like most, he said his first priority will be doing a "national search for the best possible town manager that the town can afford." He also listed the high school accreditation as a project that the council has to work with the school board to get completed.

While speaking with residents, Dostaler said that most residents "know they have a great town, and just want to hear great news." He believes this can be done by prioritizing improvements to the town and promoting "economic development in a proper way." He said his involvement in the town and his regular attendance at meetings throughout the town will allow to "hit the ground running" if he is elected.

Another familiar candidate is Pfaffenbach, who has served on Board of Finance for the past eight years. A 33-year resident of the town, he has also served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Mid-State Regional Planning Agency and the Rotary Club. He is currently an agent for Prudential Connecticut Realty.

Pfaffenbach said running for council seemed like a "good progression" from his town experience, and hopes he can "continue to make the town better." He listed the town manager as "the town's top priority," but also added that he is concerned with the issues in the police department. He said he would support a police commission that would help deal with conflict within the department.

Drawing from personal experience, Pfaffenbach also said he would research blight ordinances, as he feels there are several areas in town that need to be looked at. He said that the issue has been raised in his neighborhood and property values have dropped.

"We obviously can't step on people's rights," he said. "But it's certainly something that we can look into."

Pfaffenbach also stuck by a statement he



**Dostaler**



**Fontaine**

made when the Democratic slate was announced, stating that the town should employ a two-party system. He said that while "he respects the views" of the Chatham Party, he believes that a third party has "divided the town even more."

Anderson also has experience on the Board of Finance, having served on the board for the past two years. She has also served on the Economic Development Commission and the Conservation Lake Commission. She has run for Town Council once before, with the Chatham Party, in 2007.

A permanent town manager is the biggest priority for the town, Anderson said, stating that the "town has felt the effects of not having consistency" in leadership. She also listed the renovation of the high school and the expansion of economic development in town as important issues the council will face.

Anderson said that through speaking with residents, she has found many are concerned with the recent revaluation, which took place over the past year. She said that there are "in-equities" in the figures from the revaluation that have negatively affected residents, who are "really hurting" from the economic downturn.

"I've spoken to residents who feel they might have to leave East Hampton because they can't afford it anymore," Anderson said. "We can't have that. We need to look into this, be sympathetic to residents, and work to keep taxes low."

A newcomer to East Hampton, John Moore – no relation to Barbara – has worked hard to become involved in the community. He moved to town in 2009 and quickly became involved with Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, as well as the DTC. Moore currently works as a nationwide electronics distributor, and formerly worked as an executive for a jewelry manufacturer.

Moore said his experience in business gives him a leg up on other candidates, stating that "problem-solving is what I do." He said that his experience in budgeting and negotiating makes him a viable candidate, despite not being a lifelong resident.

Moore also listed the town manager and the high school as his biggest priorities, but added the possibility of a "public safety commission."



**Hintz Jr.**



**Johnson**



**Moore**

★**Candidates cont.**  
from page 20

ould include the police and fire departments, as well as EMTs.

"We need some help," Moore said of the public safety commission, "and I think that a non-partisan group could bring some positive change."

He also addressed the environment in town and the antipathy toward the Town Council, stating that no matter who gets voted in, the council "needs to move the town forward for good, and get the town out of this jam."

A 30-year resident of East Hampton, Suprono is a member of VFW Post 5095 and is a member of the Moose Lodge in Marlborough and Elks in Middletown. He was endorsed for the Republican slate, but did not receive enough votes at the caucus.

Suprono said he decided to run for council after Reimondo was fired last summer, an action that he said "enraged" him. He said that the town has "no room for vendettas or agendas," and hopes that a new council will put "the town together the way it's supposed to be run."

He said that hiring a new town manager will be the town's primary objective, but said there is a lot more that will be involved to "clean the town up." He said the "cleaning" will start with regaining the trust of the residents.

"Residents understand more than the current council thinks they do," Suprono said. "They don't want a water system just pushed on them; they need economic development done in a responsible manner."

Suprono stressed the fact that he doesn't consider himself a "politician" and that he has "nothing to gain" by serving on the council. His hope, he said, is that the town can be given back "to the people of this great little town."

Hintz said he has "many reasons" for running for council, but said that a combination of his experience in public service and seeing "the issues the town is facing" ultimately led him to run. Hintz is a lifelong resident of the town and owns a local family wealth preservation firm. He served four years on the Board of Finance as chairman and is a member of the Rotary Club.



**Moore**



**Nucifora**

On the issue of the town manager, Hintz said East Hampton needs an individual that is "competent" and, more importantly, will "stay with the town." He said that while the interim town managers have done a "good job," the town has been "floundering" from the lack of consistency.

Like Anderson, Hintz also expressed concern over the most recent revaluation, stating that he didn't feel residents "were treated fairly" by the company that had performed it. He also expressed the importance of expanding the tax base to alleviate the tax burden from the residents.

"Residents are having to pay for everything out of pocket," Hintz said. "They shouldn't be treated that way. And the Board of Assessment Appeals shouldn't have to work overtime because of a bad revaluation."

A political newcomer, Sarahina said she has found "a need to participate" because of the "negativity" in the town over the past two years. Sarahina currently serves as a director for the Haddam Neck Fair Association, is a lifelong resident of the town and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Sarahina said that aside from hiring a "professional" town manager, the council needs to set a "vision to make East Hampton better than it has been" with the current council. She said her hope is that more residents will get involved with boards and commissions, adding that residents should "have some say in how they live."

After speaking with residents, Sarahina said residents want taxes to be "brought under control," as most feel they pay too much, she said. She also said that residents are "sick of seeing negativity" in the town, and that she hopes to "move forward" from the issues that have caused this.

Vick describes himself as a "big believer in stability of government" and hopes that he has the chance to bring "civility" back to the council. Vick is a 14-year resident of East Hampton, and has served on the Old Home Days Association for eight years, the last two as president. He currently works as an English/lan-



**Pfaffenbach**



**Piteo**

guage arts teacher in Hartford, but has also worked in marketing and investing.

There are a number of issues that the town faces, Vick said, and added that each one has to be addressed through "careful analysis." He said that all of his jobs have been "analytical," and hopes to take input "from all angles and make decisions from there."

Vick also addressed the police department, stating that he's "not convinced it's operating at the best level that it should." He said a solution would not necessarily be a change in personnel, but a "change in policy" to help things run more efficiently.

Vick said that he wants to change the perception that East Hampton is "screwed up," and that the easiest way to do that is "by eliminating the causes" of that perception.

"Look at Old Home Days," Vick explained. "People from all the parties volunteer and get along and get things done. I'm not going to say the two are equivalent, but we can get along and make things better."

Fontaine has been involved with town organizations since moving to East Hampton in 2004, having served on the Economic Development Commission for the past several years. She currently works in grants and marketing for the state Health and Education Facilities Authority, which secures funding for nonprofit organizations, and volunteers with the Department of Children and Families.

Fontaine feels that, for the Town Council, there are "better ways to move the town forward," and believes that it needs to "start with action that isn't contrary to effective government." To be run more effectively, she feels that decisions need to be made "less emotionally."

While hiring a town manager is on her list of priorities, Fontaine focused on Request for Proposal (RFP), which she said she has a good amount of experience with. She said the town has not received the "best deal possible" for the services that the town has procured because they have not gone through proper channels. She said that by educating the town in RFP pro-



**Sarahina**



**Suprono**

cedure, the town could realize more savings for taxpayers.

Fontaine has spoken with residents and believes the town is "optimistic" that positive change is on the horizon. "I hope voters come out and make good decisions," she said. "This is an important juncture for our town."

Johnson is another candidate who has served on the Town Council before, from 2005-07. He is currently an adjunct professor of economics at the University of Connecticut and works at a law firm in New Britain.

Johnson said that there is a need for "non-partisan judgment on the Town Council" and believes that by instilling that, the council will be able to find the "real issues" the town faces. He agreed that the main goal for the council will be to find a town manager, but listed the high school accreditation and expense control as high priorities.

From speaking with residents, Johnson said he feels most people want the issues within the town staff to come to end.

"People just want an end to the constant rancorous debate," he said. "Enough is enough."

He added that to move forward, the council would need to "bridge issues" and come to consensus by "putting aside personal agendas," which he believes a new council can do.

Nucifora could not be reached for comment. During a candidate's forum last Thursday, Oct. 20, at Laurel Ridge, a senior living community, Nucifora said that one of his concerns was the town's ability to "meet requirements" for affordable housing, adding that the town has been taken advantage of by developers in the past. He said the town should preserve its open space areas, calling them "jewels" for the town.

Nucifora has lived in East Hampton for 38 years and currently works as a mechanical engineer. He is also a member of the Chatham Historical Society.

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St.



**Vick**



**Weintraub**

## Portland Receives \$560K for Quarry Heights Upgrades

by Joshua Anusewicz

On Tuesday, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield announced that Portland had received \$560,000 through the Small Cities grant program that will be used for much-needed upgrades at Quarry Heights, a rental housing project for the elderly and disabled, located on Main Street.

The Portland Housing Authority, through the town, originally applied for \$700,000 through the grant program in May. The town applied for the grant mainly to upgrade the fire alarm system, which the town fire marshal deemed to be not up to code.

Jackie Frazee, executive director of the Portland Housing Authority, said Wednesday that the entire Quarry Heights community is "excited" over the news. She said that aside from the fire alarm system, the money will help make upgrades to railings on stairwells and certain kitchen cabinets which are in need of repair.

Frazee said that there is no timetable for the completion of the project, but said that an ar-

chitect has been at the community and is working with the fire marshal to begin the project. She also added that a small celebration will be held for residents to "celebrate" the news.

Bransfield said Wednesday that the upgrades will make Quarry Heights a "safer place to live" for all of the residents, and will help improve the downtown area. She also said that it will provide the volunteer fire department with "improved notification" in the case of a fire.

Through the grant, the state has awarded \$12,342,000 to 28 different municipalities throughout the state.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program provides grants to eligible municipalities for economic development, affordable housing, community facilities and other revitalization projects. The state Department of Economic and Community Development administers the program.

## East Hampton Resident Charged For Damaging Campaign Sign

by Joshua Anusewicz

An "unhappy" resident that cut down a campaign sign located at his residence was arrested on Sunday, Sgt. Garritt Kelly of the East Hampton Police Department said.

Jeffrey Hyde, 52, of 153 Main St., was arrested and charged with second-degree criminal mischief, just hours after a sign supporting the Chatham Party had been placed on the lawn of his residence, Kelly said.

Kelly said that Hyde is not the property owner, but rather a tenant, of the Main Street home. Kelly said the property owner had "given his permission" for the sign to be posted.

According to Kyle Dostaler, chairman of the Chatham Party, the sign had been posted early Sunday afternoon, and he received phone

calls that the sign had been cut down at around 2:30 p.m. Dostaler said he took photographs of the sign and reported the incident to the EHPD.

The police canvassed the neighborhood, Dostaler said, and were able to determine that Hyde had done the damage to the sign.

Dostaler said he was "disappointed" to see that the sign was damaged, adding that it "takes a bit of effort" to put up the sign, which was roughly 4 feet high by 8 feet wide. He said that he has spoken with Hyde about offering "restitution" for the damage.

Hyde was released on a promise to appear, according to the state judicial website, and is due to appear in Middletown Superior Court Tuesday, Nov. 1.

# Bransfield Facing Two Challengers for Portland First Selectman

by Joshua Anusewicz

For the second straight election, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield will face two opponents on Election Day – Republican Don Bascom and American Independent Party candidate Lambros Lambrinides.

But Bransfield, who has held the position for the past eight years, feels her accomplishments during her tenure have earned the trust of voters.

“I think that many residents feel that my administration has done a good job,” Bransfield said. “I want to continue to serve our town and its residents. I hope to have two more successful years.”

Bransfield is seeking her fifth consecutive term; she first won in 2003. During that time, she has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments including securing over \$4 million in state and federal grants, continued improvement of the downtown and riverfront areas and various upgrades of town services.

The continued work of Bransfield, coupled with the various town boards, has led to two distinctions this year that she is particularly proud of – the town’s inclusion on *Money* magazine’s top 100 towns in the country, and Brownstone Intermediate School being named Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

“I received a letter recently from a resident, and the man said that he wasn’t surprised we were named one of the best towns because we already knew that,” Bransfield said. “Our residents just have such pride in where they live, and genuinely care for one another. That quality of life is what makes Portland great.”



**Bransfield**

Bransfield said that since she has been in office, the mill rate has been low and “has stayed relatively consistent,” all while “not compromising” town services. She said that this has been accomplished through cost-cutting measures like regionalization, such as the town’s emergency dispatch partnership with Middletown and the town’s inclusion in the Chatham Health District.

One of the biggest priorities for Bransfield, and for most of the town’s candidates, is to make the town more attractive for businesses to expand the tax base. Bransfield pointed out the Brownstone Discovery and Exploration Park, which has paid roughly \$172,000 to the town this year alone, as an example of what business can do for the town to take the burden off of residents. She said several businesses have been in talks to move to town soon, and said she will continue to push for more commerce in the town, including revitalizing the stalled Portland Town Place project on the Elmcrest property.

Bransfield also listed continued “improvement of infrastructure” and public safety as top priorities if she is reelected. She added that she will continue her “open-door policy” for residents who wish to speak with her about any concerns to get their point of view.

“When residents want something different, we try to compromise and meet in the middle,” she said.

One resident who has been concerned and wants something different is Bascom, a familiar face to many Portland residents. It might be easier to list things that Bascom hasn’t been



**Bascom**

involved with in town; he is currently the president of the Portland Fair Association, served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 10 years, and has volunteered with Boy Scouts, Little League, and the Exchange Club, among others. His involvement earned him the Spirit of Portland award from the Portland Senior Center earlier this year.

Bascom, a lifelong resident, said he decided to run for first selectman because he doesn’t “believe the town is moving at all.” He describes himself as a “proactive” candidate that will seek out business, rather than “sitting back and waiting for it to come” to the town.

He said that to do this, he hopes to push for a sewer and water system along Route 66 that will attract business to that corridor. He also said he hopes to revamp the town’s industrial park and create “ad hoc committees” for businesses on Main Street to find out what will work best for them to promote their business.

Other priorities for Bascom include promoting local agriculture and local farmers, and plans to look into improved energy costs, using “bulk purchasing of oil” for residents as an example.

When meeting with residents, Bascom said he has received a “tremendous response” from residents that don’t feel that their opinion is being heard. “Many residents have said, ‘Since you asked what I think, you have my vote,’” Bascom said. “They feel that this current administration doesn’t ask, they just do it.” He added that Portland could be “even better” for residents, despite the recognition the town has



**Lambrinides**

received.

This year’s election will offer a third candidate, as well. Lambrinides ran for first selectman in 2009 as a write-in candidate, but is running under the American Independent Party this year. He said he decided to run because he doesn’t “feel the town is being run properly,” and feels that residents feel the same way.

“There are projects that [Bransfield] has looked into, and they still haven’t gotten done,” Lambrinides said, citing the Portland Town Place project and various road improvements in the town. He said that his biggest priorities will be improving the business climate and the infrastructure in the downtown area.

Lambrinides bills himself as an “elected official,” not a politician, he said. Currently retired, he was a technician at Pratt & Whitney and was a member of the family that owned Middlesex Signs for over 70 years. He said his experience with the sign company gave him the opportunity to work with various different businesses and see how they operate.

While canvassing the town, Lambrinides said he feels he has gained a strong grasp of how the residents feel about the town.

“A lot more people are thinking differently,” Lambrinides said. “The whole nation is upset, and I think it has started to trickle down.” Lambrinides said that most residents aren’t impressed with the *Money* magazine distinction, stating that residents have said to him, “What has this [recognition] done for me?”

Lambrinides said he promises that he has “no political friends” and has “not accepted any money” for his campaign, but is rather running “through the proper channels.”

“Nothing is being done in the back room,” he added.

Voting will held on Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

## East Hampton Police Make Arrest in Financial Fraud Investigation

by Joshua Anusewicz

On Tuesday, East Hampton Police made their 10th arrest in a two-year investigation into financial fraud that has bilked nearly \$10,000 from the town.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, Doris Perry, 25, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with first-degree larceny, first-degree conspiracy to commit larceny and destruction of evidence. Kelly said Perry is an “upper-level affiliate” of the organization that has been committing fraud against several municipalities around the state.

In all of the related cases, Kelly said, the fraud has followed a similar pattern. One of the members of the organization – a recruiter – will find a person willing to cash a fabricated check. Kelly said the “casher” is usually “a destitute person” that has an identification card and is willing to make money. Once the “casher” is secured, the recruiter sends the casher’s personal information to the individual that fabricates the checks.

The checks are then made out for random amounts, Kelly said, that are just under \$1,000. Kelly said that because the checks are under \$1,000, the casher only needs to provide an identification card. The fraudulent check is then provided to the casher by the recruiter, who transports the casher to a Bank of America branch located a good distance from the municipality.

The casher then cashes the fraudulent check and returns the money to the recruiter, Kelly said. The casher and the recruiter each receive a share of the money, and the remainder is given to the upper-level members of the organization. Currently, the town has lost \$9,863.98 from the operation.

The EHPD has been investigating the operation with other federal, state and local law enforcement, Kelly said. He said EHPD officer Kevin Wilcox has been the lead investigator for the town.

Kelly said the checks that appear to be from the town have “looked legitimate.” He said that



**Doris Perry**

usually, by the time the loss of money is detected by the municipality, the fraud has already been completed.

When asked how the organization is able to obtain a check image from the towns, Kelly called it “the million-dollar question.” He said that the assumption is there are individuals working “inside the bank” that are in on the operation, but admitted that the investigation “is not that far along yet.” The investigation remains ongoing.

The overall investigation has resulted in 26 arrests total, with 10 of the arrests coming from the EHPD. The arrests, on a variety of fraud- and theft-related charges, include: Antonio Colon, 46, of New Britain; Rachel Sweeney, 39, of Middletown; James B. Anthony, 58, of Middletown; Sherry Webster, 23, of Waterbury; Wilfredo Rivera, 23, of Hartford; Terrilynn Sullivan, 42, of Clinton; Ebony Lockhart, 41, of Middletown; Yolanda Jones, 27, of Middletown; and Claudia Ramirez, 28, of Middletown.

## Hebron Selectmen Discuss Next Phase of Peters House Work

by Geeta Schrayter

With exterior work on the house underway, action regarding the next phase of renovations was discussed at the Oct. 20 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

In a letter to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, Building Official Joseph Summers stated the construction of interior stairs, partitions, plumbing, interior electrical, fire alarms, mechanical systems and interior structural work was next.

In order to move forward with the planning, the use of the Peters House needed to be determined to ensure proper building codes were followed.

“We just need some direction by all of you, basically because of building codes,” Therrien told the selectmen. She added there had been lots of discussion on a possible museum and meeting rooms.

“If there was a museum and meeting rooms,” she said, “the code would have to be the most extensive [compared to offices].”

Differences mentioned by Summers included plumbing requirements, the placement and type of light fixtures and appropriate ventilation.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt suggested using it for a meeting place, public events and Parks and Recreation.

“That seems the best way to go,” he said. He also noted the space was considered an historical place to begin with.

During the 18th century, a black couple named Cesar and Lowis Peters were living free in town. In 1787 they were captured with the intention of being sold into slavery. But Hebron residents came together and rescued

them by fabricating theft charges in town, saying the couple couldn’t be sold because they were wanted in Hebron.

The plan succeeded and the two returned to town where they resided for the rest of their lives. The Peters House, located at 150 East St. and purchased by the town in 2004, is said to have been their home.

In a letter to the selectmen, Therrien noted “the Historical Properties Committee and the Historical Society would like a portion of the building for a museum celebrating the town’s heritage.”

But selectman Brian O’Connell said he didn’t think the Peters House should immediately be left open to the public. “This is something that’ll be used on a scheduling basis,” he said.

Watt added that including the Parks and Recreation Department would provide on-hand staff to manage the opening and closing of the building.

“If you have Parks and Rec. in there, they’re almost like the keeper of the house,” he said, allowing the building to be rented by outside groups as well.

In the end, selectman Dan Larson motioned for the interior construction to be designed so the Peters House could be used for meetings and public events while leaving the option open for a potential museum in the future.

The motion passed unanimously. Currently, work is still taking place on the exterior of the building. Painting will take place in the spring after which interior work will begin, said Town Planner Mike O’Leary.

# Candidates Preparing for Portland Board of Selectmen Race

by Joshua Anusewicz

This year's Board of Selectmen race in Portland will be like a game of musical chairs, as seven candidates are running for six seats. And each candidate feels they have the skills to be the one that isn't left out.

The seven candidates include: Democrats Mark Finkelstein, Brian Flood, Kathleen Richards and Fred Knous, all incumbents; and incumbent Carl Chudzik, and newcomers Peter Clark and Ryan Curley, running for the Republicans.

Finkelstein is a lifelong Portland resident and has spent most of that time giving back to his town. He said that the inspiration to serve came from his parents, who he said raised him "to give back" to his community. He began in public service in the late 1970s and is the former chairman of the Board of Finance, before the town merged the finance and selectmen boards.

Today, Finkelstein is the vice president of Hughes Health and Rehabilitation in Hartford, and has served on the Board of Selectmen since 2002. He said he feels that his experience in business and town government provides him with "the tools to be an effective selectman" for the next two years.

One of the town's biggest priorities, Finkelstein said, will be "finding other ways to bring money into town to keep the pressure of residents" that carry the majority of the tax burden. He said that aside from drawing businesses into town to accomplish this, he hopes to continue "maintaining and improving infrastructure," particularly in the downtown area.

Finkelstein also mentioned bringing the board together to review the town's "long- and short-term goals" to see if the town's needs and priorities have changed. He said that through residents over the past two years, he's heard that many residents want properties on Main Street that are dilapidated to be dealt with, and he "agrees" it should be a priority.

Clark is running for the Board of Selectmen for the first time. For eight years, Clark served on the Planning and Zoning Commission and established a good working relationship with Don Bascom, who is the Republican candidate for first selectman. Clark is currently retired from Connecticut Yankee, and has two high school-aged children.

Working with Bascom, Clark said, has brought about "good plans for the future" of the town, and said he is "very enthusiastic" about the possibility of implementing those plans. He said that, in the past, the current Board of Selectmen has formulated or been presented with plans that they "should act on," but feels they "haven't done a good job" moving forward with any of them.

"Particularly, there just hasn't been enough economic development," Clark said. He said that he hopes to expand the water and sewer system to Route 66 to promote economic growth, and hopes to promote a closer relationship with the Metropolitan District (MDC) to "expand" the possibilities for commerce in town.

Clark said that what his campaign is promoting is being proactive. "If you're happy with the status quo, you can vote Democrats back in," Clark said. "But if you're unhappy with the progress the town has made, you can vote for [the Republicans]."

A six-year veteran of the board, Flood is another lifelong Portland resident with a "family tradition" of public service. Flood is a partner at the Law Firm of Moore, O'Brien, Jacques and Yelenak in Cheshire, and is a member of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

Flood said he chose to run for re-election because he wants to "ensure that Portland continues to be a great place to live." He said that



**Flood**



**Curley**



**Knous**

his biggest priorities, education and public safety, have always been his main concerns, and he hopes to continue providing the best services in a "fiscally prudent manner."

While speaking with residents, Flood said that public safety is a concern to many residents, and he feels that his experience working in law – in particular, representing people injured by the negligence of others – makes him a viable candidate to maintain the quality of public safety.

Injecting youth into the race is Curley, a 24-year-old financial analyst. Curley was born and raised in Portland and is an active member of St. Mary Church, an Eagle Scout and a graduate of Xavier High School in Middletown. He said that he chose to run because he "loves Portland" and has always "wanted to play a role in its improvement and be a part of the town's success."

Curley said that, if elected, he hopes to be "proactive" in promoting business, which he said the town "desperately" needs. He looks at the Portland Town Place project as something the town "should make happen," even if it means bringing in new investors that want to develop the property.

"We have people come to Portland and enjoy our water park, then go eat lunch in Middletown," Curley said. "I want people to come to Portland and be able to spend the whole day here. I know that downtown, we have to take it one step at a time, but enough is enough." He said that by pushing for expansion of the water and sewer systems, Portland can become a "destination" that will alleviate the tax burden from residents.

As he has spoken with residents, Curley said many have been "surprised" that someone that young is running for office, but said he has been "received warmly."

Another Democrat mainstay on the board is



**Clark**



**Finkelstein**

Richards, who has been on the board for eight years, and served two years on the Board of Education prior to that. A lifelong Portland resident, Richards and her husband currently run a construction company in town, and she is an active member of Zion Lutheran Church and the Exchange Club.

Richards said she is running for re-election because she feels it's important to "continue to achieve the goals" that the board has set forth. She said because her extended family, from grandchildren to grandparents, lives in Portland, she has an "interest in many areas" of the town, including parks and recreation, youth services, and the senior center.

The biggest priorities for the town, Richards said, have always been "what [we] pay in taxes and the education of [our] children," and she said she will continue to "focus on" those aspects of the town. She also mentioned public safety – particularly the police and fire departments – as a top priority to make the town a "safe place to live."

Running in his first election is Knous, who was appointed to the board in June after Sharon Peters resigned. Knous is the former chairman of the Economic Development Commission, has served in the state Senate, and is currently a lobbyist for Evans & Associates in Hartford.

Knous said that since he's been appointed, he's been impressed with how "well the board works together" and said he hopes to continue the work the board has done. He added that he has "always found public service important," and commended Portland for being a town that has many volunteers who step forward to serve their town.

One of Knous' top priorities, he said, will be expanding the tax base by "developing business," an effort that he said should be "doubled." He said he has spoken with businesses in and



**Chudzik**

out of town, and has even served as a liaison for town businesses at Planning and Zoning Commission meetings to show support for town commerce.

He said that expanding business in town will only help residents that are struggling with carrying much of the tax burden. "Residents just want affordable taxes," Knous said. "Those residents I've spoken with feel that the town is making progress towards that."

Another priority, he said, will be to continue "sprucing" up the town from an aesthetic standpoint; he said that aside from the recent upgrades of the downtown and riverfront areas, the recent tropical storm "highlighted" the need to maintain trees throughout the town. Not only does this make Portland look better, he said, but it "maintains property values."

Rounding out the candidates is Chudzik, who has served on the Board of Selectmen since 2007. Chudzik ran an unsuccessful campaign for state representative in 2010, losing to Democrat Christie Carpino. He currently owns and operates Chudzik Realty with his wife, and has a daughter in the Portland school system.

Chudzik could not be reached for comment for this article.

Voting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

## Hebron Senior Center Remains Closed After Flooding

by Geeta Schrayter

The Russell Mercier Senior Center remains closed after the hot water heater burst over Columbus Day weekend.

Senior Services Coordinator Sharon Garrard discovered the issue when she arrived at work the following week.

"I came in Tuesday to find lots of water," she said, adding the hot water heater is in the mechanical room off the game room, and "the building is on a slab so there was nowhere for the water to go."

Garrard noted apart from the mechanical room, a portion of the game room, the majority of the multi-purpose room and part of the library was flooded.

She stated an estimated 55,000 gallons of water had flowed on the floors, suggesting the heater burst early within the weekend, between 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, and 8 a.m. the following Tuesday, Oct. 11.

The town's insurance agent has assessed the situation, and an electrician has been out to determine the safety of the outlets in the multi-purpose room, the majority of which are in the floor. On Oct. 25, an environmental engineer conducted preliminary testing, primarily to check for mold.

But it'll still be about a month before the center reopens.

"We're hoping it'll be open to the public by

Dec. 1," said town building maintainer William Bell, adding, "we still have to do air quality tests, clean the carpets, put a new hot water heater in, reinstall some bookcases . . . put the place back together."

Additionally, Garrard stated the floor and some of the walls in the mechanical room need to be replaced and the carpet will need to be professionally cleaned.

Town Manager Bonnie Therrien stated they haven't yet received bills for the clean-up.

Until the center reopens, certain programs will continue to be held elsewhere. Low-Impact Total Body Workout classes, yoga and quilting will take place during their regular date and time at the Douglas Library, while Men's Strength Training will occur at Tri-County Fitness on Wednesdays and Fridays. The book discussion for *Pearl in the Sand* will also occur at the library on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m., and the center will offer Tai Chi Chih with an introductory class to be held on Nov. 7, also at the library.

Program Coordinator Gina Nardi stated they're "taking it day by day."

Anyone with questions can call the regular number for the senior center at 860-228-1700 and will be automatically transferred to the center's temporary home at the Town Office Building.

# Who Will Win the Race in Colchester?

by Bailey Seddon

With two candidates for first selectman and five candidates and four spots for the rest of the board, everyone is wondering, who will win? Among the other topics of discussion, candidates for the Board of Selectmen would like to see the economic development in town continue as it has been.



Schuster

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he would like to see the projects he started finished, and continued growth. Schuster, 35, is wrapping up his first term. A Republican, Schuster has lived in Colchester for over 25 years. Before becoming first selectman two years ago, Schuster was on the Business Development Task Force in 2008 and then the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2009.

Schuster said he is running again because he feels he was able to accomplish a lot in the last two years, including helping to get the town through a "bad economic situation." He said he feels the next two years will be just as important and wants to be there to do what he can. One of his biggest goals is combining William J. Johnston Middle School with the senior center. Some of what Schuster has already accomplished was to help bring a tractor supply company to town and help bring about an energy conservation project for all the town and school buildings.

Schuster said with just Town Hall and Bacon Academy the calculated savings of the project are \$12,000 a month. This number would be much larger if all the schools and town buildings were added, said Schuster.

"The savings would be realized over time," and would be significant for the town, he said.

Schuster said he also wants to continue to serve the town to help more with economic development. Schuster said the town has expanded but wants to expand even more. Some of this would include a new gas station, where an old one used to be, on South Main Street and a Japanese restaurant that will be coming to town soon. Schuster also wants to be around for the sewer and water system extension which will go out to the new tractor supply store down Route 85 to the intersection of Lake Hayward Road. Schuster is especially excited about this because the state wants to build a state Department of Transportation facility in that area and might pay for the expansion at the state's expense.

"You have to open up new areas" to get businesses in, said Schuster. All of these are reasons that he wants to continue to work for the town he grew up in and loves to serve.

"It's been great serving the people of Colchester for the past two years," he said. "I hope to be able to do it for another two."

Opposing Schuster is James McNair III, 56, who petitioned himself onto the ballot in August. A 12-year resident of town, McNair is a Democrat, but said he sought to run as a petitioning candidate because he felt disappointed with the town government and did not want to be a candidate of either party. (The Democrats' nominee for first selectman, John Bogush, withdrew from the race last month, due to time constraints.)

McNair has a history of serving his town; from 2000-02 he was on the Planning and Zoning Commission, then from 2002-06 was on the Board of Education, serving as chairman of the budget subcommittee. Job-wise, McNair was the executive management consultant from 2003-10 and since 2010 has been the chief operations officer of The Plan Collection, LLC, in Westport.

McNair said he is running for first selectman because he feels the present government is "disengaged."

He added that too many people in town feel "their voice doesn't matter any longer."

Some of the major issues McNair sees facing the town are that town spending has increased 6 percent each year for the last two years; that paid elected officials received a 2 and a half percent pay increase "during these

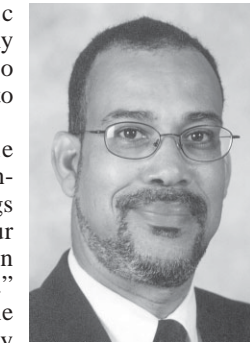
tough economic times;" and that many town residents no longer pay attention to government.

McNair said he would seek "efficiencies and cost savings with an annual four percent cap on town hall spending." McNair also said he would not accept any pay increases during these "tough economic times."

As far as getting more citizens involved and interested in Town Hall, McNair said he would "Change the culture of our government to make it more voter-friendly."

McNair feels that residents should vote for him if they want to send a message to both parties that they are not happy with the current elected officials.

"I am qualified, experienced and ready to lead to meet Colchester's future challenges," he said.



McNair

Another petitioning candidate, Tearice Peters, is seeking a seat on the Board of Selectmen. Peters, 47, has lived in town for 14 and a half years. She was on the Board of Assessment Appeals from 2006-09 and served as vice chairwoman of the Charter Review and Revisions Commission from 2003-06. For the past 10 years, Peters has also been the president of Colchester Concerned Citizens (CCC) Inc., which she said is "a grassroots nonprofit corporation formed to assist and support residents of Colchester to help them live in a safe and healthy area of the state."

As part of the CCC, Peters said she has taken up many issues on behalf of the residence, such as: crematoriums in residential zones, possible trash and energy plant and industrial activities in residential zones.

In addition, Peters has been the chief operations officer for the past 17 years for a real estate and trading firm based in Florida.

Peters decided to run for the Board of Selectmen because she feels she will ask the "tough questions" that residents want answers for. She said she is running as a petitioning candidate because the current members of the board would have been guaranteed seats again.

"Where is the accountability in that, to the voters of this town...if you are not voted in by the people?" she said.

Tax increases are one of the major issues Peters said the town is facing, saying that Colchester has the highest foreclosure rate in New London county. Peters said residents are tightening their belts and she would have expected those in power to do the same. Instead, she said, they "passed onto referendum one of the largest tax increases in Colchester's history and giving 2.5 percent raises to elected officials was irresponsible in these hard economic times."

Peters said she hears from voters "time and time again" that they do not bother to vote because they think their vote doesn't count. This is something Peters would like to change if she were in office.

"We should be fostering a friendly, inclusive way of governing our town, where open debate and objections or support is encouraged," she said.

While Peters would be new to the board, Rosemary Coyle, 64, would not. Coyle, a Democrat, has lived in Colchester for 39 years and has been on the Board of Selectmen for four and a half. She is also a liaison for the Colchester Hayward Fire Department, Commission on Aging and the Open Space Advisory Committee.

Before getting elected to the board Coyle was a Montville teacher where she worked for 37 years as a third grade teacher. The last eight years, before retiring, she took a leave of absence from the classroom. For two of those years she was the vice president of the Connecticut Education Association and six as president/CEO until 2006. She was still a teacher at this time, just in a different capac-

ity, Coyle said. This experience led to Coyle running for the Board of Selectmen shortly after she retired.

"I've always wanted to give back, and advocate for the issues I believe are important," she said. Coyle said she "does her homework" on the issues that are brought before the board and if she has questions she researches them before she votes on them.

"I've always looked at an issue globally," incorporating the past present and future, said Coyle. "I take my job, very, very seriously."

One of the projects she has worked on is the proposed combination of the senior center with WJMS; she was also a liaison for the Senior Center Study Group.

"I am looking forward to seeing that project move forward," said Coyle.

Coyle said she would also like to be around to help the town expand its businesses. This would include the possible expansion of the sewer system down Lake Hayward Road, she said. If the state does indeed pay that would be great, said Coyle, but she is worried about the cost to the town if the state does not end up paying for the work.

"I am very concerned about paying tax payer dollars for that," said Coyle. This is one of the many reasons she serves and wants to continue to serve.

"I have always been a person that has been involved," she said.

Fellow incumbent and Democrat James Ford is completing first term on the board and would like to be on for a second. Ford, 64, has lived in Colchester for 16 years and has been a professional engineer since 1973, for Beta Group, in Hartford. Shortly after moving to town, Ford joined the Planning and Zoning Commission and was on it for 12 years, 10 of which as chairman. He is also a liaison for the Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, Board of Assessment Appeals and Friends of Cragin Library.

Ford would like to continue to serve the town because he is interested in what is going on in Colchester.

"Community service is a big thing for me," he said. He said economic development is the most important thing for the town going forward. Ford said specific areas of the community have been zoned to bring in more development and he would like to make sure businesses come into these places. One option, he said, would be to do a market analysis.

"We have not answered the question, 'if we build it will they come?'" he said. Ford said he would put together a marketing program.

Ford would also like to see a capital improvement plan so the town can develop a priority order of what needs to get done. This way the town can "look 10 years ahead, see what the cash flow situation would be in each project and prioritize it in a public process."

Like Ford, Republican Stan Soby, 59, is also an incumbent. He has lived in Colchester for 33 years and has been on the Board of Selectmen since 2006. He is a liaison for the Police Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Fair Rent Commission. He was on the Conservation Commission from 1980-84 and the Board of Education from 1983-89, of which he was chairman the last two years. He was also the chairman of the Waste Management Street Light Committee in the 1990s, the Ethics Commission from 1996-99 and in 2007 was even the first selectman for almost 10 months.



Coyle



Cordova

"I think that I still have something to offer to the town," said Soby, who said there are new developments coming to the town that he is looking forward to. This would include seeing the completion of the new senior center, which Soby participated in while he was first selectman.

"The genesis of that project goes back a couple of years," and he would like to be part of it moving forward, he said. He said he would also like to keep working on the economic development and infrastructure in town. This would mean trying to get businesses in town and road repair, which he feels is needed throughout the town.

Soby would also like to see a capital improvement plan so the town can map out what is most important down the road. This could include looking at what would have to be repaired in town in the future.

"You try to plan for repairs on a routine basis," he said. "So we are not dealing with things reactively" when a "crisis" comes along.

Another Republican incumbent is Greg Cordova. The 51-year-old has lived in town for over 20 years and is serving his fourth term on the Board of Selectmen. He is a liaison for the Parks and Recreation Department, Youth Services, the Board of Education and the Sewer and Water Commission. Cordova was on Parks and Recreation for five years and the Sewer and Water Commission for eight years, both of which he left six years ago.

Cordova had previously worked for Bank of America for 25 years as a technical project manager. Unfortunately he was part of a 30,000 employee lay-off three years ago. Since then Cordova has been driving a school bus and teaching driver's education. He said he "made it through a lot of mergers," but could not make it through a tough economy.

With that economy in mind Cordova said he still feels that he can make a difference in town.

"As long as I still feel that way I am going to participate," he said.

At the top of the list of important issues said Cordova, is trying to get businesses in town. He said the board has some things on its plate but he needs "to see them come through fruition."

One of these would include the addition of the senior center at the middle school. Cordova said he is hoping the board can continue moving forward with all they have done so far. This would include the expansion of the sewer system to Lake Hayward Road, and the possibility that the state will pay for. If the project moves forward then the town will "have the growth that we need," from a business standpoint, said Cordova. Cordova said he has also enjoyed being on the board with the current first selectman.

"Gregg's doing a great job and I totally support him," Cordova said.

Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Depending on which district you live in, voting will take place at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave., or the Assembly of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd.



Peters



Soby



Ford

# Gaudinski vs. Gut for Marlborough First Selectman

by Bailey Seddon

With Bill Black opting not to seek re-election, residents will have a brand-new first selectman a month from now. What's not clear, though, is who will hold that title.

Republican Cathi Gaudinski is facing Democrat Michael Gut. While there can only be one first selectman, if the one who loses the race collects more votes than the other two candidates running for selectmen, that candidate could then become a selectman.

Republican candidate Cathi Gaudinski, who is in her 50s, has lived in town for 26 years and has been serving the town for many years. Soon she is hoping to serve the town in her biggest role of all, first selectman. Her past service would include being on the Board of Education from 1991-99, the last three of which she was chairwoman. She was a founding charter member of the Marlborough Arts Center, a RHAM Middle School parent advisory member, is part of the Marlborough Woman's club and the town election moderator. She was also named Marlborough Citizen of the Year in 2000.

Gaudinski has also been on the Board of Finance for the past 10 years, and has spent the last five of these as chairwoman. She is also involved in AHM Youth Services Inc where she is a Marlborough Board of Finance Representative.

A mother of *how many*, Gaudinski worked in the insurance industry in individual and health lines before having children, at which point she became a stay-at-home mom. After her children were out of the home Gaudinski was a software data consultant for one year for Cromwell Public Schools, a data and technology training specialist for Rocky Hill Public Schools for six years, a data specialist for three years for Glastonbury Public Schools, a project manager for two years for Hybrid Communications, Inc and owned the Marlborough Eatery restaurant for five years.

Gaudinski said she is ready to serve the town as first selectman because she has the knowledge of the town and about being an elected town official. If she were to get elected, she said, she will be able to "hit the ground running" because she knows where the town is and where she would like to see it go.

"I am running because I am passionate about Marlborough, I care about what happens and most importantly I can do the job!" she said.

Gaudinski said she feels that promoting local businesses and expanding the tax base are two of the most important areas that she would like to work on. To accomplish this, said Gaudinski, she would re-purpose future Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants to "positively impact economic devel-



Gaudinski

opment." She also said she would focus town regulations to promote, not hinder, businesses in the town.

Gaudinski said that for the first time in years the town debt has started to decline and in order to continue this town facilities have to be maintained to avoid expensive repairs in the future.

"As debt is retired, cash purchases should become the norm. I propose a Capital Improvement Committee for prioritizing town and educational needs," she said. Gaudinski said she also believes all town agencies should communicate and said she will seek input from other boards when making decisions.

Mike Gut has served not only the town of Marlborough but also the town of Briny Breezes, FL, as well. Gut, 56, has lived in town for 28 years and in that time was on the Board of Finance from 2001-05, the last two years of which he was chairman. He was a Republican until 2002, but switched to Democrat, when the Democratic first selectman at the time, Howard Dean, was going to sponsor him to be on the Board of Finance.

Gut is president of the Board of Directors for Briny Breezes, a position he was elected to in 2010, and named president of this past February. Gut said the Board of Directors runs the town, with its 1,100 residents, and as the president his position is very similar to that of a first selectman. Before this, Gut worked for 32 years for Hartford Insurance Group, in the finance area, and the last 20 years was the vice president and controller of the personalized division.

He said he is running because he feels there are a lot of issues in town in regards to the businesses community, taxes and sewers and he hopes he can solve some of them.

"I think I offer leadership based on my background," said Gut. Gut said it is important to bring the businessowners and landowners together to get feedback. This way he can have a concrete plan on what direction the town needs to go in.

"I can't do it by myself, there has to be feedback from all these community members," he said.

As far as sewer issues go, Gut said the sewers did not work out like the town thought it would because of "money, poor planning [and] construction costs increases." Gut said elected officials have to be "open for any creative ideas," to get the burden off the residents and business community.

"We have to live with the results," said Gut. Because of the sewer issues Gut said the town lost confidence in voting. The town did not deliver what it was promised, he said, and now it has to get voter confidence back. Gut said he would vote for sewer expansion only if it makes



Gut

financial sense to do so, but the town needs to stabilize the existing business community before this is considered. He also said he feels that if expansion happened it should be to the businesses that have not been hooked up yet, such as the Marlborough Commons, the business park or the Health Center on Stage Harbor Road. Gut also said he would like to look at state and federal grants to help the town out with this and other issues.

Gut said the town needs the right leadership to help it move forward, something he feels he can provide.

"The Board of Selectmen needs to set the tone in going forward" and he will help accomplish this, he said.

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Also seeking a seat on the Board of Selectmen is Democrat Amy Traversa, who has lived in Marlborough for almost 17 years. She is 50 years old and up until five years ago was unaffiliated. She switched to a Democrat so she could vote in one of the local elections. Traversa served as an alternate on the Board of Finance for a few months to fill an unexpired term.

"I've been very active," in the community, she said. Traversa currently works for her husband at Lardi Builders LLC, in town in an office-based function for the past six years. Before this she had her own firm, Legacy Financial Group where she developed a financial literacy program for children. Traversa said she wants to join the board to try and work on some of the issues in town.

"I'm really very concerned about the direction of the town," she said, "we are seeing an outflow of businesses...we need to be able to retract and maintain businesses here." Traversa said there has been a lot of talk and money allocated toward the new businesses park but it is all on paper and the town needs to focus on existing businesses. Traversa is also concerned about the sewers in town.

"I'm acutely aware of the cost of the sewer district," she said. Traversa lived on the lake but sold her home in 2008, to move into their new home, which they built on Jones Hollow Road. She said she is hoping the burden of the sewer system can be eased for residents.

"We need to be very, very cautious...with any plans going forward," Traversa said. She said the town needs to be much more creative in seeking sources for funding, so the town does not continue to make the same decisions.

"We need to stop borrowing" and need to start aggressively looking at funding sources, she said. This could include looking into STEAP grants for things other than "sidewalks to no



Shea

where" and a town green which cost a lot but is not used much, Traversa said. Instead, she said, grants should be used to enhance the quality of life, "or to create future tax income, to promote businesses." This is why Traversa said she is running to offer new ideas for her town.

"Mike and I offer fresh and new perspective," Traversa said.

Dick Shea has not lived in town for as many years or been involved in politics as long as the other candidates, but he feels just as strongly on the issues facing his town. Shea, 68, is a Republican and has lived in Marlborough for over four years. He was registered as an independent but switched to join the Board of Finance in 2009, where he currently has a seat. Shea works as an engineer for Twin Manufacturing Company, where he has worked since 2006. Before this he did a number of various management jobs for 28 years for Barnes Group Inc.

"I'm running for selectmen because I feel I can contribute to helping the town through these most difficult economic conditions and can improve the function of town government," he said.

Shea said he feels that property taxes are very high in town and that the town should continue to "hold the line on increases." He said he also feels that existing businesses need to get more support and Marlborough has to do its best to support new businesses.

"Cathi Gaudinski and I have worked long and hard to keep tax increase to a minimum," said Shea.

Shea said he would also like to see more dialog between the boards. Since he has been on the Board of Finance, he said, he has found it very difficult to communicate with the current Board of Selectmen.

"If you don't work together...you make a lot of mistakes" then the best decisions do not get made, said Shea.

As far as the sewers go, Shea said "there's a lot of frustration," and deficiencies, and no one has had a solid plan on what to do. Shea said the sewers are still in the early stages and there should be a lot of discussion on what should happen next.

"It has to be an overall plan of development," Shea said. He said he also feels the town should wait until the economy is better before expanding any more of the systems.

Elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr.



Traversa

# Everybody Wins in Hebron Board of Finance Race This Year

by Geeta Schrayter

Two of the three candidates for the Hebron Board of Finance are up for re-election this year, and all of them are guaranteed seats as there is no competition.

Democratic candidate Paula Verrier will be new to the board, while Republicans Michael Hazel and Lynn Guerriero were appointed in 2007 and 2009 respectively.

Verrier has been a resident of Hebron for 30 years. She is seeking to be a member of the Board of Finance because of the lack of individuals who are able to volunteer, and her interest in the town.

"This is my town and these are my people," she said. "I don't want to lose any of them because they can't afford to live here anymore.

She went on to say that her budgeting skills and ability to live within her means are talents that could be lent to the position as a Board of Finance Member. Verrier also said her experience working in accounting, balancing the books for various businesses and managing a household budget would also be beneficial.

"I want to try to keep Hebron affordable for everyone," she said. "The median income in this town is around \$96,000. There are very many families living on a lot less than that."

Verrier stated she is always willing to listen

to different points of view and keep an open mind.

"In this position I would be elected to represent the taxpayers," she said. "I will vote for the taxpayers so hopefully they will let me know how they'd like me to vote."

Hazel, 42, has lived in Hebron for close to eight years, graduated from the University of Connecticut with a finance degree and currently works as an accountant.

Hazel stated a main motivation in his decision to continue serving was his desire to see the town through the tough financial times that it's currently in.

"We were in the middle of some very difficult times as far as municipal budgeting," he said, "and I don't necessarily think it would be fair to leave in the middle of this process." He went on to say since he "inherited" the mess, he might as well see it through.

"It's definitely a challenging time and continuity is important at this time."



Verrier

Hazel stated some of the biggest challenges in town are related around the reliability of state funding, the impact of the budget on taxpayers, and "managing expenditures within the constraints of the revenue" the town has.

As he continues on the Board of Finance, Hazel said he hopes to work with the Board of Selectmen to prioritize spending and deal with revenue constraints in a realistic manner.

"Overall, we just want to maintain the right balance in regards to spending," he said.

Guerriero, who's been a Hebron resident for 24 years and has worked in the finance industry for 25, feels similarly.

"I would like to continue the work I started two years ago when I was appointed to the board," she said, adding "we have a lot of really hard work to do in the coming years to maintain our services in town and keep the tax burden as low as possible."

Guerriero has a Bachelor of Science degree



Hazel

in business administration with a concentration in finance from Central Connecticut State University and a master's degree in education from the University of Hartford. She currently works as the assistant director of finance at Goodwin College.

She feels some of the biggest issues in town revolve around economic development.

"Hebron needs to build up its tax base by encouraging business to open here," she said. "If we have businesses in town, the tax burden on the home owners will shift to the businesses, and homeowners will begin to get some relief."

In the coming years, Guerriero feels the board needs to focus on long-term financial planning.

"Good long-term planning will help prevent spikes in the tax burden," she said.

Voting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.



Guerriero

# Six Running for Four Finance Board Seats in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

Six candidates are competing for four spots on this year's ballot for the Board of Finance. Everyone on the ballot could agree on one thing: that they would like to see the continual growth of their town without huge tax increases.

John Ringo is a Democrat who has lived in town for 34 years. The 59-year-old is not on any boards but is the music director and conductor of the "Colchester Civic Orchestra and Choir," founded in 2002. He also coached youth sports, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball for 12 years.

In the past, Ringo has been on the East Hampton Board of Education for three years and was a part-time employment teacher at Franklin Academy in East Haddam for six years. Ringo has 32 years of experience in the financial services industry and he owned and operated J. Ringo Financial Services LLC from 1998-2008.

"I possess the experience, determination and drive to keep Colchester on the right track," said Ringo. When asked what he thought one of the major issues in the town was, Ringo said increase in property taxes and maintaining good schools.

"As citizens indicate their concerns for tax increases, I will listen to the town, department heads, superintendent for their concerns in maintaining services and offering quality education," he said. Ringo also said it was important for the board to make tough decisions that are important for the town.

Like Ringo, Tom Kane, 43, is not on the Board of Finance. Kane has, however, been on the Planning and Zoning Commission since 2003 and is currently the Vice Chairman. Kane was a registered independent until 2003, when he became a Democrat.

Kane works as an attorney in Glastonbury, at Kane, Hartley and Kane, PC. He has been there since 1996, and made partner in 2001. He has also been on the Board of Directors for Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company (CATIC) since 2007. For CATIC Kane has been



Hayn

on the Budget Committee since 2008 and has been the chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee since 2010.

"I have always felt that community service is important," said Kane. He said he felt that after eight years on the Planning and Zoning Commission he feels that it is time to help the town "in another capacity."

Kane said he feels that the town is at a crossroads because the town budget has delayed repairs and put off improvements the town needed for many years, something that he feels cannot continue. "We need to devise a comprehensive, long term capital improvement plan. A plan will provide budgeting and savings for future repairs and acquisitions, reducing the year-to-year fluctuations and tax increases," Kane said. He also feels that information needs to be communicated better and in such a way that voters can understand what is being told to them.

Incumbent Rob Esteve, 46, has lived in Colchester for 20 years and has always been a Republican. Esteve was on the Ethics Committee from 2007-09, but stepped down to join the Board of Finance, which he has been on for the last two years. He has also been a Colchester volunteer firefighter for the past eight years and was assistant chief from 2000-08. Esteve was also part of the ad-hoc facilities committee in 2010 and the track building committee from 2009-10. He is also a liaison for the Board of Education. When not doing his duties for his board, Esteve is a program manager at Pratt and Whitney, where he has worked for 25 years.

Esteve feels he still has a lot to offer the board because he feels he was part of decisions that put fiscal responsibility to the town. Esteve said the board needs to look ahead to what capital needs the town has to better plan for the town's future.

"Just looking ahead and planning more proactively" is one of the most important issues, said Esteve. Esteve said he was also proud that he was on the board when it made the de-



Esteve

cision to have put money aside to fund vehicle replacement.

"So we are not scrambling every time a vehicle breaks and has to be replaced," he explained.

Esteve said in the future economic growth is very important. This means some investment from the town is needed to make sure the infrastructure is in place to welcome businesses.

It is important "to capitalize on these opportunities when they come in the future," Esteve said.

Art Shilosky is also a Republican, who likes to volunteer for his town. The 68-year-old has lived in town for 30 years and has also spent many years volunteering for the town. He was the chairman of the football league from 1977-83, on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1983-2010, the Board of Tax Review for two terms 27 years ago, and Treasurer of the Lions Club last year.

"I enjoy working with the town," and giving back to the town, he said. Shilosky also worked for Shepard Steel for 37 years, 28 as plant manager, and the last nine in estimating and sales.

Were he elected to the Board of Finance, Shilosky said one of the most important issues he would face would be to keep the taxes down but to not let the town digress. This would mean keeping a "fine line" as he calls it, to make sure those two things can be balanced out.

Shilosky said the town is going in a good direction and that he "would like to keep it going that way." He said this would include spending taxpayer money wisely when it needs to be spent. This could include the Tractor Supply store coming in, the extension of the sewer lines this could bring, and the new development off Parum Road that is coming. These are all developments that are "moving in the right direction," he said.

Linda Hodge is running for the Board of Finance as a petitioning candidate. While she is a Democrat, Hodge said she is running as a petitioning candidate because she feels parties should not vote for candidates, residents should.

"I want to be accountable for the voters and the residents," she said.

Hodge, 56, grew up in Colchester. She left town and lived around the country with her husband, who was in the navy, for 20 years; she moved back to Colchester 15 years ago. When she got back to town, Hodge was self-



Hodge

employed, doing communications work for small nonprofit companies. Then, four years ago, she gave this up to become first selectman, and spent one term in office. She was also on the Board of Education for four years before being first selectman. And for the past two years, she has been on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

"I believe it is important to serve our community," she said. Hodge now works at the University of Connecticut as a graduate assistant which she has done for the last two years, and as a research assistant which she has been doing for one year. She is also working on her master's degree in public administration and survey research and is going for a certificate in public finance. As part of her degree, Hodge has spent the last year and a half studying public finance theory and applications, which she feels would make her a good candidate for the Board of Finance.

Hodge said she thinks it's important that the public be provided with good information. She said taxpayers should not just be told how much something costs but what it means. Hodge said she is very concerned about the increasing taxes at a time when residents and small business cannot afford it.

"I would like to see Colchester get back on solid footing" because as of right now the town's bond rating is not very good, she said. Hodge noted that the bond agency Moody's recently dropped the town's rating down.

"We really need to take a look at the overall economic situation" and make a long-term plan, she said. Hodge said she would like more attention paid to the businesses already in town. Hodge said she would also pay bills the town owes, instead of taking out another loan. She said the town may not be able to have the "top of the line everything, we may have to settle for the next top of the line," which is still good, she said.

Democratic candidate Bruce Hayn did not return calls for comment for this story.

Elections are Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Depending on which district you live in, voting will take place at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.; Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.; or the Assembly of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd.



Ringo



Shilosky



Kane

# New Program Encourages Residents to Think Local

by Geeta Schrayter

A program starting in November will focus on local business and encourage residents to frequent them.

The Shops Local Program is already available in a variety of communities throughout Connecticut and is quite successful according to Dottie Moon, member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and chair of the project.

"It's another way [for businesses] to advertise and market their own services," said Moon, adding that "the customer wins," too.

In the Hebron Shops Local (HSL) program, which is sponsored by the town and the EDC, customers receive signatures on a rewards card for shopping at participating businesses. Once five signatures are acquired, the card is submitted into a monthly drawing for \$50 in Hebron Cash that can then be used at town businesses. Moon added as of now, there's no limit to the number of cards that can be submitted in each drawing.

The decision to launch the program in Hebron came after Town Manager Bonnie Therrien recommended it to the EDC.

"When I was leaving Wethersfield as their manager they had started the program up," said Therrien. "I thought 'why not start it up here?'"

Therrien added the Wethersfield program was now so successful, the town no longer gets involved. Rather, the businesses handle everything.

Before Hebron implemented the program, different factors were assessed.

"We kind of evaluated what it would take, what would be the responsibilities of the town, the businesses and the impact on the customer," said Moon, adding all of the business owners they met with to discuss the program were positive about its reception.

A letter was sent to local business owners on Oct. 11 explaining HSL and giving them the option to sign up. As of Oct. 25, 22 businesses had elected to join, ranging from grocery stores to chiropractors, dentists, package stores, car care and kennels. It's at the discretion of each business to decide what transaction elicits a rewards signature.

"The idea," Moon said, "is to bring better visibility to all of our businesses."

Participating in the program, she stated, is a way for both business owners and residents to help the community.

"When you talk to business owners, they're aware a lot of residents shop where they work,"

she said, adding that the program was a way to try and "make them shop where they live."

"Our community is helped by having healthy businesses," Moon said. "The more we support local business the more support we'll have nearby."

Tom Dempsey, owner of Hebron Eye Care, LLC, is excited about the program, both as a Hebron resident and a business owner. He said the program seems like a win-win.

"It will encourage people to check out what our town has to offer and they may save some money in doing so," he said. "Not only am I a local business owner, I also am a big believer in shopping local."

Dempsey went on to say staying local can help reduce taxes.

"I hope people understand that it is the local businesses that help reduce our taxes," he said. "It is the local businesses that support all of our local fundraisers and activities. It is the local businesses that keep local people employed. The more local we keep our hard-earned money, the more local our money stays."

Joe Currier also thought the program was a good idea, and his business, J&B Farm & Pet Supply, plans to participate.

"It sounded like something good for the businesses and good for the town," he stated.

Mark C. Finlan at Charter Oak Telephone, LLC, had similar feelings.

"I read the literature and thought that it would be a good way to get our company name out there in the community," he said, adding that he was feeling "the pinch" of the economy like many others so any boost in business was welcome.

At Colonial Country Store, Suzy Young also anticipated it would help business, stating that she hoped the program would encourage residents who never shopped at the store before to come and "see what they are missing."

Each business will receive posters and decals to help advertise their participation in the program, and shoppers will be able to pick up a rewards card at various stops, such as town offices and participating businesses. Rewards cards will also be handed out by the EDC as voters exit the polls on Election Day, when the program officially launches.

"[The EDC] thought it'd be great to launch it so it'd be in place in time for the holiday season," Moon stated. She added it's hoped that HSL will "stick around for a while."

# Four Openings, Six Candidates for Finance Board

by Bailey Seddon

With six candidates and four openings on the Board of Finance, there is plenty to choose from for residents. Amongst the issues candidates said they would address was the sewers and the declining businesses in town.

Lauren Cragg would like to see changes in her town. When Cragg moved to Marlborough in 2003, she switched her party affiliations from Independent to Democrat, and has served as an alternate on the Board of Finance for the past three years. She is the Risk Manager for the City of New London, a job she has had for the past year. Previously Cragg had worked as an independent government consultant and writer.

Cragg would like to be more involved with her town to "try and help the town continue to improve and meet the residents' growing needs without making living here cost prohibitive," she said.

Cragg said that one of the major issues facing the town is that many of the residents do not have enough say in the decisions that are being made. She said she feels that those who are leaders in the town need to listen more to citizens and consider some of their input.

"One of Marlborough's greatest assets is its residents, many of which have been 'turned off' by the bullying, pettiness and insanity of the political processes," said Cragg. "Let's reach out to those people and get them involved." She said that no one party is ever right and that the different parties and boards, and citizens, need to work together to do what is best for the town.

"True leaders are able to effectively move projects forward with consensus building, communication, and innovative problem solving," Cragg said. Cragg added that she would like to be on the board to help make this communication between people become a reality.

"I believe I bring a strong basis for how to get things accomplished," she said.

Fellow incumbent Evelyn Godbout, 52, is a Democrat who has lived in Marlborough for 26 years. She is currently the vice chairwoman



**Hjulstrom**

for the Board of Finance, which she has been on for six years. In addition, this is her seventh year as the president of Parents and Education at RHAM middle and high schools. Godbout has been the director of information technology for the Division of Criminal Justice for 23 years and is the chairwoman for the Criminal Justice Sharing Governing Board, both for the state of Connecticut.

With all the changes happening to the town, because of various board members not seeking reelection, residents will need people with experience, said Godbout.

"It takes a couple years just to know what is really going on," she said.

However, Godbout is happy with some of these changes, saying the change in the "makeup in the selectman's office" will allow for better communication and planning between the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen, which she said has been lacking in previous years. Godbout said this communication is important because the boards have to work together to help figure out the sewer issues which she feels are ruining business in town.

"It's really going to take the boards working together to come up with creative solutions," said Godbout. She said that a possible option would be to look into grant funding. She said the town also needs to come up with a strategic plan for the capital project which would help the town figure out what direction it is going in financially. Godbout referenced other towns that did this and, because of planning, they are paying a lot less in debt and projects, she said.

"I think we should mirror that," said Godbout. "I love the town of Marlborough and I want to see it improve."

Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom has served his town in the past and would like to continue to do so, in a different capacity. Hjulstrom, 56, has lived in town for 24 years. He was on the Board of Education



**Knowlton**

from 1998-2003 and is currently on the Board of Assessment Appeals, a position he has held since 2009. Outside his town responsibilities, Hjulstrom worked for Combustion Engineering in Windsor from 1977-2004 as an electrical engineer in the nuclear power division. In 2004, he was laid off as a result of downsizing.

"As a result, I can relate to how the current economy is impacting people and their families," he said. Since being laid off, Hjulstrom has been self-employed as a real estate agent, first with Prudential CT Realty, and currently with William Raveis Real Estate.

Hjulstrom said he is running so he can "make a difference by serving my community." He said he has done many things in the past to help his town, such as serving on the Parent Teacher Association and helping to construct the Blish Park Playscape.

In the future, Hjulstrom is hoping to help his town through the "economic challenges" it faces. He said these challenges are putting a lot of pressure on the community, particularly the taxpayers. Hjulstrom's goal is to have the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen work closely together to best use "every single tax dollar." He said the town also has to have a friendlier business environment to help existing businesses and to try to attract more to Marlborough.

"Controlling our budgets and encouraging a strong business tax base" will help get some of those businesses in town and help improve the town's quality of life, he said. Hjulstrom said the town also needs a long-term maintenance plan for town equipment, roads and buildings, saving the town more money in the long run.

Hjulstrom also encourages taxpayers to get more involved and attend the town budget vote as a way to add their input. He said it is important to get involved and hold elected officials accountable. He also feels it is very important for people to get involved and be on one of the many boards.

"I cannot emphasize how important it is to me to be in a position to give back to the town where my children grew up and in which I have enjoyed so many wonderful experiences," said Hjulstrom.

Fellow Republican, Doug Knowlton, 68, has lived in town for 33 years. He retired this spring



**Godbout**

from Financial Services Technology Solutions (Fiserv) where he was a project manager for 10 years. In the community, Knowlton has been active with the fire department and ambulance service for the past 25 years as a volunteer. From 1982-2006, Knowlton was the emergency management director in town where he helped coordinate efforts during emergency situations.

"I've always been involved in town one way or the other," said Knowlton. While he has not been on any boards in the past, Knowlton feels that he now has the time he would need to devote to the town. He said he would like to help with the economic situation the town is going through.

"We are going to have to take a hard look," at what the needs of the town are, said Knowlton. This would include keeping taxes down.

"That's the job of the BOF," he added. Knowlton said in the last couple of years the town has done a lot of work to keep the taxes down.

"I think we have to continue to look at that source," he said. Knowlton said the town should look down the road, at least five years, at its capital budget to see what funds the town might need. These could include trucks the town may need, plow replacement, road construction – all things that Knowlton calls "one shot costs."

"Where we plan for that in the budget," and what year the town would pay for such costs, is what he would like to figure out if he is elected, he said. Knowlton said he feels these expenses should be spread out so the town does not get "hit" with them all at once.

Knowlton said the sewers were another big issue in the town, with a lot of feelings involved. He feels people are upset because the sewers became more expensive than anyone thought, and he understands residents' frustration.

"I think that has to be addressed," and the Board of Finance has to look at how to get relief for people in the sewer district, Knowlton said.

Democratic candidates Arron Frankum and Beth Petroni declined to comment for this story.

Elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Dr., from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.



**Frankum**



**Petroni**



**Cragg**

# No Race for Board of Selectmen This Year in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

The three candidates running for the Hebron Board of Selectmen are all incumbent – and all are guaranteed victories.

Republican Jeffrey Watt, 58, is the current chairman on the Board of Selectmen and was first elected in 2007. Prior to becoming a selectman, Watt was president of the Hebron Lions and was a member and former chairman of the RHAM Board of Education.

Watt received an insurance degree from the University of Connecticut, graduated from the Harvard Executive Development program, and currently works as Senior Vice President of Treaty Division, Hartford Steam Boiler and Inspection Company. Watt has lived in Hebron since 1995.

As he continues on the board, Watt said there's some work that needs to be completed.

"There's definitely some areas that I feel, after the last four years, that I'd like to see get finished," he said. He added that he believes his personal experience will be helpful.

Various issues were mentioned such as keeping the town budget as low as possible partly by reducing town debt, improving the growth of existing small business and attracting new businesses, updating the town charter and promoting a more open community.

Watt said it was important for citizens to be involved. He said he wanted to "find new ways to actually communicate with the citizens to help involve them."

He added it was important for residents to be involved because finances are going to be "a big issue for everybody in town."

As he continues on the board, Watt stated he hopes to significantly reduce town debt, and then utilize the dollars elsewhere.

"My hope is that both the dollars that are

contributed to Capital Improvement as well as Open Space are increased over the next three to four years, he said."

He also stated the town debt will be reduced by over \$700,000 over the next couple of years.

Republican candidate Gayle Mulligan, 45, has lived in Hebron for close to 17 years and been on the Board of Selectmen for the past four.

Mulligan received a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Hartford, interned at Travelers during college and was hired after graduation in the Asset Management & Pension Services Department. She worked at The Phoenix in marketing until having her first child in 1994.

Like Watt, Mulligan feels there are things that she'd still like to work on.

"I feel there are still a good number of things that have either not been properly addressed or need more focus," she said, adding that she'd "like to continue the great work this board has achieved thus far."

Two big issues Mulligan said she'd like to focus on revolve around economic development and facilities. She'd like to help ensure local businesses "survive and thrive" and bring new business to town.

"We have made good strides but much more work needs to be done," she said.

In regards to facilities, Mulligan stated work needs to continue on the facilities studies that have been done, and a long-term plan needs to



**Watt**

be made in regards to what the town currently has, how they're utilized and what's needed in the future.

As she continues, Mulligan said it will be important to take into consideration what sort of direction Hebron's residents want to move.

"There will always be a constant struggle with continued growth and maintaining our rural character," she said, adding that "only by listening to the people, understanding what they want, and making decisions based on those needs, will we be better suited to make that vision a reality."

Democratic candidate Brian O'Connell, 47, feels similarly.

"Hebronians have a strong belief that the town should retain its rural character; as do I," he said.

He stated the Board has done a good job in the planning process for Hebron, and now have to focus on implementation.

"We need to be creative and aggressive in courting the proper businesses to Hebron..." he said, adding that open space preservation is important to the town.

"I also strongly believe that the preservation of open space is paramount to the long term success in retaining the rural character that most people who live here desire," he said.

O'Connell has lived in Hebron since 1991 and owns O'Connell Wealth Management in town. He is completing his first term on the Board of Selectmen, prior to which he served



**Mulligan**

on the Parks and Recreation Commission for 14 years and the Open Space and Land Acquisition for about 11, spending time as the chairman for both. He was also on the Capital Improvement Projects Committee.

"I understand municipal finance and the operations of the town and its departments as well as the interaction with both the state and federal government," he said.

O'Connell stated he chose to run for another term because he believes in public service and enjoys being able to interact with community members. He stated that he is "a voice of common sense with experience."

As he continues on the board, O'Connell plans to stick to his views regarding his vision for the town and will work on creating balance between what the town needs and what the town can afford.

"I will be able to say that when I no longer serve the public that I have done my best to leave Hebron a better community, he said."

O'Connell added that he urges his fellow citizens to vote on Election Day.

"I would like to ask my fellow citizens to make sure that they exercise their constitutional right to vote that has been fought for with the blood of fellow Americans," he said. "Please don't take your opportunity to vote for granted."

Voting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.



**O'Connell**

# Hebron Selectmen OK Employee Assistance Program

by Geeta Schrayter

Discussion of a new employee assistance program, and the introduction of a new senior center program coordinator, highlighted the Oct. 20 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

At the recommendation of Town Manager Bonnie Therrien, the selectmen discussed a new benefit for town employees giving them the option to confidentially call a company for support with various issues such as family, financial and emotional problems.

If an employee was facing a crisis situation, Therrien stated she would be able to either recommend them to the program, or they would be able to call the provided number on their own.

"There's been a couple times where I wish we had [an employee assistance program] in place," she stated.

"I'm just seeing more and more issues coming down the pike . . . I think it's a win," Therrien said, noting that employees face numerous stresses on a day-to-day basis that can affect their work efforts.

"This type of benefit would allow us to keep our employees productive as ever, and allow them to make their lives better, thus having a positive effect on Hebron," she wrote in a letter to the selectmen.

Therrien received quotes from three companies offering the service: Lexington Group, Wheeler Clinic and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. After comparing prices versus offerings, Therrien recommended the town enter into contract with Lexington Group. For \$1,600 a year, Lexington's proposal is all-inclusive and covers all town employees.

Each employee is allowed up to three counseling sessions through the program. If assistance is needed beyond that, the employee would then need to use their health insurance or their own money to continue the service.

Orientation sessions will also be provided to explain the program, and once a month a counselor would be available on site for employees to converse or schedule a future meeting with.

"I think it's a great idea," said selectman Brian O'Connell. "It's a proactive benefit for people who have the need – whatever the need may be. It's not frivolous."

Selectman Dan Larson stated that the Fire Department has used a similar program "with great success."

"Even the most seasoned veterans can end up on a call that, for whatever reason, affects them," he later said, which is an instance when the program would be of use.

"For the amount of money that you're expending I think it's well worth it for productivity," said Therrien.

"And the potential safety of other employees, too" Larson added.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt said his only recommendation was that the cost builds up to, but doesn't exceed, the stated \$1,600. He added he thought the program was a "good benefit."

Watt's motion to allow Therrien to sign a contract with Lexington Group until June 2012 passed unanimously.

\* \* \*

Also at last Thursday's meeting, the selectmen introduced the new program coordinator at Russell Mercier Senior Center, Gina M. Nardi of Newington, who started this past Monday, Oct. 24.

Watt mentioned the enthusiasm and new ideas she'd bring to the center, adding that "it was just great," to have her on board.

O'Connell felt similarly, saying, "I think you'll be an asset and I welcome you to Hebron. I hope our seniors and some of the people you interact with pick up on your enthusiasm."

Nardi received her associate's degree in science, general studies from Manchester Community College in 2010 and a Bachelor of General Studies in human services from the University of Connecticut in West Hartford earlier this year.

Nardi has worked as an assistant teacher at a child care center, a site director for Newington Parks and Recreation and, more recently, a receptionist and work attendant at The Connecticut Veterinary Center of Kensington and as a summer youth leader at the Newington Department of Human Services.

In her letter to the town, Nardi stated she's a team player with enthusiasm, proven leadership ability, a positive attitude and motivation.

As the new program coordinator, Nardi said she's looking forward to improving seniors' lifestyles.

"I'm looking forward to making the lifestyles for seniors better and enjoyable, so that way, they can enjoy their lives at any age," she said.

As for programming, Nardi stated there were already good options in place, but that she'd like to see some new additions.

"I would like to bring in some more programs more along the health end of it as well as safety," she said, adding that "it's really working with the seniors to find out what they want and what they can enjoy."

Nardi acknowledged she's not always going to be able to implement all of the programming seniors are interested in, listing that as one of her biggest challenges.

"I want to make all the seniors happy, but sometimes [adding a new program] is not in the budget," she said. "I'll have to say 'no' and that's not something I want to do."

But she said finding programming that the seniors will enjoy is something she'd continually work at.

"If it means planning every month and bringing in a new activity or program and then changing it," she said, "then that's what I'm gonna do."

Nardi's rate of pay is \$17 per hour.

\* \* \*

During Thursday's meeting, the selectmen proclaimed November 2011 Electronics Waste Recycling Month.

The proclamation explained in February the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection launched an electronics recycling program that allows municipalities to recycle their electronics for free. Along with this, the electronics waste law, based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), ensures manufacturers are responsible for the costs of the electronics they produce for the entire life cycle, including final disposal. This allows the town to provide free year-round drop-off for electronics at the Transfer Station.

The proclamation acknowledged Hebron's endorsement of EPR and support of green practices. It declared the town committed to providing "convenient and accessible opportunities to recycle electronics," adding the ultimate goal is to "divert electronics waste from incineration and improper disposal which both result in negative financial and health impacts..."

The aim of proclaiming November "Electronics Waste Recycling Month," as read by O'Connell, was to encourage residents and employees to "think green" and dispose of electronics appropriately.

"We've been having a great response," stated Therrien. "Recycle everything . . . recycle!"

\* \* \*

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office Building.

## Colchester Man Arrested for Sexual Assault

by Bailey Seddon

A 28-year-old Colchester man has been charged with having sex on multiple occasions with a 15-year-old girl.

Devon Chicoine, of 107 Lebanon Ave., was charged Oct. 7 with second-degree sexual assault, State Police said.

The alleged sexual assault occurred in June, when Chicoine was temporarily staying at a friend's house while helping her after knee surgery, according to an arrest warrant affidavit on file at Norwich Superior Court. The 15-year-old girl, whom Chicoine had known since was 6, would often visit the residence, the affidavit said.

The friend's roommate, who is also Chicoine's ex-girlfriend, said she had seen Chicoine and the alleged victim laying on the

coach together one night with her head in his lap and a blanket over them. The two roommates confronted Chicoine, telling him that it was not appropriate for him to behave this way with a 15-year-old. Chicoine said it would not happen again.

However, at a later date, when Chicoine and the alleged victim were alone in the house together, they had unprotected sex for the first time. The girl said she and Chicoine had sex two times after this, the affidavit says.

Chicoine is currently on probation for possession of narcotics, according to the state judicial website.

Bond for Chicoine was set at \$150,000, according to the judicial website. He is next due in court Nov. 14.

## Portland Police News

10/17: Melinda Heinig, 28, of 49 Grove St., was charged with third-degree assault, Portland Police said.

10/21: Matthew Fasciani, 29, of 4 Riverview St., was charged with strangulation, disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

## East Hampton Police News

10/19: John R. Forbes IV, 24, of 29 Main St., was arrested for second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

10/20: Kyla Taylor, 29, of 9 West High St., was arrested for possession of narcotics, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

10/17: Alex Niver, 27, of 107 Lebanon Ave., Apt. 3, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

10/22: David T. Peterson, 18, of 115 Plaza Dr., was charged with DUI and reckless driving, State Police said.

10/22: State Police are investigating a reported side-swiping on Route 2 at exit 13. A vehicle was traveling westbound on Route 2 when it was side-swiped by another vehicle, which then evaded the scene. The sideswiped vehicle sustained minor damage, police said.

## Colchester Police News

10/18: Harold Thoma, 35, of 199 Hop River Rd., Bolton, was charged with second-degree reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

10/18: John Rucker Jr., 44, of 31 Creek Row, East Haddam, was charged with second-degree harassment, State Police said.

10/18: Sabina Zygmunt, 22, of 63 Gill St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/20: Alex Collins, 20, of 72 Lebanon Ave., Willimantic, was charged with breach of peace, conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, third-degree criminal mischief and following too closely, State Police said.

10/20: Frank Zaler, 29, of 60 Willow St., Meriden, was charged with breach of peace and threatening, State Police said.

10/20: Frank Prior, 51, 83 Pleasant St., was charged with sixth-degree larceny and third-degree forgery, State Police said.

10/21: Chester Locke, 40, of 7 Sylvester St., Willimantic was charged with breach of peace and third-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

10/22: Yolanda Ann Wilson, 43, of 305 Old Hebron Rd., was charged with risk of injury to a child and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

10/22: Ryan Burlingham, 23, of 87 South Main St., Marlborough, was charged with pos-

session of narcotics, possession of marijuana, illegal storage of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

10/22: Patrick O'Connell, 44, of 352 South Main St., was charged with DUI and following too close, State Police said.

10/24: Colchester Police are investigating an attempted break-in reported on Pierce Lane. At 3:51 p.m. a witness observed a black male and two white males attempting to pry open windows at a resident's home, police said. They looked to be in their late teens to early 20s, the witness said. The witness stated he interrupted the men in their attempted burglary and they fled on foot into the woods. Anyone with information is asked to contact Off. Jonathan Goss at 860-537-7270.

10/24: Johnny McRae, 47, of 4 Hill Top Dr., in the North Windham section of Windham, was charged with violation of a restraining order, State Police said.

10/24: Gerald Hoffstot, 69, of 60 Linwood Ave., Apt. K, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/25: Mathew T. Pixley, 31, of 348 Bricktop Rd., was charged with two counts of violation of probation and second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

10/25: Linda A. Whiting, 42, of 12 Raven Rd., was charged with DUI and evading, State Police said.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Scott A. Fowler

Scott Allan Fowler, 47, formerly of East Hampton, a LeHigh Acres, FL, resident, died Tuesday, Sept. 13.

He was born Sept. 9, 1964, in Middletown to the late Wayne Fowler and Pat Bayerowski, mother, who survives him.

Besides his wife Cathy, he is survived by four daughters, eight grandkids, stepfather John and surviving grandmother Valery Lesick.

Service was held at Hope Hospice on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

## East Hampton

### Nicholas J. Bell

Nicholas J. (Poppy) Bell, 69, formerly of Moodus, Portland, Colchester, Meriden and East Hampton, passed away Monday, Oct. 17, at Thomas Hospital in Fairhope, AL. He was the husband of Myrna (Mickey) Bell. Poppy was surrounded by his family as he passed into the heavenly realm with his precious Lord and Savior "Jesus Christ."



Nick was born Jan. 1, 1942, in Meriden, the youngest son of the late William J. and Clara Bell. Nick worked at Consolidated Industries, NAPA and Bourdon Forge Co., Middletown, before he retired to Florida, then to Alabama to be closer to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nick belonged to the Odd Fellows and was an avid Defender for the Unborn Children.

Nick (Poppy) enjoyed attending the Mardi Gras in Alabama, watching football with his family, feeding all of God's creatures in his back yard, better known as "Nick's Deli." Poppy loved nature, gardening, building things and fixing everything. He enjoyed working on his vehicles.

Poppy volunteered to serve the homeless at soup kitchens during the holidays. He loved to travel the USA. Whenever he heard his and wife Mickey's song, he would stop everything, take her hand, "and dance," and sometimes present her with a bouquet of wildflowers.

He was a friend to "everyone" that crossed his path. Poppy took great pleasure in watching the antics of his two cats, "Jade and Starr." Ultimately, Poppy had an awesome sense of humor that brought much happiness and laughter to his family.

Nick was predeceased by brothers Kenneth, Fredrick and William Bell; sister Doris Benway; sons Nicholas J. Bell (5/25/1986), Brent T. Cartwright (10/15/2003) and daughter Starr D. Copus (9/15/1997).

Nick (Poppy) will be tremendously missed by his wife and best friend Myrna (Mickey) Bell. They were married March 26, 1983, at East Hampton Bible Church.

He is also survived by brother James; twin sisters Edna Booth and Elenor Bell; daughters Doreen Savell (Paul), Melissa Duckworth (Kenny), Kim Torres (Ariel); son Johnny Bell (Jennifer); grandchildren, Laura, Davey, Nikki, April, Angel, Michele, Krystal, Brent, Matthew, Trevor, Tabitha, Katherine; great-grandchildren Jasmine, Lea, Natalie, ShayLyn, R.J., Hunter, Joselyn, Bolynn and two unborn children at this time; many nieces and nephews; and extended family Kat, Rick, Patsy, Ralph (Terri), Lottie, Mitzie (John), Jimmy; two special-always friends Juanita Damin and Leanna Lavigne; and numerous friends.

Nick (Poppy) was a very hard-working, loving, joyous and giving millionaire with "No Money Kinda Man."

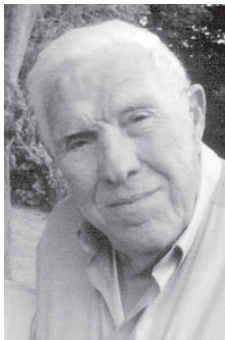
Wolfe-Bay Funeral Home, Fairhope, AL, had care of the arrangements followed by a memorial at the home of Poppy's daughter and son-in-law, Doreen and Paul Savell. A private service will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to suggest that memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association and/or Pancreatic Cancer Research. Condolences can be sent to Myrna Bell, 21400 State Highway 181 (Lot 12), Fairhope, AL 36532.

## Portland

### Ralph "Mickey" Paley

Ralph "Mickey" Paley, 81, of Portland, beloved husband and best friend of Sara (Dampsky) Paley for 59 years, passed away Thursday, Oct. 20, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Sol and Rebecca (Silberg) Paley.



Mickey lived in Portland for the majority of his life and founded Paley Brothers Hay and Shavings in Portland with his brother, Hyime which they ran for over 50 years. He was a member of Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue and was an anonymous donor to many organizations and people. His selfless generosity will be remembered by many. Mickey's true passions were his family and his business.

Along with his loving and devoted wife, Sara, he is survived by his two daughters, Lori McDermott and her husband, Philip of Glastonbury and Sharon Fleischmann and her husband, William of Portland; his son, Richard Paley of Portland; his brother, Hyime Paley of Portland; two sisters, Goldie Dash of Orange and Pearl Perloff of Woodbridge; and seven grandchildren, Jillian and Nicole McDermott, Michael and Trevor Fleischmann and Jason, Steven and Kevin Paley.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 23, at Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue and interment followed in Adath Israel Cemetery. The family sat Shiva at their home.

In lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Mickey's memory to Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, P.O. Box 337, Middletown, CT 06457 or Portland Volunteer Fire Department, 33 East Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

The Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, is handling the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## Hebron

### Mark F. Gardner

Mark was called home to Our Lord Friday, Oct. 21.

He leaves to mourn him his loving wife of 28 years, Rose, his daughter and son-in-law Kelly and Daniel Knowlton, along with his two grandsons, Pierce and Carter, who he was totally devoted to, passing on his love of trains to them. He also leaves his loving dog, Abbey, who stayed by his side through the end.

He also leaves to mourn him his mother Muriel, Brothers and spouses: Thomas and Linda, Jonathan, Peter and Othea. His sister and her life partner, Robin & Jen. He also leaves many nieces and nephews.

We want to especially thank his doctors, Dr. Jarrod Post, Dr. Anne Lally and Dr. Todd Alekshun. They have helped make Mark's life very comfortable.

There will be a Celebration of Life. The service will be today, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

There are scores of loving friends who have supported and will miss this great man. His road has been long, his travels many. May he now rest in everlasting peace.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Church of the Holy Family in Hebron, CT, the National Kidney Foundation or VITAS Hospice.