

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 36, Number 17

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 29, 2011



Hebron resident Tammy Aston was diagnosed last month with stage IV cancer. The mother of three, shown here with her husband Brett, will be the focus of an ice cream fundraiser next Sunday, Aug. 7, at Gilead Congregational Church.

## Giving Thanks for 'Hebron Angels'

by Courtney Parent

Tammy Aston is very grateful for what she calls her "Hebron angels."

The mother of three was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer last month, and next weekend Gilead Congregational Church will host an ice cream social fundraiser for the beloved community member.

This is the second town fundraiser held on behalf of Aston and her family: husband; Brett, 12-year-old son Bradley, 8-year-old daughter Allison, and 6-year-old daughter Amy.

And the generosity of the residents – those aforementioned "Hebron Angels" – has been a surprise, to say the least.

"I always want to make sure that it is coming across how thankful we are," Aston said. "I wouldn't have expected any of it."

The initial fundraiser was put on by the Hebron Youth Baseball and Softball Association earlier this month, and raised just over \$2,000, which Aston said will be "very helpful." Aston credited resident Vinny Colonna and his family for putting together the event. The fundraiser included coaches-versus-umpires and players-versus-coaches baseball games, food

and a raffle.

"It was a fun time, which was perfect," Aston said. "you don't want a fundraiser to be bad and bring everybody down. It was just a wonderful evening of baseball and friends coming together and I'm sure the next one will be the same."

The financial assistance was much appreciated by Aston, who describes hers as the "typical family" living paycheck to paycheck. Unfortunately, when she got sick and was forced to cease work as a daycare provider, she said that eliminated nearly half of the families' income.

"I think people realized that and just kind of stepped up right away," said Aston, "and helped us to let me be able to rest and get better and be able to keep living and surviving without making too many changes, which is really wonderful."

According to fellow Gilead Congregational Church member and friend Stephanie Haines, the community has shown "a lot of support" for the Aston family and she hopes the upcoming

See Angels Page 2

## 4-H Camp Celebrates Rebuilt Roof

by Bailey Seddon

On July 17, a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the new Baldwin Hall at Marlborough's 4-H camp, which had seen its roof collapse earlier this year due to extensive amounts of snow.

July 17 marked an important date not just due to the ribbon-cutting but also serving as the 46th anniversary of when the camp was first built. Over 300 people came to celebrate; 160 campers, 24 teen counselors, 25 staff and 150 other friends of 4-H camp.

Camp Director Simone Upsey and fundraising volunteer Lis Diemer were blown away by how many people were willing to help get the 4-H Camp's Baldwin Hall up and running again after the roof collapsed on Feb. 6.

"There was an outpouring of love... a flood of what can we do, how can we help," said Upsey.

"It seemed like every generation wanted to help," said Diemer.

With heavy snow on the building on February 6, Upsey said "[the roof] was pancaked." Luckily, no one was inside at the time and the damage was discovered by a worker the next morning. The snow did not just damage Baldwin Hall but "literally changed the landscape," said Upsey. One of the most amazing things, Upsey said, was that the original clover was still on the fireplace, even after the collapse.

"It was very symbolic to the spirit of the camp," she said.

Following the collapse, a re-build committee was formed to vote on what was going to be done about the hall. The camp had insur-

ance on the hall, but it only covered the building as it had been and the board wanted to take the opportunity to make some improvements. Some of these improvements were the installation of an elevator, a new staircase, better glass for the windows and new bathrooms.

A plan was made up and the members worked with the insurance company to get the money they could, but more was needed. Luckily, there were over 200 people that volunteered around 1,500 hours of their time. Upsey said the estimated savings, thanks to the volunteers, was around \$30,000. Peter Brzezick, project manager for the Baldwin Hall re-build, had also helped construct the original building back in 1966. He and others began work in mid-March and the hall was done in 10 weeks.

A capital campaign improvement fund was also started to help raise money for the hall. Through this campaign there was a phone-athon, which raised \$4,000, friendship bracelets, bake sales and a newsletter that was sent out to 7,000 people helped to raise a combined amount of \$40,000. However, Upsey said the camp is hoping to raise \$500,000 to improve not just Baldwin Hall but the entire camp itself. Other such improvements to the camp would include, more cabins (there are currently 10 girls' cabins and six boys' cabins), improvements to the tennis court, beach and the barns, and a switch from electric to gas.

The camp runs annually from the Monday after Father's Day until late August. Approximately 165 campers, ages 9-14, come for one-week sessions, where they can choose from a variety of activities including, lawn games, cooking, rockets, arts and crafts, soccer,



Over 300 people gathered at the 4-H camp in Marlborough July 17 to celebrate a ribbon-cutting at the new Baldwin Hall. The roof of the hall had collapsed in February due to heavy snow accumulation, and needed to be rebuilt.

Frisbee, horses, basket making, canoeing and others. Due to the long wait list, children can come for two weeks at the most for the summer. The cost is \$350 for 4-H members and \$380 for non-4-H members. For a person to become

a member, they must join a 4-H club in their community, which is free.

The camp has teen counselors, who are ages 15-18, and volunteer and regular staff members

See Roof Page 2





**The new Baldwin Hall. 4-H Camp will run in weekly sessions through Aug. 20.**

**Roof cont. from Front Page**

who are 18 or older. The teen volunteers take a teen leadership program and can come for one week, but the paid staff members are there for the whole summer. The teen volunteers are only allowed one week because of the high applications to volunteer. Over 200 teens applied for the 175 slots that can be filled this year. Most of these teens are former campers who are too old to attend, but still want to be part of the camp.

"Everyone wants to give back, I wish we could take them all," Diemer said.

The camp even has people from other countries. In the camp this year there are two women, one from England and one from Ireland. There is also a man working in kitchen maintenance from Hungary.

One of these international staff members is Caroline Wheeler, from Ireland, who works with the horses and runs the one hour riding lessons that kids can take daily. Wheeler had friends who had gone to other 4-H camps in the States and she thought it would be a good idea.

"I wanted something different to do for the summer," she said, "I had an amazing time last summer," and couldn't wait to get back this year, Wheeler said.

Wheeler is 21 and graduated from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth with a degree in psychology. She is having a great time and enjoying her last summer at the camp, as she will be getting a job in her field when she gets home at the end of the summer.

"A lot of our staff have grown up through our program...we have a community of family," Diemer said.

Upsey agreed, "It becomes a second fam-

ily."

Diemer and Upsey both have deep roots in the camp; they had both been campers when they were children. Diemer joined when she was 10 and is now the director of the camp. She lives in Delaware with her husband, but comes to stay at the camp for the summer months. Upsey was 9 when she joined and went from camper, counselor, and camp director to her current work; volunteering as a fundraiser.

"It's become a part of who I am...a home away from home," said Diemer. She said she enjoys giving back to a place that helped to form who she has become.

"It shapes your core character," Upsey said, "It's a great learning institution."

The generations of kids going to the camp can be shown through Julia Weaber. Her great-grandmother Elsie Woolam was the camp director and is the current camp administrator. Woolam has been a part of the camp since the beginning. Her and her late husband, Dick Woolam, who was the horse director, helped build the camp in 1966. This was 10-year-old Julia's first week at the camp, but she had visited it many times before.

When asked what she liked about the camp Julia said, "All the activities...how the instructors can help us and teach us new things that we haven't learned."

Julia had just returned from riding her great-grandfather Dick Woolam's horse, Crystal.

To donate to the camp visit their Facebook page, Help HC4H Camp Baldwin Hall Improvement Fund, or visit their website at [hartfordcounty4hcamp.org](http://hartfordcounty4hcamp.org). The camp will also be selling "My heart belongs to Baldwin Hall" T-shirts for people to buy which will go toward the fundraising of the camp.



**Aston is shown here in a family photo with husband Brett and children Amy (being held by Brett), Allison and Bradley.**

**Angels cont. from Front Page**

ing fundraiser will be just as successful as the first.

"Tammy is a close friend," said Haines, "and a member of the church. A number of us from the church are kind of rallying around here. The last thing I want is for her to have to worry about financial matters."

According to Haines, though the name simply exemplifies a sweet and scrumptious treat, there will be much more than dairy desserts offered during the church's fundraising festivities.

In addition to delicious Shady Glen ice cream, there will also be entertainment, guessing games and prizes. There will be a bounce house, face painting and other childhood favorites for the local youth. Musical melodies will be performed by local band Dino and the No Names.

For those looking for a taste of agricultural amusement, Haines said The Farmers Cow will also be supporting the event by loaning out one of its heifers. While many may find enjoyment simply from the presence of the barnyard animal, the true amusement will come from a guessing game associated with the cow. According to Haines, individuals will have the opportunity to sign up for time slots, making speculations as to when the cow is going to "do her business." A prize will be given to the individual who guesses correctly.

According to Haines, in addition to fundraising efforts, local residents and businesses are showing their support in numerous ways. First, Haines pointed to an online calendar, which was created so that individuals could sign up for a date to prepare meals for the family. A local lawn company has also volunteered their service, offering to cut the families lawn for the remainder of the summer.

Turning to the Aston children, the Parks & Recreation Department has provided scholarships to the family so that Bradley, Allison, and Amy may all attend summer camps while their mother undergoes treatment.

"Every time I turn around, something else wonderful is happening and someone else is reaching out," said Aston.

According to Aston, the meal plan and meal calendar were compliments of two good friends, Karen Sanstrom and Maureen Sullivan. The duo created a calendar so that individuals could sign up to make meals for the family; at this time the calendar has been filled through August, said Aston.

"There are just days when I'm good for nothing," said Aston, "and as great as my husband is it's nice for him to not have to worry about that."

"Everybody's chipping in and doing what they can," said Haines. "It's truly touching."

While most of the communities' efforts for the family are to relieve any financial and physical burdens, Haines said she has also spent time researching stage IV cancer survivors in order to provide Aston with sources of inspiration.

"There are stories of people surviving stage IV cancer," said Haines. "I want her to be aware that there are success stories of people who fight and overcome."

Aston said that the support being shown by her community has been "overwhelming in a good way" and is more than anything she would have expected. Also being someone who is not used to asking for help, Aston added that it was nice that she never had to ask.

"All the love people are sending gives me that positive attitude and helps me move forward," said Aston.

Expressing sincere gratitude, Aston gave thanks for her "Hebron angel's" and all those who have shown her family love and support during this difficult time.

"I can't say enough 'thank you's to everybody," said Aston. "It's quite shocking how many people care about little old me. It's just another reminder of what a great community we live in. Hopefully, I can pay that forward one day."

The fundraiser will be held next Sunday, Aug. 7, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Gilead Congregational, 672 Gilead St. Tickets are \$5 for individuals or \$20 per family and can be purchased in advance at Ted's IGA Supermarket or at the door on the day of the event.



# Andover Residents Get Juices of Well Flowing Again

by Courtney Parent

Did you hear the news? The well at Veterans Monument Park has not only been located, but, as of Friday, July 15, is officially back up and running after spending nearly a decade underground. Talk about a long time to be left in the dark!

As the result of a large community effort, the old well was recently installed and, after years of running dry, is now serving up a steady flow of water once again. According to local resident and member of the Beautification Committee, Dianne Grenier, the attempts to locate and get the juices of the well flowing again were a direct result of community conversation.

Each year, beginning in 2007, there have been what Grenier referred to as “garden parties,” just prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day. At the “parties,” local residents would gather at Veterans Monument Park to conduct a collaborative clean-up. During one of these clean-ups, it was learned local residents Barbara Foran and George Collette (the latter of which passed away earlier this year) had been “lugging water across town” to tend to the shrubs and geraniums which they plant each year. That’s when people began talking about locating the well and putting it to use, Grenier said.

According to Grenier, when the Department of Transportation conducted its Route 6 Safety Improvement Project back in 2002, it cut off access to Monument Lane and removed the old creamery that was located in the park. However, at that time, Grenier said residents made a plea to save the well from the old creamery. As a result, the well was capped.

Little did residents know that the process to find the old creamery well would prove to be such a long and difficult one, involving the work of many people.

The efforts began with state Representative Pam Sawyer, who helped locate the company the DOT had sub-contracted the well project out to. After the company was found, the town was able to obtain a photograph of the capped well. Unfortunately, the picture was taken prior to re-grading of the area, and the well was unable to be pinpointed.

According to Sawyer, since the well had been capped and not filled, the main issue was in regards to “how” to locate it. After the well was capped, the landscape was changed; the property had been elevated and a “dip” had been taken out of the road said Sawyer, making it difficult to know how far down the well was residing.

While simply finding the well was an obstacle in itself, another big hurdle the town had to jump over was gaining ownership of the land.

At that time, the land was still owned by the state and even if the well was found it would be difficult for the town to get permission to conduct the digging, run electricity and activate a well that was not on town property.

As a result, the Board of Selectmen went to the state to begin the process of having the land deeded over. In November 2009, when the land was officially deeded to the town, the well search continued with a few less concerns.

From that time forward, Sawyer said it was Grenier’s “tenaciousness” that aided in finding local experts who were able to use their various instruments of trade to locate the well.

One of those experts leading the next effort to find the well was local resident Jim Fitting. This effort included determining GPS coordinates for the four corners of the old creamery, via a satellite photo, during the summer of 2010. (According to Grenier, many residents remembered that the well had been located near a corner of the old creamery.)

Fitting was able to use a software package called ArcGIS (Geographic Information System) to reference the location of the well using the corners of the old creamery and the road intersections.

According to Fitting, the GIS is a combination of software and data, similar to a conventional database with a geographical component. Fitting said the system is often used in a map view, as many are able to understand maps better than data.

ArcGIS includes a full service mapping package, to which Fitting said he used just one piece of, coupling with an aerial photograph of the area when the creamery was still present, gained from the University of Connecticut’s aerial website, [magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash\\_up/aerial\\_index](http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/mash_up/aerial_index).

According to Fitting, the coupling of the ArcGIS and the aerial photograph then made the photo “map accurate” within five to 10 feet. After digitizing the photo, Fitting said the process was as easy as two computer commands, simply dragging and dropping the files to a GPS unit.

From this point, Fitting said it was up to the recollection of Andover’s residents to remember which corner of the creamery the well was located at – and a magnetic utility locator. With the combination of magnets and memory, Fitting said they were able to find several areas with chunks of metal under the ground’s surface, one “solid area” in particular.

Disappointingly, after digging several feet down by hand the well was not found. However, as the utility locator still showed the substance below the bottom of the hole, residents



**Getting water to Andover Veterans Monument Park was a big project that required many helping hands. From left are Dianne Grenier of the Beautification Committee, Geoff Bayersdorfer of Griffin Dewatering, Jonathon Wright of Griffin Dewatering, Jim Minicucci of M&M Oil, state Rep. Pam Sawyer, Gregory Carini of M&M Oil, Charlie Minicucci of M&M Oil, Keith Cote of M&M Oil and Barbara Foran of the Beautification Committee. Photo by Betty Kerr.**

did not give up.

Once an approximate location for the well was derived, the main issue turned to the financial needs to locate it and install a well pump. Once again, a possible road block was avoided when Grenier was directed to Geoff Bayersdorfer of Griffin Dewatering-New England. According to Grenier, Bayersdorfer, along with local resident and Griffin Dewatering employee Jonathon Wright, volunteered their time and services.

As previous digging attempts were unsuccessful, First Selectman Bob Burbank offered the help of the town’s road crew and equipment to dig deeper. The crew joined Wright, equipped with backhoe, and found the well in the location Fitting had dug previously, approximately seven feet underground. From there, resident Charlie Minicucci of M&M Oil Co. amended the electricity dilemma by volunteering to dig the trench needed, said Grenier.

Sawyer described the “well project” as a cost-efficient community effort that saw success due to the determination and cooperation

of residents and volunteers.

“It took someone with the determination to see it through,” Sawyer said. “To put all the pieces together and work with multiple volunteers and state agencies and follow the job through until the end. Also, the fabulous volunteers from electricians to plumbing to well experts; without their expertise it wouldn’t have come together. And the best part is, everything was donated and at no cost to the town.”

Thanks to the hands, minds and machines of many, the well at Andover Veterans Monument Park is no longer hiding its history underground, nor is it withholding water.

“This was a big community project that required the help of many generous people donating their time, skill, materials, equipment and general know-how to help bring water to the newly established Andover Veterans Monument Park,” Grenier said. “This has been no simple task. Many helping hands and cooperation were required to make this a success. A big thank you to all who helped make this a reality.”

# Hebron Republicans Endorse Full Slate of Candidates

by Courtney Parent

It’s that time of year – when the sun stays to play until the wee evening hours, the moon and stars shine down brightly on the occupants of a backyard tent and the beginning of a new season is upon us; the political season, that is.

The Republican Town Committee caucused Monday, July 25, and a full slate of candidates was chosen to run in this fall’s municipal elections. As is the typical order of events, the evening’s nominations began with the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Dan Larson nominated current chairman Jeff Watt and current vice chairwoman Gayle Mulligan.

“He’s done a fantastic job,” said Larson in regards to Watt’s performance. “I don’t think we could do any better and am glad he’s stepping up to the plate again.”

In regards to Mulligan, Larson said that, as Watt’s right hand person, he also didn’t think the board could have done any better.

Another two incumbents nominated Monday evening belonged to the Board of Finance: board chairman Michael Hazel and member Lynn Guerriero.

Larson and Watt each spoke on behalf of Hazel. Larson said Hazel has led the committee with “speed and vigor and great knowledge.” Watt followed with a similar sentiment, characterizing Hazel as a “team player” and noting his understanding of the economic challenges the town is currently facing.

Hazel expressed his dedication to the town and his desire to help his community through difficult times when asked why he wished to be re-elected.

“At this point in time it would not be right not to run again,” said Hazel. “We are in the middle of a difficult situation and we should see it through.”

Hazel endorsed Guerriero by saying what a

“great addition” she has been to the Board of Finance, as well as noting what a “quick learner” she is.

The Board of Education slate featured two new faces: Dom Marino and Amy Lynch-Gracias. As was custom at Monday night’s meeting, Larson began the endorsements by saying that Marino has attended a “number of meetings” and that “hopefully he would be a good common-sense individual” to add to the board.

Speaking on behalf of Lynch-Gracias – though he admitted his endorsement might be biased – was her husband, Brian Gracias. Gracias said he and his wife have been residents of Hebron for more than five years and that his wife is a lifelong fiscal conservative who wants to give back to the town.

Lynch-Gracias said that she has attended a few meetings and though the “small-town politics” are still new to her (originally hailing from Phoenix, AZ), she would like to help the town “make a turn towards a more fiscally conservative viewpoint.”

Looking at the RHAM Board of Education, there was just a single candidate endorsed Monday, current member Thomas Tremont. Both Larson and Watt gave their support, pointing to his commitment to the board and the town. Humorously, both pointed to Tremont’s generally outspoken nature and the fact that he is “not afraid to tell the town what he feels,” which generated overwhelming laughter from the crowd.

As there was a second spot available on the board, but no one to run, Helen Reardon was elected as a placeholder for the position. Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Donna McCalla explained that if a placeholder was not nominated and endorsed, then the republicans

would lose the seat on that ticket.

The Planning and Zoning Commission also saw one candidate endorsed: Lew Hinman. Currently serving as chairman of the commission, Larson said Hinman is a “good solid person” for the position. Watt added that Hinman would be an asset in regards to developing business in the village green.

Another newcomer being endorsed as an alternate for the Planning and Zoning Commission was Loreta McDonnell. Larson said she would bring “new blood” and a “fresh face” to the board. Larson said it is beneficial to get new people involved on the town’s boards and commissions, allowing them to “get their feet wet” and possibly bring new ideas to the table.

Keeping it in the family, McDonnell’s husband Kevin was endorsed as a candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Larson described him as “sound” and “level-headed.”

McCalla added that though this may be the McDonnells’ first bout with Hebron politics, they are familiar with the town and its general meeting procedures.

“The McDonnells are known for coming to a lot of meetings and being very active in town,” she said.

While most of the boards and commissions had either incumbents or newcomers ready to run, that did not hold true for the position of Zoning Board of Appeals alternate. As there were no candidates, McCalla turned to the floor for a nomination. After discussion among those present, Larson nominated local resident Linda Bulkovitch – who was present at the caucus and agreed to run.

Last but not least, Clara O’Brien was endorsed for the Board of Assessment Appeals. O’Brien is an incumbent, who McCalla said

has served as chairman for the last eight years. Larson said that as this year is a revaluation year it is important that the town has people with “good judgment” on the board, as he said O’Brien does.

After the candidate nominations concluded, McCalla put forward the names of Watt, Larson and Opocensky to serve as members of a vacancy committee. The vacancy committee will aid in the search for a RHAM Board of Education candidate for which Reardon is currently a placeholder and would seek out replacements if any candidates were to drop out.

Though the Republican caucus proved to be successful, putting forward candidates for all boards and commissions with just one placeholder, McCalla said the Democrats were not so fortunate. McCalla said that the majority of the races this year are non-competitive and the candidates will be “shoo-ins,” as the Democrats are not endorsing candidates for all of their available spots. (The Democrats caucused last week, and there are no less than 10 available seats they are not running candidates for.)

“It’s a quiet season here in Hebron,” said McCalla.

In the upcoming November election, voters will be able to choose three people for the Board of Selectmen; three for the Board of Finance; four for the Board of Education; one for Board of Assessment Appeals, two for the Planning and Zoning Commission, two for Planning and Zoning Commission alternate, two for Zoning Board of Appeals, two for Zoning Board of Appeals alternate and two for RHAM Board of Education.

For all the boards and commissions, the number of votes residents can cast is also the number to be elected to each board or commission.



# Marlborough Republicans Endorse Gaudinski for First Selectman

by Bailey Seddon

Cathi Gaudinski was thrilled to be nominated for first selectman by the Republican Town Committee at its caucus Tuesday.

"I'm very pleased to have you all vote for me," Gaudinski said.

Gaudinski will face Democrat First Selectman nominee Michael Gut at the polls this November. (A story about the Democrats' caucus appears this week on page 9.) The town's current first selectman, Bill Black, confirmed last week he will not be seeking re-election.

Gaudinski said she was happy with the other Republican nominees she would be running with, such as Dick Shea, a current Board of Finance member who is running for the Board of Selectmen.

"I think we have a really strong ticket, a lot of experience," she said. "I am looking forward to working with everyone."

Gaudinski, who has been a resident since 1985, spoke of the hard economic times the town has faced and could go through in the future, but she was confident that she could help the town as first selectman.

"I would like to work with everyone to get some resolution," Gaudinski said.

Gaudinski has training in technology and is currently the data specialist in the school system. With her two children now out of the home she feels it is a "good time to transition over" because she can devote the time and energy to the duties of the office, were she to be elected. Gaudinski also mentioned the business she used to have in town, Marlborough Eatery, which she said helps her to appreciate what it is like to be a business owner in town.

"I understand the tough times businesses experience," she said.

When asked how she felt Black was running the town, Gaudinski said "I think he has done the best that he knows how to." She mentioned

that first selectman was a tough job, and that you can't really know what it entails until you get into it.

Shea shares Gaudinski's feelings on the campaign. "I'm really pleased to be able to run with Cathi," he said.

His time on the Board of Finance, as well as his years on other boards and commissions in town, has given Shea experience he feels is valuable.

"I learned a good deal about the operation of the town...I think I could make an impact...in terms of identifying issues...getting people's concerns," Shea said.

Shea said it was tough coming onto a board in such a bad economy, but he still wants to help his town. "I look forward to the campaign and suggestions because I still have a lot to learn," Shea said.

"Dick is great at verbal and oral communication," said current selectwoman Riva Clark, who will not be seeking re-election this fall.

Louise Concodello was also looking forward to the elections. She is eager to again be running for the Board of Education. "I volunteer so much in town, I feel I need to continue," she said. Like Gaudinski, with her children grown and out of the house, Concodello feels she has time to devote to the board. Concodello mentioned things such as the economic issues and budget cuts as reasons she wants to stay on the board to do what she can.

"She has a history of doing a good job," Republican Town Committee member Christine Duffy said.

Republican Town Committee Chairman Ken Hjulstrom talked about how many of the committee's candidates are being cross-endorsed by the Democrats. One of these mentioned was Nancy Dickson, who is again running for the position of Town Clerk.

"Our candidates being cross-endorsed"



The Marlborough Republican Town Committee held its caucus Tuesday. Pictured are some of the candidates endorsed. From left are Ken Hjulstrom, Barbara Murray, Louise Concodello, Nancy Dickson, Bob Clarke, Cathi Gaudinski, Dick Shea, Midge Denno, Mike Turner and Sandy Sudduth.

shows the strength of the slate, Hjulstrom said. He said the candidates have done a lot of good work but that there is still more to be done.

"We have to work at it to have another good year," he said.

The rest of the Republican candidates endorsed Tuesday are: for treasurer, Michael O'Neil, a Democrat who is being cross-endorsed; for Tax Collector, Barbara Murray; for Board of Finance, Ken Hjulstrom and Carl Carlson; for Board of Education, Ruth Kelly and Bob Clarke; for Planning Commission,

John Larensen and Midge Denno; for Planning Commission Alternate, Sandy Sudduth; for Zoning Commission, Kevin Asklar; for Zoning Commission Alternate, Jack Murray; for Zoning Board of Appeals, John Valentine and Dot Denniss; for Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, Bon Jackson; and for RHAM Board of Education, Mike Turner and Dieter Zimmer (who is unaffiliated and is being endorsed by both parties).

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

# New Resident State Trooper Happy to be Back in Marlborough

by Bailey Seddon

Jeff Dunshee might be Marlborough's new resident state trooper, but he is not new to the town.

Dunshee grew up in Marlborough; he spent the first 22 years of his life in town before taking a job with Troop E in Montville. He went to RHAM for one year, but switched to Xavier at his mom's suggestion. Dunshee had an older brother in RHAM and, he said, his mother "just wanted a clean start for me."

After graduating from Xavier in 2000, Dunshee went on to Norwich University in Vermont, a military college where he majored in criminal justice and minored in computer forensics. While in college Dunshee had to make the decision of whether he wanted to become an officer in the service or a police officer.

There were several factors that led Dunshee to choosing the latter. First, he had two cousins that were officers; one in Newington and one in East Hartford. He also had a friend at Norwich University a year ahead of him who had become a police officer. During his senior year, the friend let Dunshee come for a ride along while on duty. These factors helped him to make his decision and when he graduated in 2004 he had decided to become a police officer.

Dunshee worked at Troop E for four years. "It was a good place to start," Dunshee said. The work he did in Montville was very different from the work he currently does in

Marlborough. A lot of it consisted of patrolling I-95 and watching the traffic around Mohegan Sun. "You get a wide variety of things," Dunshee said of his previous job.

Dunshee became Marlborough's resident state trooper in May, and he is happy with the change of pace as resident state trooper, "I believe in community policing," he said.

He said he takes pleasure in being a resident state trooper better because it is different than his previous work and there is always something going on. He also likes that he knows where he is going to be working everyday, something he did not always know in Montville. He likes that he can develop relationships with the people of the town and get to know everyone better. He also enjoys his hours better, five days on and three days off and a 3-11 p.m. shift. "I couldn't be happier," said Dunshee.

An example of one of the differences between resident state trooper and Troop E patrolling would be a recent prescription pill fraud that Dunshee has been working on. It is a change of pace from what he would be doing on a daily basis and interesting to investigate. Dunshee is also glad to have the 24-hour Marlborough Clinic near-by so he can hear about any interesting cases that might come up.

Another great part of his new job is getting to work again with State Trooper Craig Fox, who works out of Dunshee's office on West Road in town. Dunshee had worked with Fox at Troop E, and had him as a trainer.

"I see him as a mentor," said Dunshee, who said he gets a lot of his philosophy from Fox.

At 29, Dunshee could be considered a little young for the position of resident state trooper, as one of the decisive factors that help the Connecticut State Police make a decision can be seniority. This means that Dunshee performed well enough in other areas that he surpassed the seniority aspect.

"The other things I had to offer maybe outweighed the seniority," he said.

First Selectman Bill Black said a number of senior troopers have retired in the last few years, and the average age for resident troopers is younger than it has been in the past five years. Black said around four or five candidates were up for the job of Marlborough's new resident state trooper, and the Connecticut State Police have a very stringent criteria for selection, such as disciplines, or assignments given to the candidates by Troop K. Expertise also plays a big role in the process of who is hired, Black said, something he felt Dunshee had.

"We are very, very pleased that he was selected by Troop K," he said. Black said he was, "very impressed by his professional manner," especially how easy-going Dunshee is. Black was also happy with the links Dunshee had with Marlborough in the past.

Dunshee said it had always been his plan to end up here. He said he had a 10-year goal; he just got here sooner than he thought. Dunshee said he has no plans to leave



Jeff Dunshee

Marlborough anytime soon. He even mentioned the possibility of living in town and raising a family here some day.

"I have a lot of affection for the town," he said.



# Gut a Possibility in Marlborough Fall Elections

by Bailey Seddon

At Monday's Democratic Town Committee caucus, both Linda Higgins and Michael Gut expressed interest in running for First Selectman this November, following incumbent Bill Black's confirmation last week that he won't be seeking re-election.

Ultimately, though, the nomination went to Gut.

Ned Hickey, candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals, nominated Gut for the position, saying, "Mike, I feel, is a very, very good candidate, a strong candidate."

Hickey spoke about Gut's 10 years on the Board of Finance, first as a Republican then as a Democrat, which he had to leave because of work commitments. Hickey also mentioned the work he does for Briny Breezes, FL. He is the president of the town's Board of Directors, and lives down there full-time from January to April, performing his duties the rest of the year via e-mail and teleconference.

"I enjoy this kind of work," Gut said.

Gut assured the Republicans that, were he to be nominated, he would resign the Florida position and live full-time in Marlborough.

"I have been dealing with the town here for a good part of my life," Gut said. "We still have the sewer's hanging over our heads," he said, but Gut said he would do his best for the town.

Gut is, at this moment, an Independent; he switched two weeks ago because he thought Black would be running again, and was going to run against him as an Independent. If he is elected, he said, he will switch back to being a

Democrat.

Before securing the nomination Monday, Gut said he would run as an Independent against Republican First Selectman candidate Cathi Gaudinski (a story about the Republican caucus appears on page 8) in the event the Democrats went with Higgins. "I still feel I could have a strong case against Cathi," Gut said.

Democratic Town Committee Co-Chairman Russell West, meanwhile, nominated Higgins for the position. When it came time to speak, she said she was willing to do her best for the town.

"What's important here is what is best for Marlborough," she said.

Higgins also said Black has not made it to all of the Democratic functions that she felt he should have been a part of.

Gut also had some criticism for Black, saying that if he were to be elected, "that door is always going to be open over there where it is closed a lot now," Gut said.

Lauren Cragg, who is running for a position on the Board of Finance, agreed with Higgins and Gut. She also wanted confirmation from them that the communication would be better, were one of them to be elected.

"I was frustrated for a long time with Bill Black," Cragg said. "When it comes to dealing with the public...it has been a rough ride for all of us."

Higgins, who is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ, had formerly been an interim minister at the North Stonington

Congregational Church. Through that work, she said, she has experience getting people together "so the church can move forward."

When asked what financial experience she could bring to the job, Higgins said that, due to both time as an interim minister and her father's job working on Wall Street for the New York Stock Exchange when she was young, she is used to finances.

"I grew up with finance as the table talk of my childhood," she said.

However, Higgins, who is currently unemployed, was completely honest with the board and said that if she was nominated and then offered a job between now and the November elections, she would have to take the job.

"I can't stay unemployed until November," if offered a job, she said.

West said he had discussed this possibility with her ahead of time, but still felt she was a strong candidate.

After the board had talked with both candidates, it was decided that the vote should be done via paper ballot. In the end, it was Gut who won as candidate for the Democrats, by a vote of 14-9.

Another candidate who was discussed more thoroughly was Amy Traversa, who will run for a position on the Board of Selectmen.

Traversa has been a resident of the town for 16 years and is currently working for her husband of five years, Bill Lardi. "I have a lot of flexibility and very good reviews," she said,

laughing.

Traversa said she was disappointed in both the current selectmen and the issues that have stemmed from the sewer connections, which she said she feels has done harm to the town.

"It's been discernable, the lack of town spirit in the community," Traversa said. She mentioned that it seemed as if the town had an "us against them" feeling, with many of the boards pitting against one another, which she feels should not happen in a town the size of Marlborough. Traversa said she felt the boards should work together to better serve the town.

"I think there are a lot of things that can be done simply by communication," she said.

The slate endorsed Monday features three positions filled temporarily by placeholders; the three names will remain there until someone can be found who is willing to run.

The rest of the Democratic candidates are: for RHAM Board of Education, Dieter Zimmer and Republican Mike Turner, who is being cross-endorsed; for Zoning Board of Appeals, placeholder Joe La Bella; for Planning Commission, placeholder Barbara Armfield; for Board Of Education, Betty O'Brien, Glen Peterson and Corinne Chappelle; for Board of Finance, Beth Petroni and placeholder Joe La Bella; for Tax Collector, Barbara Murray; for Town Treasurer, Michael O'Neil; and for Town Clerk, Nancy Dickson, who is also being cross-endorsed.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

## FOIC Dismisses Complaint Against Weintraub in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A complaint filed against Town Council member Sue Weintraub last October has been dismissed by the state's Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC).

In a letter from Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila to Weintraub and Interim Town Manager John Weichsel on July 12, D'Aquila announced that FOIC hearing officer Mary E. Schwind recommended that an FOIC complaint submitted by resident Ted Hintz Jr. against Weintraub be "dismissed." The recommendation was made at a hearing on July 8.

According to the report submitted by Schwind, the complaint stems from last September when Hintz requested that Weintraub provide him "an electronic copy of all of your e-mails from all of your e-mail accounts from Jan. 1, 2010 to present [Sept. 8, 2010]." The request was later changed to all "town related" e-mails from "all of [Weintraub's] e-mail accounts."

The report states that Weintraub informed Hintz the request would be reviewed by D'Aquila and, upon her opinion, Weintraub would "begin the process of reviewing and formatting the e-mails." Weintraub also told Hintz

that it was "a busy time of year for her at work" and that he would receive the e-mails in a "reasonable" time.

On Oct. 4, 2010, Hintz appealed to the FOIC, alleging that Weintraub violated the FOI Act by not providing him with the e-mails he requested. The law states that "any person applying in writing shall receive, promptly upon request, a plain or certified copy of any public record."

According to the report, around Oct. 23, 2010, Weintraub began a search of her e-mail accounts, which resulted in roughly 1,300 e-mails. Weintraub testified that she spent 30 to 60 minutes a day between Oct. 23 and Nov. 8 reviewing the e-mails, and then she provided them to him. The report also states that Hintz never actually told Weintraub he received the e-mails, nor did he ever indicate to her there were any problems with them.

After he received the e-mails, the report states, Hintz believed that some records were being withheld, including some attachments. He also said at the hearing that the requests were not responded to in a "prompt" manner.

Schwind stated in the report that "prompt"

is defined as "quickly and without undue delay, taking into consideration all of the factors presented" by the request. Schwind found that the requests were processed in a "reasonable and timely" fashion, based on the "town-related matters" that Weintraub had at hand, of which she included the elimination of the police chief, a severance package for former Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe, and the upcoming November referendum.

Schwind also took into consideration "the volume of records requested," "the time and personnel required to comply with a request," and "the importance to the public of completing the other agency business without the loss of the personnel time involved in complying with the request."

This is the second complaint filed by Hintz in the past year that has been dismissed. In May, the State Election Enforcement Commission dismissed a complaint from Hintz against the Chatham Party and the group Take Back Our Town, where he alleged that the groups violated campaign finance laws by illegally organizing community support to reinstate Police

Chief Matthew Reimondo at last November's referendum.

Weintraub, who is a member of the Chatham Party, said Wednesday that the complaint was "frivolous" and believes Hintz – a Republican currently running for Town Council – has it out for members of the party.

"Repeatedly, he has failed to discredit me or the Chatham Party and has only succeeded in wasting valuable time and taxpayer dollars," Weintraub said. "Our right to Freedom of Information should not be used as a weapon for retaliation and vendettas. Truth, justice and due process have prevailed."

Weintraub also said that Hintz has admitted the FOI complaint was "a 'tit-for-tat' response" to an FOI request by Weintraub to O'Keefe, which exposed what Weintraub called "damning e-mails." Those e-mails included a message from O'Keefe to members of the Town Council that referred to Weintraub as a "38 cent problem," which Weintraub said was a reference to the price of a bullet.

Hintz could not be reached for comment for this story.

## 'Fidgeting' With the Radio Leads to Four-Car Crash in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A driver "fidgeting with his radio" caused a four-car crash last Thursday, East Hampton Police said.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, a 1999 Chevy Tahoe driven by a 17-year-old East Hampton resident was traveling south on North Maple Street when it struck another vehicle from behind that was stopped for the traffic light at the intersection of North Maple Street and Route 66.

Kelly said the driver was "fidgeting with his radio in the vehicle and was not paying attention to the road."

The driver struck a 2005 Jeep Cherokee driven by Josephine Unikewicz, of Portland, setting off a "chain reaction," Kelly said. The Jeep then struck a 2006 Honda Pilot driven by Elaine A. Pellegrino of East Hampton which pushed the Pilot into a 2007 Toyota

Rav-4 driven by Rosemarie Mazzarella of Portland. The car driven by Pellegrino then veered across the road and struck a utility pole, Kelly said.

Kelly said the 17-year-old admitted to being at fault for the accident. The driver was issued an infraction for failure to drive a reasonable distance apart.

No serious injuries were sustained by any of the people involved. However, Pellegrino suffered minor injuries, police said, and those in Unikewicz's vehicle sustained "non-evident" injuries. Those who were treated for injuries, either by EMS or the staff at Marlborough Clinic, were released.

All cars suffered rear end or front end damage in the accident, depending on where the car was hit, police said. No damage was sustained by the utility pole.

## Route 2 Accident Ends with Car Fire

by Courtney Parent

Hebron resident Alex Carr was taken to the hospital after his vehicle was sideswiped, sent over an embankment and caught fire on Route 2 last week.

Carr, 73, of 94 West St., was traveling westbound on Route 2 at Exit 4 in East Hartford, in his 1998 Chevrolet K3500 shortly after 9 a.m. last Thursday, July 21, State Police said. Carr was traveling in the left lane of three, while Garline Berthaud of Norwich, the driver of a 2000 Mazda 626 was traveling slightly behind Carr in the far right lane.

According to police, Berthaud crossed all lanes of traffic and sideswiped Carr, causing his 1998 Chevy to roll over the embankment in the center median and catch on fire.

Berthaud's Mazda then spun out into the right lane/shoulder, police said. Carr's vehicle was totaled in the accident.

According to State Police Lt. J. Paul Vance, Carr was transported to St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford to be treated for non-life threatening injuries. As of Monday, St. Francis said Carr was no longer listed as a patient. Berthaud and passenger, Martine Louis Jeune, were both transported to Hartford Hospital for back pain.

According to police, the accident occurred during daylight, when the road surface was dry, and there was a heavy traffic flow. According to Vance, the accident is still under investigation.

# Portland Republicans Select Bascom to Face Bransfield

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Republican Town Committee held its caucus Monday night at the American Legion, to announce its slate of candidates for November's municipal elections.

Included in the slate was Don Bascom, a former Democrat who will face incumbent Susan Bransfield for the office of first selectman.

Bransfield was endorsed for a fifth term by the Democrats at their caucus, also held Monday night (see related story on page 20.)

Bascom is well-known throughout the community, serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, volunteering with the Portland Fair, and staying active with Boy Scouts and the Portland Little League. In March, he received the Spirit of Portland award from the Portland Senior Center for his continued service to the town.

Bascom said his biggest concern will be pushing for more business to come into the community, broadening the town's tax base.

"I'm a big believer in business and helping business survive," he said. "In the past, we've never solicited businesses. We just sit back and wait."

Bascom said that to draw more businesses, particularly on Route 66, the town will need to develop a revamped water and sewer system, which he believes would be "a major development."

"Everything would feed off that," Bascom said of economic development's effect on the town.

Bascom said that what separates himself from Bransfield, who has served as first selectwoman since 2003, is that he will be more proactive. He said that in the past, the town has "missed opportunities" to grow and vows that he "won't let it happen again."

The Republicans, Bascom said, hope to attract younger voters with their campaign, particularly the 18-25 demographic. He said they also plan to target "unaffiliated voters and unhappy Democrats," and Bascom hopes his political past will draw in the independent crowd. "We're trying to pull everyone together," Bascom said of the campaign.

Joining Bascom on the slate are four candidates for the six open positions on the Board of

Selectmen. Two of the candidates – Carl Chudzik and John Anderson – are incumbents, while Peter Clark and Ryan Curley are newcomers.

Chudzik said Wednesday he has "enjoyed" the last four years he has served on the board, and hopes the "good work [the board] has done will continue." He said his biggest concern is citizens of Portland and their well-being.

"We need to continue being financially responsible and we need to continue bringing a better quality of life," Chudzik said. He also added that the continued progression of the Portland school system is a "top priority."

Like Bascom, Chudzik is also focused on the town's infrastructure, particularly the water and sewer system. He believes that not only will it attract new businesses that will broaden the tax base, it "would create new jobs." Chudzik has worked closely with the Water and Sewer Commission over the past few years, he said.

Chudzik said he believes the Republicans have put forth "a very good slate" and that he is "looking forward to working with [Bascom]

and the rest of the endorsed candidates."

The newcomers, Clark and Curley, are two candidates Bascom said he was "excited" about. Bascom said he is familiar with Clark, as they have worked together on the Planning and Zoning Commission, while Curley is a young newcomer that Bascom hopes will attract "some younger voters."

"We're looking for some change," Bascom said.

For the Board of Education, Brenna Kosicki is the only Republican candidate vying for one of the three open positions. Kosicki last served on the board in 2009, but was beaten by newcomer Jennifer Lohmeyer in the last municipal election. The term length is four years.

For the Board of Assessment Appeals, incumbent Peter Castelli is joined by Matthew Rice to run for the three open positions. Rice ran for the Board of Selectmen in 2009 but was defeated. The Zoning Board of Appeals features two new candidates – Cheryl Dion running for the term beginning in 2011, and Kurt Peterson running for the term beginning in 2012.

## Bransfield Running for Fifth Term in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

The Portland Democratic Town Committee endorsed its slate of candidates for November's municipal elections at their caucus on Monday night at the Portland Public Library.

The slate includes four incumbents for the Board of Selectmen and, seeking a fifth consecutive term, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

"I like my job and all of the challenges it offers," Bransfield said Tuesday about seeking reelection. "I think the experience I have managing the budget and the emphasis I put on providing excellent services to the town are important."

Bransfield, who has served as first selectwoman since 2003, said one of the biggest challenges that she faces is getting the town to grow, while also maintaining the "small-town living" that appeals to most residents in Portland. Bransfield said that attracting business along Main Street, which is undergoing sidewalk renovations to make the area more appealing, and along Route 66 is one of her biggest priorities.

But she also commended town services like Parks and Recreation, Youth Services and Public Works, which have worked with Bransfield

and the Board of Selectmen to improve the quality of living for residents. She said she hopes residents, when voting, will take a careful look at not only the present, but the past and future as well.

"We can't just look at what could happen over the next 12 months; we have to look at what we've done in the past and what will happen well into the future," Bransfield said. "[The current board] has been awarded over \$1 million in grants and secured low-interest loans that will provide services to the community for years to come."

Bransfield will see competition this year from Republican candidate Don Bascom and a third-party candidate, Lambros Lambrinides; in 2009, Bransfield defeated Republican Sandra Downes and Lambrinides, who ran as a third-party candidate that year as well. Bransfield said she has known Bascom for "several years" and is looking forward to "discussing issues over the next few months."

All six seats on the Board of Selectmen will be up for grabs, and the four incumbent Democratic selectmen – Deputy First Selectman Brian Flood, Mark Finkelstein, Kathy Richards and Fred Knous – will seek re-election.

Bransfield said that the experience that the candidates have "makes the job easier," as all have appropriate "skills" for the position.

"They won't be learning on the job," Bransfield said. Knous was only appointed to the board in June after the resignation of Sharon Peters, but, Bransfield said, he "has a lot of experience in town."

Three seats will be available for the Board of Education and the Democrats will endorse to incumbent candidates for the positions – Chairman Christopher Phelps and Maryanne Rode. Phelps, who has served on the education board for eight years, was present at the caucus and expressed the hard work that has gone into improving the town's school system. He cited the recently-released Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test scores, where Portland performed above state averages in almost all categories, as a sign of improvement the district has seen under the current board.

"We believe the school system is something the town of Portland can be proud of," Phelps said. "We want to keep [the improvement] going and we need to win in November to do it."

An important position this year will be the

Board of Assessment Appeals, where the Democrats will endorse incumbents Richard Murphy and David O'Brien. The town is currently going through revaluation and, according to Bransfield, the board will receive "a fair increase" in appeals. She described Murphy and O'Brien as "experienced and fair."

The Zoning Board of Appeals will see two newcomers, as Donald Snyder Jr. will run for a term beginning in 2011 and Kenneth Kearns will run for a term beginning in 2012.

Rounding out the slate – and running untested – will be Town Clerk Bernadette Dillon. Dillon has served in the position for 34 years, something she refers to as a "hobby" that she can't give up.

"I could never leave my Portland," Dillon said.

Carl Fitzgibbons, who served as chairman for the caucus, thanked all of the candidates for offering to serve the town and urged all of them to "get out there and get our people elected."

Also on Monday, the Republican Town Committee held its caucus, announcing its candidates for November's municipal elections. An article on that caucus can be found on page 17.

## Democrats Nominate Bogush for First Selectman in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

Democratic candidate John Bogush has lived in Colchester his entire life, and he is concerned about the direction the town has taken.

"I think we should add a little more transparency back to the town," Bogush said. If elected First Selectman he said he will communicate more with the town.

Bogush was endorsed for First Selectman by the Democratic Town Committee at its caucus Monday. He will face current First Selectman Gregg Schuster at this November's elections. Schuster was endorsed by the Republicans at their caucus Tuesday (see related story on page 25).

Bogush has served the town in many ways. He has coached Little League, been a part of the scouts, going from Eagle Scout to scoutmaster. He is a self-employed real-estate appraiser, is on the Board of Assessment Appeals and is the treasurer of St. Josephs Polish Society in Colchester.

All these activities made it "a fairly easy decision to run," Bogush said. If elected, Bogush said he plans to have an open-door policy in order to "hear what people's concerns are." Bogush knew the spot was open and started giving it some serious thought at the end of June.

"I knew it was the right thing to do," he said. He knows a lot of people in the town and is looking forward to meeting people he doesn't

know.

He is also looking forward to working with his fellow Democrats running for the Board of Selectmen, Rosemary Coyle and James Ford, if they are elected.

"There is a lot of experience with Rosemary... [they are] both good, qualified candidates, I'm looking forward to serving with both of them," Bogush said.

This will be Coyle's second time running. She has been on the Board of Selectmen for four years. Coyle said her life is in public service; she had been a teacher in Montville for 37 years, had previously been on the Board of Education for eight years and has been an officer of the Connecticut Education Association for eight years.

"I have always been an advocate for people," she said. "It is important for people to want to participate" in the town.

Coyle said she takes her work seriously, working hard for her town, and always coming prepared to meetings having read the material and having questions.

She said good communication with the public is very important to her

"We should always work to improve our communication back and forth," she said. Coyle feels that not only members of the boards, but residents of the town should always fully un-

derstand an issue that is why there is a govern-

ment. Coyle has also dealt a lot in making public policy. She said she felt it was important "to make good public policy." To her this means being a good listener, and reaching out to citizens. Nothing should be a secret, Coyle said, everything should be transparent.

"I really work hard at this," Coyle said. She is looking forward to the upcoming elections with Bogush, "I'm excited to be running with him and working with him."

Tim Gilman, the chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, said he feels that Bogush "will make a formidable candidate."

Gilman feels his candidate is good because "everybody just wants what's best for the town." He said the Democrats will run a positive campaign, and if elected they will have to get through the tough times.

James Ford is completing his first term on the Board of Selectmen and is running for reelection.

"I enjoyed being a service for the community," he said, and added that the board needs to "be very observant for the needs of the residents."

One of the most important needs, Ford said, is keeping the safety net in place for seniors in other people in the town who need it. Ford

brings experience to the board with 10 years on the Planning and Zoning Commission and the last two years on the Board of Selectmen under his belt.

Ford said the experience in municipal government has made him aware of listening to the community, being aware of what residents need.

One of the biggest goals, Ford said, is to take a look at how the town is spending money.

"We need to be very careful about what we do" because of the economy, Ford said.

Like Coyle, Ford feels that more citizen participation in government is needed, more transparency, so that everyone in the town can see what they are doing.

"That type of outreach," is important, he said. Ford said he wants residents to try and realize what they want out of their office.

"I think my first term was a little bit of a learning curve," he said. "Hopefully we will achieve some additional goals."

The rest of the Democratic nominees are: for Town Clerk, Nancy Bray; for Tax Collector, Tricia Coblentz; for Town Treasurer, Gregg LePage; for six-year terms on the Board of Finance, Bruce Hayn and John Ringo; for a two-year term on the finance board, Tom Kane; for Board of Education, Mary Tomasi and Mike Egan; and for Board of Assessment Appeals, John Malsbenden.



# Schuster Running Again for First Selectman in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

First Selectman Gregg Schuster feels that one of the most important things for the town of Colchester is that more business be brought into town. Schuster said, while in office, he has done a lot to track businesses down and he wants to be here to see the next phases of development.

Schuster was endorsed for a second term as First Selectman at the Republican Town Committee's caucus Tuesday. He will face challenger John Bogush, whom the Democrats nominated at their caucus on Monday (see related story on page 24).

"In the next year or two, I believe you are going to see a lot of new businesses in Colchester," Schuster said. He said there is at least one restaurant opening soon, and there will be other businesses coming in the next three to six months, including a new tractor supply store. The businesses will bring people to town that would frequent the town, bringing it more revenue. A Department of Transportation facility coming soon to the town could also lead to more revenue, due to an influx of new workers coming to Colchester.

Schuster also wants to be there to see the William J. Johnston Middle School renovation project completed. The project would incorporate the senior center into the middle school, and the town's youth center would possibly also be located there, Schuster said. Schuster said he feels the new mixed-use facility would yield cost savings for the town, as it would enable the town to close the current senior center and youth center locations. He said these are the

reasons he wants to stay on as First Selectman, to finish what he has started for the town.

"I really enjoy the job; it is great having a job where I can impact people's lives," Schuster said. He said he wants to stay on to make sure the town is going down the right path, and to be a part of the changes.

Schuster is also eager about working with running mates Gregory Cordova and Stan Soby. "They have given me tremendous support and advice," Schuster said.

Cordova, Schuster said, is the longest-tenured member of the Board of Selectmen, and both he and Soby "have been extremely helpful during my first term."

"We really assembled a great team and I'm really excited to work with them," he said.

Soby is running for the Board of Selectmen again because he feels his work here is not yet done. "I believe I still have something to offer to the town," said Soby, who has been on the board since 2006. "I think we still have some work to get done."

Soby said he feels confident that the town will see the experience the Republican candidates can bring and how hard they will work to make a difference. "We have a very strong team of candidates," he said.

One aspect of the campaign Soby is looking forward to will be visiting people door-to-door. Soby said he is willing to do "whatever it takes to be able to communicate" with residents. Soby said he feels campaigning is so important because elections are "the hallmark of our democ-

racy."

Going forward, Soby said he would like to see the updating of policies and procedures, which is something he said the board needs to work on. Soby would also like to be on the board for the economic developments that will be taking place in the town, and to make sure the town is welcoming businesses into Colchester, such as shopping, employment and recreation businesses. Businesses help out with the tax base, Soby said, which is why it is so important to him to see these projects through.

"We need to keep working...to make sure we get additional economic development," Soby said.

For Cordova, this will be his fourth term. He said he is running again because "I still enjoy working with the town; I think we are doing some good work."

Cordova, like Schuster and Soby, said the Board of Selectmen is in the process of getting a lot of things settled, and he would like to be there to see it through.

Running with Schuster and Soby again is also an aspect of the campaign Cordova is happy with.

"I think they're great," he said. He mentioned being very happy when Schuster decided to run in the previous elections. He also said that when Soby briefly took over as First Selectman years ago, he did a great job, so he felt confident in working with him.

Brenden Healy, chairman of the Republican

Town Committee, said he felt the caucus went very smoothly Tuesday night.

"We are excited about the candidates...a lot of experience there," Healy said. He said the board went through a lot to find good candidates because they care about Colchester, and wanted to get the best people possible.

"Gregg is a very fair, strong leader," said Healy. Healy mentioned that Schuster has made a lot of changes in town hall, and has been very efficient.

"He really puts Colchester's interests first," he said. He said he felt secure in Schuster because he is a very direct person and leader.

Healy had similar feelings about the other candidates. He said Soby is a "very experienced, very thoughtful" person. He also noted Soby's brief period as the town's First Selectman, when he filled in due to a resignation.

Cordova, Healy said, is also a good candidate because he is very active in town and very popular with the people.

"He is a very thoughtful guy, he thinks things through before he makes a decision," Healy said.

The rest of the Republican candidates are: for Board of Finance, Art Shiloski and Robert Esteve; for Board of Education, John Reever and Brad Bernier; for Board of Assessment Appeals, Dave Anderson and Jeff Brainard; and for Tax Collector, Betsy Ciccone.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

## Colchester Woman Receives \$55,000 in Sex Abuse Suit

by Courtney Parent

A 28-year-old female from Colchester was recently awarded \$55,000 in damages in a civil suit brought against a man who she said sexually abused her for several years when she was a teenager.

On Tuesday, July 19, a six-member jury at New London Superior Court found Gary R. Ross of Colchester liable on a complaint that included a first count of intentional assault and battery, a second count of sexual assault and a third count of intentional infliction of emotional distress.

According to the complaint, the abuse began in 1995 when the female was approximately 12 years old and continued until she was approximately 18 years of age.

The woman's attorney, Timothy O'Keefe, said Tuesday he was "satisfied" with the outcome of the trial and that he believed that the jury "got it right."

Longtime friend of the woman, Jake Ploski, said while they are also pleased with the result of the trial, it was never about getting financial compensation.

"It really wasn't about the money," said Ploski. "It's more about a girl finally getting

justice."

According to Ploski, the purpose of the trial was to not only get justice for his friend, but also to make their community aware of what had happened. Ploski said that both his and the woman's families have been part of the Colchester community since they were children.

According to O'Keefe, though the jury did come back with a 6-0 vote in favor of his client, it was their second attempt to reach a verdict. Originally, the jury was deadlocked and the judge sent them back to deliberate further, said O'Keefe. In the state of Connecticut, civil juries must be unanimous or a mistrial will be declared.

"We appreciate the hard work the jury did on the case," O'Keefe said. "It was definitely a very intense trial, involving very upsetting information, but ultimately the jury had to determine who was telling the truth and who wasn't. I think the verdict speaks loud and clear in that regard."

According to O'Keefe, there was originally a criminal prosecution of Ross, at which time Ross was arrested, prosecuted and pled no con-

test in connection with a plea agreement. According to published reports, the no contest plea was to a charge of risk of injury to a minor, and would have included no prison time nor would it have required Ross to be listed on the state's sex offender registry. A judge rejected the plea, though, and the case was put back on the trial list. Ultimately, the charges were dismissed on procedural grounds due to the statute of limitations.

According to Connecticut law, any offenses involving sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or sexual assault of a minor, must be prosecuted within two years of when the victim turns 18 or within five years of when the victim reports the offense to police or the state's attorney.

Ploski said that though the jury of the civil trial came back in the woman's favor, it was the original criminal trial that they had hoped to pursue and that was "more where [the woman's] heart was."

Ploski also said that, as a result, Ross was able to "slip through the cracks" of the legal system, avoiding having to register as a sex offender.

### Woman Injured When Car Goes Off Road in Marlborough

A woman was transported to Marlborough Clinic when her car rolled down an embankment, State Police said.

Sandra May, 69, of 50 Cheyenne Ct., was driving north on Saner Road, just off Cheney Road, when she stated she saw an animal and swerved to avoid striking it, police said. May

struck the wire post guide rail on the right shoulder and her 2000 Toyota Avalon rolled down the embankment, coming to a rest on the driver's side.

A friend transported May to Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries, State Police said.

### Hebron Police News

7/25: Police are investigating vandalism that took place between 8 p.m. July 24th and 8:30 a.m. July 25th at the concessions building at Veterans Park on Wall Street. Suspects put graffiti paint on a door and outside wall and set a plastic garbage can on fire inside the women's restroom. Anyone with information is asked to call Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

### East Hampton Police News

7/15: Robert Olzacki, 48, of 14 Flanders Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

### Portland Police News

7/17: A 15-year-old female was arrested for criminal attempt to commit third-degree larceny and third-degree forgery, Portland Police said.

7/21: Vittorio Lancia, 70, of 568 Main St., was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

7/24: A 17-year-old male was arrested for possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

### Colchester Police News

7/19: James Ford, 59, of 17 East Main St., Jewett City, was charged with failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

7/19: Mathew Ryan Vik, 23, of 96 Hammond Ct., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

7/20: Clarence Summer, 30, of 390 Long Hill Rd., Groton, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

### Marlborough Police News

7/20: Neil E. Johnson, 27, of 12 Caffyn Dr., was charged with interfering with an officer, possession of narcotics, operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended and using a motor vehicle without owner's permission, State Police said.

# Portland Horse-Riding Instructor Convicted of Violating Probation

by Joshua Anusewicz

A horse-riding instructor that was convicted of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old student in 2001 in Portland has been convicted of violating his probation.

On Wednesday, a judge at Middletown Superior Court ruled that Robert L. Johnson, former owner of Quarry



Robert L. Johnson

Town Stables in Portland, violated his probation last October when he attended a horse show in Ohio that the victim was attending. A representative at the criminal clerk's office said Thursday that the case was in the "depository stage," where information of the case is being considered in regards to the sentencing. The representative would not comment on how stiff the sentence could be.

According to the arrest warrant, on Sept. 24, 2010, Johnson was given permission by his parole officer, James Morrison III, to attend the All-American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio. Johnson was ordered by Morrison to return to Connecticut by Oct. 7, as Morrison received information from the victim that she would be attending the event on Oct. 9.

On Oct. 7, Johnson met with Morrison in order to confirm that he returned to Connecticut. But on Oct. 9, Morrison received a phone call from the victim, saying that "two of [her] clients observed Robert Johnson on the fairgrounds" at the event. The warrant states that the victim informed Ohio State Police that were at the location of the situation, and the police questioned Johnson.

Morrison received a phone call from the Ohio State Police, informing him that they were questioning Johnson. Morrison was told by Johnson that he had gone back to Ohio without his permission, later stating that he "thought he could

get away with" going back.

Johnson was ordered back to Connecticut and confirmed he had returned on Oct. 10. The next day, Johnson submitted to electronic monitoring and Morrison notified him that he would be under house arrest until further notice.

In July 2001, Johnson was convicted of fourth-degree sexual assault of a victim under 15 years old, illegal sexual contact with a victim under 16 years old, and risk of injury to a child. He served nine months in prison and, upon release, was placed under probation for 10 years.

According to the arrest warrant, one of the conditions of the probation was that Johnson was to have "no contact directly or indirectly with the victim." The terms of the probation also stated that Johnson could not "leave the State of Connecticut without permission from [Morrison]."

This would be a second violation of probation for Johnson, who now lives in Woodstock. In April 2006, Johnson was found guilty of violating probation for not complying with "sex offender treatment." After the violation, his probation discharge date was changed to Jan. 9, 2015.

Just over a year ago, Johnson had another run-in with law; in April 2010, Johnson was found guilty of sexually assaulting a male student in the 1980s. In the decision, the student, Andrew Srb, was awarded the Quarry Town Stables property and over \$1.2 million in damages. Srb claimed that Johnson raped him several times while he worked at the stables when he was a teenager.

After Srb was awarded the property, Johnson admitted to vandalizing the property, including smashing windows, spray-painting hateful messages, and spreading horse manure and garbage throughout the buildings. According to Portland Police, Johnson was never charged with vandalizing the property.

## Andover Police News

7/20: Police are investigating a break-in at Oriental Wok Restaurant, 144 Route 6, Andover, State Police said. The break-in reportedly occurred through the rear door between 11 p.m. on July 19 and 9 a.m. on July 20. An unspecified amount of cash was taken from the register, State Police said. Anyone with information is asked to call Trooper Robert O'Connor at 860-537-7500.

7/21: Police are investigating a robbery that took place on Long Hill Road, Andover, sometime overnight. The suspects entered a parked motor vehicle and took a large pink bag con-

taining a laptop computer. Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Robert O'Connor at 860-742-0235.

7/22: Rebecca Rogers, 33, of 5011 Grist Miller Dr., Villa Rica, GA, was charged with following too close, State Police said.

7/22: Erik H. Donovan, 22, of 280 Scotland Rd., Windham, was charged with following too close, State Police said.

7/22: Lisa Corpora, 22, of 783 Babcock Hill Rd., Coventry, was charged with following too close, State Police said.

From the Editor's Desk

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It's been a bittersweet week to be a Mets fan. Yes, they won Monday and Tuesday (I'm writing this Tuesday night), but it's also been, in all likelihood, the last week for Carlos Beltran in a Mets uniform. It's an almost certainty that he's going to be dealt by the trading deadline Sunday afternoon, as the Mets look to shed payroll and pick up a prospect or two in the process. In fact, he may already be gone by the time you read this Friday afternoon.

If he goes – and like I said, it's really looking like he's going – it'll be a shame. It's been a joy watching Beltran (when he's healthy, anyway) patrol the outfield in Queens these past six and a half years. Probably not every Mets fan feels this way, but they should. Beltran has been one of the most underrated players to ever don a Mets uniform.

Beltran was signed to a big-money contract before the 2005 season, and when he didn't put up Hall of Fame numbers right away (keep in mind, with the exception of the last few months of the 2004 season, Beltran had spent his entire career in Kansas City – which is nowhere near the high-pressure media market New York is), the fans got on his case. Hard. The boo-birds were loud. Yes, his numbers, for a player like Beltran, were rather pedestrian – he finished the year hitting .266 with 16 homers and 78 RBI – but I thought the reaction from the fans was too harsh. *Give the guy a chance*, I thought. Plus, he was a defensive whiz in center field.

Fans began to change their opinions during the 2006 season – and for good reason. Beltran had a spectacular year that year, hitting .275 with 41 home runs and 116 RBI. But, despite Carlos' many achievements that season, I think, for a lot of people, their lasting impression of Beltran was formed on a late October night at Shea Stadium.

In Game 7 of the 2006 National League Championship Series, Beltran came up to bat in the bottom of the ninth with the Mets down 3-1. The bases were loaded, and there were two outs. Down in the count 0-2, Beltran took a called strike three on a wicked curveball from Adam Wainwright. The Cardinals advanced to the World Series, while the Mets' season came to a shocking, sudden end.

I really do think that last out in 2006 contributed greatly to many fans underappreciating Beltran in the years that followed. I was at that game, and know first-hand how much it stung, but I was able to get past it. Of course, the fact that he put up stellar numbers again in 2007 and 2008 – hitting .276 with 33 homers and 112 RBI in 2007 and .284 with 27 homers and 112 RBI in 2008 – all while continuing to roam the outfield like a gazelle, making every play with ease, helped a lot. (So did the fact that Wainwright wound up becoming one of the best pitchers in the game.)

But not everybody could get past it. I'm sure the Mets' late-season collapses in 2007 and 2008, and the fact we haven't even come close to a playoff berth since, had something to do with it. And to be honest, so did the fact Carlos was injured for much of 2009 and 2010. For whatever reason, though, the fans

never embraced Beltran the way they should have. I think maybe some of them are starting to come around now, as Beltran has been one of the bright spots (with Jose Reyes the brightest spot) in a Mets season that has once again seen too many injuries. But they should have come around years ago.

While dealing Beltran would be sad in that it would spell the end of an underrated Mets career, it would also be sad in that it would be the Mets basically waving the white flag on the season. Reyes has had a monster season, and there have been a scrappy bunch of players like Justin Turner and Daniel Murphy that have really risen to the occasion this year, but for a lot of the season Beltran has been the team's biggest power threat, with their two other big-boppers – David Wright and Ike Davis – having spent much of the season on the DL. He's a big part of the reason why the Mets are playing .500 baseball.

And while it appears increasingly likely Davis is done for the year, Wright has just come back. After Tuesday night's games, the Mets are six games back of the Braves in the wild card race, with a little under 60 left to play. Is a postseason run improbable? Perhaps. But certainly not impossible. (After all, it was just four years ago when the 2007 Mets coughed up a 7.5-game lead with 17 to play.) The Mets have a lot of head-to-head games left with the Braves.

I'm just not convinced it's time to give up on this season. And yet, by trading Beltran, that's the message the Mets are sending, both to the fans and to the other players on the team.

So yeah, the Mets are winning ballgames this week. But the feeling is still rather bitter-sweet. I'll miss ya, Carlos.

\*\*\*

Regular readers of the letters to the editor are likely familiar with Dean Markham's "East Hampton Past" letters. One appears nearly every week, and more often than not Dean spins an interesting tale touching on a figure, building or event from Belltown's past.

Dean's letter this week deals with his grandfather, Percy Markham. Percy was in the Army during World War I and, after discharge, he enlisted as a Marine and spent time in Washington, DC. While in Washington, he played with the Marine Corps baseball team. The team featured some really strong players, and, in fact, would occasionally play against some big-league teams.

Included among these teams was the Washington Senators. Dean reveals in his letter Percy actually batted against the great Walter Johnson, one of the first five players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Percy didn't tell Dean how he did, but, I wouldn't have been shocked if it was a strikeout. Johnson did, after all, fan 3,508 people over his 20-year career, a record that stood for more than 50 years after he retired.

It's almost shortchanging Johnson to simply describe him as one of the game's all-time greats. And Percy Markham got to bat against him. Thanks, Dean, for sharing that story.

\*\*\*

See you next week.



# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Joseph Paul Lattanzio

Joseph Paul Lattanzio, 58, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Jacqueline "Jackie" (Fuller) Lattanzio died Thursday, July 21, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born March 26, 1953, in Waterbury, he was the son of Kazimere "Kay" (Karmazyn) Lattanzio of Watertown and the late John "Jack" Lattanzio.



Joseph had lived in Plainville before moving to East Hampton 16 years ago. Before his illness he had worked as an accountant for Mount St. John School in Deep River. He enjoyed his summers at the Cape with his family.

Besides his mother and his wife Jackie, he is survived by his five sons, James Larson Jr. and his wife Penny of Oklahoma, Richard Larson of East Hampton, Christopher Fuchs of Manchester, Michael Fuchs of East Hampton, Jonathan Fuchs and his wife Amber of Manchester, two daughters, Diane Eck and her husband Mark Hyland of Amston, Korrie Beaulieu and her husband Todd of East Hampton; two sisters, Maryellen Lattanzio of Watertown, Lois Lattanzio of Waterbury; 10 grandchildren, James III and Steven Larson, Danny and David Larson, Jordan, Kyrsten and Taylor Eck, Tyler, Nicholas and Kendall Beaulieu, and two great-grandchildren, Mason Larson and Kingston Larson.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Sunday, July 24. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, July 25, in St. Patrick Church, West High St., East Hampton. Burial was private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Marian Fletcher

Marian Fletcher, 82, of Colchester and formerly of Kensington and Burlington, wife of Robert Fletcher, passed away with many family members at her side. She was raised in Ludlow, VT, by her parents Alverton and Margarite (LaPell) Baker.



She is survived by her children, Francis Lerzo of Claremont, NH, Timothy Lerzo and wife Jamie of East Hampton, Pamela Lerzo and husband Robert DePizzol of Glastonbury, Robert Lerzo and wife Kathy of Kennesaw, GA, and Alison Nelson and husband John in Colchester; stepchildren, Deborah Barry and husband Patrick of Clarkson, MI, and Patricia McGlaughlin and husband Theodore of Batesburg, SC; 25 grandchildren; and friends Ilene Gerry and Nancy Wolkingboth of Florida and Ai Nukoolkit French of Thailand.

Marian was an active member and regional delegate in Washington DC in the DAR and CAR in central Connecticut and started a chapter in Arizona. She was active in the Eastern Star and Lions club in Connecticut and Vermont. She held many roles in each church she attended. She was well-known for her bookkeeping and tax services in Ludlow, VT, area.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, July 30, at 2 p.m., at the Colchester Federated Church on 60 Main St. Calling hours will be held directly after the service. Burial will be in the family cemetery in East Shoreham, VT, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 907, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Visit [churchandallen.com](http://churchandallen.com) to leave an online condolence for the Fletcher family.

## Colchester

### Mary Miklojcik

Mary Miklojcik, 95, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 21, 2011 in Niantic. Mrs. Miklojcik was born on July 14, 1916 in Colchester, the daughter of Peter and Josephine Bass, both of whom had immigrated from Poland near the turn of the century.

She is predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Joseph F. Miklojcik who died in 2007.

Mrs. Miklojcik is survived by her daughters, Elizabeth Powers of Colchester and Barbara McCredie of Niantic; her two sons, Joseph Miklojcik Jr. and wife Donna of Aruba and Jacob Miklojcik and wife Elva of Michigan; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was a communicant at St. Agnes Church in Niantic, a former member of the East Lyme Senior Citizens, a social member of the National Association of Federal Employees and worked in the garment industry for many years.

A procession assembled Wednesday, July 27, in Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, 13 Lake Ave., Niantic, CT 06357 for a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Francis Chapel, 2 Central Ave., Niantic. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery.

Visit [fultontherouxniantic.com](http://fultontherouxniantic.com) for photos, tributes, directions and more service information.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mrs. Miklojcik's memory to St. Agnes Church, 22 Haigh St., Niantic, CT 06357.