

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 37, Number 30

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

November 2, 2012



Hurricane Sandy hit hard in some areas of the state Monday, leaving road blockages and downed power lines. Shown here is a fallen tree at the intersection of Hodge Road and Edstrom Road in Marlborough.

## Hurricane Sandy Swipes Area

by Melissa Roberto

Hurricane Sandy's forceful winds and heavy rainfalls slammed Connecticut Monday, and like the rest of the state, the six *RiverEast* towns experienced electricity loss and wind damages. Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) as well as town public works and fire departments assessed the damage.

The effects of Sandy varied in the *RiverEast* towns, ranging from only around 5 percent of Portland losing power to close to 100 percent of Hebron and Marlborough landing in the dark at the peak of the storm.

Marlborough's First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski explained Tuesday the town's first priority was for Connecticut Light and Power to work on impassible roads caused by downed trees and wires. And all of the other towns did the same.

"It's a statewide initiative and all crews are working on that, and then the next area are community structures that towns have prioritized and then hopefully all line connections will be restored," she said.

Bacon Academy in Colchester was open for shelter Tuesday morning. Michelle Morgan, Board of Education office professional, said nine residents took advantage of the shelter in town. However, the shelter even faced a power source problem.

"There was a close call," Morgan said. "A generator stopped working at the shelter be-

cause something broke on it."

Luckily, as town officials were making an attempt to transfer residents from the shelter to Jack Jacter Intermediate School the generator started to work again. By late afternoon Tuesday, all of the residents left the shelter and then it closed down. However, Bacon Academy still offered showers and charging stations throughout the week from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, 6-10 a.m. and 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday and 6-8 a.m. Thursday.

Though the other five towns did not open up shelters, all provided places in town offering hot showers and charging stations for electronic devices. East Hampton, in particular, offered a "comfort station" at East Hampton High School which provided food and water in addition to showers and electricity. East Hampton Town Manager Michael Maniscalco also announced Tuesday that the town will waive fees for the dump through the weekend so people can remove any debris they may have.

All six towns set up emergency operation centers during the power outages which supplied radios, telephones and televisions for town officials to communicate with CL&P.

"I can't say enough good things about the CL&P response and our public works department to assist them," said Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

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## Three Battle for State Senate Seat in 33rd

by Joshua Anusewicz

A unique batch of candidates will fight next Tuesday for the soon-to-be vacant seat in the 33rd Senatorial District, which represents 12 Connecticut towns, including Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

Democrat Jim Crawford of Westbrook, 62, the current state representative for the 35th Assembly District (Clinton, Killingworth, and Westbrook), will square off against 23-year-old Republican Art Linares and Melissa Schlag, 38, the Green Party candidate from Higganum. All three are running for the seat that is currently occupied by the retiring Eileen Daily, the former first selectwoman of Westbrook who has served the 33rd District for the past 20 years.

Trying to keep the trend of Westbrook politicians representing the district going, Crawford said he has steadily been growing confidence throughout the campaign "with each door knocked." Crawford is currently in his first term as state representative, previously working as a teacher in the Westbrook school district for 37 years. He has also served on the Westbrook Economic Development Commission and the Westbrook Board of Selectmen.

Crawford admitted Tuesday that despite living in the district his entire life, he was mostly unfamiliar with the towns in the northern part of the district like East Hampton and Portland. He said campaigning in the district has been "a

real education" for him, as he has learned there are distinct differences and similarities in all of the towns.

"I'm pleased with what I've learned about this part of the state," Crawford said.

"There are state parks and forests and natural resources that show the importance of the environment to this district. It's a wonderful place, and we need to keep it that way."

To that end, Crawford said that protecting the district's two greatest resources – the Connecticut River and the shoreline – will be paramount, not only for environmental protection but for tourism, an untapped resource for many towns in the district. Crawford said that by following the state's lead of promoting tourism, the district would be able to create jobs and a steady flow of revenue to alleviate the tax burden put on residents.

Over the past week, however, Crawford said his biggest concern has been his job as state representative in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He said that despite "a great deal of preparation," the three-town district was "pretty



Jim Crawford

well hit" by the storm, with most residents still without power on Wednesday.

"But we learned a lot from last year," Crawford added, referencing the back-to-back storms the state suffered last year. "We've had a great spirit of cooperation and we're getting through."

Linares, who also lives in Westbrook, said Tuesday that he's toured the district, as well, and suspended his campaign in recent days to help in relief efforts. Throughout his campaign, though, Linares said he has connected with the people of the district, who have shaped his message with their concerns.

"The people are worried about jobs, taxes, even the price of gas," he said. "And so am I. I'm here to help. I've worked hard in my campaign, and that reflects how hard I plan to work when I get to Hartford."

Linares is a recent graduate of the University of Tampa, where he worked as a legislative aide for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Since returning from Florida, Linares has worked for his family company, Greenskies, a Middletown-



Art Linares

based company that provides solar energy to businesses along the East Coast. He has recently been endorsed by several small business organizations in the state, as well as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Going into Tuesday's election, Linares said he feels "very optimistic" that voters have heard and appreciated his message that he plans to "restore the seat to the people of the district and put the people before the party."

"I plan to work tirelessly, and it would be an honor and a privilege to represent the district," Linares said.

Providing a third option in the race is Schlag, a small business owner and cofounder of Citizens for Protection of Public Lands, a group that was integral in stopping the controversial Haddam land swap earlier this year. In the proposed deal, the state would have let private developers acquire state-owned land along the Connecticut River in exchange for a land parcel the private developers owned elsewhere in

See State Senate Page 2



Melissa Schlag



Colchester residents Geraldine and Clarence Transue took precautions before the arrival of Hurricane Sandy, moving their new car to avoid falling tree limbs – but instead, a solar panel from their Elliot Drive home fell on top of it. The car, which the Transues just got two weeks ago, was left with dents, and the solar panel is shattered and will need to be replaced, but Geraldine said she is thankful that was the only damage her household received.

## Murphy, McMahon Race to the Finish for Senate

by Joshua Anusewicz

Over the past month or two, you might have heard about the U.S. Senate race between Congressman Chris Murphy and former president and CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). There have been a few signs posted, a couple television commercials and radio spots, a debate or two. Your standard political race...

Well, not really. In what has been a contentious, drawn-out and, occasionally, downright nasty campaign, the Democrat Murphy and Republican McMahon have battled for the U.S. Senate seat that will soon be vacated by current Sen. Joe Lieberman. Both candidates easily won their respective party primaries in August and set their sights on each other since then, in a race that has garnered attention at the local and national level.

Murphy, 39, is a resident of Cheshire and has previous stints in both the state House of Representatives, serving the 81st District from 1999-2002, and the state Senate, serving the 16th District from 2003-2006. Since 2007, Murphy has represented the 5th Congressional District, a district that counts among its municipalities the cities of Meriden, New Britain, Waterbury and Torrington.

While in the U.S. House of Representatives, Murphy has served on the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; while in the Connecticut General Assembly, Murphy served as the chairman of the Public Health Committee, helping pass a workplace smoking ban and the Stem Cell Investment Act, which invested \$100 million over 10 years into stem-cell research.

During his time in the U.S. Senate, Murphy has supported President Barack Obama's health care reform bill, as well as the economic re-

covery bill. He was also a vocal critic of the war in Iraq, but believes that the U.S. needs to take a stronger stance on the efforts in Afghanistan.

McMahon, 63, of Greenwich, has been best known for her time with the WWE, which is based in Stamford. In 2010, McMahon made an unsuccessful run for the U.S. Senate, losing out to current Sen. Richard Blumenthal. McMahon's only political experience has been serving on the state Board of Education in 2009.

McMahon has run her campaign with a focus on the economy and job creation; to do that, she has outlined a list of six "common-sense solutions" that she plans to institute if elected: tax cuts for the middle class, tax cuts for businesses, ending "job-killing" regulations, reducing spending by 1 percent per year, empower a skilled workforce, and develop American energy sources.

Over the past month, polls have shown Murphy with a sizeable lead over McMahon, with an Oct. 28 Quinnipiac University poll showing Murphy leading by six percentage points, 49-43. But if this race holds true to form, you can expect anything to happen next Tuesday on Election Day.

Voters can cast their ballots on Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at each town's polling location(s): in East Hampton, at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.; in Colchester, at Abundant Life - Assemblies of God Church, 85 Skinner Ave.; Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.; and Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.; in Marlborough, at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.; in Andover, at Town Hall, 17 School Rd.; and in Hebron, at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.



The storm brought down several trees throughout the area, including this pine on Pettengill Road in Marlborough, which took wires with it as it barreled to the ground. Photo by Janie Boston.

### Hurricane Sandy cont. from Front Page

All town officials also wanted to thank the firemen, police and public works departments as well as town employees and citizens for helping out.

CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross explained that the storm's damages were "extensive and primarily caused by trees," which caused a majority of the six towns to experience road blockage.

Hebron had three major road blockages on Wall Street, Jones Street and Gristmill Road which were all cleared by noon on Tuesday. A large tree in Hebron also fell on a residential home on Bass Lake Road collapsing the roof and leaving it uninhabitable. The Hebron Fire Department confirmed that there were no injuries.

Although the entire town of Hebron was without power, Town Manager Andy Tierney remained positive on Tuesday, saying, "We're working very well with CL&P and we're hoping that we're going to get a good portion of the power today and fully restored by tomorrow."

As of late Wednesday afternoon, Hebron significantly dropped down to 23 percent of customers in town without power.

Marlborough also suffered with multiple trees and wires down. Gaudinski said a tree fell on Quinn Road causing the transfer station to be shut down Tuesday, as well as Hodge, Lakeridge, Phelps and Johnson roads.

In Colchester, the storm left Amston Road (Route 85) closed, though Morgan said the town anticipated it would be cleared by late afternoon Tuesday.

In East Hampton, Fire Marshal Rich Klotzbier said the hardest hit areas were the Middle Haddam section and White Birch Road. He said that East Hampton wouldn't expect a change in power until Wednesday.

Andover's Vice First Selectman Jay Linddy said he was surprised by the amount of tree damage and described Hurricane Sandy as "one of the worst storms the town has seen" because of downed trees that were four to five feet wide.

Although Portland had minor tree damage and power outages compared to other towns, the fire department responded to a house fire on Cox Road Monday night. Portland Fire Chief Robert Shea confirmed that the fire did occur during the storm but the cause is unknown. He did

### State Senate cont. from Front Page

town, which was worth more than \$1 million less than the one by the river. She has also served on the Haddam Senior Tax Abatement Committee and Anti-Blight Committee.

Schlag, an independent running under the Green Party label, could not be reached for comment this week, but stated on her campaign website that being independent means she is "not beholden to a party but to the citizens of the 33rd." She added that roughly 50 percent of voters in the district are registered as independents and that "it's time to give them, and everyone else, representation with ambition and integrity."

On her website, Schlag lists the state's three biggest challenges as reforming the unfair tax structure, job creation, and funding the mandates the state places on our towns and schools. She added that the state needs to stop corporate welfare, instead using that money to fund

explain that it was an electrical issue from the service line in the road that runs to the house. Shea also explained that the house was vacant at the time resulting in no injuries. There was minor exterior and interior damage to an area of a wall in the house. No one is currently living in the house but a family member of the owners showed up to the scene. Shea said that repairs to the house started this week.

By press time Thursday, the number of customers without power in these six towns all decreased. Andover had the most outages, at 38 percent, followed by Marlborough at 19 percent, Hebron at 9 percent, and Colchester and East Hampton at 7 percent each. Portland, meanwhile, was down to less than 1 percent without power.

CL&P spokesman Frank Poirot noted the six *Riverast* towns were spared by the more severe impacts of Hurricane Sandy. He also said that since the late October nor'easter last year that left many in the area without power for days, CL&P had doubled the tree trimming budget for 2012 and \$54 million was spent for a more robust tree trimming program to rid trees away from power lines.

Poirot also confirmed that electricity for more than 338,000 customers had been restored in the state by Wednesday afternoon. "It's a tremendous accomplishment," he said.

Schools in Hebron, Marlborough, Colchester and East Hampton resumed Thursday, while Andover Elementary School and Portland's schools resumed Wednesday.

And while last year's storm resulted in the widespread cancellation of Halloween, that wasn't entirely the case this year. RHAM Middle School in Hebron held a "Trick or Trunk" event on Oct. 31 from 5-7 p.m. in the school parking lot, allowing people to drive up and have kids walk between cars and receive candy. RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski thought this would be a "good diversion" for families that lost power.

However, the town of Colchester did postpone Halloween activities to Wednesday, Nov. 7. The Town of Marlborough's website said the town is "not responsible for Halloween" but recommended parents to not send children out due to remaining debris.

small and existing businesses in the state that provide "middle-class jobs."

The race for the 33rd might best have been described by Crawford, who stated that whether the candidates "agree or disagree, [they] all have the best interest of the district at heart, just a different idea on how things should be done." On Tuesday, voters will have the opportunity to cast their ballots for which candidate they believe will best represent them in the state Senate for the next two years.

Voting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in Portland, at the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.; in East Hampton, at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.; and in Colchester, at Abundant Life - Assemblies of God Church, 85 Skinner Ave.; Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.; and Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

# After Surprise Entry, Three Fight for 34th Seat

by Joshua Anusewicz

After a series of candidate forums and debates in recent weeks and a whole bunch of placing signs, waving and door-knocking, the candidates for the state's 34th Assembly District have reached the home stretch to Tuesday's election that will determine a new representative for the newly-configured district.

The election will feature Republican Melissa Ziobron of East Haddam and Democrat Christopher Goff of East Hampton, both vying for the seat that will soon be vacated by current state Rep. Gail Hamm, a Democrat from East Hampton.

Due to recent redistricting, the 34th District will, starting in January, represent East Hampton, East Haddam and the Westchester section of Colchester. The district currently represents East Hampton and Middletown.

What was last week thought of as a two-horse race, however, has changed a bit, with the recent announcement that East Hampton's Bill Devine will challenge Ziobron and Goff as a write-in candidate. Devine, a former state li-

quor commissioner and Town Council member, narrowly lost the Republican nomination earlier this year to Ziobron by a 6-5 vote and elected not to primary at the time.

Due to Devine's late entry, the race for the seat has been focused on Goff and Ziobron over the past few months. Goff, an East Hampton native, is best known for serving four terms on the Town Council and three years on the Board of Education. He elected not to run for council again in 2011, instead focusing his efforts on the state seat, for which he ran unopposed and received unanimous support from all three towns' Democratic committees.

Ziobron, who grew up in East Hampton but resides in East Haddam, is East Haddam's former economic development coordinator and



**Melissa Ziobron**

also served for six years on the town's Board of Education. She has also served as the president of Friends of Gillette Castle.

The two campaigns, having spread out throughout the district over the past several months, met up a few times in recent weeks through candidate forums and debates designed to contrast the two candidates to the voting public. One such event – a debate – was held last Thursday at Nathan Hale Ray High School in Moodus, where Goff and Ziobron answered questions posed by voters on a wide array of issues, including the state economy, jobs and taxes.

Ziobron stuck with her stance that the state is “not going in the right direction” in terms of the economy and the district “deserves a proactive state representative” that will change that. She said her experience as an economic development coordinator gives her familiarity with how to promote business and create jobs at a local level, something she said a state representative can aid towns with.

She also added that the biggest culprit in the state's increased deficit is “wasteful spending,” highlighting Gov. Dannel Malloy's recent trips to China and considerable funds spent on a new fence at the Governor's mansion.

“What's the return for Connecticut?” she asked rhetorically. “We need to reallocate that spending on promoting business.” Ziobron stated she was against the state's new “First Five” program, which she called corporate welfare, and lamented that, conversely, the state's Small Business Express program only had \$100 million in funding.

Goff targeted downsizing of government pro-

grams at the state and local level as a way of closing the state's deficit. Having been a state employee for almost 20 years, Goff said he has seen many programs funded by the state that are unnecessary, and the state should look to reduce them.

“We need to look at what's not working and make it go away,” Goff stated. “As an employee of the state, I saw it myself. You have these duplicate programs that are working toward the same goal, but there was no communication or partnership.”

Goff also touched upon the regionalization of services at a local level to help defray the costs of these services to towns. By lowering the town's costs on landfills or public works departments, Goff said, the tax burden on homeowners would improve.

While most of the questions at the debate focused on economic matters, one particular question drew interesting responses from the candidates: “What is the biggest misconception of you?” Ziobron started by stating that she is a moderate Republican that is “not rigid,” which she admitted “draws the ire from the party sometimes.” She added that she is flexible but doesn't “go against [her] principles.”

Goff's answer focused on his tumultuous final term on the Town Council, when the coun-



**Christopher Goff**

cil elected to support then-Town Manager Jeffrey O'Keefe's laying off of Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, citing budgetary reasons. The decision was not popular with many East Hampton voters, who petitioned for a referendum that reinstated Reimondo to his position.

Goff stood by that decision on Thursday. “Every decision I made was based on information and facts,” he stated. “They were made in the best interest of the town.”

Ziobron said this week she feels confident that the debates “demonstrated a clear difference” between the candidates, and showed that she was “concise” and “outspoken” in a way that Goff wasn't, adding that she has received bipartisan support throughout her campaign.

Goff didn't return calls for comment for this story.

The new wrinkle in the 34th District race is the inclusion of Devine, who said Tuesday he officially filed with the state to be a write-in candidate for the election. Devine said that he had hoped to primary in August, along with the other state races, but “didn't have the funds” at the time.

Devine, who ran for the same state Senate seat in 2006 but was defeated by Hamm, said his focus, if elected, will be on matters like promoting small business and lowering taxes on items like gas and clothing.

“These taxes are hurting the people they're supposed to be helping,” Devine said. “It's wrong.”

Devine also stated that his business experience – he is the owner of Devine Jewelers in the Village Center – gives him a leg-up on the

two other candidates, who don't have experience running a small business.

His campaign, Devine stated, has “a lot of people behind it” who are ready to vote for him, but not everyone has been thrilled with Devine's decision. He admitted that he has heard grumbling that he will be taking votes away from the other candidates and is doing so on purpose, but Devine said it doesn't give either candidate a distinct advantage.

“[Goff] knew I was going to do this and so did Melissa,” Devine said. “People are saying I'm taking votes away from their candidate, but it's from both candidates, really. There are people out there who don't like Goff or don't like Melissa and, I'm sure, don't like me. But that's the way an election works.”

Ziobron said Wednesday that Devine is “clearly allowed” to enter the race, but admitted that she has heard “people announce displeasure” since his announcement, including

from the Republican town committees in the area. She added that Devine had called her after she had won the nomination and pledged his support, but he had also made a small donation to Goff's campaign earlier this year.

Ziobron herself didn't seem happy with Devine's announcement, stating that he had his opportunity to put his campaign to the voting public.

“If he really wanted to represent the district... he should have primaryed me,” Ziobron said. “He had that opportunity in August.”

Devine's inclusion only adds more intrigue to an already interesting race, which gives voters three familiar names to choose from. Registered voters can cast their ballot on Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; in East Hampton, at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.; and in Colchester, at Abundant Life - Assemblies of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd.



**Bill Devine**

## Coutu Facing Osten for State Senate Seat

by Geeta Schrayter

Longtime Democratic state Sen. Edith Prague is retiring and, as a result, the seat she's held since 1994 is up for grabs. Two candidates are vying for that 19th Senatorial District seat: Democrat Cathy Osten — who is Prague's endorsed candidate — and Republican state Rep. Chris Coutu.

The 19th District currently covers 11 towns. However, due to recent redistricting, in January the district will feature 10 towns, and will include the *Rivereast* towns of Hebron and Marlborough, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Norwich, Sprague and a portion of Montville.

Osten, who has been the first selectwoman of Sprague since 2007, said Monday she had been getting "great support" and was "very confident" in her chances of being elected. And if that happens, she said the first thing she'll focus on is job creation and retention.

"That's the number one priority that I have," she said, adding she also planned to be involved with farmland preservation, open space, education, senior issues and infrastructure repairs within the 19th District.

"I have a long list of things that need attention," Osten stated.

To address some of these issues, Osten had a number of things in mind, some of which she said she'd already been working on in Sprague and would expand that "to incorporate the other nine towns."

In regards to seniors, Osten said she would help ensure seniors can stay in their own home for as long as possible — which includes keeping property taxes down "so seniors aren't forced out of their homes." She added she would also see about providing additional resources to senior centers "so people have a place to go for socialization or to have a meal" or for different health clinics.

To help with job creation and retention, Osten mentioned cleaning up brownfields and placing new businesses in those areas that were previously unusable. She explained she'd market different facets of the jobs bill to different businesses in the towns and "interface" with small businesses to see what kind of help they're

looking for and where that help can be found "to act as a true partner."

The jobs bill is a \$626 million program that was passed last October as a way to grow jobs and strengthen the state's economy. The legislation passed the state House of Representatives 147-1, with Coutu as the sole 'no' vote. On Wednesday, Coutu explained he voted against the legislation because, as someone with a financial background, he looked at the plan "as really, more of just a spending package than a real jobs plan."

He noted unemployment in the state is at 9.2 percent, and when the bill passed last year that rate was 7.7 percent.

"So it's not working," he said. "I think it was a waste of money."

Coutu said the feedback he's received from being the lone 'no' vote has been positive.

"I was one of the only ones who thought it was ridiculous," he said. "It's an area I understand and that's why I voted 'no.'"

But Prague said Monday his opposition to the jobs bill was a reason "I could never support him."

"We needed something in the state to help business grow and grow jobs, and that bill did that," Prague said, adding, "I don't respect the way he votes on issues."

Osten, on the other hand, was a different story.

"I strongly support Cathy Osten," said Prague. "First of all, she's a very honest, straightforward person. She'll always tell you the truth."

Prague went on to call Osten "committed," and said she has "a lot of confidence that Cathy will do a very good job."

Coutu, a Norwich resident, said Monday that while he respected Prague and her tenure, "I don't think [her endorsement] is going to have much of an impact" on the election. He said



Cathy Osten

"at least six of the town leaders" have written a letter to the *Rivereast* or commented in a mailer expressing their support for him.

"So the municipal leaders that will have to work with me have been strongly in support of me," he said. Coutu added while he liked endorsements, he hoped people would look at a candidate's background and credentials and make a decision based upon those — not an endorsement.

He added that he was feeling "really good about the probability of being elected," and if that desired outcome is reached, the first thing he'd focus on is the budget.

"All I hear over and over is that it's getting harder and harder to survive in the state," he said. "If we don't have a sound, sustainable budget the state will no longer be solvent, funding to towns will decrease and the state will continue to raise taxes and borrow money."

Coutu added, "Everything we do in Hartford starts with a sound, stable, sustainable budget, and right now that's not what we have."

He continued on to say the state was short "tens of billions" in pension funds and other benefits the state had a "long-term obligation" to provide. He noted the amount of debt the state is in as well, and called that debt "a long-term tax increase."

Coutu said he would also work to provide an environment that was appealing to both small and large businesses so they would stay in Connecticut, hire new employees and expand.

Additionally, he wanted to see more integrity in politics and noted citizens didn't seem to trust elected officials.

"I've never done anything or promised anything I couldn't follow up with," he stated.

Coutu said the state "desperately" needs an ethics committee to help ensure the government cuts back on waste and fraud — he mentioned state employees haven't stolen food vouchers and there had been numerous instances of worker's compensation fraud.

"The list could go on forever," he said, "so I think it's all about integrity and that's one thing I bring to Hartford."

Coutu said he'll "question the status quo" as senator and would provide a needed "counter-

balance" to the predominantly Democratic senate.

This isn't the first time Coutu and Osten have faced each other in an election. In 2010, they squared off for the 47th Assembly District, which represents Canterbury, Norwich, Scotland and Sprague. It was a contest Coutu won, but neither Coutu nor Osten believe that first face-off will affect the current one.

For Osten, the difference in 2010 was the playing field.

"We ran against each other in a different district," said Osten, noting Coutu won Norwich while she won Sprague. Now, however, Osten said "we're both pretty much on an even keel."

"I don't take anything for granted," Coutu said of his prior win. "I just know I have to work really hard to make sure I meet as many people as possible."

On Monday, Ken Hjulstrom, chairman of the Marlborough Republican Town Committee, said Coutu would work to stop "wasteful spending" in Hartford. He said Coutu's many years of dedicated military service "prepared him to make the tough decisions necessary to bring a new vision of common sense and fiscal responsibility to Hartford."

Conversely, Rich Banbury, chairman of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, said Osten is in politics "for all the right reasons." He said she gets things done, is a "real doer" and a good listener.

"Overall, I just think she's a wonderful candidate" Banbury stated.

"I'm passionate about this," Osten said, "and people can see that passion. And I plan on working for all of the people in the 19th District."

Voting in the *Rivereast* towns will take place Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.; and Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.



Chris Coutu

## Registrar of Voters Race Coming to End in Andover

by Geeta Schrayter

Election Day is upon us, and along with voting for president, a congressman, United States and state senators, Andover residents will have to choose who they'd like to see as their Democratic registrar of voters.

Up for the position are Marie Burbank and Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, who was endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee and beat Burbank by a vote of 137-57 at the Aug. 14 primary. Despite the loss, Burbank explained in a previous *Rivereast* article she made the decision to run as a petitioning candidate against Magaldi-Lewis so she'd have more time to campaign.

Burbank has said she didn't have the time to adequately campaign before the primaries since her husband, First Selectman Bob Burbank, had to unexpectedly undergo heart surgery. This time around, though, "We have our signs out and we're making telephone calls," Burbank said Monday. "We've done more than for the primaries."

Burbank explained the position of registrar was important to her since she's been working on elections for "so long." She explained she was town clerk for 12 years, and during that time she became familiar with election laws and

had to perform different duties which are now assigned to the registrar of voters. She added she is also a certified election moderator, which requires she take a course every two years to keep her knowledge of election law current.

"The thing is, when you deal with elections you really value the process and see how fair it is and how lucky we are. That's why I've made a big deal," she said. "I'm familiar with elections. I respect them and I couldn't see placing it in the hands of someone who's never really showed an interest in the election process [before this election]."

"I've really made an effort, not just in this campaign, but over the years to be involved in the election process," she continued.

Magaldi-Lewis, who said she was asked to run for the position by members of the Democratic Town Committee, said Wednesday her experience working in management and development as well as her skills as a facilitator and presenter would aid her as the registrar of voters. She said she's also been active at the polls.

"I have a lot of training background and I think that's going to help; you need to be able to instruct others," she said, explaining the laws are always changing and people in town need

to be kept abreast of them.

"I think I'd be very good at instructing residents of town about changes," she added.

Magaldi-Lewis said as it is now, if people don't come to Town Hall they aren't usually made aware of the laws. She said she was thinking about holding meetings regarding the statutes and she "may be able to get others involved as well."

"You have to spark their interest and let them know what's going on," she said.

When people head to the polls on Tuesday, Magaldi-Lewis said she hopes people "stay focused." She added being qualified for a position wasn't always about having the most experience.

"There's all sorts of different experience," she said. "Mine is in training, management, supervisory skills, knowledge — just because you've done it before doesn't mean you're most qualified."

Magaldi-Lewis added if only the individuals with experience were hired, no one new would ever be able to start in a particular position. She added this thinking also went against the push there was in town to get new people involved in politics.

"You're back to 'do you want new people or not?'" she said.

But Burbank feels the fact of the matter remains she is the most qualified, based on her related experience.

"To me, if they respect the experience I have then they'll vote for me," Burbank said. "If they don't care then they'll vote for the other person."

Which type of experience the town considers most important will be decided on Tuesday, Nov. 6. It's important to note that while Cathy Palazzi, the Republican registrar of voters, is listed on the ballot above Magaldi-Lewis, the choice isn't between the two of them. There are both a Republican and a Democratic registrar of voters in town, and as the only Republican on the ballot, Palazzi will win the Republican slot if she receives a single vote. The decision residents will have to make is whether they'd like Magaldi-Lewis, who is listed on the Democratic line, or Burbank, who can be found towards the bottom of the ballot under "petitioning candidate" to fill the Democratic role.

Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Andover Town Hall, 17 School St.

# Carpino, Phelps Ready for Election Day in Portland

by Joshua Anusewicz

The race for the 32nd Assembly District seat between incumbent Republican Christie Carpino of Cromwell and Democrat Christopher Phelps of Portland has been run so cleanly and quietly, if it weren't for the lawn signs around the area, you might not even know it was actually happening.

"Christie and I haven't really been going at each other; we're just talking about the issues," admitted Phelps last week.

"Everyone should look at the person and make a choice on the candidate, regardless of party," Carpino said Wednesday.

Politicians, focusing on issues and getting along? Get out!

But it's that bipartisan attitude that both candidates possess that will make this race intriguing as it heads for the home stretch. And although willing to compromise, each candidate presents a different ideology on how to best serve the district.

The 32nd District currently covers Portland, Cromwell and a portion of Middletown. However, due to recent redistricting, following the election the district will include just Portland and Cromwell.

Carpino, who is currently serving her first term as state representative after unseating Jim O'Rourke in 2010, previously served on Cromwell's Board of Assessment Appeals, and was the vice chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the vice chair of the Republican Town Committee.

Already a known entity in Cromwell, Carpino has become one of the most recognizable individuals in both Cromwell and Portland in the last two years, reaching out to local busi-

nesses, schools, and organizations to lend a hand any way possible. That type of accessibility, Carpino said, has not gone unnoticed by voters she has met with.

"They notice how hard I've worked over the last two years," Carpino said. "I'll go up to people's doors and they'll say, 'Hey, I know you! I'm voting for you!'"

"People have noticed how much I've tried to immerse myself in the community," she continued. "The only way to represent the district is to be in district."

Though she spends considerable time in the district, Carpino has been hard at work in Hartford as well. As a freshman representative in the minority party of the House, Carpino said she didn't back down from the challenge, taking part in the coordinated effort with federal, state and local agencies to complete the Arrigoni Bridge project, securing more Education Cost Share (ECS) funding for the district's schools as a member of the House's education commission, and championing the passage of Caylee's Law, which received unanimous House support.

"I'm very proud of that," Carpino said of the adoption of Caylee's Law, which makes it a crime for parents to delay reporting a missing child or to lie about it.

Carpino was also an integral part of the 2011 state Jobs Bill, even bringing a representative



Christie Carpino

of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to Portland to speak with business owners to gather input on the bill, which passed with bipartisan support.

"I actively sought out these businesses and said, 'You tell me how I can help,'" Carpino said, adding that almost two dozen businesses took part and are utilizing programs to improve their businesses through the bill.

As far as the economy goes, however, both candidates agree there is still work to do. Phelps said last week that throughout his campaign, the economy is "what's on people's minds." Phelps, a consumer and environmental advocate in Hartford for a number of years, said that not only does the state need to help small and mid-size businesses in the district, but it also should hold large companies that receive state funding accountable.

"We need to see if we are getting bang for our buck," he said. "A lot of those small businesses need that government support we're giving to [larger companies]." Phelps said he also supports legislation that would help the economy two-fold, by providing tax incentives to businesses that employ veterans that are returning from combat, a demographic that is suffering from higher-than-average unemployment.

Phelps also has education experience, serving on Portland's Board of Education since 2003, the past four years as chairman. During that time, Portland has seen improved student test scores, more students attending college and improved instruction, all while keeping costs low. The key, Phelps said, is once again bipartisanship.

"We check our party affiliations at the door," Phelps said of the school board. "We don't worry about partisanship." He admitted that being bipartisan is difficult as you "move up the food chain," but stated that the state's new education reform shows what can be done when the two sides "reach a compromise."

Another concern Phelps spoke of has become a buzz term of sorts this political season: "fair

share." Phelps said that, particularly with education, the way that towns receive state funding is "out of whack" and "puts huge pressure" on towns like Portland and Cromwell. Phelps said that the two towns have some of the highest property tax burdens in the state while ranking close to the middle in median income, while some of the wealthier towns in Fairfield County receive more state funding.

"It's ridiculous," Phelps said, plainly.

With similar focuses but different ideas on how to reach them, the race in the 32nd District is expected to be close. Carpino said that this week, her focus has shifted from the campaign to her job as representative, touring the district in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. But as she gets back on the campaign trail in the next few days, she's confident that the work she's put in during her first term shows her commitment to the seat.

"Yes I'm confident, but it's ultimately up to the voters. It's their seat," she said. "I know I've worked hard for them."

Phelps said he will continue to knock on doors up until the election, a practice that, over the past six months, has literally worn holes in the bottoms of his shoes. He said he expects the election to be close and a challenge, considering he is facing an incumbent, but that the voters should focus on which candidate will best serve them and have their interests at heart.

"For me, it's not what the party wants to do, but how the public is best served," Phelps said. "It's easier said than done, but that needs to be my focus and the focus of the voters."

Voters will get the chance to cast their ballots on Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.



Christopher Phelps

# Larson Seeking Eighth Term in U.S. House

by Joshua Anusewicz

Not used to running against an opponent, Congressman John Larson (D - East Hartford) will look for an eighth straight term in the U.S. House of Representatives this year, squaring off against Republican challenger John Henry Decker of West Hartford.

Larson currently represents the state's 1st Congressional District - which represents Portland - a position he has held since 1998. Prior to winning that seat, Larson served on the East Hartford Board of Education and City Council, before moving on to the state Senate from 1983-1994.

Since 2009, Larson has served as chairman of the House's Democratic Caucus; he had held the position of vice chairman from 2006-2009.

A relative newcomer to politics, Decker provides a stark contrast from Larson. A Texas native, Decker has been a certified financial advisor for the last 16 years, as well as serving

as a deacon at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford and a member of the Board of Directors of the Mandell Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center and Business for Downtown Hartford.

As his top priority as representative, Larson lists job creation, according to a release from his campaign. He was a supporter of President Barack Obama's American Jobs Act and has strongly supported maintaining manufacturing jobs in Connecticut, particularly at Pratt & Whitney.

Larson also supports legislation that would



John Larson

reform the country's campaign finance system, as well as decreasing the country's reliance on foreign energy and investing in alternative energy sources.

On his campaign website, Decker lists unemployment as the state's largest concern, as it currently sits 10 percent higher than the national average. He also opposes the president's health care reform bill and supports vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan's plan for Medicare, which he stated would reduce health care costs through competition with private companies.

Two other candidates have entered the 1st District race this year, as well: Matthew Corey, a petitioning candidate, and Michael DeRosa, a Green Party candidate.

Corey, a Navy veteran and small business owner from Manchester, has stated that he is focused on keeping jobs in Connecticut by fighting harmful regulations for businesses, as

well as reducing the corporate tax rate to encourage investments and job growth.

DeRosa, a Wethersfield native and co-founder of the Green Party of Connecticut, has stated that his biggest priority is ending the war overseas and using the money spent on the military to fix the U.S. economy. He also supports green energy initiatives, such as solar and wind, as well as a clean transportation system for the state.

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



John Henry Decker

## Stratford Man Killed in Head-On Crash in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Stratford man died following a motor vehicle crash last Saturday, Oct. 27, in East Hampton.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, Joseph Witkavitch, 67, of 79 Elmhurst Ave., Stratford, died from injuries sustained when the Toyota Prius he was driving was hit head-on by a Dodge pick-up truck driven by Nicholas Pignatello, 33, of 59 Depot Hill Rd. The accident occurred shortly after 5:30 p.m. on Route 66 near the intersection of Route 151.

Kelly said that Witkavitch was treated for

injuries at the scene and then flown to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He was pronounced dead at the hospital, Kelly said, after multiple failed attempts to resuscitate him.

Pignatello also sustained serious injuries in the wreck and was treated at Hartford Hospital; he has since been released, Kelly said.

As for the cause of the accident, Kelly said that the incident remains under investigation and no other information is available at this time. He added that no charges have been filed against Pignatello.

## East Hampton Police News

10/20: Stacy Deanna Rivera, 32, of 16 East High St., was arrested for second-degree failure to appear and fifth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

10/20: Wayne Goodrich, 48, of 159 Main St., was issued a summons for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

10/21: Mark Hall, 44, of 38.5 Chapman Rd., was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police

said.

10/23: William Shane Landry, 37, who police said they had no known address for, was charged with third-degree burglary, third-degree criminal mischief and fifth-degree larceny, police said.

10/23: Nathan R. Hall, 18, of 22 No. Main St., East Hampton was arrested for third-degree assault, violation of a protective order and disorderly conduct, police said.

## Hebron Police News

10/24: Timothy Meares, 17, of 80 Wellswood Rd., Amston, was traveling north on Old Colchester Road in the town of Hebron when he lost control of his vehicle, went off the right shoulder and struck a tree. He was brought to Marlborough Clinic for possible injury, State Police said.

10/24: Matthew W. Laforge, 34, of 74 Hunt Rd., Columbia, was charged with DUI, improper turn and speeding, State Police said.

10/28: Joanne O'Connor, 42, of 75 Smith Farm Rd., was traveling west on Route 66 in

Hebron and was struck on the driver's side by Laura Tralongo, 16, of 60 Cedar Ridge Dr., who was traveling north on Chestnut Hill Road in Hebron and attempted to cross Rt. 66 at the intersection. O'Connor's vehicle traveled off the roadway and rolled on its passenger's side. She was transported to Marlborough Clinic for a report of shoulder and neck pain, State Police said.

10/28: Brian M. Didden, 22, of 509 Deepwood Dr., Lebanon, was charged with DUI and improper turn, State Police said.

# Marzi Challenging Sawyer for State Rep Seat

by Geeta Schrayter

With Election Day just around the corner, Republican state Rep. Pam Sawyer, and her Democratic opponent, Richard Marzi, each say they're optimistic about their chances.

Sawyer, a Bolton resident, is currently in her 10th term as state representative for the 55th Assembly District, which covers Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. From the responses she's received from people, she said, she's "feeling very positive."

"I have found a very positive reception from the places I visited in the district and the people I met with," she said, adding "the message I've been giving is that Connecticut needs to spend no more than it makes. We need to make the state more business-friendly and improve the jobs in Connecticut, first and foremost. And we need to repeal the huge tax increases that have put Connecticut at the bottom of all 50 states" in terms of where to retire.

"That message is, I believe, resounding with the voters," Sawyer stated.

Marzi, a Hebron resident, said his campaign has also been "going well" and the individuals he's spoken with seem ready for change.

"I've been banging on a lot of doors and making a lot of calls," he said. "The results that I've been getting – the reaction from people is positive. They realize it's time for a change."

Marzi has lived in Hebron for the past year, and before that he resided in New Britain. Since moving to Hebron, he has become active with the Russell Mercier Senior Center and the local food bank, as well as the American Legion and the Hebron Lions Club. He became a justice of the peace and also joined the Democratic Town Committee – which endorsed him during its May 22 convention.

If elected, Marzi said three issues he considers important are education, development and open space. In regards to education, Marzi said he'd like to see more state funding for Educational Cost Sharing grants for schools and public education.

He explained he'd also like to see development along the Route 66 corridor, to look at the potential for businesses that have a low impact on the environment, and the redevelopment of brownfields.

The Environmental Protection Agency defines a brownfield as "a property the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant." Marzi explained there was development opportunity for brownfields in the district, which he said would generate taxes, and he mentioned he'd like to see more legislation supporting such development.

Marzi also said a commitment to open space and agricultural farmland in Eastern Connecticut was vital.

"It's a very important issue in the region," he

said, adding that Hebron did "a good job" protecting their open space and that needed to be built upon.

"We need to make sure our farmers are protected and we fund the programs that are available to farmers here. Agricultural sustainability and supporting agriculture are important," Marzi stated, adding the small farms helped local "mom and pop businesses" with their products.

For Sawyer, who is the deputy Republican leader-at-large in the Connecticut General Assembly and currently sits on the legislature's appropriations committee, higher education and employment advancement committee, legislative management committee and the transportation committee, the issues of most importance are the state's business climate, jobs and state spending.

"Finding ways to improve the business climate has to be number one," she said, adding some of the things to look at would be job training and removing some of the "burdensome regulations" that are in place which can hinder new business development.

In addition, she said, "one of the things I believe we need is more fraud investigators in the Department of Social Services for Medicaid fraud." Sawyer explained if 26 new fraud investigators were hired, the state could be saved an estimated \$200 million.

"Those are the types of things we have to address," she said. "We have to be careful with everyone's tax dollars."

Sawyer added her philosophy is that the state should spend no more than it makes, calling it "common sense" that the state can only borrow what it can afford to pay back. She added "we should have all the government we need but *only* the government we need."

When it comes to qualifications, Sawyer said she hopes voters will look at her record and past dedication to the community to see if she has the same set of values a voter is looking for.

"And if I do," she said, "please vote for me and send me back to Hartford."

For Marzi, he said living in New Britain afforded him various experiences that would help him serve the smaller towns of the 55th District. He said "quality-of-life issues" such as tax concerns, jobs and public works were important in both locations.

"What I take from a large city, I'll be able to translate that here and effectively work with everybody – and collectively – to get things done," Marzi said.

Marzi added he is "the best candidate because I'm a strong advocate for quality public education, keeping and enhancing our senior programs and essential support and the overall preservation of the quality of life" within the district.

On Monday, Hebron Democratic Town Com-



Richard Marzi



Pam Sawyer

mittee Chairman Bill Rudis said Marzi has "been a real hands-on person," and added, "He understands the nature of concerns that our residents have."

Rudis furthered that due to Marzi's "general instincts and knowledge base he will make the kind of state representative that we really need."

But Andover Republican Town Committee Chair Wally Barton said Sawyer had done "a good job" as state rep.

"Anytime anyone in any of her district towns needs something, Pam's always there to help," he said, added that Sawyer has always worked to get the towns state grants if needed, is fis-

cally conservative and able to effectively get things done despite being a minority in the legislature.

"[Marzi's] in a tough race against Sawyer because of her background and longevity," Barton said. "Everyone in the district knows her and likes her."

Whether that like is enough to override the desire for change Marzi said residents are expressing will be seen on Tuesday, Nov. 6, when voting takes place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.; Andover Town Hall, 17 School Rd.; and Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.

## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Not again.

That was my thought – and that of many other Nutmeggers, I'd imagine – as last weekend advanced and it became obvious Hurricane Sandy wasn't going out to sea. It was hitting land, as was predicted, and the prospect of another extended power outage – nearly a year to the day from when the last extended outage hit – stared me straight in the face.

I spent last weekend in southern New Jersey, at a friend's engagement party (congratulations, Pete), and getting back home proved to be somewhat more adventurous than I thought. A fan of mass transit, I took the train down Saturday morning, never dreaming I wouldn't be able to take it back Sunday afternoon. But, with Sandy bearing down, evacuations were ordered, and by the time Sunday rolled around, a good chunk of New Jersey was scrambling to get the heck out of Dodge. Though nearly every Amtrak the entire day was sold out, thanks to New Jersey Transit and Metro-North, I was able to get back to Connecticut (and just in time; all commuter trains and subway lines were shut down at 7 p.m. that evening).

I was caught rather off-guard by Tropical Storm Irene and last October's nor'easter. Oh, I knew they were forecast, but I also thought things wouldn't possibly be as bad as the weathermen predicted (particularly the nor'easter: "It's just a snowstorm," I said to myself. "No one loses power in a snowstorm"). Needless to say, I was proven wrong both times, so this time, I adequately prepared myself: I filled up my car with gas, stocked up on bread, tuna and peanut butter for some quick no-power meals, made sure I had a flashlight and batteries, and waited.

As it turned out, all of my preparation was unnecessary, as Manchester got off pretty easily; at the height of the storm Monday night, only about 10 percent of the City of Village Charm was without power. Obviously, as most of you know, that wasn't the case for a lot of *Rivereast* land. As Melissa Roberto reports in this week's paper, Colchester and especially Andover, Hebron and Marlborough (with the latter two nearly 100 percent without power at the peak of the storm) were especially hard hit.

One of the few bright spots of last October's nor'easter is it forced Connecticut Light & Power to reexamine the way it did things. The utility has spent much of the past year trimming trees and, as Sandy approached, the company called in hundreds and hundreds of extra utility workers from out of state to be ready to get the lights turned back on if and when they went off. So, I was hopeful the power wouldn't be off for a week or more this time around.

And, as of my writing this Tuesday night, things are looking pretty good. According to the CL&P website, Colchester is down to 34 percent without power, Andover to 39 percent and Hebron to 21 percent. Marlborough's still at a high 65 percent, but considering that number was 100 percent the night before, I'd say that's definitely an improvement. Hopefully

by the time the paper comes out on Friday, everyone has power.

Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Sandy's other destruction. Inland Connecticut got off pretty lightly, compared to the shoreline towns and – especially – New York City and New Jersey. It was good southern New Jersey got evacuated when I was there last weekend. The video I've seen of the damage there is just unbelievable. And then there were the scenes from New York; flooded tunnels and subways, rivers in the streets of lower Manhattan. It was like something out of *The Day After Tomorrow* – only very, very real.

It's going to take a long time for southern Connecticut to get back to normal, and even longer for New York City and New Jersey. In fact, the shoreline communities in New Jersey, with their iconic boardwalks, may never look the same. I consider myself very fortunate to have gotten off as easily as I did. The media described Sandy as a "superstorm" – and for those of you who think that's a lot of hype, well, call up someone in New Jersey, or in New York City. They'd probably disagree.

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The timing of Sandy was unfortunate for a lot of trick-or-treaters, as some towns wound up getting Halloween postponed for the second year in a row. (It was delayed or canceled altogether last year, as much of the state didn't have power.) Among those towns was Colchester, which officially moved Halloween to next Wednesday, Nov. 7, due to the conditions of the town roads. On Tuesday, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said this week, "Since there are still and will continue to be downed power lines throughout the town for the next couple of days, public safety personnel, CL&P and myself did not feel it was safe for children to be walking around darkened streets."

Now, in Colchester and other towns that opted to postpone Halloween, I imagine there were still plenty of kids who decided to brave the conditions this past Wednesday and hit the streets anyway. I remember being a kid and going trick-or-treating; when bags of free candy are on the line, not much can get in your way. So, for any kids who live in a town that delayed Halloween but opted to go trick-or-treating this week anyway, you know what this means: double the chances for candy.

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Lastly, don't forget to vote next Tuesday. I'm guessing all of us will have our power back by then, so there'll be no need to trudge to the polls in the dark. I'll be voting for Obama (big shock, I know), and I hope most of you do the same, but no matter how you decide to cast your ballots, I just hope you get out and cast them. I'm a big fan of high voter turnout. I'd love to see 100 percent one day. After all, it's not a percentage of people in town; it's of those that are registered to vote. So if you took the time to sign up to vote, then go ahead and do it.

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See you next week.

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## Police News

10/22: A youthful offender, 17, was arrested for stealing a President Obama sign on the Colchester Town Green around 8:30 p.m., State Police said.

10/24: Dustin Cote, 24, of 530 Norwich Ave., was charged with fifth-degree larceny after stealing automotive parts from his parents, State Police said.

10/25: Darryl Shukis, of 5 Levy Rd., was charged with cruelty to animals, State Police said.

10/26: Jason Fraser, 33, of 48 Rita Dr., Lebanon, was charged with possessing child pornography after the State Police served an arrest warrant. The investigation dates back to June 2012 after files of suspected child porn were discovered as being shared from an Internet account assigned to Fraser's residence. In July

2012, the Computer Crimes unit executed a search and seizure warrant at his residence and seized items related to the crime. The evidence was previewed and located images and videos of child porn were located which led to his arrest, State Police said.

10/27: Colchester Police responded to a residence on Village Court to a report for a burglary and missing items, State Police said. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Officer Goss at 860-537-7555 ext. 4083.

10/28: Alycia Brodeur, 22, of 191 Taylor Rd., was charged with DUI, failure to drive in the proper lane and failure to have tail lamps during the course of a motor vehicle stop, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

10/23: Megan Soboleski, 27, of 6-3 Country Side Ln., Middletown, was charged with third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, Portland Police said.

10/23: A 15-year-old juvenile male was arrested for sixth-larceny, police said.

10/24: Virginia Wright, 35, of 37 Summer St., Meriden, was charged with first-degree failure to appear, police said.

## Marlborough Police News

10/23: Michael Paul Tassinari, 48, of 203 Terrace View Ct., Churchville, Md., was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

# Pelletier Challenging Cassano for State Senate

by Geeta Schrayter

Come Election Day Andover residents will be voting for who they'd like to represent them in the state senate: Steve Cassano or Cheri Pelletier.

Cassano, a Democrat from Manchester, is the current senator of the Fourth District, which covers Bolton, Glastonbury, Manchester and Marlborough. He's up for re-election, but if he wins next Tuesday, the district he covers will be slightly different as a result of recent redistricting; it will include Andover instead of Marlborough.

Last week, Cassano said he knows there's some concern due to the fact he has two larger towns and then two smaller towns, but he noted he grew up in Nantucket, R.I., where there's a population of 3,000 and his father was a fisherman, affording him some experiences with smaller towns early on. Additionally, Cassano said he's been involved regionally with the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and has continuously worked with smaller towns as well as the cities.

"I probably have as good an understanding of small town needs as anybody," he said.

Cassano said he knows the town leaders in Bolton and Andover and he "absolutely" plans to be as visible in the smaller towns as the larger. He mentioned he'd already been to a number of events in Andover including various senior center luncheons and September's pig roast for the Andover Food Pantry. But there was one recent event he said he missed.

"I missed the installation of the bridge because I was away, but I really wanted to see that!" he lamented.

Cassano said where the smaller towns need help in the legislature is with securing Small Town Economic Assistance Program grants and presently, securing funds for the repair of the bridge on Times Farm Road "has become a priority."

Cassano, who taught sociology at Manchester Community College for 28 years, called himself "a people person."

"People have just been my life – that's who I am," he said.

As such, he said he considers quality of life issues important. If he were reelected, Cassano said his priorities would be keeping and creating jobs, stabilization of the budget and reviewing state regulations.

Cassano explained if training was provided, there are plenty of jobs available in the state in the field of aerospace. He said a majority of the parts used at Pratt & Whitney are made in smaller shops throughout the state, but right now, not enough people have the appropriate training to fill those jobs.

"Keeping and creating jobs – that's the thing: keeping these places, training these people to work in those positions so those jobs stay here," he said.

In regards to the budget he said some of the tax increases that were imposed need to be examined – "we added all kinds of things."

"We've got to help the average pocketbook



Steve Cassano

and you help by cutting back daily fees," he stated.

Cassano added state regulations that are in place need to be examined as well, and for Pelletier, who is also a Manchester resident, those were areas she also considered important.

"We need to streamline some of those regulations and make sure the cost of doing business [in the state] isn't more than the business can bring in," she said.

Pelletier added looking at the debt the state is currently in is also important, as well as the new taxes that have been imposed in Connecticut. She explained the legislative office raised taxes to help bring down the deficit, but people are unable to pay for these increases. Like Cassano, she also said job creation and fostering job growth in the state was important.

"We need to keep high paying jobs here," she said.

In addition, her focuses are finances, supporting services and education.

"My record is one of controlling spending and taxation, and at the same time providing for what I consider vital services," she said, adding "I'm a big proponent of education."

Pelletier said her record is different than Cassano's, partially because she's served on the Manchester Board of Directors during the recession.

"I had to learn how to build partnerships, work with things in the community and have done things to make sure every dollar spent is spent efficiently and effectively," she said. "That alone makes me very different from my opponent."

Pelletier said she thinks she has the "tools"

and personal experience necessary to be a successful senator.

"I think I could be very efficient in legislating policies for the state of Connecticut," she said.

Andover Republican Town Committee Chairman Wally Barton called Pelletier a "fiscal conservative" who has experience working with both parties.

"I think she'd be very good for the district," he said.

But Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Linda Knowlton said she felt Cassano was the best man for the job, calling him "a good candidate" and "a really good guy."

"I'm as honest as day is long," said Cassano, saying he was proud about there having never been a scandal during his 28 years serving in Manchester. "I love what I do. I'm not doing it for a title, not doing it because I need something to do – I do it because I love the challenge of making things better for both Connecticut and people themselves."

"I'm concerned about the debt that future generations are going to have," Pelletier shared. "I'm really looking forward to helping create a Connecticut we can all live in, work in, retire in, and thrive in."

Voting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Andover Town Hall, 17 School Rd.



Cheri Pelletier

# Courtney Faces Challenge from Formica in 2nd

by Joshua Anusewicz

After narrowly winning his seat in 2006, Congressman Joe Courtney has soundly defeated his opponent in the two re-election attempts that have followed. This year, East Lyme First Selectman Paul Formica looks to buck that trend.

Courtney, a Democrat from Vernon, will face a challenge from Formica, a Republican, in this year's race for the 2nd Congressional District, whose municipalities include the *Rivereast* towns of Andover, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron and Marlborough. The race will also feature Green Party candidate Colin Bennett and Libertarian Daniel Reale.

The three-term congressman Courtney has served Connecticut since 1987, when he was elected as state representative of 56th House District, a position he held until 1994. A staunch supporter of the country's military, Courtney has served on House Armed Services Committee during his time in Washington, as well as the Committee on Agriculture.

On his website, Courtney lists his biggest issue as building and sustaining the region's economic recovery. This would be done, he stated, by investing in job training and education, investing in infrastructure, and providing

tax relief for businesses to help them recover and grow.

Courtney also states on his website he believes in strengthening the district's military-related jobs, at companies like Electric Boat and at the Subbase in New London. He also supported President Barack Obama's health care reform, middle class tax cuts through the Recovery Act and a Wall Street reform bill.

Though he's considered a political newcomer, Formica is no stranger to the ways of government. Before serving the past five years as East Lyme First Selectman, Formica served for eight years on the town's Board of Finance, eight years on the Zoning Commission and as vice chairman of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.

Formica is also the founder and owner of Flanders Fish Market in East Lyme, which shows why one of his biggest concerns is improving the economy by promoting small busi-



Joe Courtney

nesses, something he stated has been done during his time as first selectman in East Lyme. On his campaign website, he states that having a "Main Street, common sense" approach to economic issues is what is needed in Congress. Formica said he also supports increased funding for returning veterans in order to find jobs.

On the issue of health care, Formica stated that he strongly opposes the president's healthcare reform, which he called "an attack on individual liberty and freedom." He stated that the reform puts a heavier tax burden on the middle class, as healthcare should be made available through a "free-market approach."

The two other candidates, Bennett and Reale, will also attempt to challenge Courtney for the 2nd District seat. Bennett, a Westbrook resident, is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, serving as a marine science technician. Bennett said his campaign is focused on stabilizing the climate by using alternative energy, creating a fair tax system, and cutting government waste to reduce debt.

Reale is the chairman of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, a justice of the peace, and a freelance writer. A Plainfield native, Reale believes that the country should have competition

in healthcare, cut spending and borrowing, and should stop "nation building" to reduce federal spending. Reale stated that by collecting debt, the country is burdening its citizens through the government that is in place to help them.

Though the incumbent Courtney is once again considered the favorite, Formica is expected to put up a challenge on Election Day next Tuesday, Nov. 6. In the *Rivereast* towns, voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at the following locations: in East Hampton, at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.; in Colchester, at Abundant Life - Assemblies of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd.; Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave.; and Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.; in Marlborough, at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr.; in Andover, at Town Hall, 17 School Rd.; and in Hebron, at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.



Paul Formica

# Board of Education Discusses New School Surveys in Marlborough

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Education met last Thursday to discuss a policy regarding teacher gifts and a new mandatory school survey.

School board policy committee member Carole Shea explained the committee hopes to revise a 1999 personnel policy that discourages the giving of gifts to teachers, and instead encourages parents and students to write letters to the school board to commend teachers for their good work.

"This is a policy everyone needs to give input on," said Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz.

Board secretary Louise Concodello admitted that no one is currently following the policy. Board member Shannon Bielaczyc, whose kids, she said, "love giving gifts to teachers," shared her hopes for a revision in the policy to allow students and parents to continue showing their appreciation through gift-giving.

Shea explained that revisions of this policy are in the primary stage; she said members of the committee will discuss possible changes with the School Advisory Council, teachers,

staff and PTO before presenting adjustments to the board.

Marlborough Elementary School Principal Scott Nierendorf and Assistant Principal Maureen Ryan also updated the board on a new process of school climate surveys that are to be taken every other year. The state Department of Education has asked all school districts to start the surveys this school year. Members of one early childhood education grade and one upper elementary education grade, as well as the parents of those students, and the entire staff of each school will take the survey.

"I think it will be very helpful for us," Nierendorf said.

He said the data obtained from the surveys will be combined in the safe school climate plan which will help the Board of Education address issues that students, parents or staff may raise.

Ryan said the two grades that will take the survey this year are the second and fifth grades. (Second grade was chosen, he explained, because it falls in between the early elementary grades of first through third, while the fifth

grade was tabbed since it falls in the middle of the upper elementary grades, fourth through sixth.) Parents, staff and older students will take the surveys online, while the second-grade students will be given the surveys in the classroom with "happy" and "sad" faces to fill in, making the survey easier for the children to understand.

The board reviewed two examples of the surveys. Nierendorf said the content of the surveys is given by the state Department of Education; the school can add questions, he said, but cannot change ones that already exist. He said other details have yet to be worked out, but he said administration would be sure the surveys are easy to understand for students.

In addition, Sklarz announced that the budget season is approaching and presented the board with the school budget's "guiding principles and assumptions" for the 2013-14 fiscal year. Among the assumptions was a preliminary estimate that student enrollment at the elementary school would decline next year, from 639 students to 625.

The board approved these guidelines and assumptions and Sklarz reminded the board that they are still in the planning process of the budget and that these assumptions and guidelines will be discussed in future meetings. As for the timetable to discuss the budget, Sklarz said he wants to "start the process earlier and build in additional meetings during the budget time."

He announced there would be a meeting Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2013, to discuss half of the budget and another Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2013, to discuss the budget as a whole.

Nierendorf also highlighted events that took place earlier this month. He announced that the Marlborough Education Foundation (MEF) raised \$7,000 at its Family Bingo Night and Silent Auction on Oct. 19. "It was amazing to see almost 400 people that night," he said. The sixth-grade play, *Thwacked*, presented Oct. 24, was a "great success."

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled to take place Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School.

# Wotus Brings Baseball Championship to Colchester

by Mike Thompson

For kids growing up playing baseball in their back yard or on the elementary school diamond, being on a World Series-winning team is the stuff dreams are made of.

And now, former Colchester resident Ron Wotus has lived that dream twice in the past three years.

Wotus is bench coach for the San Francisco Giants, who on Sunday completed a four-game sweep of the Detroit Tigers to win baseball's world championship. It's the team's second world championship in three years. The team also went all the way in 2010 – also with Wotus, who was raised in Colchester and graduated Bacon Academy in 1979, serving as bench coach.

"It was a great run," Wotus said this week. "This club this year faced a lot of adversity, and we seemed to play better with our backs against the wall."

Indeed, by the time the World Series started last Wednesday night, the Giants had played several literal must-win games this postseason. In the best-of-seven National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals, the Giants found themselves in a three-games-to-one hole, but crawled their way back, forcing a winner-take-all Game Seven that they ultimately won.

The dramatic NLCS was immediately preceded by the best-of-five National League Division Series – where San Francisco also wound up staring down the barrel at an 0-2 hole before winning the next three games to advance. The Division Series comeback, Wotus said, actually proved to be a "more daunting task" than the NLCS one, in that it was the first round of the playoffs.

But, Wotus recalled, after the Giants wound up in that win-or-go-home deficit, outfielder Hunter Pence addressed his teammates in the clubhouse and "spoke with so much emotion and from the heart." Wotus said the message of the speech was, "He didn't want to go home; he loved these guys." Wotus said he believed that helped take a lot of the pressure off the

players, and the team went on to win three in a row.

And so, with that comeback under their belt, Wotus said when the team fell behind St. Louis three games to one, "we had the confidence if we could bring it back to San Francisco we could get it done."

The way the team rallied after Pence delivered that heartfelt speech is indicative of the kind of team the 2012 San Francisco Giants were.

"There's no doubt they were a close-knit bunch," Wotus said. "They were very unselfish, and they love playing baseball."

Among that close-knit group was infielder Marco Scutaro, who was actually a relative late-comer to the bunch. Scutaro came over in a trade with the Rockies in late July, to fill in for injured third baseman Pablo Sandoval. He eventually moved to second when Sandoval came back. Scutaro turned out to be an inspired pickup, hitting .362 for the Giants after they acquired him midseason, and then .306 in the playoffs.

"He's a winning player," Wotus said, adding that "With two outs and a runner on second base, he's the guy you want up."

Wotus said Scutaro played so well his teammates started calling him "Blockbuster," which Wotus acknowledged was a slightly tongue-in-cheek nickname. Scutaro was hardly the most high-profile name moved at the trading deadline – certainly not along the lines of the acquisitions the Giants' rivals, the Los Angeles Dodgers, made – yet he arguably had the greatest impact.

Indeed, a look at the Giants' starting postseason lineup showed that, aside from MVP candidate Buster Posey, it wasn't filled with marquee names or premier power bats. Even third baseman Pablo Sandoval collected only 12 home runs in an injury-shortened season. Instead, it features guys like Scutaro, or Pence, or Angel Pagan, an offseason acquisition who, Wotus said, "had the best year of his career."

While starting pitching continued to be this team's strength, Wotus said it wasn't quite as

dominant as it was in 2010, so it was this scrappy bunch of batters – and fielders; "We played good defense," Wotus said – that was a key to the Giants' 2012 success.

"We were able to keep the line moving with our offense," he said. The lineup "wasn't power-laden, but we scored runs this year." He added the team had "quality hitters, guys that can work a walk, guys that had patience."

And these "guys that can keep the line moving," as Wotus put it, kept right on going through the World Series. Unlike the matchups with the Reds and the Cardinals, there were no backs-against-the-wall situations here, as the Giants defeated the Tigers in four games.

When San Francisco went to Detroit after winning the first two games of the series, "you felt good about your position, but you weren't going to exhale," Wotus said. "You don't exhale until you get that last out."

Wotus said he "never imagined we would sweep." So why did they?

"We played well," he said. "We played pitch-to-pitch, inning-to-inning, and we played well. When we play low-scoring games [the Giants won the last three games of the series by scores of 2-0, 2-0 and 4-3], we find a way to scratch out runs."

And so, once again, Wotus got to hoist the World Series trophy high, and call himself part of baseball's defending champs. It's a joy he no doubt looks forward to sharing with his friends and family back home – although he's not quite sure when that will be. He said his mother Jean, who lives in Colchester, is going to be coming out to visit him for Thanksgiving. But, he said, "I definitely look forward to coming home to visit."

Wotus, who played shortstop for Bacon Academy in the '70s, said he's heard from a lot of people from his days with Colchester athletics, such as his former coach Frank Aloia and Bacon Athletics legend Dave Shea.

"Those guys have been a big part of my life growing up," Wotus said. "It was a great time in my life. I couldn't have had a better group of



**Former Colchester resident Ron Wotus, now the bench coach for the San Francisco Giants, hoists the World Series trophy high, after the Giants won baseball's world championship Sunday. It was the team's – and Wotus' – second world championship in three years.**

coaches."

Professionally-speaking, what's next for Wotus? He said managing a team is something he wants to do, "but I think it would have to be the right situation. What that is, I don't know."

What he does know, though, is that "we have a great situation going in San Francisco." And with two championships in three years, it'd be tough to argue with him.

## Soby Challenges Orange in State Rep. Race

by Melissa Roberto

Residents of Colchester will have their chance next Tuesday to choose between current state Rep. Democrat Linda Orange or Republican Stan Soby of Colchester for the 48th Assembly District.

This year's election differs from past 48th District elections because the makeup of the district will change in January when the new term begins. Portions of Lebanon, Windham and Mansfield have been added to the district and Colchester will remain. However, East Haddam is no longer included in the 48th District.

Orange has held the title since 1997 and said the redistricting has affected her campaign. "Well, it's hard to say goodbye to the people [in East Haddam] that I've represented for many years," said Orange, "but I've been able to meet new people and business owners which I've greatly enjoyed."

Soby, a first-time runner, also seems to have enjoyed his visits to towns he is less familiar with than his own Colchester. Soby has served on numerous boards and commissions in past years and is currently on the Colchester Board of Selectmen.

The two candidates agree that the level of unemployment in Connecticut is a major problem that they hope to improve if elected.

"Unfortunately, Connecticut has a high unemployment rate," said Orange.

Soby said he has met discouraged individuals within the 48th District that are unemployed and have stopped looking.

Another issue concerning both candidates is that recent graduates have been unable to find work that matches their degree.

"The only way we can build a stronger economy is to have an educated workforce," said Orange, adding that her goal is to train future professionals as well as to help businesses create more jobs.

If re-elected, Orange explained her goal is to enhance the technical schools in the state. "There are manufacturing jobs that are not being filled because people are not trained properly," she said.

While Soby communicated that he would also like to see a change made in the technical schools and programs, he also added that he wants to create more jobs in CT that are "critical for families everyday."



**Linda Orange**

He is interested in finding permanent part time positions "of 20 hours a week or more in businesses that may be busier during some parts of the day." He believes there may be incentives to grow a business and "to cast a large net on opportunities."

His way of encouraging greater job opportunities is also by expanding the Subsidized Training and Employment Program (STEP-Up), a program administered by the state Department of Labor that is available to employers of 50 or fewer people that are adding a new full-time employee. The program reimburses the employer over six months if they hire somebody who had been unemployed for six months or more.

Orange said that as a part of the general assembly she helped to create the STEP-Up program included in the 2011 jobs bill. She explained "the first step" of the jobs bill was to "cut red tape and cut entity tax in half for employers of small businesses."

She explained that for every new hire, the employer receives \$500 a month, and \$900 for hiring a veteran. She said the STEP-Up creation increases tax credits for new hires. Veterans, she said, have a difficult time finding employment once they return from fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It's a good program," said Soby, "but I think it could be more helpful if we were looking at not just employers of 50 or fewer but 100, or fewer and that incentive could be increased."

Soby said another issue raised during his visits in the district was the level of taxation. "People are concerned about the impact of sales tax increase, buying shoes or gas tax, those kinds of things," he said. Soby said the state saw an "incredibly large" tax increase last year and that the state "really can't continue operating that way."

Orange admitted that Connecticut has seen a high tax increase but also saw "the largest spending cut in the state history of Connecticut."

cut." She explained that she contributed to the state cutting \$700 million or 30 percent of state agencies without affecting the middle class. "That's huge," said Orange.

Soby said that there is deficit this year and the state "needs to spend money in ways that are going to be productive." He said if elected, he wants to "bring some balance to the legislature and bring different ideas and approaches to things."

The Democrat incumbent said she worked "very hard" for grants for farmland preservation and open space during her tenure. Orange said she "worked tirelessly" for her communities. She said she helped push along a grant that was in jeopardy for the town of Colchester regarding the sewer and water project.

"I listen and I care, and I take everyone's concerns personally," she said.

Soby said he felt confident that his past experiences in Colchester have prepared him if he were to be elected next Tuesday. He said his stint as the town's first selectman in 2007 helped him to "hear things directly from citizens in town" and to work with them on solutions while "engaging others including state officials," which he said he would continue to do if he were elected this year as state representative.

Colchester residents will be able to cast votes for either Soby or Orange at one of the three polling places: District 1 is Town Hall, located at 127 Norwich Ave., Districts 2 and 4 at the Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God church, located at 85 Skinner Rd., and District 3 is Bacon Academy, located at 611 Norwich Ave.



**Stan Soby**



# Obituaries

## Marlborough

### Peter Burdick Chapman

Peter Burdick Chapman, 70, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Shirley (Johnson) Chapman, died Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Hartford Hospital. He was born in Newark, N.J., to the late David F. and Janet (Smith) Chapman.

He earned his bachelor of arts Degree from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt. The good friends he made at Norwich have stayed with him throughout the years. He enjoyed planning reunions and attended all the Norwich Homecomings over the years. After years spent in computer sales and customer services, he took a "retirement" job as a chauffeur which he enjoyed immensely.

Peter devoted many years of service to the community of Marlborough, serving as Board of Education chairman, Boy Scout Troop 39 chairman and as a longtime member of the Marlborough Lions Club.

Besides his wife Shirley, he is survived by their children, Deborah Spencer, Jennifer (and Mike) Dvorak, Gregory (and Nancy) Chapman, Douglas (and Kristin) Chapman; as well as Nelida Morales, his "adopted" daughter. Grandchildren include Kyra Spencer, Luke and Jake Dvorak, Thomas and Christopher Chapman, and Mikael and Jordan D'Oleo. He also leaves two brothers, Jeffrey Chapman of Colorado and David Chapman of New Jersey.

Funeral arrangements are private at the convenience of the family.

The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Antonine Soucy

Antonine Cristine Marie (Stebenne) Soucy, 94, of Colchester, widow of the late Maurice R. Soucy, passed away Sunday, Oct. 28. Born Dec. 19, 1917, in Magog, Quebec, Canada, she was the daughter of Philibert and Maria (Marcotte) Stebenne.



On July 3, 1937, she wed Maurice R. Soucy and together they shared 52 years of marriage before he predeceased her on Oct. 8, 1989.

Mrs. Soucy came to the USA in January 1967 with her family. They lived on the farm on Old Hebron Road in Colchester until 1977. Then they moved to Hartford where Mrs. Soucy worked at the Sheraton Hotel until June 1985 as a housekeeper. In July 1985, she started working for Ste. Anne Church on Park Street in Hartford as sexton and in maintenance with love and pride.

In 1993, she moved back to Colchester to Dublin Village. She was a member of both the Ste. Anne and St. Andrew (Colchester) Ladies Guilds. She enjoyed gardening, laundry, peeling potatoes and, most of all, her devotion to the rosary to Marie, and praying for her children and family. "Je vais dire une petite prière pour toi."

In addition to her husband, she is predeceased by her daughter, Annette Fauteux; a son, Marcel Soucy; and a daughter-in-law, Claudette Soucy.

She leaves five sons, Gaston Soucy and Jean-Maurice Soucy, both of Colchester, Rene (Marcelle) Soucy of Port St. Lucie, Fla., Wilfred (Deborah) Soucy of Versailles, Ky., Roger Soucy of Lebanon and a son-in-law, Roma Fauteux of Lebanon; 12 daughters, Yvonne Soucy of Sherbrooke, P.Q., Canada, Therese Soucy of Cookshire, P.Q., Canada, Rita Soucy of Granby, daughter-in-law, Claudette Soucy of Sherbrooke, Fernande (Rejean) Fauteux of Lebanon, Aline Soucy of East Hartford, Anne-Marie (Denis) Gingués of Berlin N.H., Lise (Leonard) Rushlow of Torrington, Francine (Larry) Hutchins of Clifton Park N.Y., Paulette (Jack) Martin of Wilmington, Mass., Noëlla (Daniel) Daigle and Hélène (Alvin) William, all of Colchester and Danielle (Eric) Hutchins of Moodus; her brother, Philip Noël et Jeannine Stebenne of Island Pond, Vt.; her sister, Marguerite Rivard of Sawyerville, P.Q., Canada; her 53 loving grandchildren; 100 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; and her friend, Janet Yuris of Colchester. Pray with faith and love always.

Friends and family called Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be celebrated at 9 a.m. today, Nov. 2, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. Andrew Church, the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 or the charity of one's choice.

## Hebron

### Guy Nicolo

Guy Nicolo, 61, of South Windsor and formerly of Hebron, beloved husband of Tracy (Dugay) Nicolo, passed away Friday, Oct. 26, at the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, surrounded by his loving family. Born Gaeton Nicolo on Sept. 8, 1951 in Hartford, he was a son of Frank and Joyce Lorraine (Valentine) Nicolo.

In addition to his loving wife of 30 years, he is survived by four children, Michael, Shawn, Beverly Nicolo Stroh and Jessi Clark; six grandchildren, Matthew, Anthony and Lilyanna Nicolo, Evie Stroh and Jacob and Emma Clark; a sister, Joyce Peirolo; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Guy was a graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron with the Class of 1969. He had worked as a carpenter in the area for many years, but his passion had always been music. As a bass player, singer, song writer, Guy loved to entertain and did so from his early teens until recently, in numerous bands at countless venues around the state. He was a friend to all who met him, and he made a point of meeting as many people as he could. His love and loyalty to family and friends was unmistakable and will be missed by all.

Friends may call Saturday, Nov. 3, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service celebrating his life will be observed at 11 a.m. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Yale-NH Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Services Fund, c/o the Office of Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508.

## East Hampton

### Dale Gustafson

Dale Elise Gustafson, 69, of East Hampton, died suddenly Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Marlborough Medical Center. She was born July 4, 1943 in New Haven; she lived most of her life in East Hampton.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Karen MacDonald and her husband Doug of East Hampton; her sons, Jeff of East Hampton and Bill of New Hampshire, and a special daughter-in-law, Christine Webster and her husband John of Norwich; as well as seven grandchildren, Glen Jr., Charlotte, Jim, Britany, Brian, Jesse, Layla, and seven great-grandchildren, William, Paris, Glen III, Lydia, Joey, Christine, Isabella Elise. She is also survived by her sister, Judith Hilsdon of East Hampton.

She was predeceased by her son, Glen Gustafson.

A private memorial service will be planned.

## Hebron

### Louis Edmund Trepp Jr.

Louis Edmund Trepp Jr., 74, of Windham, formerly of Hebron, passed away Friday, Oct. 26, at home after a short illness. Born Aug. 8, 1938, in Glastonbury, he was the son of the late Louis Edmund Trepp Sr. of Glastonbury and Anna Holden Killam Trepp Sr. of South Glastonbury.

Louis moved to Hebron where he had a farm on Buck Road called Hi Yonder Farm and has since moved and resided in North Windham.

Besides his life partner Karen Light of North Windham, he is survived by his daughter Kimberlyann Trepp Mawdsley and her husband Brian Mawdsley Sr. of Andover, son Robert C. Trepp of Florida, nine grandchildren who were the lights of his life, Christopher, Brian, Tyler, Josh, Colby, Zachary, Mykenzie, Carson, Zachary and Ashley.

At the request of Louis, his body was donated to UConn School of Medical Research. The family will hold a memorial to celebrate his life at Lebanon Fair Grounds in Lebanon Saturday, Nov. 3, from 2-4 p.m. Please bring your favorite memory of Louis to share with all.

At the request of the family, in lieu of flowers donations can be mailed to The Savings Institute, c/o Louis Trepp, 803 Main St., Willimantic, CT 06226, where the family will donate to The Hartford County 4H and to the Future Farmers of America in form of a scholarship in his name.

## Colchester

### Frances M. Skut

Frances M. Skut, 90, wife of the late Anthony Skut of Colchester, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 27, in Colchester with her family by her side. She was born Sept. 5, 1922, in Chester, Pa., daughter of the late Apolinary and Mary Guiveys Ciekawy. Frances was a loving mother, grandmother and a friend to many who will sadly miss her.

Surviving are her son Anthony and wife Ruth Ann Skut; four daughters Susan Brown, Lorraine and husband Paul Westermeyer, Mary Jean and husband Douglas Miller and Karen Skut, plus a dear friend William Sukach; three brothers, Charles, Stanley and Steven Ciekawy; six grandchildren, Nicole, Jeffrey, Erin, Brian, Ryan and Jared; three great-grandchildren, Matthew, Collin and Conor; several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sister.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Nov. 2, at 11 a.m., at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Norwich. Avenue, Colchester. Burial will be private. Visitation was held at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, on Thursday evening, Nov. 1.

## Andover

### Gabriel Dominick Ruta

Gabriel Dominick Ruta went safely home Friday, Oct. 26, after a life with so many wonderful memories. Born on March 20, 1933 in White Plains, N.Y., a son of the late Pasquale "Patsy" and Jennie (Carlucci) Ruta, he recently resided in the Andover area.

Gabe was a graduate of White Plains High School, Class of 1952. He proudly served his country during the Korean War, alongside Fr. Mark Mages, Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force. He briefly attended Harvard Divinity School and State University Teachers College (SUNY), Geneseo, N.Y. In the early 1950s, Gabe worked for the American Felt Company in Glenville. He married Eleanor Mary Ferris on May 11, 1957 and had three daughters and resided in Rye, N.Y., for over 30 years. They moved to Danbury after he retired from the White Plains, N.Y., Post Office where he was the personnel director.

He was considered a gentleman among gentlemen and had a wonderful sense of humor. He considered himself a wealthy man because of his three daughters. Gabe enjoyed good food, wine, music, reading, and the pleasure of your company. He also adored his three grandchildren who called him "Poppy."

In 2004, Gabe's beloved wife, Eleanor, passed away after 47 years of marriage.

Gabe is survived by his daughters, Sally Ann Ruta of Prospect, Therese "Terry" Landerfin and her husband, Joseph, of Coventry, with whom he made his home, Alexandria "Allie" Sandlock and her husband, Damon, of Cos Cob. He also leaves his special grandchildren, Joseph and Kyle Sandlock, and Shannon Landerfin; a brother, Louis Ruta of Lake George, N.Y.; a sister, Cecelia Salvati of White Plains, N.Y.; several nephews, nieces and their families; and many dear friends.

Funeral services were Saturday, Nov. 3, at 8:30 a.m. from the D'ESOPO-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 9:30 a.m. at St. Bridget Church, 80 Main Street, Manchester, CT. Graveside services will be at 12:15 p.m. at St. Peter's Cemetery, (Section 23), 71 Lake Avenue Extension, Danbury. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home chapel today, Nov. 2, from 4-7 p.m.

Gabe's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the entire staff of the AMBU Unit at Manchester Memorial Hospital for their professionalism, kindness, and care given to Gabe. Memorial contributions in Gabriel's name may be made to the VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, 628 Hebron Avenue, Suite 300, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or that you please make a blood donation in his memory to your local blood bank or the Red Cross.

For any online expressions of sympathy to the family, visit [desopo.com](http://desopo.com).

## Hebron

### Elaine (MacDonald) Rossi

Elaine (MacDonald) Rossi, 84, of Granby, beloved wife for 51 years of the late Ernest P. Rossi, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Oct. 30, surrounded by her family at her home. Born in Hartford Jan. 14, 1928, daughter of the late Arthur Daniel and Mary (Gray) MacDonald, she grew up in Hebron, Hartford and Granby, and had lived throughout the United States and Canada before moving back to Granby with her husband in 1975.

Elaine was employed at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Hartford for many years and after her retirement, she worked part time as a home health aide for families in the Farmington Valley. Elaine loved traveling throughout the world with her husband, and she especially looked forward to the many cruises they took throughout the Caribbean. She also enjoyed reading, cooking and entertaining family and friends at her home.

She leaves a stepson, David Rossi and his wife Ali of Boynton Beach, Fla.; her close friends, caregiver Nancy Rice and her husband Brent of Granby, Theresa Rossi and Dick Huot of Bridgeport, and many other friends and relatives too numerous to mention. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her daughter, Dawn E. Batayte-Rossi.

A funeral service will be held Monday, Nov. 5, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., Hebron. Burial will follow in St. Peter's Cemetery, Hebron. Her family will receive friends on Sunday, Nov. 4, from 5-7 p.m., at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby.

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

## Colchester

### Dr. Bhagat Prasad Mathur

Dr. Bhagat Prasad Mathur, 85, of Colchester, died peacefully at home Tuesday, Oct. 30. He was born in Dholpur, India, on March 21, 1927, to the late Satguru Prasad and Saran (Kumari) Mathur.

On Jan. 18, 1956, he married his beloved wife, Swarup Lata Mathur, in Allahbad, India. She survives him. Dr. Mathur received his MBBS degree from Jaipur, India and worked for several years in India before emigrating to the U.S. in 1969. He began his U.S. career at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., and later joined Maimonides Hospital to complete his fellowship in oncology. In 1977, he joined Uncas On Thames hospital in Norwich retiring in 1993 as director of the hospital after 16 years. He was a guest lecturer and adjunct faculty at Yale School of Medicine.

In addition to his wife, his family includes his daughter Sujata and her husband Victor D. Rodriguez; brothers (late) Daya P. Mathur and wife (late) Sarveshwari, Anami P. Mathur and wife Prabha, Soami P. Mathur and wife Shashi, (late) Guru P. Mathur and wife Anju, Satnam P. Mathur and late wife Rajami; sisters (late) Darshan and husband (late) Vijendra B. Mathur, Priti Kumar and her husband Raj, Hem Mathur and her husband Hari; grandchildren: Maya Victoria Rodriguez, Victor Jaylen Rodriguez, Marlena Dolores Rodriguez; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren all around the world.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Nov. 1, at Church & Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich. Services and cremation will be private for immediate family at their convenience.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Dr. Mathur's name may be made to Eastern Connecticut Hematology and Oncology, 330 Washington St., Norwich, CT.

To leave an online condolence, visit [churchandallen.com](http://churchandallen.com).